

NEWS RELEASE

January 23, 2007

**MASON COUNTY COMMISISONERS
411 NORTH 5TH STREET
SHELTON, WA 98584
(360) 427-9670 EXT. 419**

TO: KMAS, KRXY, SHELTON-MASON COUNTY JOURNAL, THE OLYMPIAN, SHELTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, NORTH MASON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, CITY OF SHELTON, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, THE SUN.

RE: Mason County Project Benefits from National Park Service Assistance

The Mason County Board of County Commissioners is pleased to announce a grant of technical assistance by the National Park Service Rivers & Trails Program for help in developing a Mason County Regional Trails Plan. This grant of technical assistance is being awarded in response to a request initiated by the Mason County Parks and Trails Department, which is developing the Regional Trails Plan with guidance from a volunteer Trails Planning Committee. Planning Committee members represent a broad spectrum of Mason County trail interests and partners. The Rivers & Trails Program is a national program that helps local communities, with projects that conserve natural resources, promote cultural heritage, and provide close-to-home recreation.

The vision for the Mason County Trails Plan is a county-wide linked system of trails that connects parks, existing trails, communities and points of interest throughout Mason County. The Regional Trails Plan will serve as a blueprint and catalyst for future trail development in Mason County.

According to Michael Linde, Chief of National Park Service Seattle Partnership Programs, the National Park Service is excited to be working with such an enthusiastic and proactive County. A county-wide regional trail system for various trail user groups supports Mason County's goal of being a active and healthy county—and should be an essential part of any county's livability quotient and quality of life.

If you have any questions about the Mason County Regional Trails project, please contact John Keates at 427-9670, ext. 669.

BOARD OF MASON COUNTY COMMISISONERS

Lynda Ring Erickson
Chair

Ross Gallagher
Commissioner

Tim Sheldon
Commissioner