

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ISLAND COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ENDORSE TRILLIUM PROJECT

COUPEVILLE –Island County Commissioners have agreed that Island County will accept title to the 664-acre Trillium property if the Whidbey Camano Land Trust is successful in its efforts to purchase it.



Commissioners Helen Price Johnson, John Dean, and Angie Homola signed a letter to that effect during a public meeting April 12. The Land Trust will hold a conservation easement (a legally binding permanent agreement) to ensure that the property is protected for wildlife habitat and public enjoyment. The Land Trust has until June 10 to raise \$4.2 million dollars to acquire the property.

Acknowledging the county’s economic situation, the Land Trust also has committed to raising \$50,000 to establish a stewardship fund to pay maintenance and operation costs for the first five to seven years. The Land Trust also will help organize volunteers to maintain, protect and oversee use of the property, similar to the volunteer model that is currently in place at the Putney Woods county land near the city of Langley.

The commissioners’ endorsement noted the Trillium property is an “important protection project with many economic, environmental, and community benefits.” It also noted that a “healthy, sustainable forest will provide wildlife habitat, public recreational opportunities, and a place where future generations can experience the wonders of the natural world.”

The Land Trust is spearheading a drive to raise funds for the purchase. To contribute or learn more about how to get involved, call (360) 222-3310 or visit www.savetheforestnow.org. Donations also may be sent to the Whidbey Camano Land Trust, Attention: Save the Forest Now, 765 Wonn Road, Barn C-201, Greenbank, WA 98253.

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