



**WHATCOM**  
**LAND TRUST**  
EST. 1984

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July 9, 2025

Whatcom County Council  
311 Grand St. Bellingham, WA

Dear Honorable Whatcom County Council Members,

This letter is to express Whatcom Land Trust's intention to enter into a Purchase and Sale Agreement for phase 2 of the Stewart Mountain Community Forest, which includes ~1,600 acres of forestland west of Acme, WA. Whatcom Land Trust is bringing a \$3,000,000 grant from the Washington RCO Community Forest Grant Program to match and leverage the Department of Ecology's Streamflow Restoration Grant funding secured by Whatcom County.

We believe this project provides an opportunity to manage forestlands in a balanced and community-informed way that will directly benefit residents of Whatcom County. The four primary goals of the Stewart Mountain Community Forest – enhancing watershed health and improving water quality and quantity, promoting an ecological forestry-based economy for living wage jobs, increasing biodiversity and enhancing fish and wildlife habitat, and expanding community access for cultural uses and non-motorized recreation – have been developed through an intention community feedback process. Whatcom Land Trust has been a member of the Stewart Mountain Community Forest Core Planning Team along with Whatcom County, Nooksack Indian Tribe, and the Evergreen Land Trust from the project's inception. Whatcom Land Trust is pursuing the creation of a subsidiary non-profit to own and manage the community forest.

Whatcom Land Trust is excited to continue our work with the Core Planning Team partners to make the Stewart Mountain Community Forest a reality and realize these benefits for Whatcom County.

Thank you,

Rachel Vasak,  
Executive Director  
Whatcom Land Trust



*The Mission of the Whatcom Land Trust is to preserve and protect wildlife habitat, scenic, agricultural and open space lands in Whatcom County for future generations by securing interests in land and promoting land stewardship.*