



Devil's Head

Pierce County, Washington

Pierce County Parks and Recreation is partnering with Cascade Land Conservancy to acquire and permanently protect a 94-acre site at the southern end of the Key Peninsula. Known as Devil's Head, the property has almost one mile of high quality Puget Sound shoreline. The intended use of the site will be passive recreational use including shoreline access for non-motorized boats, kayaking trails, public hiking, and protection of wildlife and habitat.

Non-developed shoreline is rapidly disappearing as people continue to populate the South Sound Region. As Pierce County continues to grow, so does the need for public access to open space and shoreline. The Cascadia Marine Trail, supported by the Washington Water Trails Association, stretches over 140 miles from the Canadian border to Olympia. There are currently 50 campsites and launch points, however to accomplish the marine trail it has been estimated that 275 to 425 sites are needed. The acquisition of the Devil's Head property is a key piece of the puzzle. The closest two water access opportunities are at Anderson Island and the west side of the peninsula at Joemma Beach State Park. Devil's Head lies between the two sites and would be an ideal stopping point along the trail.

Acquisition of the Devil's Head site and inclusion as a local park will preserve critical salmon habitat, approximately a mile of high quality natural shoreline, wetlands, bald eagle nesting sites, active feeder bluffs, and forestland. The large woody debris inputs assist in creating a suitable area for forage fish spawning. It will provide open space for the community and provide a scenic viewpoint of Mt. Rainier and the Olympic Mountains.

The site is also part of the planned Key Peninsula terminus of the Head-to-Toe trail system. Estimated at about 20 miles in length, the trail will provide passive recreation opportunities and link to several state parks. When combined with accessible water trails, the Devil's Head project will be a very positive step for Key Peninsula and will provide numerous new opportunities for public recreation while preserving a unique place.



Significance

One mile of high quality shoreline
Provide water access and addition
to marine trail system
Addition to regional trail system

Size

94 acres

Value

Land: \$2.5-\$3 million
(appraisal due July 1st)

Funds Needed

* \$2.5-\$3 million in private
funding to secure property
summer 2008
* Grant pending for \$1.8
million (2009)

Partners

Pierce County Parks
Key Peninsula Metro Parks

For more information, contact:

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**Conserving Great Lands,
Creating Great Communities**



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Devil's Head Property

Key Peninsula, Washington

