



## Memorandum

TO: Whatcom County Council  
FROM: Alexander Harris, Planner II  
THROUGH: Mark Personius, Director  
DATE: March 31, 2026  
SUBJECT: Open Space Applications – Spring 2026

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Upon receiving applications for Open Space Land (OSL) classification, staff from Planning & Development Services (PDS) evaluate the parcels per the Public Benefit Rating System (PBRs), then present the findings to the Planning Commission and County Council. The attached Staff Report summarizes findings and recommendations on **TWO** applications for OSL classification as authorized under RCW 84.34 and Whatcom County Ordinance No. 1995-040.

### **New Applications:**

#### OSP2025-002 - Lane

- PDS received an application for OSL classification on a 38.64-acre parcel. PDS staff conducted a site visit and evaluated the subject property according to the Public Benefit Rating System, which yielded a score of 58.64.
- PDS policy dictates that scores over 45 receive a staff recommendation for approval, and therefore, **PDS recommends approval of this Open Space application.**
- The Planning Commission held a public hearing at their March 10, 2026 meeting and voted to **recommend approval** of the application.

#### OSP2025-003 - bp

- PDS received an application for four parcels (138.29 acres) to be re-classified from Open Space Farm & Agricultural Land (OSAG) to Open Space Land (OSL). PDS staff conducted a site visit and evaluated the subject property according to the Public Benefit Rating System, which yielded a score of 43.05.
- PDS policy dictates that scores over 45 receive a staff recommendation for approval, and therefore, **PDS does not recommend approval of this Open Space application.**
- The Planning Commission held a public hearing at their March 26, 2026 meeting and voted to send the application to Council **without a recommendation.**

### **Summary of Request:**

PDS requests that Council, acting as granting authority, make a final decision as to whether these applications should be approved – in whole or in part – or denied.