



DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
OF PUBLIC LANDS
1111 WASHINGTON ST SE
MS 47001
OLYMPIA, WA 98504-7001

360-902-1000
WWW.DNR.WA.GOV

January 28, 2019

Update on Trust Land Transfer *Hantwick Trail Buffer* Application and Proposed *Michigan Trotter* Timber Sale

Dear concerned citizen,

Thank you for sharing your interest and concern regarding the Department of Natural Resources' proposed *Michigan Trotter* timber sale. We are aware that this proposal has generated significant interest from recreational users and residents throughout Clark County.

We have delayed the *Michigan Trotter* timber sale proposal until a later date. Because of input we heard, the proposed sale boundary has been moved further away from the south side of the trail. No timber harvest was ever planned on the north side of the trail. The current harvest plan is to retain a minimum 200-foot buffer on the south side of the Hantwick trail. This will result in an intact forest on both sides of the trail for its entire length on state trust land. There will be no "clear cutting" along the trail. We have attached a map with further details.

The Trust Land Transfer (TLT) program and process contains many different aspects, and so I am including the following Q&A to provide more information.

Q: What is the Trust Land Transfer Program?

A: The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) manages more than 3 million acres of state trust forest, agricultural, range, and commercial properties. Revenue earned from the sale of valuable materials and the use of these trust lands helps to fund and support schools, universities, capitol buildings, and state institutions. It also helps fund essential local services in many counties. DNR strives to maximize the amount of revenue earned from state trust lands while balancing financial need with the important ecological benefits these lands provide.

The Trust Land Transfer program is a tool that allows DNR to retain special lands in public ownership while sustaining and improving potential future economic returns for trust beneficiaries. The lands considered for the Trust Land Transfer Program meet one of the program's criteria: (1) conservation -- natural areas, fish and wildlife habitat, rare plants and ecosystems; (2) public interest -- recreation, state and local parks, open space or

archeological and cultural sites; or (3) revenue and manageability – repositioning our assets to generate more benefits to the trust.

Q: How Does the Program Work?

Each biennium, DNR identifies a statewide list of candidate trust land properties for consideration by the Legislature for inclusion in the TLT program. DNR coordinates the review and prioritization of the proposed statewide list of transfer properties. A willing public agency or program that will receive and manage the candidate property submits an application to DNR. Candidate properties are screened for special characteristics that distinguish the property from other income producing trust assets. The list is assembled into an informational package, with maps and property descriptions, that is presented to the Board of Natural Resources and then to the Governor's Office for submission to the Legislature.

The Legislature considers the proposal, determines the makeup of the final package, and sets proviso funding for some of the projects. If approved, the transfer package is authorized and funded as a section in a Capital Budget Bill.

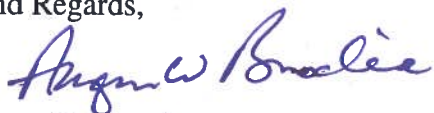
DNR then endeavors to complete the transfers within the biennium. Each transfer is presented to the Board of Natural Resources for final consideration. The land is transferred, unaltered, to the appropriate receiving agency for management. A deed restriction is recorded that permanently dedicates the land for the intended public use.

Q: What is Current Status of the *Hantwick Trail Buffer* Trust Land Transfer Application?

Clark County's TLT application includes a minimum 200-foot buffer along the south side of the Hantwick trail and all state trust lands north of the trail. The *Hantwick Trail Buffer* application is part of the TLT request package for the entire state. It is part of a funding package request from DNR. The package has been forwarded to the Office of Financial Management (Governor's budget office) and the state Legislature. The Legislature and Governor must approve the proposal before it can move forward.

Thank you again for taking the time to share your concerns.

Kind Regards,



Angus W. Brodie

Deputy Supervisor for State Uplands