Understanding the Trust Land Transfer Proviso

What is Trust Land Transfer?

Initiated in 1989, Trust Land Transfer is an innovative tool for the Washington State Legislature, through the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), to address several trust land management needs of the Common School Trust:

- Transfer out of economically under-performing state trust lands;
- Acquire funds to purchase replacement lands with higher long-term income producing potential;
- Direct funds to the K-12 Common School Construction Account; and
- Conserve lands that have high ecological or social values.

What is the Trust Land Transfer Proviso?

As part of the 2021-23 Capital Budget, the Washington State Legislature directed DNR to convene a work group of state trust land beneficiaries and stakeholders to develop a recommended process for the way Trust Land Transfer proposals are developed and implemented. In addition, the proviso directs DNR to report and make recommendations to the legislature for the establishment of a new Trust Land Transfer program by December 1, 2021 (SHB 1080 Sec. 3333).
How is DNR Moving Forward?

In the summer and fall of 2021, DNR will assemble a work group to discuss existing program processes, consider issues and opportunities, and develop recommendations. At the same time, DNR staff will develop their recommendations for a new Trust Land Transfer program.

What Did the Proviso Include, Specifically?

SHB 1080 Sec. 3333. (1) The department of natural resources shall convene a work group of trust land beneficiaries and stakeholders to develop a recommended process for the way trust land transfer proposals are developed and implemented. Consideration should be made for increasing the income value of the trusts, limiting impacts to trust lands not being considered for transfer, conservation value of lands that are a potential candidate for transfer, and use of the land bank for securing repositioned land that would result from any transferred projects, and any other items necessary for a well-supported program. The department of natural resources must report and make recommendations for the establishment of a new trust land transfer program to the fiscal committees of the legislature, by December 1, 2021.

(2) For the 2021-2023 fiscal biennium, the department of natural resources may not trade, transfer, or sell any valuable material from the four parcels that comprised the proposed trust land transfer parcels in the 2019-2021 fiscal biennium, known as Blakely Island, Devils Lake, Eglon, and Morning Star.

Contacts

Angus Brodie, Deputy Supervisor for State Uplands; Angus.Brodie@dnr.wa.gov
Lisa Anderson, Trust Outreach Specialist; Lisa.Anderson@dnr.wa.gov
Kristen Ohlson-Kiehn, Assistant Division Manager, Projects and Planning; Kristen.Ohlson-Kiehn@dnr.wa.gov

www.dnr.wa.gov

Revised 7/21/2021