

**WHATCOM COUNTY
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**



NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION

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Elizabeth Kosa
Public Works Director

MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable Satpal 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 *Eak*

From: Gary Stoyka, Natural Resources Division Manager, Public Works *GS*
Jon-Paul Shanahan, Environmental Programs Manager, Public Works

Prepared by: John N. Thompson, Senior Salmon Recovery Planner, Public Works *JNT*

Subject: Department of Ecology 2026-2027 Washington Conservation Corps Agreement

Date: July 22, 2026

Enclosed for your review and approval is an agreement between the Washington State Department of Ecology and the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District. Once authorized, the agreement will be signed electronically through DocuSign.

Background and Purpose

This Washington Conservation Corps (WCC) sponsor agreement provides a 6-member crew from October 1, 2026 to September 30, 2027. WCC will assist Public Works with the installation and maintenance of native vegetation plantings and site assessment and monitoring in support of salmon recovery, fish passage, flood, stormwater, and road projects. The crew also supports water quality and marine nearshore monitoring and are available for emergency response.

The County continues to partner with the Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association (NSEA) to support the WCC crew. The County provides the full sponsor cost through this agreement. Under a separate agreement (WC contract #202512008) between the County and NSEA, NSEA will provide a minimum of \$45,000 in reimbursement for crew time spent on NSEA's grant-funded projects. NSEA also provides in-kind contributions such as project coordination, supervisor office space, equipment storage, and the use of specialized power tools and machinery at no cost to the County. Finally, other PW programs, such as the Stormwater Division's Neighborhood Native Landscaping Program, also offset WCC expenses.

Funding Amount and Source

This is a cost-share agreement in which the estimated full value of services to be provided is \$359,267. Whatcom County's share, to be reimbursed to Ecology, will not exceed \$269,450 under this new agreement, and is included in the Public Works Natural Resource Division 2026 budget and the proposed 2027 Public Works Natural Resource Division Budget. Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisor authorization for the County Executive to enter into this agreement is requested. Council authorization is required pursuant to RCW 39.34.030(2) for agreements between public agencies.

Please contact Jon-Paul Shanahan, Environmental Programs Manager ext. 6294, jshannah@co.whatcom.wa.us or John N. Thompson, Senior Salmon Recovery Planner, ext. 6295, jnthomps@co.whatcom.wa.us if you have any questions or concerns regarding the terms of this agreement.

Encl.