

NEWS RELEASE

May 30, 2006

**MASON COUNTY COMMISISONERS
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(360) 427-9670 EXT. 419**

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

RE: National Trails Day

The first Saturday of June is designated National Trails Day (NTD) in the United States. This year, National Trails Day falls on June 3rd. On this day every year, trail advocates take part in events nationwide in celebration of America's trails. National Trails Day is organized nationwide by the American Hiking Society, a national nonprofit trail advocacy group based in Washington, DC. Originally established in 1993, NTD has grown to approximately 3,000 events across the country.

The objectives of National Trails Day not only include promoting public awareness of and appreciation for America's trails, but also encouraging cooperative efforts among different trail users.

In celebrating the values and benefits of our nation's trails. A unifying idea and long-range goal of National Trails Day is the concept of "Trails for All Americans" – that is, to establish a nationwide network of trails that would link together as part of the nation's infrastructure of greenways, like the interstate highway system.

During the year 2000, National Trails Day was also a celebration of Millennium Trails, a joint project of the White House Millennium Council, the U.S. Department of Transportation, Rails to Trails Conservancy and partners from the trails, conservation, preservation, and education communities. The Millennium Trails initiative recognizes, promotes, and stimulates the trails and greenways movement as we enter the new millennium.

In recent years, NTD has started to make inroads into our national and state park systems, with more and more activities and programs associated with the event taking place each year. Many of these activities highlight America's national scenic and historic trails, some of which are thousand of miles in length.

Additional information on National Trail Day events can be found on the American Hiking Society's Web Site: <http://www.americanhiking.org/>

Mason County would like to recognize National Trails Day on Saturday, June 3rd and encourage residents in Mason County to take time and go out and enjoy the trail experience of your choice on National Trails Day.

If you have any questions about National Trails Day or National Trails Day events, please contact John Keates at Mason County Parks, 427-9670, ext. 535.

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