



Beta Testing in Progress for New Mapping Application

For the past several months, the GIS Team has been developing a new Internet mapping application called Polaris. Polaris will be the one-stop shop for information. Both County employees and the public will have access to Polaris. Sensitive information, such as archaeology data, will be password protected and only available to authorized users.

The GIS Team is starting with a basic map containing parcels, roads, addresses, water features, and the new aerial photographs. Tools included with the map allow users to pan; zoom; identify features; print; and search by island, parcel number, address, and road name.

This basic map is currently

being beta tested by a group of about forty individuals from various County departments and professionals in our community, such as real estate agents and surveyors. The GIS Team chose beta testers from a wide range of disciplines to solicit feedback on the various types of information and tools users expect.

The goal of beta testing is to work out any bugs with the application, hardware, data, etc. Running the application involves multiple components that all have to work together. Beta testing allows the GIS Team to optimize performance between the components to improve the overall quality of the application.

Once the basic mapping

application is running at peak performance, the GIS Team will begin adding more data and tools to the application. Eventually, the application will contain most of the datasets in the County's GIS library. Some of these datasets include habitat, comprehensive plan, drainage, trails, noxious weeds, protected lands, soils, and roadway data. Tools to look forward to include searching for recorded documents, creating buffers, and advanced spatial queries.

The GIS Team has not yet announced a release date for Polaris. They want to ensure the product is stable and secure before the application goes live. Stay tuned.

LiDAR Data Recently Acquired

San Juan County has partnered with the Washington State Department of Natural Resources, National Parks Service, United States Geological Survey, and Orcas Power and Light Cooperative to fund the acquisition of LiDAR

data. **Light Distance And Ranging** is an airborne scanning laser rangefinder that produces accurate topographic surveys.

LiDAR data will enable County staff to more accurately model drainage

basins, design roadways, forecast floods, and characterize land cover to help protect natural resources.

The LiDAR data was acquired in February and will be delivered to the County in the fall.

Did you know...

- Public Works recently began working on a project to integrate Mobility, Win-CAMS, and GIS. Mobility and Win-CAMS are applications that track information about our roadways. The goal of the project is to enable a user to click on a road segment on an interactive map and view associated rights-of-way, pavement characteristics, accidents, etc.

ArcReader Tip

- The Measure tool (see icon below) allows you to measure the distance between two features or find the area of a feature. You can select the units of your measurement and snap to the corners of a feature for more accurate results.

