



Snohomish County
Office of the Executive
Aaron Reardon
County Executive

Media Advisory– March 13, 2007

Contact: Veltry Johnson, Executive Office

Office: 425.388.3883

Cell: 425.754.3322

Email: Veltry.Johnson@co.snohomish.wa.us

Snohomish County Launches Advanced Online Mapping Service

New landscape imaging program adds accuracy and speed to planning in fastest-growing area of the county – and a unique view to residents

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon today unveiled a high-tech online mapping service that will improve County planning and offer residents a unique view of their County.

SnoScape utilizes an array of highly sophisticated remote sensing technologies to generate detailed images of landscape features on land parcels. The inaugural version of *SnoScape* will be available to the public on Tuesday, March 20. It will be offered as a free online service to help citizens conduct fast, accurate research into the geographic features of land parcels of interest to them.

The initial version of *SnoScape* will be limited to Southwest Snohomish County. The County's Southwest Urban Growth Area, stretching from Everett south to the County line and east of Mill Creek and Bothell, is the first to be imaged using the new technology.

"*SnoScape* is another example of our commitment to the effective use of information technologies to serve our communities," said Executive Reardon. "*SnoScape* will allow us to identify not only where our County should grow over the next 20 years, but what areas of habitat we need to protect."

SnoScape generates more accurate and precise information about key landscape features than any previous mapping tool developed by Snohomish County. Topographic contours in *SnoScape* are depicted at 5-foot intervals rather than the previous 20-foot intervals, enabling far more reliable modeling of a parcel's drainage characteristics – a key water quality consideration.

SnoScape's ability to more accurately map stream meander has increased the identification of streams in the County's Southwest Urban Growth Area by nearly 142 stream-miles. The program also provides stream-typing information that indicates possible fish habitat. Future enhancements to the application will include wetland modeling data and expanded coverage to other areas of the County.

SnoScape will be accessible through Snohomish County's website at www.snoco.org, search "SnoScape."
