WACO Has New Deputy Director

WACO Executive Director Debbie Wilke has hired Michelle Hagen, from the King County Department of Assessments, as the new WACO Deputy Director. Michelle began with WACO on January 7 and is busy studying all of the issues that will be of importance to counties during the upcoming legislative session. Michelle has 20 years of experience in real and personal property appraisal and assessment administration, and as a property tax specialist with the Department of Revenue (DOR) prior to joining King County. She has also worked for Mason and Thurston Counties. In addition to being a Certified General Real Estate Appraiser, Michelle has completed and instructed International Association of Assessing Officers’ (IAAO) training in appraisal, statistics, and related topics. She conducted extensive training sessions while with DOR and acquired legislative experience as well. We know Michelle will prove to be a valuable addition to the WACO staff and as a resource to our members. Welcome aboard, Michelle.

House Establishes New Committee on Community Security

The state of Washington has begun taking steps of its own to protect citizens from terrorist threats. The new House of Representatives Select Committee on Community Security met this past Wednesday at the Port of Seattle. This hearing took testimony from Governor Gary Locke and three invited panels, as well as public comments. The committee is chaired by Rep. Chris Hurst and its members include Geoff Simpson (vice-chair), Brad Benson, Ida Ballasisotes, Jeff Morris, Lynn Kessler, Jim Buck, Barbara Lisk, Brock Jackley, Al O’Brien, Shay Schual-Berke, Kelly Barlean, and Dave Schmidt. The new committee called this meeting to hear from Governor Locke on new anti-terrorism laws, and to hear from community groups about their concerns with future laws.

Counties also will have a special opportunity to present the local government perspective on emergency management and homeland defense. The committee will meet at 10 a.m. Thursday, January 17 in Olympia to hear from local officials. WSAC staff have already organized a panel of presenters representing emergency management and public health from large, urban counties and small, rural counties. For more information contact WSAC staff Selena Hopkins or Sophia Byrd at 360-753-1886.

At Wednesday’s meeting, Governor Locke spoke of the steps that have been taken to combat terrorism both before and after the attacks of September 11, and discussed four pieces of legislation he will propose this session. Although the state of Washington has faced no credible threats of attack, Locke said that no community is fully safe from threats, and his four proposed bills would help guard against any possible future attacks.

The first bill, the Anti-Terrorism Act, provides harsh punishments for performing an act with terrorist intent that results in the deaths of others, using or possessing weapons of mass destruction, threatening acts of terrorism or
hoaxes, giving material support to terrorists, and using false identification to commit terrorism. This bill applies current racketeering and money laundering laws to terrorists, to give restitution to victims of terrorist attacks.

Another bill prohibits price gouging by businesses during times of crisis, so that the hikes in gas prices or groceries seen in some regions after September 11 would not occur here. A third piece of legislation would make documents regarding the identification to commit terrorism. This bill applies current racketeering and money laundering laws to terrorists, to give restitution to victims of terrorist attacks. This bill applies current racketeering and money laundering laws to terrorists, to give restitution to victims of terrorist attacks. This bill applies current racketeering and money laundering laws to terrorists, to give restitution to victims of terrorist attacks. This bill applies current racketeering and money laundering laws to terrorists, to give restitution to victims of terrorist attacks.

Three panels were invited to give testimony before the Select Committee on Community Security. Leaders of the Hate Free Zone Campaign, the Arab-American Community Coalition, Seattle’s Idriss Mosque, the Japanese American Citizen League, Washington’s Sikh community, and the Somali Youth Association expressed their shock and grief over the September attacks, and their support of anti-terrorism measures. But they also gave personal accounts of backlash and hate crimes against people of Middle Eastern ancestry and Islamic faith, they expressed concern that any new laws not infringe on people’s civil rights and freedoms.

Jim Scharf, Everett Police Chief, and Mike Lang, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for the King County Prosecutors Office, spoke about their work with immigrant and minority groups, their condemnation of racial profiling, and also their need for strong law-enforcement tools to keep all the people of Washington safe from terrorism.

PILT (Payment In-Lieu of Taxes) Funding

C ongress funded the PILT (payment in-lieu of taxes) program at $10 million over last year’s level for a total of $210 million for FY 2002. This is the highest annual appropriation in the 25 year history of the program.

NACo Legislative Director Paul Beddoe advises, “We must not rest on our laurels. With the recession, military and homeland defense spending needs, not to mention tax cuts, the budget surpluses that made it easy to ask for PILT increases have dried up. We must continue to maintain this program’s high profile with Congress and the Administration. Never miss an opportunity to plug PILT.”

Eastern Washington Counties Join Water Quality Financial Assistance Committee

D onald Gatchalian, P.E., the Yakima County Assistant Director of Public Works for Environmental Services, is attending Ecology’s Water Quality Financial Assistance Council (WQFAC) on behalf of Eastern Washington counties. Since 1998, the WQFAC has served in an advisory role to Department of Ecology for effective and efficient administration of state and federal grants and loans program. It helps to ensure that the process of administering the grants and loans is transparent and supported by Ecology’s clients and stakeholders with appropriate levels of technical assistance.

Topics discussed at the last meeting included:

HB5637 – requires coordinated statewide water quality monitoring and creation of oversight committee. The oversight committee is to prepare a draft recommendation report by March 1, 2002 and final report by December 1, 2002. Both reports will be submitted to the Governor. The recommendations, if approved, will be implemented and completed by June 30, 2007.

Environmental Information Management System – Ecology is creating a system that will be on the Internet to be used for applying grants and loans. It is under construction and they hope to have operational and available by 1st quarter 2002.

HB1785 – requires output and outcome performance measures in certain grant and loan programs. Grant and loan applications will be ranked and weighed based on results (performance measures). This new procedure will be implemented for FY03 funding, i.e., January to March application period.

Draft Grant/Loan Application Form – the group worked on the draft water quality program grant/loan application form. The critical item here is the addition of performance measures or results to the application form.

FY2003 Centennial/Section 319/ SRF Funding Cycle – See separate article for more information.

The Council meets every two months and will next meet in February 2002.
Water Quality Grant and Loan Program Cycle Begins

The annual process for Centennial/State Revolving Fund/Section 319 Nonpoint loans and grants has begun. Again this year there is a single application cycle for the three water quality funding programs. Approximately $12.5 million is available statewide for FY 2003 for competitive Centennial grants. About $80 million is available for SRF loans and about $2.2 million for Section 319 projects.

Funding Cycle Workshops will take place beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the following locations:

- **Spokane Public Library**, 906 West Main Avenue, Spokane, Wednesday, January 16
- **Hal Holmes Community Center**, 201 North Ruby (Auditorium), Ellensburg, Thursday, January 17
- **Pierce County Library**, Administrative Service Center, 3005 112th Street East, Tacoma, Wednesday, January 23
- **Best Western Cotton Tree Inn**


Economic Development Leadership Training Offered

The Washington Economic Development Association and the Office of Trade & Economic Development are sponsoring Economic Development Leadership training, Monday January 28th in Olympia. Speakers include Martha Choe, Director of the Office of Trade and Economic Development, Paul Sommers and Gary Smith, faculty at the University of Washington and Washington State University, and Dick Thompson, former Director of the Office of Financial Management.

This training would be great for newly elected officials and those new in an economic development position. Cost is $50.

More information and on-line registration can be found at: www.wedaoonline.org

Hearings Set on Wetlands Mitigation Banking Rules

Two public hearings will be held this month on a proposed rule that will establish criteria and a certification process for setting up "wetland mitigation banks."

Mitigation banking provides a way for local governments, developers or others to generate "credits" by restoring, creating, enhancing or preserving wetlands before they cause damage to an existing wetland. The credits can then be used by that party or sold to someone else to compensate for land-use activities that damage or eliminate wetlands.

The draft rule was developed by the state Department of Ecology, with the help of an advisory group, and is intended to guide wetland-mitigation banking and certification across the state. The banks could be established by local jurisdictions, such as city and county public-works departments, transportation and utility departments, businesses and private entrepreneurs.

"Instead of compensating for unavoidable damage to wetlands in a piecemeal fashion, mitigation banking provides an incentive to create larger and more ecologically valuable sites," said Lauren Driscoll, who works in Ecology's shorelands program.

Public comments on the proposed rule are being accepted until 5 p.m. on Feb. 15. Verbal comments may be provided at either of the two public hearings, and written comments may be submitted via mail, fax or e-mail. The hearings are scheduled for:

- **January 23** in Lacey - 7 p.m. at the Best Western Hallmark Inn, 3000 Marine Dr.
- **January 30** in Moses Lake - 7 p.m. at the Best Western Hallmark Inn, 3000 Marine Dr.

There will be a presentation explaining the draft rule and a question-and-answer session prior to both hearings, starting at 6 p.m.

For more information about wetland mitigation banking, the public hearings or the rule-adoption process, call Lauren Driscoll at 360-407-6861, or visit Ecology's Web site at www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/wetmits/index.html

Written comments about the proposed rule may be e-mailed to ldr461@ecy.wa.gov, faxed to 360-407-6902, or mailed to Lauren Driscoll, Dept. of Ecology, P.O. Box 47600, Olympia, Wash., 98504-7600.

Human Services, Juvenile Justice & Housing

Association of County Human Services (ACHS) Meets in Thurston County January 16 – 18

A CHS will be holding it’s bi-monthly meeting on January 16 – 18 in Thurston County in the neighboring cities of Olympia and Lacey. January 16’s meeting will be in the brand new (and gorgeous) Thurston County Health/Human Services Department at 412 Lilly Road NE, Olympia across the

(Continued on page 4)
Grant County Plans for New Mental Health Care Facility

Construction is scheduled to start this spring on a new mental health care facility if bids are accepted and approved. During the first week of December, Grant County Commissioners opened bids for the new facility. Fourteen bids were submitted, all very favorable, said Sharon Kiehn, Executive Director of Grant Mental Healthcare.

The planned 26,000-square-foot two-story facility is designed with the option of adding space on the second floor should it be needed in future years. The new building is close to Samaritan Hospital and the Moses Lake Community Health Center. Funds to build the new facility were saved over the past 10 years by Grant Mental Healthcare so only a portion of the building costs will have to be borrowed. Per Kiehn, “these are not county revenues, but funds that have been earmarked for mental health. The commissioners have had a lot of foresight…a wise use of public dollars.”

Kiehn is pleased with the location she believes will enhance care. During 2000, Grant Mental Healthcare served a total of 2,315 individuals within the entire county. They also have facilities in Quincy and Grand Coulee. Comprehensive mental health and psychiatric care is provided on an out-patient basis to individuals of all ages within a wide range of needs from crisis issues to long-term support. County-designated mental health professionals (CDMHP) are available 24 hours/day, seven days/week and can be accessed by calling (509) 765-1717.

Juvenile Justice RFPs Out

The Governor’s Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (GJJAC) announces the release of two RFPs. The federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) Title V, Community Prevention Program is available and due February 22, 2002. The OJJDP Title II, Non-Offender Program is also available and due January 18, 2002. Look for the RFPs on the GJJAC website at www.gov/juvenilejustice or call 360-407-0151 for a hard copy.

Council for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect Announces Grant Funding

The Washington Council for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (WPCAN) is pleased to announce that funding will be available beginning July 1, 2002 for community-based child abuse prevention and family support programs throughout Washington.

WPCAN seeks to initiate, expand or replicate innovative program models. They recognize five approaches to family support and child abuse prevention which, based on evaluation, appear to be most effective and will be considered for funding:

- Crisis Nurseries/Respite Services
- Home Visiting Services
- Ongoing parent support groups
- Parenting classes

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- Public Education and Awareness Campaigns.
  They encourage applications from programs serving communities of color, homeless families and families affected by developmental disabilities. Funding is specific to prevention programs. No more than twenty percent of program participants may be involved with Child Protective Services (CPS). WCPCAN’s intent is to fund five new programs in 2002. The funding cycle is generally limited to no more than three years and will be re-evaluated each year. First year funds up to $50,000, second year funds up to $35,000, third year up to $20,000. Programs considered for funding must have matching funds from other sources increasing from 25% the first year to 50% the third year. RFP applications are available until the end of January from WCPCAN. The applications are due March 7, 2002 by 4 PM in their office. Funding decisions will be approved May 8 and announced May 24. Interest parties may download the application from their website at www.wcpcan.wa.gov/rfppapplication or send a request via e-mail wcpcan@dshs.wa.gov or phone 206-464-6151.

Mental Health Council Announces Behavioral Health Management Training Academy

The Washington Community Mental Health Council is pleased to announce their Behavioral Health Management Training Academy to be held April 23 – 26 at South Seattle Community College which is located in West Seattle. The curriculum is designed by national experts and is planned to expose attendees to a wide range of management skills, strategies, and solutions. It is intended for those who are at any level of experience in the managerial ranks from either the direct service or non-clinical/administrative career ranks. It includes didactic, hands-on and experiential instruction on key principles of effective management, as well as opportunities for practical application and skills building. There is limited space at the training, which will allow them to maintain a low faculty to student ratio. The registration deadline is January 25, 2002.

If you have any questions, please contact Linda Ruffer, Council Education Manager at 206-464-7965.

Good Things

NACo Announces Third Annual Acts of Caring Awards - Clark County is a Winner

NACo recently announced their Third Annual Acts of Caring Awards and our own Clark County was one of the winners. Clark County won the Youth Service Award for its Clark County Youth Commission for best identifying a critical need in the youth community and addressing it in part, by engaging young people in service. WSAC saw an energy-filled presentation on the Commission during its Summer Convention in Yakima last June led by Clark County Commissioner Judy Stanton. Congratulations Clark County and keep up the good work!

NACo’s Acts of Caring Awards come out of the Counties Serve America initiative sponsored by Nationwide Retirement Solutions. Winners will be recognized during a recognition ceremony to be held on Capitol Hill during National County Government Week in April of 2002.

NACo also wants to alert all counties that applications are soon due for the fourth annual cycle of awards (in fact, by January 18). To receive an application or find out additional information, please call NACo program coordinators at 202-387-8550.

Federal Funding for Public Health and Bioterrorism

The total funding package approved by Congress and awaiting the President’s signature is $2.5 billion, of which $865 million is earmarked for local capacity. The bill provides for assessments of core public health capacity, grants to improve core public health capacity, and grants for bioterrorism preparedness. Congress indicated that it did not want to see a competitive grant process, so the elimination of the competitive process should speed application. The details of how much, how and when have not yet been worked out. Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy Thompson will have 15 days from the date the President signs the bill to develop an implementation plan. There has not been any indication that the President will not sign the bill.

Based on a meeting on December 20 that included Tom Milne, Executive Director of the National Association of County & City Health Officials, and Dr. DA Henderson, HHS Office on Public Health Preparedness (plus representatives of several national organizations, states and hospitals), Dr. Henderson made it clear that Secretary Thompson wants to assure that 1) the money gets out quickly, 2) the money gets results that can be measured, and 3) local infrastructure benefits directly. Secretary Thompson has the following goals: 1) One epidemiologist for every community with 500,000 or more population; 2) For his office to play a more prominent role; 3) For the money to not go out on a straight formula basis, but in two waves (about one third initially, with measures due back to show progress before the rest goes out); 4) Assurance that the states won’t be competing with each

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other for the money; and 5) A stronger central management role. Secretary Thompson has indicated that he wants to have a single point of contact in each state — most likely the Secretary of Health.

Hopefully by the end of January we will see more details about the allocation of this funding. As is often the case, “the devil is in the details”.

Law & Justice

Federal Funding Available for Jailing of Undocumented Aliens

The federal Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) is now accepting applications for FY 2002 funding under the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP).

SCAAP provides federal reimbursement to states and local governments to help offset costs incurred for the imprisonment of undocumented criminal aliens, who are charged or convicted of at least one felony or two misdemeanor offenses.

Applicant submission and account registration is open until February 1, 2002. Application information and technical assistance are available online at http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/html/scaap.htm or by calling the Office of Justice Program Grants Management System hotline at 1-888-549-9901, option 4.

Washington Counties Not Alone With Indigent Defense Woes

Washington counties, however, are not alone in this quandary, according to a December 2001 article in the Journal of the American Bar Association. The full article and related items is recommended reading that may be viewed at www.abanet.org/journal/dec01.

Nationwide, lawyers are filing habeus corpus petitions to overturn convictions of defendants who pleaded guilty without having a meaningful opportunity to consult a lawyer. Some advocates also are seeking writs of mandamus to force county officials to honor their constitutional duties and ensure adequate indigent defense services. And in at least one state, Mississippi, a small county is suing to force the state Legislature to pay for trial-level indigent defense.

So far in Washington the most notable activity is the continuation of a pilot project and study on providing state funding for indigent defense in child dependency cases.

WSAC will monitor the above-referenced activities in other states and report developments in future issues of the Courthouse Journal.

Time for “Round Two” of FEMA Mitigation Grants

County officials are urged to review the fact sheet carefully to prioritize projects and identify potential problem areas.

Letters of intent (the first phase of the application process) must be received at the state Emergency Management Division office no later than 5:00 p.m. on February 15, 2002. Letters received after this date will not be considered.

If you did not receive these materials, please contact State Hazard Mitigation Officer Martin Best, at (253) 512-7073 or m.best@emd.wa.gov. Mr. Best also may be able to provide some individualized technical assistance upon request.

During the first round letter-of-intent process, EMD received more than 370 inquiries from 150 applicants for total project costs exceeding $427 million dollars. During the first round application process, EMD received 73 applications from 55 applicants for total project costs exceeding $72 million dollars. Grant awards for the first round have not yet been finalized, but recommendations are scheduled to be forwarded to FEMA by mid-January. Available funds for the first round are about $10 million.

Due to the competitive nature of the process, potential applicants should focus their letters of intent for this second round on the projects that are a priority in their jurisdiction. During the first round of applications, numerous applicants were unsuccessful because they waited to develop the application until the last few weeks prior to the deadline. This resulted, among other things, in inadequate public involvement in the development and selection of the preferred alternative and the applications were ineligible for further consideration.

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Achievement Awards Program Materials Available for 2001

One of the National Association of Counties’ (NACo) most popular programs is back for its 33rd year. The Achievement Awards seek to recognize outstanding and unique programs initiated by county leaders to more effectively govern their citizens. Last year, a total of 374 programs were recognized with awards and that number is expected to increase this year. These programs also form a databank, helpful to both NACo and its members, of successful county programs.

Awards are given out in 21 categories, ranging from Arts and Historic Preservation to Emergency Management, from Financial Management to Information Technology. The winning counties are celebrated at a ceremony held during NACo’s annual conference, to be held this year in New Orleans, LA. Counties and state associations of counties are eligible to apply.

The deadline for applications is February 15. To receive an application, or for any other information regarding the Achievement Awards program, please contact Joseph Hansen of NACo’s Research Department at 202-661-8834 or by email at jhansen@naco.org. The application may also be obtained from the NACo Website, www.naco.org.

Public Service Leadership Courses for Law Enforcement Professionals

Washington State University Spokane is offering the first course of the proposed Public Service Leadership Certificate during the spring 2002 semester in Burien, Washington. Ed Administration 589, Leadership Development Seminar: Public Service Leadership (3 credits) will be held six Saturdays throughout the semester beginning on February 2, at the Criminal Justice Training center in Burien. Those interested in this course must be admitted into Washington State University graduate school and enrolled in the course no later than Monday, January 28.

Ed Administration 589 is one course from the proposed curriculum for the Certificate in Public Service Leadership currently in the approval process as a graduate certificate. Information about the certificate is available on line at http://www.spokane.wsu.edu/link/l.asp?name=leadership01. Ed Ad 589 is a broad-based, interdisciplinary examination of the concept of leadership. Theory and practice, diverse cultural points-of-view, historical analyses and approaches, and sources ranging from literary masterpieces to films to contemporary treatises are studied. Completion of the proposed Public Leadership Certificate will fulfill the majority of the elective requirements for executive career-level certification from the Criminal Justice Training Commission. The Certificate offers law enforcement professionals both career advancement and academic credits. Up to 15 semester credits may be applied toward a WSU master's degree in criminal justice, available at WSU Pullman or WSU Spokane.

Those interested in taking Ed Ad 589 can enroll as undecided graduate status (UNDG) in the WSU graduate school. Graduate students may be enrolled as undecided for one year, are limited to applying six credits toward certification under the undecided status and are not eligible for Financial Aid. The WSU graduate school application can be filled out on line https://www.itwsu.edu/AIS/ADM/cgi-bin/grad_app.cgi.

Below is the schedule of class meetings at the Criminal Justice Training Center in Burien:
Saturday, February 2, Noon to 5:00 p.m.
Saturday, February 23, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Saturday, March 9, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 20, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 27, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 4, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

For more information about the Ed Ad 589 contact Professor Fredrick Peterson at (509) 358.7529 or petersof@wsu.edu

For information about the pending Certificate in Public Service Leadership contact Mike Erp at (509) 358.7951 or erpmj@wsu.edu or visit this online information link: http://www.spokane.wsu.edu/link/l.asp?name=leadership01

WSU Spokane Student Services can be reached at (509) 358-7978, enroll@wsu.edu or http://www.spokane.wsu.edu.

State Finance Committee Awards Fiscal Agent Contract to Bank of New York

Last month, The Bank of New York (BoNY) was awarded a four-year contract to be Washington State’s fiscal agent. The fiscal agent serves as the paying agent to bondholders on bonds issued by the state and its political subdivisions. BoNY’s selection allows the New York City-based bank to continue the fiscal agent services it has provided the previous four years to the state and 394 local governments. Wells Fargo Bank of Seattle will continue as co-fiscal agent.

State Treasurer Michael J. Murphy, chair of the State Finance Committee said “We’ve had a productive relationship with the Bank of New York for a long time. We’re very comfortable with the bank’s long-term commitment to the corporate trust business and the kind of customer service we’ve received. Staff from the State Treasurer’s office, as-
American Farmland Trust Helps Counties Save Farmland

(By Don Stuart)

Building support for the protection of Skagit County’s farmland is Rich Doenges’ job. In his campaign, one of his strategies is boasting about the county’s Cost of Community Services (COCS) study, which highlights the positive fiscal contribution of the land he is trying to protect. The study shows that farmers more than pay their way in tax revenue.

“The results from the COCS study are helping county residents realize that, if for no other reason, we should protect our farmland because it makes economic sense to do so,” said Doenges, director of the county’s Conservation Futures Program. “People who understand that maintaining working farmland in the landscape helps lower property taxes are now willing to support our land protection program.”

The study was conducted by American Farmland Trust (AFT), which has done more than 30 such studies since creating the COCS methodology in the late 1980s. As in Skagit County, the studies typically are done to raise awareness about the need to protect land. Because they address fiscal issues, COCS studies are one of the most effective means for building support within a community.

Doing COCS studies and providing expert guidance to COCS researchers is just one of the services offered to Washington counties by AFT, a national nonprofit organization with 20 years of experience protecting farmland. AFT’s work in Washington, Oregon and Idaho is coordinated by the organization’s Pacific Northwest Regional Office, based in Puyallup. Other AFT services are:

- Measuring public support for land protection: AFT will survey citizens to find out how they feel about land protection in relation to other local issues and how much they are willing to pay to protect the land.
- Profiling the agricultural industry: To demonstrate the contribution of the agricultural industry to the local economy, AFT will gather and analyze economic, demographic, land use and other data about the agricultural industry and agricultural land use policies in your county. We will present this information in colorful graphs that are easy to read.
- Educating communities about land protection: AFT will conduct a workshop on land conservation tools for communities and private landowners, the benefits of protected land, land stewardship or estate planning. This year, we received an award for our workshops from the Natural Resources Council of America.
- Developing land protection plans and programs: AFT will help you develop a well-rounded land protection plan and bring it to life. We will help you strategize, assess your needs, and choose and implement the land protection techniques—such as purchase of development rights—that will be most effective.
- Delivering the message about land protection: AFT will help you create and carry out a communications, marketing or outreach strategy for a land use study, new farmland protection plan, land project and more so your work has the greatest impact on your community.
- Mapping agricultural land: Using geographic information system (GIS) technology, AFT will create maps that identify the agricultural land that is the highest priority for protection and maps that show you how much agricultural land will be lost if sprawl continues.

All of AFT’s services are customized to meet the needs of the county. They are delivered by AFT’s team of experts, which includes more than 100 staff members with a wide range of professional and academic backgrounds—farmers, lawyers, appraisers, wildlife biologists, policy experts and land use planners. For more information about AFT’s services, contact AFT Pacific Northwest Regional Director Don Stuart at (253) 446-9384 or dstuart@farmland.org; AFT Director of Marketing Jill Schwartz at (202) 331-7300, ext. 3011, or jswartz@farmland.org; or visit AFT’s Web site at www.farmland.org.

Coming Events

2002 Meetings

January
14 Legislative Session Begins

14-18 Medicolegal Death Investigator Training Course, Central Washington University, Ellensburg. For information call the Criminal Justice Training Commission at (360) 459-6342.

16 Association of County Human Services (ACHS) Meeting, Olympia

30 Legislative Rally and Legislative Reception (WACO, WSAC, Association of Washington Cities (AWC) and Washington Association of Sheriffs & Police Chiefs (WASPC), St. Martin’s Pavilion, Lacey, 6:00–8:00 p.m. (WACO/WSAC meetings and affiliate meetings January 29-30 - check individual schedules.)

31 Training - Ethical Dilemmas: Integrity as a Tool for Successful Public Officials, Phoenix Inn & Suites, Olympia, with credit toward Certified Public Official (CPO).

February
7 Washington State association of Local Public Health Officials (WSALPHO)
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Meeting, Olympia

11-13 Washington State Association of County Auditors’ Recording Conference, Red Lion Inn, Wenatchee.

March


20-22 Association of County Human Services (ACHS) Meeting, Tacoma, Pierce County

TBA Washington State Association of Sheriffs’ and Oregon State Association of Sheriffs’ Annual Joint Meeting, Walla Walla.

April

7-13 National County Government Week

11-12 WSAC Western District Meeting, Rosario Resort, San Juan Islands, San Juan County

23-26 Washington State Association of County Clerks’ and Superior Court Administrators’ Joint Conference, Ridpath Hotel, Spokane.

24-26 Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys’ (WAPA) Annual Spring Training Program, Icicle Inn, Leavenworth.

25-26 WSAC Eastern District Meeting, Sun Mountain Lodge, Winthrop.

May

6-10 Washington State Association of County Auditors’ Annual Conference,

Columbia County Commissioners have named Michael Berglund as the new sheriff to fill the unexpired term of James LaTour who has retired for health reasons. Berglund has spent the last five years as the Hanford Nuclear Reservation security manager. Prior to that he served as a Pasco police detective from 1970-79 and served in the U.S. Air Force from 1966-70.

Courthouse Ramblings

News Articles

INITIATIVE TO LIMIT POLICE SEIZURE POWER FALLS SHORT - BUT A NEW, MORE RADICAL VERSION ALREADY IS IN THE WORKS, BACKERS SAY

Seattle PI, Thursday, January 3, 2002, by Sam Skolnik

Backers of an initiative that restricts the ability of police to seize drug suspects' property in Washington conceded yesterday that they've failed to gather the 200,000 signatures needed to place the measure before the Legislature. But a new version is already in the works and it promises to be even more radical -- and objectionable to law enforcement.

The proposed initiative would effectively prohibit property seizures, with a few minor exceptions. Proponents plan to submit the revamped measure to state officials in Olympia for review next week. If they get the go-ahead, they will need to gather their signatures by July 5 to put the initiative before voters in November 2002.

The state's forfeiture laws have drawn condemnations from defense lawyers and civil libertarians, who say it's been too easy for police to seize and auction off the property of people suspected of drug offenses and other crimes. The critics also say it's too hard for people to get their property back -- even if they're never charged or the criminal case falls apart. That happens in nearly four out of 10 cases in King County, the Seattle Post-Intelligencer recently. Law enforcement agencies in the county made a record number of property seizures last year, but the items were seldom returned, the P-I found. Erne Lewis, president of Liberty Initiatives, the group sponsoring the initiative drive, declined to say how close his group came to gathering the required 197,734 valid signatures for Initiative 256. Lewis said he's optimistic, however, that the new measure will fare better.

The language is simpler, he said, and the focus is narrower. And it will be easier to get the message out via the media now, several months after the terrorist attacks, proponents believe. "Asset forfeiture is a form of punishment," said Lewis, a retired Olympia architect and salmon rancher, and former Libertarian Party candidate for Congress. "The U.S. Supreme Court has said it is not. But if you've lost everything you own, it sure feels like punishment." I-256 drew heated opposition from law enforcement officials, who maintained that asset forfeiture helps them crack down on drug dealers by preventing them from enjoying the proceeds of their trade. Police agencies also argued that the initiative would have choked off millions of dollars raised annually that support undercover operations. The new measure is sure to generate even stronger dissent.

State Rep. Christopher Hurst, a Black Diamond Police Department detective, said initiative backers are no longer content on reforming the system. "At least they're finally being honest," Hurst said. "There is no way the citizens or the Legislature will allow criminals to keep their ill-gotten gains. ... This is an open invitation to criminals to come to Washington state." I-256, which was endorsed by 11 state legislators, would have prevented police from forfeiting property until a conviction is granted. It also would have redirected forfeiture-related proceeds from police to education and drug-treatment programs.

Lawmakers passed modest reforms last year, including shifting the burden of proof to police. But the decade-old initiative is still very much alive as I-256's backers prepare to file a new version.

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of proof to police when their seizures are challenged. Law enforcement agencies are now also required to pay legal fees if they lose such a challenge. The new initiative, tentatively titled the Innocent Owner Act, would largely cancel out the half-dozen state laws that allow police to seize and forfeit the property of alleged drug dealers, money launderers, drunken drivers and violators of fish and game laws.

Under the initiative, police could only seize property that is "intrinsically harmful" to the public, such as illicit drugs, fireworks or child pornography. Police also could hold on to seized property that is never claimed. The final wording of the proposed initiative needs to be reviewed by the state Office of the Code Reviser, and the final language may yet be changed.

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REMOVE FEDERAL SALMON HURDLES

From the Seattle Times Friday, December 21, 2001

By Ron Sims and Louise Miller

Special to The Times

The biggest barrier to saving the Northwest's imperiled salmon is not a dam, a levee or a badly designed road culvert. Despite the efforts of some of their very talented and dedicated staff, the National Marine Fisheries Service has failed to provide the leadership necessary to save our fish.

King, Snohomish and Pierce counties are the state's economic engine. When the federal government listed chinook and bull trout under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), we became the first major urban region to step up to the challenge of protecting ESA-listed salmon while protecting our economy. After nearly three years of working together, our Tri-County Salmon Conservation Coalition put together an unprecedented salmon-conservation effort based on science and the practicalities of a growing urban region. ESA listings bring certain legal liabilities and our hope is that this conservation program also will bring greater legal certainty for the private and public sectors alike.

This salmon-protection program is a model to help local governments to be better stewards of salmon habitat in the ways we allow new development, manage stormwater and build and maintain myriad necessary public facilities like roads, bridges, culverts, parks and flood-control systems. We're investing science and dollars to restore our watersheds. Our lobbying efforts helped bring over $68 million in federal funding to Washington state and we expect an additional $120 million for local salmon conservation in the near future. I am unaware of any salmon-recovery effort that surpasses the efforts of our Tri-County Salmon Conservation Coalition.

However, the one thing that was missing was a real partnership with the federal government that imposed this listing.

Despite our hard work of the past three years, we must report with grave disappointment that the National Marine Fisheries Services — the agency charged with directing the federal government's salmon-recovery efforts — has repeatedly failed to truly recognize and take advantage of this partnership. The federal government failed to follow through on an exhaustive list of items. For example, it failed to define what was necessary, in terms of science and action, to comply with the ESA's legal requirements.

It has also been arbitrary about requirements to approve permits for capital projects, slowing major capital projects and costing the public time and money. Specifically, NMFS' hesitation and lack of vision or decisiveness has hampered our attempts to advance the region's crucial transportation projects, adding to congestion and further raising the cost of needed transportation relief in terms of both time and money. It is bitterly ironic that NMFS' delay of capital projects has often inhibited our ability to make important improvements to fish habitat.

Additionally, NMFS' inability to move forward with jointly developed conservation measures has thwarted conservation advancements throughout the state. Our Regional Road Maintenance Program is a perfect example.

The Regional Road Maintenance Program is a solution we devised to repair and maintain roads using fish-saving practices. To date, the Washington Department of Transportation, eight counties and 15 cities are heralding it as so important for fish they will begin implementing it immediately. The program was completed after two years of intensive joint work with the NMFS and was submitted for approval over a year ago.

Yet, NMFS has completely inhibited its bureaucracy from making any decision at all. And we are frustrated that the NMFS is ignoring the outstanding work we performed in good faith.

We must move forward with improved development regulations and stormwater-management practices. We have crucial decisions to make to protect and restore our watersheds. We must monitor our results and when necessary make course corrections based on science. But, based on this experience, we are concerned about the ability of the federal government to meet the remaining and greater challenges ahead.

We are leveling some strong criticisms, but these issues must be faced head-on and resolved if we are to be successful. New NMFS Northwest Regional Director Bob Lohn has an important opportunity to look introspectively at the agency's strengths and weaknesses and find new ways to be successful in working with local governments.

With or without NMFS, we will stay the course to save salmon. Salmon are the Northwest's icon. They have been fundamental to Native Americans' existence and culture since the beginning of their time. The salmon's struggle to survive in our urban environment says much about the way we live and how we take care of our home.

It is a wake-up call to us that we must protect our environment — not just for fish and wildlife, but also for our own human health and well-being.

Ron Sims is King County Executive.

Louise Miller is a member of the Metropolitan King County Council.
Employment Opportunities

Finance Manager, Klickitat County - is seeking an energetic person to serve as the Finance Manager for the Public Works in Goldendale. This position has duties of planning, organizing and managing the accounting functions and financial reports in compliance with County and government laws and procedures. Requirements: Bachelor’s degree in accounting or related field and a minimum of five years experience in accounting/data processing. Experience in county/city government preferred. Application packets available at Klickitat County Personnel Department, (509) 773-7171, 205 S. Columbus, MS-CH 15, Goldendale, WA 98620. E-mail: lynnc@co.klickitat.wa.us or www.klickitatcounty.org for information. Position Opened Until Filled. Equal Opportunity Employer.

Health and Human Services Director, Whatcom County Health and Human Services Department, Bellingham, WA. Hiring range: $66,468 - $83,484 annually, DOQ. We offer excellent employer-paid medical, dental & vision benefits for employee and family. 3 weeks vacation/year to start. Average 12 holidays a year. WA State Retirement system. Optional deferred comp, long term disability and Flex 125. This position manages multi-location, multi-service public health programs including Environmental Health (food surveillance and investigations, public water quality, hazardous materials contamination, shellfish activities, enforcement of regulations related to sewage disposal systems and solid and biomedical waste collection, storage and disposal), Community Health (communicable disease, immunizations, maternal/infant health, STD/HIV/AIDS, and WIC/ nutrition services), and Human Services (substance abuse, developmental disabilities and mental health program facilitation). This position requires a Master’s degree in public health or public health administration or a related field AND 6 years progressively responsible related experience including 3 years of management/supervisory experience. Resume & cover letter must be received by January 15, 2002. For a detailed job announcement regarding this position, contact Whatcom County Human Resources, Bellingham, WA, (360) 676-6802 or visit our website at www.co.whatcom.wa.us. Equal Opportunity Employer.

Kitsap County - Assistant Director (Development Permits), Department of Community Development - This position manages a multi-disciplinary division of the Department of Community Development responsible for permit processing associated with land development, building code, fire code, and surface water management. Requires a bachelor's degree in planning, or related field, master's degree preferred, and five years of progressively responsible experience in community development or project review, including three years of supervisory or managerial responsibilities; or any combination of experience and education which provides the applicant with the desired skills, knowledge and ability required to perform the work. AICP certification or registration as a Professional Engineer preferred. Closes: 1/25/02. SALARY: $58,136 to $74,214/annually. Download application from our website at www.kitsapgov.com or call (360) 337-7185.

San Juan County - Human Resources Manager The Human Resources Manager is a trained professional in personnel management who recommends management policy, plans and directs various human resources programs such as wage and salary administration, employee and labor relations, recruiting and employment, performance evaluation, and employee benefits under the direction of the Administrative Services Director. The position serves under an at-will contract and is appointed with the concurrence of the Board of County Commissioners. The incumbent exercises considerable independent judgment and discretion in coordinating functions with all County elected and appointed officials, supervisory and line staff as well as with representatives of governmental or other entities affected by or working with the County. Work is evaluated by the Administrative Services Director as to accomplishment of goals. Minimum Qualification include a Bachelors Degree in Human Resources or closely related field and a minimum of five years experience in personnel and labor relations management, including two years in a supervisory position; OR any equivalent combination of education, training and experience which provides the knowledge, skills and abilities to perform the essential job functions. Experience negotiating collective bargaining agreements desirable. $3,751/month plus benefits. For complete description/qualifications, contact: (360) 378-3870 or www.co.san-juan.wa.us. Deadline: 1/31/2002. EOE.