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**April 21, 2005**

## **Earth Day celebration to “take root” at wildlife sanctuary**

**Contact:**

Kathy Kilcoyne, NRCS Forester, 360/428-7684 ext 132

**Event:**

The Portage Creek Wildlife Reserve will be the site of an Earth Day volunteer event. The goal is to plant more than 1,500 trees and shrubs along Portage Creek. These efforts will help to improve water quality, create fish and wildlife habitat, and control soil erosion.

**What:**

Members of the media are invited to the planting of over 1,500 trees and shrubs along the Portage Creek, at the Portage Creek Wildlife Reserve, April 23, 2005. The wildlife reserve is located near Arlington, in Snohomish County just north of the municipal airport. Project Sponsors will begin with an orientation to welcome and introduce the site to volunteers and media at 10:00 A.M. Planting will begin shortly after brief Earth Day announcements.

**Who:**

Tom Christensen, Deputy Chief for Programs for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), will talk about NRCS involvement and support for this project. Tom Christensen is responsible for overall management of the Agency’s conservation programs, which operate under an annual appropriation totaling more than \$3 billion.

**Where:**

Portage Creek Wildlife Sanctuary, Arlington, Washington. The wildlife reserve is located near Arlington, in Snohomish County just north of the municipal airport.

**When:**

Project Sponsors will welcome and introduce the site to volunteers and media at 10:00 A.M. with planting to begin shortly after.

**Directions:**

- Take I-5 North towards Arlington
- Get off at exit 208 (Arlington/Silvana, hwy 530)
- Head east on hwy 530 to 211th PI NE (before hwy 9).
- Turn RIGHT onto 211th PI NE.
- Follow it to the end and turn RIGHT onto 67th Ave NE
- Go to the stoplight and turn RIGHT onto Cemetery Rd.

**-more-**

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## *Earth Day Planting ... continued*

- Go approximately ½ mile on Cemetery Rd and you will see a sign for the Portage Creek Wildlife Sanctuary.
- Turn RIGHT into the sanctuary and follow the road to the parking area.
- Follow the signs out to the planting area.



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### **Note to editors:**

#### *Photo opportunities*

Planting over 1,500 hundred trees and shrubs takes major planning and people to make the project grow. Last year the event was a huge success with over 100 volunteers, community members, and project partners donating time to plant hundreds of trees and shrubs. Many volunteers and community members are expected to be back helping to plant this year.

Coordinators of the Klein Farm WRP/Earth Day planting project will be available for further questions.

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