



**Snohomish County
County Executive's Office**

For immediate release – Wednesday, December 7, 2005

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Snohomish County's Successful Bid for Grants Help Keep the County "Green"

Snohomish County has recently won several grant awards aimed at protecting and improving air quality and fish and wildlife habitat in Snohomish County.

"Snohomish County's natural resources are an essential asset," says Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon. "County staff has been particularly successful in leveraging federal and state grant dollars to enhance the value of environmental projects to local taxpayers."

Recent grant projects include:

Snohomish County Public Works, Surface Water Management Division recently received a \$75,000 grant to restore and enhance 1000 feet of an active sockeye salmon spawning stream at Little Bear Creek along Hwy 9 adjacent to Hwy 522. The project will replace existing large woody debris in the creek with 1.5 acres of natural vegetation to mimic conditions that would have historically occurred in Little Bear Creek.

The project will be monitored before and after restoration by county staff and volunteers from the Native Plant Steward to monitor and measure project effectiveness.

Since 1993, over 76 miles of streams have been reopened in Snohomish County.

A \$25,000 grant to the Surface Water Management Division will provide about one-third of the cost required to replace a fish blocking culvert on Fish Creek in the Stillaguamish watershed. Two 48-inch culverts will be replaced with a single non-blocking culvert reopening over six miles of fish habitat.

A \$39,000 grant from the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency to Snohomish County Public Works, Fleet Operations was used recently to install 24 oxidation catalyst mufflers on 18 Solid Waste long haul tractors and six road maintenance sweepers. No County funding was used for the project.

A grant application for roughly \$200,000 was just submitted to the Washington State Department of Ecology by Fleet Operations to continue the retrofit work begun. The grant would retrofit 81 more County vehicles with diesel oxidation catalysts. The diesel vehicles include a variety of many different types and sizes of cars and trucks. The cost to retrofit the individual vehicles will vary on type and size, but is expected to range from \$800 to \$5,000 per vehicle.

No legal requirement exists today for Snohomish County Public Works to retrofit its fleet of diesel vehicles to reduce emissions. Diesel vehicles built after first quarter 2007, will be required by the Federal Environmental Protection Agency to include a combination of oxidation catalysts, particulate traps and the use of ultra low sulfur fuel to reduce emissions to under 15 parts per million.

“It’s a matter of fiscal and environmental accountability,” says Reardon. Using grant funds to leverage our effectiveness to secure a healthy environment today, is not a choice, it’s a responsibility.”

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