

**For Immediate Release** — July 26, 2007

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## **Michelle McConnell named new Associate Planner at Jefferson County's Department of Community Development**

**Port Townsend, WA**—Michelle McConnell was recently hired as an Associate Planner in Jefferson County's Department of Community Development (DCD) with her primary focus on the comprehensive update of the Shoreline Master Program (SMP) for the first two years, then transitioning into other projects as needed. From 2006 to the present, she had been working as an independent contractor as the Project Coordinator for the SMP.

"I'm very pleased to welcome Michelle to the DCD staff as a full-time planner," said Al Scalf, Director of DCD. "She's done an excellent job in the past year and a half as the Project Coordinator for the SMP. She'll be working with the lead project consultant team of ESA Adolfson, two citizen advisory committees, stakeholder groups and interested public participants, as well as the Planning Commission, Board of County Commissioners and the State Department of Ecology."

McConnell will also be working with other state agencies to revise the planning goals and policies, as well as development regulations, standards and provisions of the SMP and accompanying Restoration Plan. Her job will be to ensure SMP compliance and compatibility with: the County's Comprehensive Plan, Jefferson County Code and the Unified Development Code, the Washington Shoreline Management Act and the SMP Guidelines, Growth Management Act (GMA) critical areas protections, and other applicable laws and rules.

McConnell holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Oregon State University, with a major in biology and minor in writing. Her work over the span of her career has revolved around environmental conservation, marine research and science education. Prior to working as the SMP Project Coordinator, she was the Program Manager for the Menzies Project for two years and the Training and Environmental Coordinator for the Washington Conservation Corps for the Department of Ecology.

For more information, contact the Department of Community Development at 379.4450 or visit the County Web site at [www.co.jefferson.wa.us](http://www.co.jefferson.wa.us).

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