

NEWS RELEASE

July 12, 2006

MASON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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**TO: KMAS, KRXV, SHELTON-MASON COUNTY JOURNAL, THE OLYMPIAN,
SHELTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, NORTH MASON CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE, CITY OF SHELTON, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL,
THE SUN**

**RE: Douglas J. Prichard Stipulates to Criminal Charge for Environmental
Wrongdoing**

The Department of Mason County Community Development Director, Emmett Dobey, announced on July 12, 2006 that Douglas J. Prichard of Potlatch stipulated to the Gross Misdemeanor Criminal Charge of engaging in 'Unlawful Hydraulic Project Activities' before the Honorable Victoria Meadows in Mason County District Court on July 5, 2006. Mason County Deputy Prosecutor T.J. Martin prosecuted the case.

By stipulating to the criminal charge, Prichard acknowledged his illegal activity of failing to comply with State and County laws in conducting development operations on his property immediately adjacent Hood Canal waters in June of 2005. "Mr. Prichard's clear-cutting of vegetation and trees on his property without a prior environmental assessment by qualified, State and County Natural Resource personnel and planners posed a serious problem as to the unknown ramifications to the Hood Canal waters adjacent his property" stated Mason County Community Development Director Emmett Dobey. The Hood Canal has been flagged as a 'Waterway of State-Wide Significance' requiring any possible environmental impacts to the Canal to be addressed prior to development taking place.

The Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife cited Prichard for his unlawful activities. Mason County Community Development also cited Prichard for civil infractions including excavation and removal of vegetation in a Category I and Category III wetland. Code enforcement Officer Stephanie Pawlawski credits a collaborative effort between State, Local, and Tribal authorities for the positive outcome of these cases.

As a part of stipulating to the criminal charge, Prichard has agreed to pay Mason County in excess of \$6,300 in remediation costs, fines, and fees associated thus far in repairing the damage done to the beachfront property. In addition, Prichard also agreed to have an environmental assessment conducted on the property to determine what further remediation measures are needed to repair the property and to comply with those recommendations. If Prichard complies with the remediation requested and pays all costs and fines associated with the repair work, the criminal charge against him will be dismissed.

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Prichard regrets the incident giving rise the criminal charge and recommends to anyone planning to do any development work on their property, particularly if located near Hood Canal or any watershed areas, to contact the Mason County Community Development Department prior to commencing work to ensure all environmental issues, if any are apparent, are resolved and/or remediation is addressed prior to commencement of any work.

'Unlawful Hydraulic Project Activities' under state law is a Criminal Gross Misdemeanor carrying with it a maximum penalty of one year in jail and/or a \$5,000 fine. Any violation of the Mason County Critical Area Ordinances may result in a fine of up to \$1,000 per day, per violation.

Emmett Dobey, Director
Community Development