



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 20, 2005
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County Seeks Public Input on Critical Areas Update

Snohomish County has scheduled three public workshops to gather citizens' views on issues being addressed in a state-mandated update of the County's Critical Areas Regulations (CAR).

Critical Areas Regulations are specific sections of the Snohomish County Code that regulate how activities can occur on lands containing portions of the landscape that are particularly vulnerable, such as streams, wetlands, landslide hazard areas or wildlife habitat. The purpose of the regulations is to protect public safety, property and the environment.

Locations and dates for the workshops are:

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| Arlington: | Wednesday, May 4, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Post Middle School Commons, 1220 E. Fifth Street. |
| Everett: | Tuesday, May 10, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Snohomish County Administration Building East, Public Conference Room, first floor. |
| Monroe: | Wednesday, May 11, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Monroe Junior High School cafeteria, 1408 W. Main St. |

The workshops will feature a presentation by the County on the issues it faces in complying with state law. The state requires the County to periodically review and incorporate "best available science" and current community values into CAR regulations. Following the presentation, participants will break into discussion groups to talk about specific issues and provide feedback to County staff.

According to Craig Ladiser, the County's Director of Planning and Development Services, the CAR update process is a complex balancing act. "There are different ways we can bring our county into compliance with state and federal statutes for environmental protection. I want to know how our citizens want to achieve this end result," said Ladiser.

The Critical Areas Regulations update is occurring in coordination with two other major planning projects, the 10-Year Update of the Comprehensive Plan and the update of the Shoreline Management Program. Washington State Law requires cities and counties to protect critical areas and to periodically update regulations to incorporate new scientific findings into its policies and code requirements for achieving environmental protection.

For further information on the critical areas update project, contact Critical Areas Update, M/S 604, 3000 Rockefeller Ave, Everett, WA 98201-4046; or email criticalareasupdate@co.snohomish.wa.us.

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