

**WHATCOM COUNTY
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

**Elizabeth Kosa
Director**



NATURAL RESOURCES

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Satpal Singh Sidhu, Whatcom County Executive, and The Honorable Members of the Whatcom County Council, collectively serving in their capacity as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors.

THROUGH: Elizabeth Kosa, Public Works Director *EK*

FROM: Gary Stoyka, Natural Resources Manager *GS*
John N. Thompson, Senior Salmon Recovery Planner

DATE: September 12, 2024

RE: 2024-2025 Washington Conservation Corps with the Department of Ecology

Enclosed is an agreement between Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) and the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District (FCZD) for your review. The authorized agreement will be signed electronically through AdobeSign.

Requested Action

Public Works respectfully requests that the County Executive, and the County Council, acting as the FCZD Board of Supervisors, enter into an agreement with Ecology for a sum not to exceed \$227,140 to sponsor a Washington Conservation Corps crew for the 2024 to 2025 term.

Background and Purpose

Through this agreement with Ecology, the County will continue sponsorship of a 6-member Washington Conservation Corps (WCC) Crew for the October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2025 term. During this time, the crew will assist Public Works with the installation and maintenance of plantings in support of salmon habitat, flood and stormwater projects and county road project mitigation. They will also assist with water quality monitoring and are available for emergency response.

As in previous years, the County will partner with the Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association (NSEA) to support the WCC Crew. However, this year the County is providing the full sponsor cost through this agreement with Ecology. Under a separate agreement between the County and NSEA, NSEA will provide a minimum of \$45,000 reimbursement to the County for crew time spent on NSEA's grant-funded projects along with providing supervisor office space, equipment storage, and the use of power tools and machinery.

Funding Amount and Source

The \$227,140.00 for this new agreement is included in the Public Works, Natural Resource Division 2024 budget and proposed 2025 Natural Resource Division budget.

Please contact Gary Stoyka at extension 6218, if you have any questions or concerns regarding the terms of this agreement.

Encl.