

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Skagit County Hearing Examiner will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, May 12, 2010** in the Board of County Commissioners Hearing Room, 1800 Continental Place, Mount Vernon, Washington, at the hour of **9:00 a.m.** or soon thereafter, for the purpose of determining whether the Hearing Examiner should approve, uphold or deny the following:

A. Special Use Permit Request #PL09-0484 for the development of a habitat restoration project on lands designated Agriculture-Natural Resource (Ag-NRL). The proposal also includes a **Shoreline Permit Request #PL09-0485** to allow an approximate 60 acre tidal marsh restoration, levee setback and proposed realignment of a portion of Big Ditch. The proposal is a collaborative effort of the **Nature Conservancy, Dike District 3, Drainage District 17** and local landowners to reconnect natural freshwater tidal hydrology to approximately 50 acres of currently diked floodplain, restore historical tidal marsh vegetation communities, provide juvenile Chinook rearing habitat, remove fish passage barriers and improve fish passage to several miles of tributary spawning areas, increase watershed connectivity for coho, chum and other native fish species, and improve flood and sediment storage conditions for the tributary levee system. The subject proposal is located within the Hill Ditch/Fisher Slough shoreline area and is designated a Rural Shoreline Area in the Skagit County Shoreline Management Master Program. The proposed project is located within the Agriculture-Natural Resource Land (Ag-NRL) zoning/comprehensive plan designated area as indicated in the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan and associated maps adopted October 10, 2007 and as thereafter amended. The project is located approximately 1.4 miles south of Conway on Old Pioneer Highway adjacent to the Fisher Slough crossing, within a portion of Sections 19, 20, 29 and 30, Township 33N, Range 4E W.M., situated within Skagit County, Washington. Staff Contact: Betsy Stevenson or Brandon Black. **Additional information can be found on the PDS website at www.skagitcounty.net**

Your views for or against the requests are invited either by attendance, representation or letter. Comments and/or facsimiles must be received by this office no later than 4:30 p.m. **Tuesday, May 11, 2010** or be presented at the public hearing.

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