

## I. Call for projects

### BACKGROUND

The Washington State Legislature has asked the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to develop a list of community-forest projects to consider for legislative support. This is a call for projects for that list. Both potential and existing projects are eligible, and they can be owned and managed by the state, by other governmental entities, by tribes, or by nonprofit groups.

What is a community forest? Broadly, it's a working forest owned and managed by or on behalf of a local community. The legislature is responding to interest from around Washington in exploring how community forests can provide jobs, enhance rural economic development, conserve working forests from conversion to development, protect drinking water and water quality, enable recreation, and generate other locally-driven economic, social, and environmental benefits.

Overall, community forests are about empowering communities to take their future into their own hands.

### OBJECTIVES

The purpose of building a list of projects is to:

- Improve understanding of community forests and the economic, social, and environmental benefits they can deliver;
- Improve understanding of the factors that contribute to success for community forests;
- Document near-term examples of community-forest projects that are ready or close to ready for acquisition, expansion, or other investments; and
- Share aspirational examples of communities that could benefit from a community forest in the future.

### OPPORTUNITY

DNR is seeking potential community-forest projects that meet the objectives stated above and will present a list of prioritized projects to the legislature by November 1, 2018.

Proposed Projects should reflect the following goals of community forests:

- The community is involved in the establishment of the community forest.
- The community forest is owned and managed by or on behalf of a community.
- The governance structure ensures collaboration and community participation in management decisions.

- The community has access to the value and benefits of the forest that support and reinforce community priorities.
- The forest is permanently protected from conversion to development.

**Who can submit projects?**

**We would like to hear from a range of potential community forest owners.**

- Cities
- Municipalities
- Counties
- Nonprofit nature conservancies
- Tribes
- State agencies
- Other qualified nonprofits

To submit a project for consideration for the project list, please address the form on the following page.

## **II. COMMUNITY FOREST PROJECT FORM**

- 1. Forest Name or Project Title:**
- 2. Sponsoring Organization (existing or anticipated):**
- 3. Main Contact person:**
- 4. [Contact information]**
- 5. Project Information:** Please provide responses to each of the following:
  - a. Describe the property, including acreage and county location
  - b. Describe current land uses, including improvements (i.e. infrastructure, landscaping, etc.)
  - c. Describe the forest type and vegetative cover
  - d. Describe the type and extent of economic, social, and environmental benefits to the community, including to underserved communities
  - e. Describe community involvement, to date and/or anticipated, in the acquisition and long-term management of the property;
  - f. Identify persons and organizations that support the project
  - g. The estimated cost of the acquisition and establishment of the community forest;  
and
  - h. The approximate timeline for completing the acquisition, identifying anticipated governance structure, and drafting a management plan.