



\$30,000,000 Capital Request (SBCA)

Trust Land Transfer Program History

DNR's Trust Land Transfer (TLT) Program began in 1989 and has conserved more than 125,000 acres across Washington, primarily in DNR Natural Areas and Washington State Parks. The Legislature codified the program in the 2023 session, and this funding request is the first to be submitted under the revitalized Trust Land Transfer program.

Trust Land Transfer Program: Preserving Special Places and Procuring Properties for the Future

FUNDING TO CONSERVE 12,299 ACRES STATEWIDE AND LET DNR PURCHASE REPLACEMENT LANDS TO SUPPORT PUBLIC SERVICES

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) manages 3 million acres across Washington state that are designated to support school construction and local services, but not every acre of state trust lands is best suited to generate revenue. The Trust Land Transfer (TLT) Program allows DNR to take lands with high ecological value and public benefits but that are economically underperforming and transfer them to agencies better suited to manage them. Parcels may be transferred to any public agency or federally recognized Tribe willing to manage them in perpetuity. Funding from the Legislature allows DNR to acquire replacement properties for its trust beneficiaries that are better suited to generate non-tax revenue to support public services.

DNR opened applications for TLT in summer 2023 for this funding cycle and found 30 of the applications to be in the best interests of the trust beneficiaries. An advisory committee of 12 volunteers from Tribes, beneficiaries, environmental groups, and sister state agencies, ranked applications across five weighted criteria: community involvement and support, ecological values, economic values, public benefits, and tribal support. The Board of Natural Resources approved the committee's ranked list during its September meeting, directing staff to submit this funding request.

To fit within the Legislature's \$30 million cap on TLT requests, DNR is bringing the eight highest-ranking applications forward, covering 12,299 acres across five counties. Recipients would include Tribes, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and DNR's Natural Areas Program.





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RANKED LIST OF PARCELS FROM TRUST LAND TRANSFER ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND APPROVED BY BOARD OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Beckler 6, King County: This 676-acre forested parcel 4 miles north of Skykomish would be transferred to the Tulalip Tribes and continue to be managed for conservation. The Beckler River bisects the parcel, which is surrounded by the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest on three sides and is more than 3 miles from the nearest DNR-managed parcel.

Okanogan G, Okanogan County: This 42-acre parcel 1 mile south of Twisp would be transferred to the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation to restore and maintain riparian habitat along the Methow River. The parcel is approximately 2 miles from the nearest DNR-managed parcels.

Tract C East, Tract C North and Tract C South, Yakima County: These three proposals, totaling 9,936 acres, would be transferred to the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation. The parcels are on the western edge of the Ahtanum State Forest, approximately 25 miles west of Yakima, inside the boundary of the Yakama Indian Reservation. The parcels were split into three applications to ensure that their size fit within the scope of the Trust Land Transfer program.

Babcock Bench, Grant County: These two parcels about 6 miles southwest of Quincy, totaling 1,235 acres, would be transferred to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to be managed as part of the Quincy Lakes Unit of the Columbia Basin Wildlife Area. The parcels include habitat for a host of plant and animal species of concern, including shrub-steppe ecosystems and roosting for at least eight species of bats.

The parcels, both of which are currently managed to support the Common School Trust, are currently leased to and managed by WDFW, and their transfer would eliminate an inholding and an edge-holding to the Quincy Lakes Unit.

South Lake Ozette, Clallam County: This forested parcel 12 miles northwest of Forks, totaling 372 acres, would be transferred to the Quileute Tribe for conservation and cultural purposes. The parcel, which is directly south of Olympic National Park, includes two creeks that drain into Lake Ozette and provides habitat for the endangered Lake Ozette sockeye salmon run, as well as the federally threatened marbled murrelet and Northern spotted owl.

Middle Fork Snoqualmie, King County: This parcel 2 miles southeast of North Bend, totaling 95 acres, would be transferred to DNR's Natural Areas Program and added to the Middle Fork Snoqualmie Natural Resources Conservation Area. The parcel, the majority of which is not available for timber harvest because of buffers to protect water quality, is currently managed as long-term forest cover. It is adjacent to the Middle Fork Snoqualmie NRCA to the east and west, and it is already within the long-term boundaries of the conservation area.