

WAC 332-30-170 Tideland and shoreland exchange. The department will use this rule when it considers exchanging tidelands or shorelands with private individuals or public entities pursuant to RCW 79.105.400. The department may exchange these aquatic lands if the exchange is in the public interest and will actively contribute to the public benefits established in RCW 79.105.030. Those benefits are: Encouraging direct public use and access; fostering water-dependent uses; ensuring environmental protection; utilizing renewable resources; and generating revenue in a manner consistent with these benefits. The department may not exchange state-owned harbor areas or waterways.

(1) **Eligibility criteria.** The department may consider exchanging ownership of tidelands or shorelands with private and other public landowners if the proposed exchange meets the eligibility criteria set forth in (a) and (b) of this subsection.

(a) The economic values of the parcels must be equal or the exchange must result in a net economic gain to the state. The economic value must be determined by a qualified independent appraiser and/or economist and accomplished through a methodology accepted by the department.

(b) The tidelands or shorelands to be conveyed into state ownership must abut navigable water.

(2) **Evaluation criteria.** Subject to available funding, the department will evaluate eligible proposed exchanges according to the following criteria. The department will give priority and preference to proposed exchanges which, in the department's judgment, are in the public interest by providing the greatest public benefits, the least negative impacts, and the most appropriate resolution of other considerations, as set forth in (a), (b) and (c) of this subsection.

(a) The tidelands or shorelands to be conveyed into state ownership must have one or more of the following characteristics:

(i) Be or abut a critical and/or an essential habitat identified by the National Marine Fisheries Service, state natural resource management agency(s), and/or the United States Department of Fish and Wildlife;

(ii) Be or abut a critical area identified by jurisdictions under chapter 36.70A RCW;

(iii) Be an area beneficial to sediment transport and/or near-shore habitat function identified by the National Marine Fisheries Service, state natural resource management agency(s), and/or the United States Department of Fish and Wildlife;

(iv) Be actively used or abut a parcel used in the commercial production of food or fibre or other renewable resource production (for example, commercial grade beds of shellfish and aquaculture facilities);

(v) Abut a state or national wildlife refuge;

(vi) Abut an upland parcel with public upland ownership, easements, or some other formalized agreement that would allow direct public use of and access to the water;

(vii) Be actively used or abut parcel(s) actively used for water-dependent uses or allow for water dependent use;

(viii) Contain a historic or archaeological property listed on or eligible to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places; or

(ix) Generate or have the potential to generate higher revenues than the parcel being transferred out-of-state ownership in a manner consistent with the benefits listed in RCW 79.105.030.

(b) The proposed exchange must have beneficial or no negative impacts on:

(i) Navigation;

(ii) The diversity and health of the local environment including the production and utilization of renewable resources;

(iii) The quantity and quality of public access to the waterfront;

(iv) Treaty rights of federally recognized tribes. The department will solicit comments on a proposed exchange from affected tribes; and

(v) Hazardous waste and contaminated sediments liability issues.

(c) The following issues must also be considered:

(i) Consistency with plans and development guidelines of public ports, counties, cities and other local, state, and federal agencies;

(ii) The relative manageability of the tidelands or shorelands to be exchanged including, but not limited to, the effect of the exchange on management costs, liability and upland access, and the relative proximity of the tidelands or shorelands to be exchanged to other state-owned shorelands or tidelands; and

(iii) The cumulative impacts of similar exchanges on water dependent uses, nonrenewable and renewable natural resources, and total aquatic lands acreage managed by the department.

(3) **Recommendation to the board of natural resources.** The department will provide its recommendations to the board of natural resources in writing, addressing whether the exchange meets the criteria in this rule and the positive and negative impacts of the exchange on public benefits and resources. The department will provide copies of its recommendations to the proponent of the exchange. In general, an exchange should only be recommended by the department and approved by the board of natural resources when, in the department's and the board's judgment, the public benefits associated with the exchange outweigh the negative impacts or other diminution in public benefits.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 79.105.360. WSR 06-06-005 (Order 724), § 332-30-170, filed 2/16/06, effective 3/19/06. Statutory Authority: RCW 79.90.457. WSR 99-07-034 (Order 640), § 332-30-170, filed 3/11/99, effective 4/11/99.]