Meeting Topic:

Advisory Committee, Prioritization Criteria & Scoring

Friday, February 11, 2022 | 8:00 am to 10:00 am
Agenda

• Today’s Goal and Purpose
• Overview and Discussion
  • The Advisory Committee
  • The Prioritization Criteria
  • Scoring
• Next Steps
Todays’ Goal and Purpose

• Review what the Legislative report said about today’s topic and subtopics
• Gain a shared understanding of Work Group tasks on today’s topic and subtopics
• Provide examples from other processes
• Engage in preliminary discussions related to each subtopic that DNR staff will use to develop detailed recommendations for Meeting 2.1 on February 24th
Overview and Discussion

- The Advisory Committee
- The Prioritization Criteria
- Scoring
The Advisory Committee
The Advisory Committee

Who is going to be on the committee?

- Trust beneficiaries
- County taxing districts
- Tribes
- Conservation organizations
- Forest industry
- Public agencies
- Representatives from overburdened and vulnerable populations
- Other?

Phase 1

From the Legislative Report:
The expanded work group needs to determine the exact membership and size of the advisory committee
### The Advisory Committee - Membership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Community Forests</strong></td>
<td>Non-Profit and Land Trust Members (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Forest Industry and other Organization Members (4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tribal, Local, and State Agency Members (6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Forestland Preservation</strong></td>
<td>Local Agency and Nonprofit Members (4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-year term</td>
<td>State Agency Members (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Forest Landowner and Citizen Members (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Habitat Restoration</strong></td>
<td>Citizen Members (5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-year term</td>
<td>Local Agency Members (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>State Agency Members (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Land and Water Conservation Fund</strong></td>
<td>Citizen Members (4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-year term</td>
<td>Local Agency Members (4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>State Agency Members (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>National Agency Members (1)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Examples from RCO (The Recreation and Conservation Office)

[https://rco.wa.gov/get-involved/volunteer-advisory-committee/](https://rco.wa.gov/get-involved/volunteer-advisory-committee/)
The Advisory Committee

How will the individuals on the committee be selected?

- **Open applications** (self selecting applicants)
- **Nominations** (someone else nominates)
- **Representatives from pre-determined organizations** – let the organization decide
- **Appointments made by DNR** - based on assessments (such as referrals or advice, applicant attributes, endorsements, previous performance history, review of application)
- **Other?**
The Prioritization Criteria & Scoring
Prioritization Criteria Topics (1-7)
(In no particular order)

1. How does the proposed transfer impact the local economy in the community where it is located? For example, how does it affect the tourism, forest products, shellfish, agricultural, or recreation industries?
2. What are the social values associated with this parcel?
3. What is the conservation value of the parcel? Does it fit into landscape-level conservation?
4. Are there open space or recreation values associated with the parcel?
5. Is the proposed parcel at risk of conversion?
6. Does the parcel conserve or restore the diversity of fish and wildlife species and their habitats?
7. Does the parcel have additional sources of matching funds, and if so, what are the sources?
8. Is the receiving public agency participating in funding and to what extent? Can they contribute something other than funds? The advisory committee should consider equity and inclusion with these criteria, as some communities have more access to funding than others.

9. Has the transfer been examined to determine how it affects overburdened communities or vulnerable populations?

10. Are there carbon or climate resilience considerations?

11. Does the transfer have broad support?

12. Are maintenance and operating funds for this parcel available to the receiving public agency?

13. Are there fire risk or forest health considerations?

14. Is replacement lands of equal or greater value available, especially for State Forest Lands?

15. Has Tribal Consultation occurred?
From the Legislative Report:

The expanded work group will discuss whether the criteria should be weighted.
Prioritization Criteria and Scoring
Example from the Forest Legacy Program

This criterion focuses on the attributes of the property and the environmental, social, and economic public benefits gained from the protection and management of the property and its resources. This criterion reflects the ecological assets and the economic and social values conserved by the project and its level of significance.

Scoring consists of evaluating a project for the attributes below and identifying a point score. More points will be given to projects that demonstrate multiple public benefits of significance. Significance is demonstrated by the quality and scope of attributes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Points Possible</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Economic Benefits from Timber and Potential Forest Productivity</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Economic Benefits from Non-timber Products</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Threatened or Endangered Species Habitat</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Fish, Wildlife, Plants, Unique Forest Communities</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Water Supply, Aquatic Habitat, Watershed Protection</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Public Access</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Scenic</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Historic/Cultural/Tribal</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>50</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Examples from Forest Legacy Program

Prioritization Criteria and Scoring
Example from the Forest Legacy Program

Description:
• **High** – Attribute is clearly present, is of high quality, and is a significant component of the project.
• **Medium** – Attribute is present or partially present and contributes to project importance.
• **Low** - Attribute is not present or contributes to project importance in a limited or marginal way.

6. **Public Access**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>High</th>
<th>Medium</th>
<th>Low</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4-5</td>
<td>2-3</td>
<td>0-1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Protection of the property will maintain or establish access by the public for recreation; however, restrictions on specific use and location of recreational activities may exist.

8. **Historic/Cultural/Tribal**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>High</th>
<th>Medium</th>
<th>Low</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4-5</td>
<td>2-3</td>
<td>0-1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The site contains features of historical, cultural and/or tribal significance, formally documented by a government or a nongovernmental organization. A federal designation should receive greater consideration.

## Prioritization Criteria and Scoring

**WWRP Forestland Preservation Category**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scored By</th>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Maximum Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advisory Committee</td>
<td>1. Viability of the Site</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advisory Committee</td>
<td>2. Forestland Stewardship</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advisory Committee</td>
<td>3. Stewardship Practices</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advisory Committee</td>
<td>4. Threat to Land</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advisory Committee</td>
<td>5. Community Values</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advisory Committee</td>
<td>6. Community Support</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advisory Committee</td>
<td>7. Multiple Benefits</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RCO Staff</td>
<td>8. Match</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Possible Points**

43

4. **Threat to Land.** What is the likelihood the land will be converted to some other use than forestland if it is not protected?

Score the question based on the severity of the threat that the property will be converted to some use other than forestland within the next 5 years. Threat may include lack of protection of the land, landowner circumstances, adjacent land uses, zoning supports ability to develop the land, or other conditions.

- **Point Range:** 0-8 points
  - 0 points: Low likelihood it will be converted to another use.
  - 1-4 points: Medium likelihood it will be converted to another use.
  - 5-8 points: High likelihood it will be converted to another use.
## Prioritization Criteria and Scoring

### WWRP Habitat Conservation Account

**Natural Areas Category Evaluation Summary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Evaluation Elements</th>
<th>Possible Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Ecological and Biological Characteristics</td>
<td>• The bigger picture&lt;br&gt;• Uniqueness and significance of the site&lt;br&gt;• Statewide significance&lt;br&gt;• Species or communities&lt;br&gt;• Quality of habitat and natural features</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Species and Communities with Special Status</td>
<td>• Threat to species or community&lt;br&gt;• Importance of acquisitions&lt;br&gt;• Ecological roles&lt;br&gt;• Taxonomic distinctness&lt;br&gt;• Pollinator habitat</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Manageability and Viability</td>
<td>• Immediacy of threat to the site&lt;br&gt;• Consideration of a conservation easement&lt;br&gt;• Long-term viability&lt;br&gt;• Enhancement of existing protected land&lt;br&gt;• Ongoing stewardship</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Public Benefit and Community Support</td>
<td>• Community support&lt;br&gt;• Educational and/or scientific value</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Multiple Benefits</td>
<td>• Recreational uses&lt;br&gt;• Resource uses and management practices</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Points Possible** 53

Examples from RCO

PUBLIC BENEFIT AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

To what degree do communities, governments, landowners, constituent groups, or academia benefit from, or support, the project?

This question’s intent is to find out what the unique public benefits are of the project. Public benefit should not be equated with “public access.”

Community Support

Describe the support or partnerships you have from the community including: local citizens, local organizations, local elected officials, interest groups, volunteers, public agencies, etc. How have you involved these groups in project development? Explain any known opposition to the project.

- Describe and document other monetary means that have been secured to help cover the costs for the project, such as grants, donations, in-kind contributions, etc.

Educational and/or Scientific Values

Describe the scientific and educational values of the site.

- Is there an identified research or educational need documented in a management plan, thesis, or scientific journal related to the habitat, species, or communities at the site? How likely is it that these opportunities will come to fruition? How accessible is the site for these activities?

Point Range: 0-5 points
## Community Impacts
- How does the proposed transfer impact the local economy (tourism, forest products, shellfish, agriculture, recreation)?
- Has the transfer been examined to determine how it affects overburdened communities or vulnerable populations?

## Social Values
- What are the social values associated with this parcel?
- Are there open space or recreational values associated with this parcel?

## Other
- Does the transfer have broad support?
- Is replacement lands of equal or greater value available, especially for State Forestlands?
- Has Tribal consultation occurred?

## Receiving Agency & Funding
- Does the parcel have additional sources of matching funds, and if so, what are those sources?
- Is the receiving public agency participating in the funding and to what extent? Can they contribute other than funds?
- Are maintenance and operating funds for this parcel available to the receiving public agency?

*The advisory committee should consider equity and inclusion with these criteria, as some communities have more access to funding than others.*

## Conservation and Habitat
- What is the conservation value of the parcel? Does it fit into landscape-level conservation?
- Is the proposed parcel at risk of conversion?
- Does the parcel conserve or restore the diversity of fish and wildlife species and their habitat?
- Are there carbon or climate resilience considerations?
- Are there fire risk or forest health considerations?
Next Steps
Preparing for Meeting 2.1

**DNR STAFF:**

- Develop recommendations based on today’s discussion about:
  - Advisory Committee
  - Prioritization Criteria
  - Scoring

**WORK GROUP:**

- Gather additional information on topic (if desired)
- Coordinate and communicate with relevant interested parties on topic
Meeting 2.1: What to expect

- Review DNR staff recommendations
- Discuss and refine recommendations
Hope to see you on February 24th!