

Summary

Meeting date: March 7-8, 2014
Agenda item: Lands 20/20 Acquisition Process - Briefing
Presenter(s): Clay Sprague, Lands Division Manager, Wildlife Program
Lauri Vigue, Environmental Planner, Lands Division

Background summary:

The Department's Lands 20/20 policy updated in 2013, implements a review process to ensure that future WDFW land acquisition projects are: consistent with WDFW's Strategic Plan; provide benefits to fish and wildlife; provide benefits for the public; and provide for operational excellence.

In December 2013, a total of 13 potential acquisition projects have been identified as high priority acquisitions during the Lands 20/20 process. These projects have been approved to move forward to seek funding through a variety of acquisition grants. This early review provides the Commission with a review and background on the new proposals, as well as opportunities to hear early public input.

Policy issue(s) you are bringing to the Commission for consideration:

The protection of critical habitats and recreational access sties through fee title or conservation easement purchase. Projects proposals based on the 2013 Lands 20/20 process, which will be submitted to potential funding sources available from federal and state grant sources are presented.

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

Public involvement has included Regional Director and staff coordination with local governments, a public review period (web based) and a public presentation of Annual State Land Acquisition Coordinating Forum (Forum) to be held in February. The Forum is a coordinated presentation of state agencies (DNR, DFW, Parks, the State Conservation Commission and the WSDOT) potential habitat and recreation acquisition projects forecasted for in the 2015-2017 biennium. The development of many of the projects has included a strong collaboration of conservation partners.

Action requested:

Request Commission review of the list of projects approved through the 2013 Lands 20/20; the Department will seek funding for projects approved in the Lands 20/20 process (e.g., Section 6, RCO WWRP grants). If the Commission identifies issues with the proposed acquisition projects the final grant submittals will be modified. Comments are due by January 31, 2014.

Draft motion language:

N/A

Justification for Commission action:

N/A

Communications Plan:

Public will have a three week review in early January where they will be able to review proposals and provide comments via the department website.

Additionally, material and products of the Annual State Lands Forum will be made available to the public through the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) website <http://www.rco.wa.gov/boards/hrlcg.shtml>. Public grant sources both state and federal have associated public involvement opportunities.
