

# Preliminary Report: State Recreation and Habitat Lands

## Legislature Would Benefit From Additional Information About Detailed Outcomes And Future Costs Of Recreation And Habitat Lands When Considering Funding Requests

**JLARC Staff**

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Staff to the Joint Legislative Audit & Review Committee

January 7, 2015

## Report has Three Key Themes

### Outcomes & Future Costs

- Proposed acquisitions
- Plans for the land (outcomes)
- Future costs

### Inventory & Expenses

- Acquisitions and disposals
- Estimated operating expenses

### Economic Analysis

Will be presented in April

## Study Considered Recreation and Habitat Lands Owned or Managed by Three Agencies

### State Parks



#### State Parks and Recreation Commission

- 124 Parks

### DNR



#### Department of Natural Resources

- 55 Natural Area Preserves
- 36 Natural Resources Conservation Areas

### WDFW



#### Department of Fish and Wildlife

- 33 Wildlife Areas
- 690 Water Access Sites

## Information about Outcomes and Future Costs of Proposed Acquisitions Limited

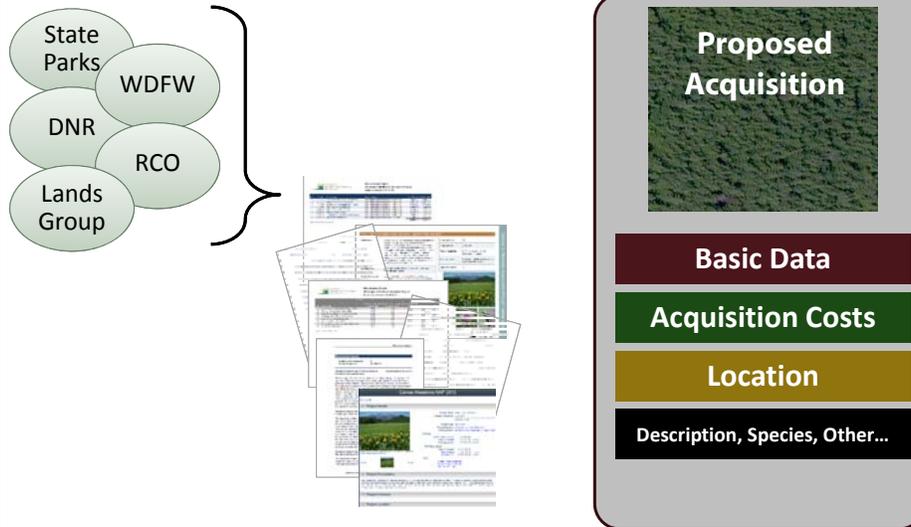
### Outcomes & Future Costs

- Acquisition details are readily available
- Limited info on detailed outcomes and future costs

### Recommendation

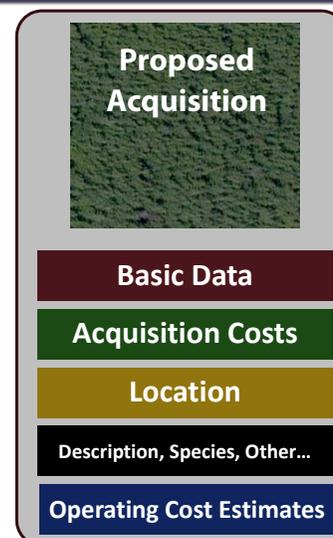
Single source of information, including detailed outcomes and future costs

## Basic Information Available, But Spread Across Many Reports and Web Sites

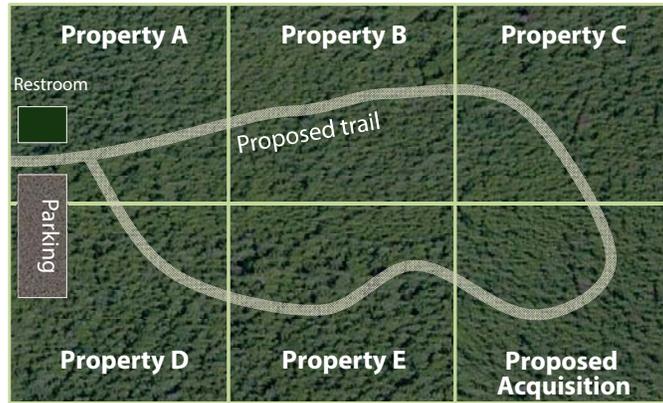


## Agency Estimates of Future Operating Costs are of Limited Use

- Agencies also report some operating cost estimates to OFM
  - Excludes capital costs
  - No standards for consistent estimates
  - Estimates not comparable to actual expenses

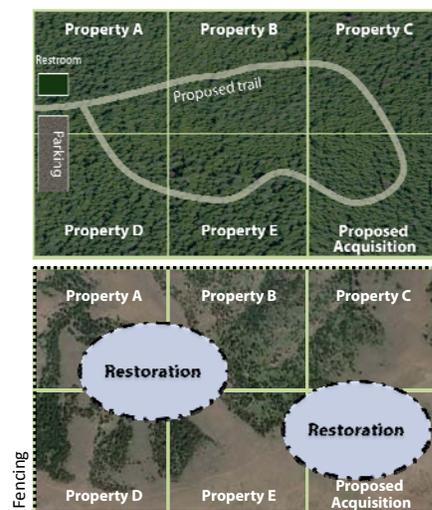


## Detailed Outcomes for Proposed Acquisitions Not Reported to Legislature



## Detailed Outcomes are Needed to Estimate Future Costs

- Estimated future costs for:
  - Additional acquisitions
  - Developments: trail, parking, restrooms
  - Operations and maintenance



## Recommendation: Single Source, Complete, and Standardized Information

Office of  
Financial Management

State Parks and  
Recreation Commission

Department of  
Fish and Wildlife

Department of  
Natural Resources

Recreation and  
Conservation Office

Develop a **single, easily accessible source for information:**

- proposed acquisitions
- detailed outcomes
- future costs

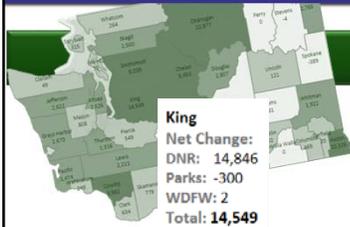
**Submit Implementation Proposal By:**  
**January 1, 2016**

## Legislature Wanted a Current Inventory of Acquisitions and Disposals

### Inventory & Expenses

- Identify recent changes to land base
- JLARC staff assembled information from multiple agencies and data sources
  - Acres, location, intended use
  - Purchase price and funding source(s)
  - Estimated operating expenses

# We Published Our Inventory of Land Transactions on the JLARC Web Site



## Interactive Map for County Summaries

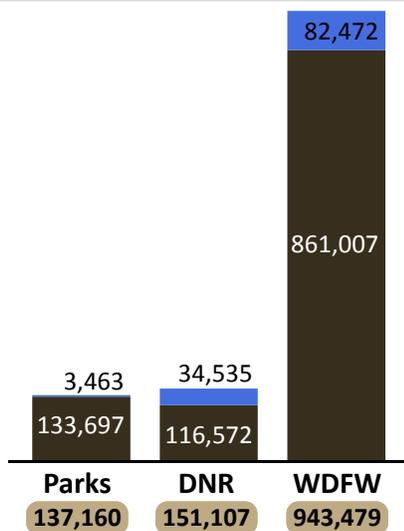
- ✓ Net change in acreage by agency

## Searchable Inventory

- ✓ Acquisitions & disposals
- ✓ Details: Location, use, purchase price, agency, more...
- ✓ Search by county

Agency	Parcel	Acres	Acquisition/Disposal	Year
DNR	...	...	Acquisition	...
Parks	...	...	Disposal	...
WDFW	...	...	Acquisition	...

# Public Recreation and Habitat Land Base Increased 11% from FY 2004 through FY 2013



## Acres:

**1.1 million** FY 2004

— 120,761 Disposed

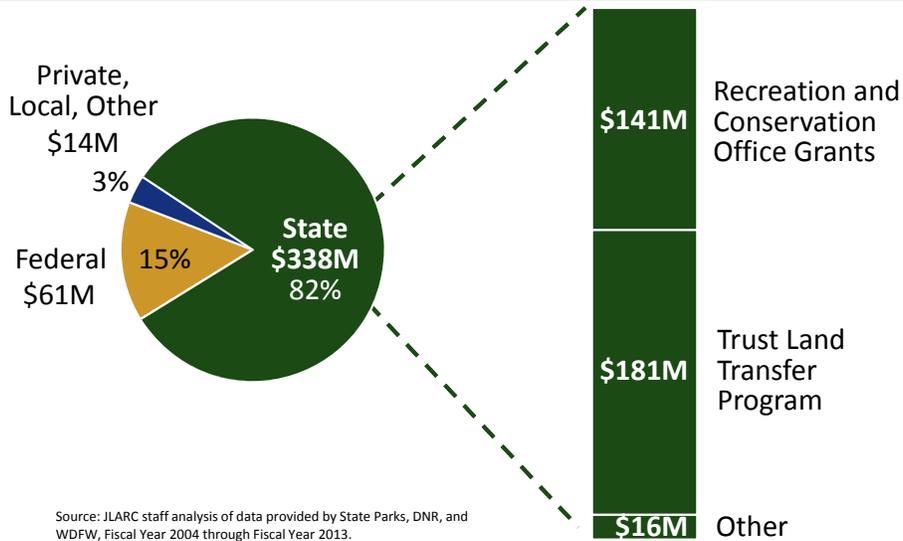
+ 241,231 Acquired

120,470 Net increase

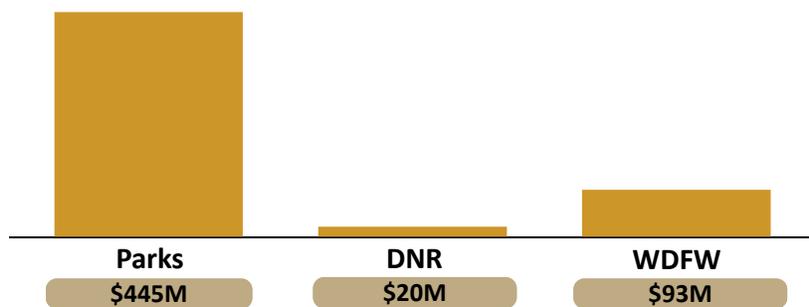
**1.2 million** FY 2013

Source: JLARC staff analysis of data provided by State Parks, DNR, and WDFW, Fiscal Year 2004 through Fiscal Year 2013.

## \$413 Million Spent to Acquire Land



## Spending to Manage All Recreation and Habitat Lands



- \$558 million for all 3 agencies over 10 years
- Includes expenses for existing lands and acquisitions
- Spending not directly related to acreage

Source: JLARC staff analysis of data from DNR, WDFW, State Parks, LEAP, and the State Treasurer. Fiscal Year 2004 through Fiscal Year 2013. Includes payments in lieu of taxes (PILT) of \$7.4 million for DNR lands and \$7.6 million for WDFW lands.

## Summary of Key Themes

- Information about detailed outcomes and future costs of proposed acquisitions is limited
  - **Recommendation:** Single source of comprehensive information, implementation proposal due January 2016
- Acreage owned and managed increased 11%
  - Inventory details are available on JLARC's web site [leg.wa.gov/jlarc/reports/publicLandsInv/data/appendixInv.htm](http://leg.wa.gov/jlarc/reports/publicLandsInv/data/appendixInv.htm)

## Next Steps and Contacts

### Second Preliminary Report

April 2015

- Impacts of lands on county economies

### Proposed Final Report

July 2015

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