



## CLARK COUNTY WASHINGTON

### PUBLIC WORKS

MEMO

**To:** Clark County Parks Advisory Board  
**CC:** Bill Bjerke, Parks & Lands Manager  
**From:** Kevin Tyler, Lands Manager  
**Date:** September 12, 2018  
**Subject:** Michigan Trotter Timber Sale

Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) approached Clark County regarding the proposed Michigan Trotter timber sale in February 2017. Unit 1 of the timber sale surrounds a small, 9-acre piece of county property along the East Fork Lewis River and extends to the edge of Moulton Falls Trail in places (Figure 1). Initial discussions with DNR focused on possibly trading the 9-acre property owned by Clark County for some of DNR's property in the vicinity of the timber sale that also includes sections of the Moulton Falls Trail (the County currently pays DNR an easement fee to use the trail).

As you may know, the planned timber sale generated significant interest from recreational users and residents in the East Fork of the Lewis River and Yacolt community. Considering this interest, DNR and Clark County talked with several community members, conducted site visits, and discussed other alternatives over the course of the past year. DNR and Clark County eventually reached a tentative agreement to exchange some of their respective properties near the Moulton Falls Trail (Figure 2). If completed, this land exchange would have allowed Clark County to acquire ownership of the trail and a surrounding "buffer" area for public recreation. In return, DNR would gain ownership of the small parcel of nearby County-owned forest land to harvest for revenue to state trust land beneficiaries.

The property owned by Clark County was purchased using state Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) grant funds. After talking with RCO regarding the potential land swap between Clark County and DNR, it became clear that exchanging the county's property would require a conversion process through RCO. This conversion process requires a replacement property of equivalent value and utility. RCO felt that DNR's land would not be a suitable replacement for this conversion for several reasons, meaning that the county would need to provide some other property as the replacement. Considering the amount of work it would take to complete the conversion process, and that the county would need to provide an alternate form of replacement property, DNR and Clark County have mutually agreed to drop the land exchange idea.

DNR has recently requested Trust Land Transfer property nominations for the 2019-2021 biennium for DNR managed trust lands. The DNR property in the vicinity of Moulton Falls Trail is managed trust land, and DNR has expressed a willingness to entertain a nomination for portions of the timber unit proposed for exchange including ownership of the trail and a surrounding "buffer" area for public recreation. Clark County has submitted a Trust Land Transfer nomination package for this property. Nominations will be considered by DNR and proposed to the Washington State Legislature in the upcoming legislative session. DNR has not formally updated information regarding the Michigan Trotter timber sale to date, but did express an interest in working collaboratively in about a month to put out another community update. The most recent community update is attached for your reference.

# LOGGING PLAN MAP

Figure 1

**SALE NAME:** MICHIGAN TROTTER

**AGREEMENT#:** None

**TOWNSHIP(S):** T04R03E

**TRUST(S):** State Forest Transfer(1), State Forest Purchase(2), Common School and Indemnity(3)

**REGION:**

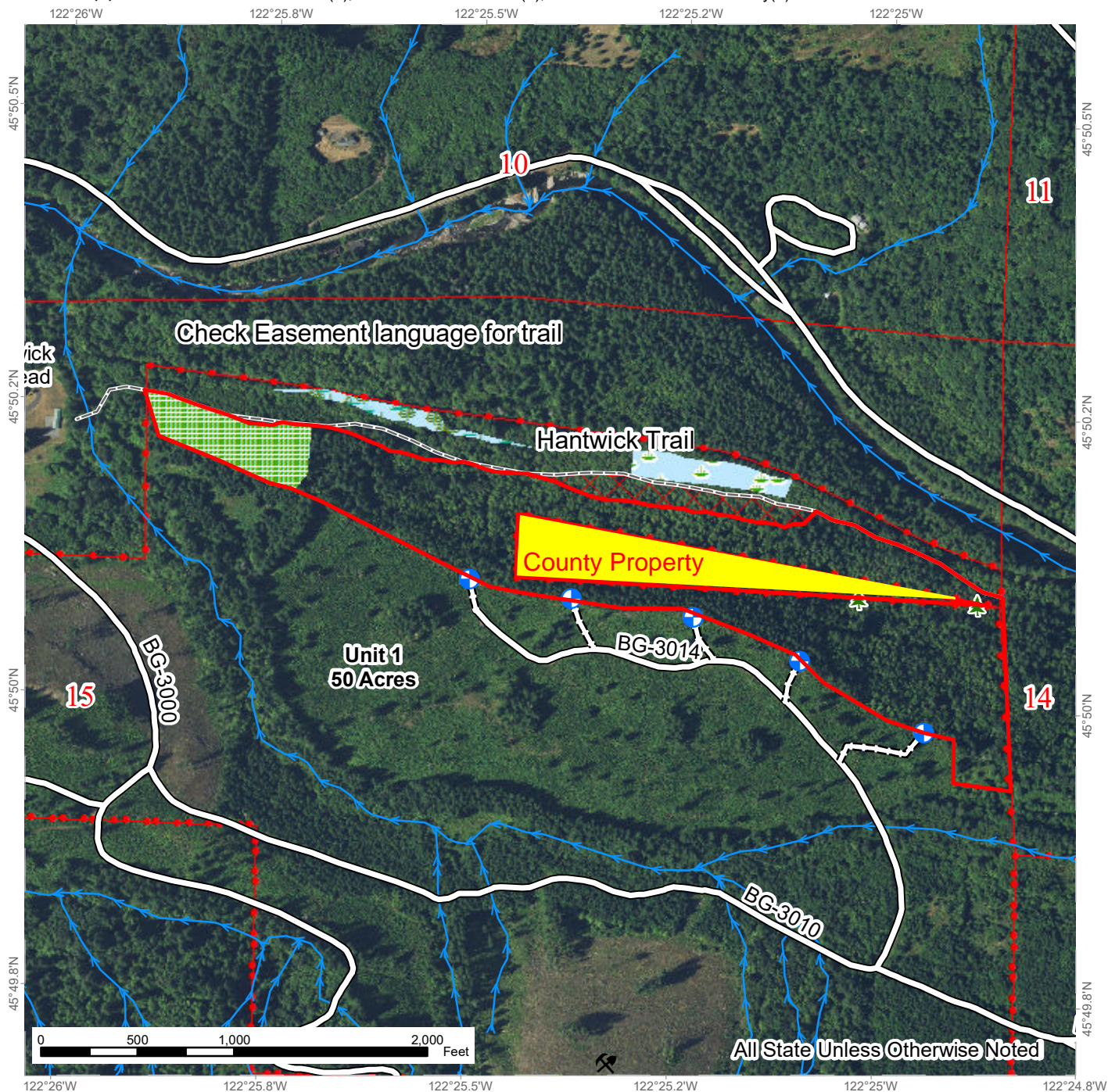
Pacific Cascade Region

**COUNTY(S):**

CLARK

**ELEVATION RGE:**

500-2165



Leave Tree Area



Special Mgt Area



Wetlands - Non-forested



Forested Wetland

Existing Roads

Required Construction

Old Grades/Trails

Streams

Landing - Proposed

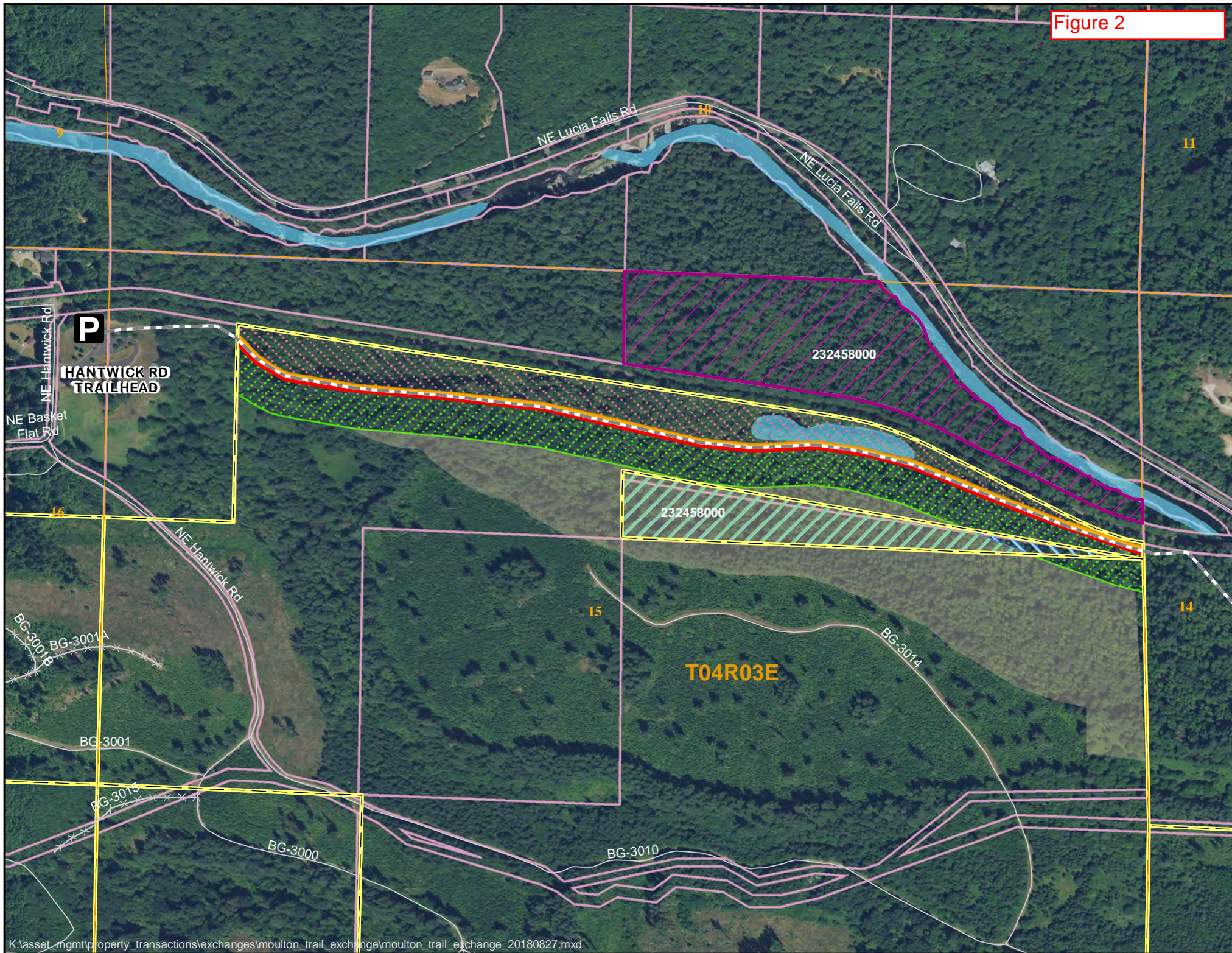
Leave Tree Area

Recreation Site

Rock Pit







# PROPOSED Moulton Trail Exchange

## Clark County Parks

### Parcel 232458000

- Clark County Parcel 232458000 Part of Exchange - 9.28 Acres
- Clark County Parcel 23245800 Not Part of Exchange - 47.85 Acres
- Clark County Parcel 23245800 Not Part of Exchange - .76 Acres
- DNR Parcel For Exchange North of Moulton Trail - 14.94 Acres
- DNR Parcel For Exchange South of Moulton Trail - 18.62 Acres
- Easement 20' Buffer North Side of Moulton Trail - 2.16 Acres
- Easement 20' Buffer South Side of Moulton Trail - 2.16 Acres
- DNR Managed Lands
- Proposed Michigan Trotter TBS U1 Boundary
- County Parcels
- Trailhead
- Existing Roads
- Non-Drivable Access
- Recreation Trail

0 550 1,100 Feet



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

8/27/2018







## WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF **NATURAL RESOURCES**

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August 13, 2018

### **Michigan Trotter-Moulton Falls Update**

**Washington DNR Pacific Cascade Region Office**

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As you may know, the planned Michigan Trotter timber sale by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has generated significant interest from recreational users and residents in the East Fork of the Lewis River and Yacolt community.

In the past few days, DNR and Clark County have reached a tentative agreement to exchange some of their respective properties near the Moulton Falls Trail. If completed, this land exchange would allow Clark County to acquire ownership of the trail and a surrounding "buffer" area for public recreation (the County currently pays DNR an easement fee to use the trail). In return, DNR would gain ownership of a small parcel of nearby County-owned forest land to harvest for revenue to state trust land beneficiaries.

The following Q&A provides more information about this proposed land swap and DNR's plans for the Michigan Trotter harvest.

We plan to send additional updates about the proposed land exchange and timber sale as those projects develop. Sign up for Michigan Trotter-Moulton Falls email updates at: <http://eepurl.com/dD7w-j> or email: [pacific-cascade.region@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:pacific-cascade.region@dnr.wa.gov)

We hope you will share this information with your family, friends and others interested in the future of the Moulton Falls trail.

## Q&A — Moulton Falls Trail and DNR's Proposed Michigan Trotter timber harvest

**Q: What parcels of land would Clark County exchange in order to acquire the DNR-owned Moulton Falls Trail and a buffer zone along the trail?**

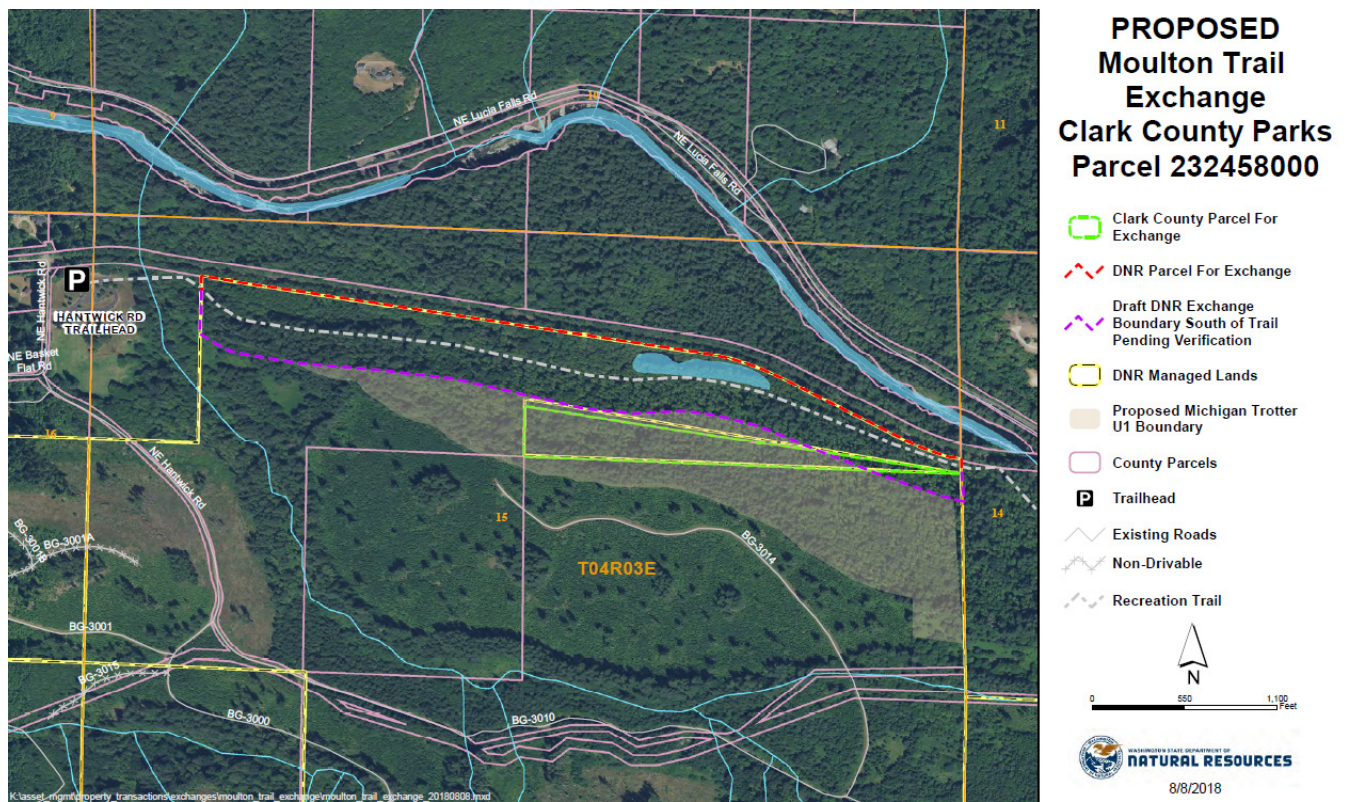
**A:** Clark County would exchange all or part of a small parcel of forest that it owns in the area. This “in-holding” is surrounded by DNR-managed State Trust lands.

**Q: What is the current status of the Michigan Trotter timber sale?**

**A:** Because the proposed land exchange between DNR and Clark County will require land surveys, appraisals, and other procedures as part of the normal acquisition process, the Michigan Trotter timber sale will be delayed at least until May 2019.

**Q: What is the status of the proposed land exchange?**

**A:** Clark County and DNR are determining how much land on both sides of the trail would be part of the land exchange. The two agencies are seeking to exchange parcels that will benefit their respective management goals.



**Q: Why, and how, does DNR harvest timber?**

**A:** DNR manages approximately 3 million acres of state trust lands in Washington to produce funding for designated beneficiaries, including K-12 public schools, state universities and several counties. State trust lands generate revenue for beneficiaries through the sale of timber-harvesting rights or by leasing the lands for agriculture, communication sites and other uses.

The two most common types of trust lands in Washington state are Common School trust lands and State Forest Transfer lands. Revenue from Common School trust lands is distributed to the State's Common School Construction Fund to support bonding for K-12 school construction projects. The revenue from State Forest Transfer lands is distributed to the specific county where the land is located and helps fund county services as well as junior taxing districts such as school districts, emergency services, and libraries. The proposed Michigan Trotter timber sale will provide funding for both local public services and statewide school construction.

When DNR harvests timber it also receives a management fee that pays for the law enforcement, wildfire protection, and forestry management services needed to properly manage forest landscapes. By sustainably managing these working lands DNR also can provide recreation across 3 million acres of land, keep forests free from development, and provide wildlife habitat and a cool, clean water supply. Our timber harvests provide local building materials and support local economies while being conducted with some of the highest harvest standards.

**Q: How can I and my neighbors learn more about the progress of the land exchange proposal and the redesign of the Michigan Trotter timber sale?**

**A:** We will send status updates about this proposed land exchange as the project develops. You may sign up to receive these emails at <http://eepurl.com/dD7w-j>

**Contact the DNR Pacific Cascade Region:**

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