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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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KING COUNTY GIVES UP ON SALE OF 60 ACRES

(Redmond, WA) – On March 27th, members of Save 60 Acres were notified by Bob Burns, King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks, that they were no longer pursuing the sale of 60 Acres South to Lake Washington Youth Soccer Association. Instead, the County is pursuing a long term lease agreement on the property, modeled after the 60 Acres North Lease.

In a phone conversation on the 27th, Burns stated the move from a sale to a lease agreement was partly in response to community concern over a private organization operating a public park. The Save 60 Acres South organization speculates that it had more to do with the looming legal and political pressure.

“We have exposed so many missteps by the County. They secretly surplused the land in 2004. There has been no study of the non-scheduled use of the public park and how the users would be effected. The conversion request with the IAC in August 2004 contained inaccurate information. And most importantly, this is an illegal sale under Forward Thrust,” stated Chuck Quenneville of the neighboring Valley Estates Homeowners Association, “They had no choice but to change course.”

The Save 60 Acres South organization remains less than enthusiastic. “This is a legal shell game,” suggested Quenneville, “The issue remains the same. Over 1000 soccer fields in King County, but only one place to launch rockets, fly gliders: 60 Acres South. A myriad of user groups are going to suffer, and soccer will gain less than 1% field space. This is not a win-win.”

About Save60Acres

Save60acres is a group dedicated to the protection of 60 Acres Park under the principles of Forward Thrust. Members include local neighbors, Seattle Area Soaring Society members, dog walkers, dog racers, equestrians, soccer players, and local business people. The group assembled in 2005 after repeated attempts by King County to alter the use and ownership of 60 Acres South. More info at www.save60acres.com

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