

NEWS RELEASE
January 10, 2012

MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
411 NORTH 5TH ST
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: Ruckelshaus Voluntary Stewardship Program

Pursuant to RCW 36.70A.035, the Board of County Commissioners will hold a public hearing on January 17, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. to consider participation in the Voluntary Stewardship Program, an outcome of the Ruckelshaus Process and Engrossed Substitute House Bill 1886.

The Growth Management Act requires Washington counties to designate and protect critical areas. Mason County has the option to opt into the Voluntary Stewardship Program as an alternative to updating the Critical Areas Ordinance as it applies to agricultural operations. There are several elements to the program that include obtaining adequate funding, establishing a group to administer the program locally, and working with the needs of the farming community while protecting critical areas where agricultural activities take place.

For additional information please contact Barbara Adkins, Mason County Department of Community Development, 360.427.9670 ext 286 or at BarbarA@co.mason.wa.us.

BOARD OF MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Lynda Ring Erickson
Chair

Tim Sheldon
Commissioner

Steve Bloomfield
Commissioner