



Snohomish County
Office of the Executive
Aaron Reardon
County Executive

Media Advisory– April 10, 2007

Contact: Veltry Johnson, Executive Office

Office: 425.388.3883

Cell: 425.754.6581

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

FUTURES BOARD RECOMMENDS SKYVIEW TRACTS PURCHASE

On March 30, 2007, the Conservation Futures Program Advisory Board approved a motion recommending the expenditure of \$600,000 in Conservation Futures funds to purchase properties located in the Skyview Tracts Subdivision for the purpose of providing open space and seasonal public access to the Skykomish River.

The Skyview area has been the subject of much concern for the residents of nearby Sultan due to the existence of squatters and illegal activity in the area. In January, Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon ordered a massive clean up effort at the site. Since that time county crews have removed over 400 tons of junk and debris, and have begun code enforcement efforts against properties that have refused to clean up their land.

“The appropriation of Conservation Futures Funds dollars will enable the county to continue acquiring parcels in the area, in order to turn what was once a symbol of blight and disorder into a public amenity that can be shared by generations to come,” said Executive Reardon. “I thank Council Member (Dave) Somers for his strong support of this effort, and I urge the rest County Council to follow the recommendations of the Board so that we can continue this important initiative.”

The purpose of the Conservation Futures Fund is to preserve land as open space, farm and agricultural land, and timber land, and to conserve property for public use and enjoyment. The Conservation Futures Program Advisory Board makes recommendations to the Council for projects to be funded as part of the Conservation Futures program, and develop strategic, long-range plans for the program. Recommendations from the board are forwarded to the County Executive for transmittal to the County Council for final action.

For information contact Deanna Dawson, Snohomish County, (425) 388-3297.