

Building Trust

March 2008



The [State Trust Lands Project](#) e-news alert, **Building Trust**, is a quarterly publication designed to provide land-use information and tools, share research and policy analyses, highlight innovative approaches to trust-land management, and discuss state-trust-land laws and regulations to assist trust-land managers and engaged stakeholders in meeting their fiduciary duty in the changing West.

Washington Board of Natural Resources Raises DNR Fee for Managing 3 Million Acres of State Trust

On March 4, 2008, the [Washington](#) State Board of Natural Resources approved an increase in the funds retained from the gross income produced by state trust lands managed by Washington's Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The decision to raise the management fee from 28 to 30 percent on federally granted state trust lands, and from 22 to 25 percent on State Forest trust lands, comes in response to lagging timber sales. Timber sales, agricultural and communications site leases, and other pursuits generate the income for trust beneficiaries, such as schools, universities, other institutions, and local services in many counties.



"For a while, when others in the timber industry felt the slowdown, sales of our diverse high-quality timber, including larger structural materials, continued strongly," said Commissioner of Public Lands Doug Sutherland. "But with the continued drop in the West Coast housing market—and the credit crunch—the deeper slide in timber purchasing has finally affected state trust sales and revenue."

The management fee pays for DNR's approach to timber harvests, which is designed to enhance wildlife habitat throughout the state. Thinning and selective harvesting of forest stands are improving the health of the forests. These efforts also are creating additional wildlife habitat with more diverse and complex forest structure, including standing snags and logs on the forest floor.

The fee pays for the large variety of other environmentally responsible management activities, such as replanting after timber harvests and removing invasive non-native weeds. Investments in trust land management strengthen long-term income to Washington's trust beneficiaries, and help DNR find new ways to increase that revenue stream. They also ensure that state trust lands continue to provide clean water, diverse wildlife habitat, recreation opportunities, and many other sustainable benefits.

The Department of Natural Resources manages nearly three million acres of trust land for specific beneficiaries. About 1.8 million acres are Common School Trust land, managed to earn revenue to build kindergarten through 12th grade public schools. For more information, visit www.dnr.wa.gov.

SHARE YOUR NEWS: If your office has trust land management information and tools in asset management, collaborative planning, real estate development, and/or conservation use that you'd like the Project to consider sharing through this e-news alert, send the Project an [email](#).

Across the West

Idaho: The Idaho Land Board has given final approval to a new asset management plan for [state endowment lands](#), Idaho Department of Lands Director George Bacon said.

Arizona: Rep. Jerry Weiers' OHV bill would create an annual registration fee - estimated at \$23 - for off-road vehicles and create a fund for ATV law enforcement, education and [trail maintenance and construction on state trust land](#).

News from the Field

Two state agency governing boards have approved the transfer of ownership of a 651.48-acre, steeply forested parcel of land in southern [Oregon](#)'s Illinois Valley near Cave Junction.

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) got the go-ahead from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission to purchase Eight Dollar Mountain from the Department of State Lands (DSL) for \$849,000. The sale is expected to close by the end of April 2008.

Proceeds of the sale will be deposited into a Common School Fund land account for reinvestment in other real estate. Earnings from the fund are sent twice yearly to Oregon's 198 K-12 public school districts. In 2008, distributions will top \$55 million.

Web site Announcement

[Trustland.org](#) will launch an updated version of the Web site in April, 2008 along with a redesign of the Building Trust newsletter. The new site and newsletter will be redesigned to better meet the needs of state-land managers and other external stakeholders.

Education Funding and Trust Land Reports

Reports detailing the sources of funding for state trust lands and the revenue distribution mechanisms to educational institutions in the Western U.S. are now available at [trustland.org](#).

To sign up for this alert or to remove your name from our email list, please [click here](#)