WHATCOM COUNTY Parks & Recreation 3373 Mount Baker Highway Bellingham, WA 98226-9097



Michael G. McFarlane, Director Erik Axelson, Parks Operations Manager

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Southfork Park Listening Session Scheduled For March 14th, 2012

The public is invited to a listening session with the County Executive and Parks & Recreation Department staff scheduled for Wednesday evening, March 14th at 6:30 PM in the Whatcom County Council Chambers, Whatcom County Courthouse, 311 Grand Ave. Bellingham. The purpose of this meeting is to hear public comment and suggestions regarding the recommended concept plan for Southfork Park. The information and comments received will be compiled and distributed to council members for their review prior to the March 27th council meeting, when the tabled proposal is expected to be voted on.

The theme for this low impact park is to preserve and showcase the natural history and early pioneer life in the South Fork Valley. The recommended plan encompasses 603 acres of County owned park property along the South Fork of the Nooksack River comprised of three historic farmsteads connected by trail through Department of Natural Resource Lands. Public access will be provided from an entrance off Mosquito Lake Road. Two trailheads are proposed with a 20 vehicle parking area and restroom for general trail users and a 10 vehicle parking area and restroom for equestrians. A 4-mile multi use trail for hikers, equestrians and bicyclists utilizing existing trails and roads will lead park visitors through the park to the historic Nesset Farm located on the southern portion of the property. The Nesset Farm is proposed for restoration and will showcase pioneer life in the valley through the collection of original buildings and artifacts.

Approximately 4 acres of the park's 603 acres will be impacted by trailhead development. The remaining 599 acres will remain in a natural forested state and agricultural use. The current plan was developed with input from the public who participated in planning meetings and submitted comments. More information can be found at the Whatcom Parks & Recreation website at www.co.whatcom.wa.us/parks.

Contact:
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Whatcom County Parks & Recreation Dept.

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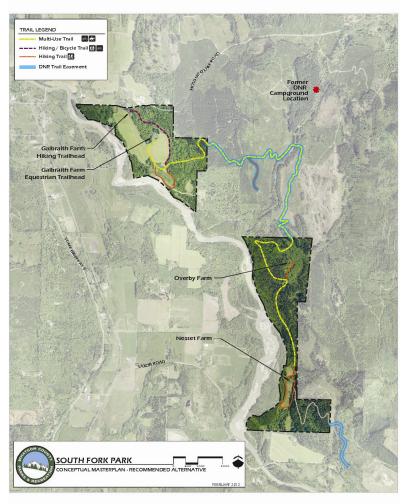
Southfork Park Listening Session

6:30 PM, Wednesday March 14th, 2012 Whatcom County Council Chambers Whatcom County Courthouse 311 Grand Ave., Bellingham, WA 98225

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For more information contact Whatcom County Parks & Recreation Department (360) 733-2900 www.co.whatcom.wa.us/parks