



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 Jensen Conservation Easement through the NRCS ACEP-ALE grant program

Date: 07/23/2026

Enclosed is one (1) copy of the Parcel Contract for the Jensen Agriculture Conservation Easement. The agreement will require a wet signature.

Background and Purpose

Whatcom County Conservation Easement Program staff applied for the USDA NRCS Agricultural Conservation Easement Program – Agricultural Land Easement (ACEP-ALE) grant. The Jensen application has been awarded matching funds to contribute towards the purchase of a conservation easement on the Jensen property.

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 \$750,000 matching funds to contribute to the purchase of an agricultural conservation easement on the Jensen Property through the USDA NRCS ACEP-ALE. Whatcom County staff also applied for matching funding through the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) in June 2026. Should the RCO grant be awarded, 100 percent of the easement will be grant-funded. This project will still require Council approval of the easement purchase and a 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.