



NEWS RELEASE

Thursday, November 08, 2007, 1:40pm

Property Exchange by Snoqualmie, North Bend, and Northwest Railway Museum Will Create Space for a New Railway History Center

Snoqualmie, Wash. – Today, the City of Snoqualmie, the City of North Bend, and the Northwest Railway Museum will participate in a signing ceremony of a complex property exchange that provides a four-acre campus for the new railway history museum on a portion of Meadowbrook Farm.

The Boundary Line Adjustment ("BLA") will secure a corner of Meadowbrook Farm for the Northwest Railway Museum to build the Railway History Center. In return for the property, the Northwest Railway Museum has gifted its interest in a commercial property to Meadowbrook Farm. That property is adjacent to the Mt. Si Quarry and is contiguous with Meadowbrook Farm.

Meadowbrook Farm is owned jointly by the cities of North Bend and Snoqualmie and was created in 1996 from land purchased with open space funding. Changes in use or ownership require approval from the funding agencies that originally helped the cities with the purchase: the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP) and Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (RCFB). They place numerous use restrictions on the Meadowbrook Farm land.

The new campus will be used to create the Railway History Center, a series of railway museum facilities. Phase one – the Conservation and Restoration Center – is used to perform collection care and was constructed within the existing museum right of way in 2006. Additional components of the Railway History Center will include indoor exhibit space, a research library, administrative offices, and collection storage.

The Railway History Center campus is a critical element in the museum's long-term plan. Museum Executive Director Richard R. Anderson remarks, "We are very excited about this new campus, which will allow development of museum facilities first envisioned by the museum's founders more than 50 years ago. It is essential to the sustainability of the museum and will allow our community to continue development of a regional museum of national significance."

This accomplishment will significantly benefit the Northwest Railway Museum and Snoqualmie's downtown revitalization efforts, and is expected to bring a greater base of tourism to the larger community, including North Bend. "The NW Railway Museum is a significant contributor to the economic partnership that drives the Snoqualmie Valley," says North Bend Mayor Ken Hearing.

Snoqualmie Mayor Matt Larson says, "The Railway History Center project, combined with the recently celebrated Economic Development Grant and the construction of the new Snoqualmie City Hall, will

certainly signal that Snoqualmie is rising.”

This occasion will mark the conclusion of a year-long effort, the success of which is the result of a partnership between six different organizations: The Northwest Railway Museum, the City of North Bend, the City of Snoqualmie, the Meadowbrook Farm Board, The King County DNRP, and the Washington State RCFB. “The idea for this exchange and property use involved a complex series of transactions. It was due to the hard work, perseverance, and high level of respect displayed among the various organizations that this deal concluded successfully,” says Anderson.

About the Northwest Railway Museum

The Northwest Railway Museum was incorporated in 1957 and is celebrating 50 years. The Museum is located in Snoqualmie and North Bend Washington and has a mission to develop and operate an outstanding railroad museum where the public can experience the excitement of a working railway and see and understand the role railroads played in the development and settlement of Washington. Serving over 85,000 visitors per year experience the Northwest Railway Museum. The museum operates the Snoqualmie Valley Railroad, an interpretive railway program offering antique train excursions through the Upper Snoqualmie Valley. The museum's collection of railway artifacts and equipment is one of the most significant in the United States and includes over 70 examples of steam locomotives, passenger and freight cars, and specialized railway equipment. The Northwest Railway Museum is located in the Snoqualmie Depot, recognized as the oldest continuously operating train station in Washington State. For more information on train schedules, special events and operating hours, visit the Museum at www.trainmuseum.org or call 425-888-3030.

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