



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 28, 2011

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154 acres on White River to become multi-use facility for residents of Buckley

On Wednesday, March 30th the City of Buckley will finalize the purchase of 154 acres of undeveloped property along the White River. The total transaction including the transfer of two additional portions of land, consisting of a 31.74 acre parcel and a 28.65 acre parcel, both from PSE to the City, will encompass a total of 214.55 acres. The project is the largest property acquisition in Buckley's history and will serve multiple purposes to include: protection of the riparian corridor adjacent to the White River for endangered species and other wildlife; preservation of the City's existing sewer outfall; and provide both an area for a future well site and create a link along the White River to the significant Foothills Trail system that leads to Mount Rainier as well as the Fennel Creek Trail through Bonney Lake.

"This acquisition will provide access to hundreds of miles of trails connecting Buckley by foot, bicycle and horse to the region. It will also protect habitat for endangered wildlife and will be an incredible asset to the community for future generations," said Mayor Pat Johnson.

Endangered Chinook and threatened Coho and Chum salmon populate this part of the river. Elk, deer, bears, cougars, bald eagles, great blue herons and wood ducks also frequent the property's forests, wetlands, canyons, and meadows.

"Many generations of families in Buckley have roamed these trails and woods. Kids claim the area to learn about the outdoors, fishing and building childhood memories," Mayor Pat Johnson added.

The property will be purchased from Puget Sound Energy for \$300,000 with funding from the City's Utilities funds. The property acquisition also allows the City to retain ownership of lands within their corporate limits.

“This acquisition has taken years to come to fruition and we are thrilled to finally announce success to the community,” said Pat McCarthy, Pierce County Executive. “I know the County’s Public Works and Utilities staff have been helpful in finding funding and moving this along with Buckley. This will be a wonderful enhancement to the quality of life in Buckley and the region.”

Passive recreation is now available on the property. Future plans are revenue dependent and the Mayor and City Council will evaluate opportunities to further enhance the property with educational signage, better trails, improved fencing and possibly other amenities for the public.

“We’re pleased to have reached this agreement to turn over these lands to the City of Buckley for environmental, recreational and community needs,” said Gary Nomensen, PSE manager of local government and community relations. “Having the City own these lands is one of the final steps in our sale of Lake Tapps and the lands associated with our White River Hydroelectric Project following its shutdown in 2004.”

Residents and the public are invited to attend a Signing Ceremony of the final documents at the City of Buckley’s Multi-Purpose Center, located at 811 Main Street on Wednesday, March 30 at 10 am.

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Photos attached to electronic release.