

WHATCOM COUNTY

Planning & Development Services
5280 Northwest Drive
Bellingham, WA 98226-9097
360-778-5900, TTY 800-833-6384
360-778-5901 Fax



Mark Personius, AICP
Director

Memorandum

TO: Honorable Whatcom County Councilmembers
Honorable Satpal Sidhu, Whatcom County Executive

THROUGH: Mark Personius, Director, PDS

FROM: Lauren Templeton, Conservation Easement Program Administrator

DATE: June 10, 2026

SUBJECT: Request authorizing the resolution for Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program – Farmland Preservation grant application authorization/resolution

Planning Development Services, Conservation Easement Program (CEP) would like to apply to the 2026 Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Farmland Preservation grant program for three (3) applications.

The RCO requires the use of resolution language provided by the RCO in order to apply for the grants. The application deadline is July 14, 2026. The attached draft resolution uses the RCO-required language and defines the authority granted to the authorized agent. The Conservation Easement Program is requesting Whatcom County Executive Satpal Sidhu to act as the authorized agent to sign the grant agreement, agreement amendments, and authorizing property and real estate documents. CEP staff are requesting the Conservation Easement Program Administrator be authorized to sign (submission of) the grant application and be the project contact (day-to-day administering of the grant and communicating with RCO).

The Conservation Easement Program would like to submit three (3) applications to the 2026 application round of the RCO WWRP Farmland Preservation category. These applications include:

26-1633A - Steensma Farm Conservation Easement
26-1684A - Jensen Farm Conservation Easement
26-1723A - Cloud Mountain Farm Center Conservation Easement

These projects are not guaranteed to be awarded matching funds and will still require Council approval of the grant agreement, purchase of the property, and a supplemental budget request before purchase of a farmland conservation easement can be completed.

Request Summary

The Conservation Easement Program requests approval of the attached resolution to authorize the signing authority for grant submission, grant management, grant agreement, grant amendments, and real estate documentation. Please contact CEP Administrator Lauren Templeton at (360)778-5956 with any questions.