



MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Whatcom County Councilmembers
Honorable Whatcom County Executive Satpal Sidhu

Through: Mark Personius, Director, PDS

From: Lauren Templeton, Conservation Easement Program Administrator, PDS

Subject: Request approval to sign an agreement with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) to secure matching funds for the Canyon Creek Conservation Easement through the NRCS RCPP grant program

Date: 07/23/2026

Enclosed is one (1) copy of the Parcel Contract for the Canyon Creek Forest. The agreement will require a wet signature.

Background and Purpose

Whatcom County Conservation Easement Program staff applied for the USDA NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) grant. The Canyon Creek Forest application has been awarded matching funds to contribute towards the purchase of a conservation easement on the Canyon Creek property.

Whatcom County Council approved the purchase of the conservation easement through Resolution 2025-023. This request is to sign a grant agreement to secure funding from NRCS. It does not obligate Whatcom County to spend funds.

Funding Amount and Source

Whatcom County has been awarded \$845,141 matching funds to contribute to the purchase of a forestland conservation easement on the Canyon Creek Forest through the USDA NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program. In December 2025, Whatcom County Council approved entering into a grant agreement with Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) in order to secure \$500,000 for the Canyon Creek Forest Conservation Easement through RCO Forestland Preservation grant program. These two grant agreements will fund 75 percent of the easement cost. The remaining 25 percent will be funded through the Whatcom County Conservation Futures Fund. This project will still require Council approval of a supplemental budget request. We will return for Council approval of the supplemental budget request.

Please contact Lauren Templeton, Conservation Easement Program Administrator at 360-778-5956 or ltemplet@co.whatcom.wa.us if you have any questions or concerns regarding the terms of this agreement.

Encl.