LWVWA 2026 Letters for Forests

WA Community Forest Grant Program Funding Sign-On Letter was sent by the League requesting $9M to fund three more projects in the 2025-2027 Supplemental Capital Budget. Community forests provide local stakeholders a voice in the use and management of important working forest lands and ensures they are protected forever, providing jobs, recreation, climate, and habitat benefits in the process. Since 2020, our state has become a leader in community forestry thanks to a state grant program supporting this innovative model of forestry -- but we need to speak up in 2026 to keep that program strong.

Trust Land Transfer Program: The League sent a Funding request Letter to the governor. LWVWA will now ask the Legislature to support a request of $13.35M for 8 TLT projects as recommended by DNR and approved by the Board of Natural Resources. TLT is a conservation tool that is used to reposition economically under-performing state trust land to be managed instead for its ecological and public benefits. The Legislature provides funding for the value of the lands and DNR uses that revenue to purchase more financially suitable replacement lands for trust beneficiaries. While it has a complex structure, the benefits are significant for communities around the state.