



July 11, 2011

50-year lease secured for Odlin South property



San Juan County secured, at no cost to the county, a 50-year lease with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for the Odlin South school trust land on Lopez Island. The state paid DNR \$1,096,000 through the Trust Land Transfer Program for the lease. Those funds will be used for school capital projects around the state.

San Juan County Land Bank negotiated the lease. San Juan County Parks Department will manage the property.

"County residents have worked hard to protect this property," said Lincoln Bormann, Land Bank director. "Through their efforts we not only secured this lease, but one for Lopez Hill in 2009 and funding for the National Park Service to acquire Mitchell Hill on San Juan Island in 2010. It is an amazing accomplishment for a small county."

Parks Director Dona Wuthnow, said, "the Odlin South lease is a great addition to Odlin Park. It protects the watershed, buffers the park from potential development and creates additional opportunities for walking trails. "

Heather Arps, a community organizer on behalf of preserving Odlin South concluded, "Hearing that we have secured a 50-year lease on the property makes my week! It's been a long two years of working and waiting and I am delighted with the progress. I do still have my eye on outright purchase and I will continue to try and make that happen. Many thanks to all who helped bring this project this far."
