

From:
To:
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Advisory Group Application
Date: Tuesday, July 30, 2024 8:27:29 AM

Advisory Group Application

Step 1

Application for Appointment to Whatcom County Advisory Groups

Public Statement

THIS IS A PUBLIC DOCUMENT: As a candidate for a public advisory group, the information provided will be available to the County Council, County Executive, and the public. All advisory group members are expected to be fair, impartial, and respectful of the public, County staff, and each other. Failure to abide by these expectations may result in revocation of appointment and removal from the appointive position.

Title	Ms.
First Name	Holly
Last Name	ONeil
Today's Date	7/30/2024
Street Address	
City	
Zip	
Do you live in Whatcom County?	Yes
Do you have a different mailing address?	YES
Mailing Address	
Primary Telephone	
Secondary Telephone	
Email Address	

Step 2

1. Name of Advisory Group	Forest Resilience Task Force
Forest Resilience Task Force	Community member with expertise in climate, salmon recovery, and natural resources policy
2. Do you meet the residency, employment, and/or affiliation requirements of the position for which you're applying?	Yes
3. Which Council district do you live in?	District 2
4. Have you ever been a member of this Advisory Group	No
5. Do you or your spouse have a financial interest in or are you an employee or officer of any business or agency that does business with Whatcom County?	Yes
If yes, please explain	I periodically work for the County on contract as a facilitator and public engagement specialist.
6. Have you declared candidacy (as defined by RCW 42.17A.055) for a paid elected office in any jurisdiction within the county?	No
You may attach a resume or detailed summary of experience, qualifications, & interest in response to the following questions	<i>Field not completed.</i>
7. Please describe your	I am part of the Stewart Mountain Community Forest core planning team. This initiative is a collaborative effort (co-led by

occupation (or former occupation if retired), qualifications, professional and/or community activities, and education

the Nooksack Indian Tribe, Whatcom County, Whatcom Land Trust, and the Evergreen Land Trust Association) to adopt approximately 5,500 acres of forestland into local ownership. The forest management objectives include the community benefits of watershed health, ecological forestry jobs, fish and wildlife habitat, and recreational and cultural access.

In addition to my service with the Evergreen Land Trust Association, where I serve as the Program Manager on a voluntary basis, I have been working for the last 27 years as a professional facilitator and public engagement specialist. I have worked with Lummi Nation, Nooksack Indian Tribe, the Marine Resources Committees, NSEA, Whatcom County, and many others to support community understanding of the policies, legislation, current science and best practices in natural resource management. I have helped to develop various plans related to salmon recovery, forest management, watershed planning, and climate resiliency.

In terms of my familiarity with policy work, I first became involved with the DNR and Crown Pacific to contribute to the development of the Acme Watershed Analysis. I facilitated public forums and developed public education materials to help the local community understand the process and contribute local knowledge to the Watershed Analysis. Most recently, I worked with the Nooksack Indian Tribe and researchers at WWU and Natural Systems Design to conduct forest hydrology modelling in the South Fork Nooksack River Watershed. This included engaging with state, federal, and commercial forest landowners to inform the modelling, and later, facilitating public forums to share results of the modelling. I participated in the development of the Nooksack Tribe's Climate Change Adaptation Plan for Key Species and the subsequent Implementation Plan, working alongside Climate Impacts Group of the University of Washington in conducting key informant interviews of stakeholders, engaging in meetings with the Tribal Members, agencies and commercial timber companies, editing final drafts, and organizing and facilitating community forums.

8. Please describe why you're interested in serving on this Advisory Group.

I am interested in serving on this Task Force because I have been involved in forest management issues for nearly 30 years. As mentioned above, most significantly for the goals of this Task Force, I am part of the Stewart Mountain Community Forest core planning team, representing the Evergreen Land Trust Association (ELT). ELT is committed to fostering community understanding and practice of sustainable practices.

We conducted the first ecoforestry pilot project on Stewart Mountain in collaboration with Crown Pacific. We developed a forest management plan, harvested and sold timber under Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification, and provided reports to

Crown Pacific in a profit-sharing arrangement.

In my work today with the Stewart Mountain Community Forest initiative, I bring both my experience as a public involvement facilitator, and my on-the-ground familiarity with DNR forest practice rules, FSC certification standards, and establishing how results will be measured and shared. I believe the Forest Resiliency Task Force represents an opportunity to discuss the emerging science and look at how we can advance forest management practices. I believe that we can establish a common understanding of how forests can be managed in a way that produces high quality timber products, provides jobs in the woods, protects and restores water resources, maximizes biodiversity, and mitigates climate impacts. We need to be working now to address the low flows in the summer, which negatively impact salmon, and high flows in the winter, which increase risk of damage from flooding and mass wasting.

References (please
include daytime
telephone number):

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Appointment
Requirements

I understand and agree

Signature of applicant:

Holly O'Neil

Place Signed / Submitted

