Washington county deluged with golf proposals

KING COUNTY, Wash. - Proposals for more than a dozen new golf courses have swamped King County officials, who hope that competing interest groups will help set standards for how courses should be built and operated.

County planners don't have a comprehensive list or even an exact count of all the courses developers hope to build. But at least 11 have been suggested, from the Green River to the Snoqualmie Valley.

Developers are responding to a growing demand for golf from local as well as Japanese golfers, who prefer to fly the Pacific for a few days rather than spend up to $1 million to join a country club in Japan.

Area residents used to welcome golf courses as permanent open spaces, but now some fear the pesticides and fertilizers and the loss of ground water. King County officials would like to ease conflicts by bringing developers, environmentalists and public officials together to agree on environmental standards for golf courses.

If successful, the group would prepare a manual defining "best management practices" to be required of all new courses.

New 18 and expansion will get under way in N.D. in spring

MOORHEAD, N.D. — Construction begins this spring on an 18-hole course in Moorhead, and expansion at the existing Village Green Golf Course.

The City Council also voted to expand the Moorhead Sports Center and build a new softball complex and soccer park. The new golf course will shape the growth of the city, as it will be bordered by hundreds of new housing lots in a town where housing starts have decreased in the last two years because building lots were in short supply.

Air, water and enforcement bump up EPA's 1992-93 budget

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The budget for the Environmental Protection Agency has a significant increase in fiscal year 1993.

The $70-billion EPA budget includes $2.7 billion for operating programs, a 54-percent increase since the Bush administration's first budget proposal for fiscal year 1989.

The operating fund supports EPA's programs in air, water, enforcement, hazardous waste and multimedia programs.

In geographical and ecological protection, $247 million has been allotted for multi-media approaches to reducing risk-targeted ecologically sensitive areas like the Chesapeake Bay, the Gulf of Mexico and the Great Lakes.

The FY 1993 budget represents major increases over the FY 1990 for those areas.

The budget includes $60.1 million for enforcement activities and $204 million for science and economics to improve assessments of health and ecological risk data, and provide for the environmental monitoring and assessment program, which will assist EPA in determining long-term trends in the health of ecosystems.

EPA's R&D office inks accord with Land Bureau

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Environmental Protection Agency's office of Research and Development and the Bureau of Land Management have signed an agreement to work together in planning and implementing ecological monitoring and research activities.

The two agencies have pledged to establish a joint monitoring network, to integrate ecological data; and to cooperate on identifying emerging environmental problems.

The agreement is intended to help the agencies avoid duplication of effort.

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