



## Peninsula Land Exchange - DNR #86-097165

PROPOSED LAND EXCHANGE BETWEEN WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (DNR) AND MERRILL AND RING COMPANIES

### Objective

DNR desires to reposition certain parcels of State trust land on the Olympic Peninsula in Clallam and Grays Harbor counties to create sustainable State forest landscapes. This exchange will consolidate State trust lands to improve management efficiency, enhance road access, and maintain or enhance marketing options for forest products. DNR will trade up to 1,279 acres of trust land and DNR will receive up to 2,047 acres of Merrill and Ring property.

### Benefits

The exchange will:

- Consolidate State trust lands in Clallam and Jefferson counties into more manageable locations to increase operational efficiency of these lands.
- Enhance forest biodiversity through consolidating forestlands that will be managed under DNR's Habitat Conservation Plan and Policies for Sustainable Forestry.
- Enhance the sustainability of working forest landscapes to provide for future generations.
- Create enhanced options for future public recreation through larger consolidated landscapes.
- Reduce the number of isolated trust parcels that are less efficient for long term State trust management.

This exchange involves two state trusts: Common School Trust (builds public schools statewide) and State Forest Land Trust (supports county services). All exchange lands are located in Clallam, Jefferson, and Grays Harbor counties.

### Merrill and Ring Properties

- The Merrill and Ring property to be traded includes forestlands that have been managed as private timberland and properties transitioning to rural residential.
- Much of the Merrill and Ring property is adjacent to State trust lands.
- Acreage of Merrill and Ring property by county:  
Clallam – 1,411 acres; Jefferson – 636 acres; Total - 2,047 acres ±

### State Trust Properties

- The State trust lands are mostly forestland managed for timber production.
- Some of the State trust lands are located adjacent to or near Merrill and Ring property in Clallam and Grays Harbor counties.
- Trust lands are held and managed by the Department of Natural Resources for the purpose of generating revenue for both current and future beneficiaries, as mandated by both the Federal

Enabling Act and the State Constitution. Where possible, DNR manages for multiple benefits such as recreation and protecting habitat and water quality.

- Acreage of the State trust lands by county:  
Clallam – 1,000 acres; Grays Harbor – 279 acres; Total - 1,279 acres.

## Public Information and Outreach

- DNR will hold a public hearing to share information and to receive information and testimony from the public. The meeting will occur on **September 5, 2019**, and will start at **6:00 PM** at the following location:

Port Angeles Senior Center  
328 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
Port Angeles, WA 98362

- Contact DNR staff if you are aware of cultural resource issues associated with specific trust parcels, or if there are features present on specific DNR trust lands that merit consideration of these parcels to be used for open space, park, school, or critical habitat purposes.
- Following the evaluation of hearing testimony and a property appraisal, DNR and Merrill and Ring will finalize an exchange proposal to present to the Board of Natural Resources for a final decision at one of its regularly scheduled monthly meetings. The Board meeting provides an additional opportunity for public comment.
- The DNR website ([www.dnr.wa.gov](http://www.dnr.wa.gov)) will have a webpage created for this project and be updated as new information becomes available.

## Contacts

Bob Winslow, Exchange Project Manager  
Asset Management & Protection Division  
PO Box 47014, Olympia, WA 98504-7014  
(360) 902-1622  
[robert.winslow@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:robert.winslow@dnr.wa.gov)

Cathy Baker, Transactions Coordinator  
Olympic Region  
411 Tillicum Lane, Forks, WA 98331  
(360) 374-2860  
[cathy.baker@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:cathy.baker@dnr.wa.gov)

Additional information is available on our website: [www.dnr.wa.gov](http://www.dnr.wa.gov)

(To find the webpage with project information click onto the Managed Lands heading, and then click on Land Transactions, then on Peninsula Land Exchange.)

# PROPOSED CANDIDATE PARCELS

## PENINSULA EXCHANGE MAP 1 OF 3 - CLALLAM COUNTY



State Trust Parcels



Merrill & Ring Parcels



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# PROPOSED CANDIDATE PARCELS

## PENINSULA EXCHANGE MAP 2 OF 3 - CLALLAM, JEFFERSON COUNTIES



State Trust Parcels



Merrill & Ring Parcels



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# PROPOSED CANDIDATE PARCELS

## PENINSULA EXCHANGE MAP 3 OF 3 - JEFFERSON, GRAYS HARBOR COUNTIES



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