

WHATCOM COUNTY

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Mark Personius, AICP
Director

Memorandum

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

THROUGH: Steve Roberge, Assistant Director, PDS

FROM: Lauren Templeton, Conservation Easement Program Administrator

DATE: May 20, 2024

SUBJECT: Request approval to authorize Whatcom County Executive Satpal Sidhu to act as the authorized representative on behalf of Whatcom County for Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (Office) Washington Wildlife and Recreation Forestland Preservation project grants

Planning Development Services, Conservation Easement Program would like to apply to the 2024 Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Forestland Preservation grant program. There are two (2) properties that have applied to the Whatcom County Conservation Easement Program that meet the criteria and would be included in the application for easement acquisition.

The RCO requires the use of resolution language provided by the RCO in order to apply for the grants. The application deadline is July 11, 2024. 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.

The Conservation Easement Program would like to submit two (2) applications to the 2024 application round of the RCO WWRP Forestland Preservation category. These applications include:

24-1983A Maple Falls Forestry Conservation Easement
24-1886A Canyon Creek Forestry Conservation Easement

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

Request Summary

The Conservation Easement Program requests approval of the attached resolution to authorize Whatcom County Executive Satpal Sidhu to have full authority to bind Whatcom County regarding all matters related to the projects listed above. Please contact CEP Administrator Lauren Templeton at (360)778-5956 with any questions.