Community Forest Trust

Purpose

Protect working forestlands with a high risk of conversion to non-forest uses, but that have important value to local communities

- Conversion of these forests represent a loss of important social and environmental services, and an erosion of timber and natural resource-based economies.

- DNR and local communities can partner to provide a tool to help protect working forestlands
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Overview

- Passed by 2011 Legislature as ESHB 1421
- Creates a discrete non-fiduciary forest land trust with lands managed by DNR
- Acquired forest lands can be private or trust lands
- Lands acquired jointly with local partner resources and state capital appropriations
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Overview continued...

• Emphasis on self-sustaining, active forest management
• Requires a community working forest management plan developed by DNR and local partners
• Lands may be divested by Board if they do not perform
How it works...

- List of candidate community forests presented to legislature; private owner or state trust
- Legislature appropriates capital funds to acquire
- Local community contributes to acquisition
- Purchased lands go into Community Forest Trust ownership and must have revenue-producing activities to minimally offset management costs
Board responsibilities

- Provide input on draft list of proposed properties before they are submitted to the legislature
- Approve all acquisitions of real property
- Divest in nonperforming community forest parcels, or for those for which DNR cannot reach agreement on a management plan
- Reimburse (at the Board’s discretion) the local entities’ and state’s financial contribution
Community Forest Trust
FY 15-17 Proposal

North Kitsap Community Forest budget request

- Proposed inclusion of 484 acres of commercial forest lands in North Kitsap Co., currently owned by Pope Resources
- Total project cost is $3.4 million, which includes property acquisition, development of management plan and basic program guidelines
- Community match will be $450-500K
- Review team thoroughly evaluated proposal
Community Forest Trust
FY 15-17 Proposal
North Kitsap Wildlife Corridor

Port Gamble Block
Targeted for acquisition through Kitsap Forest and Bay Project. Connects with Kitsap County’s new 335-acre heritage park with 1.3 acres of preserved Puget Sound Shoreline.

Future Assessment to Establish a Wildlife Corridor

North Kitsap Community Forest

GPC Grant-Funded Acquisition Lands
272 Acres

Targeted For GPC Acquisition—2014
Grant Pending 120 Acres

North Kitsap Heritage Park
443 Acres

North Kitsap Heritage Park Expansion
380 Acres

Arborwood
Heritage Park Extension
90 Acres

$2.7 Million
Carpenter Creek Restoration Project—2011

Funded for Acquisition
61 Acres

Great Peninsula Conservancy

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October 7, 2014
Board of Natural Resources
Community Forest Trust
FY 15-17 Proposal

North Kitsap proposal (cont.)

- DNR staff working in partnership with local proponents to create a strong community forest proposal to take to Legislature
- This pilot project will serve as a model
- Key elements:
  - Landscape that can support its own management
  - Strong and diverse local community support
  - Agreement on forest management principles
  - Willing seller
  - Strong linkages to Puget Sound restoration
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Questions?