

PROPOSED BY: Galloway
INTRODUCED: _____

ORDINANCE NO. _____

REPEALING WHATCOM COUNTY CODE 2.170, FOREST RESILIENCE TASK FORCE

WHEREAS, on October 10, 2023, the Whatcom County Council adopted [Ordinance 2023-058](#), establishing the Forest Resilience Task Force to develop a comprehensive forest resilience plan for Whatcom County; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance 2023-058 charged the Forest Resilience Task Force with reviewing county policies, engaging relevant stakeholders, incorporating community values, and engaging science and evidence-based strategies to achieve the following priorities:

- Sustaining a prosperous timber economy,
- Restoring healthy forest ecosystems for fish and wildlife,
- Improving watershed health,
- Addressing the stream high and low flow issues,
- Enhancing carbon sequestration and storage,
- Improving wildfire, pest, and disease resilience, and
- Increasing the overall resilience of Whatcom County forests to climate impacts; and

WHEREAS, a multi-departmental, multidisciplinary Task Force convened and met 16 times from July 2024 to September 2025, with numerous subcommittee meetings throughout that period, to develop a comprehensive forest resilience plan for Whatcom County; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Resilience Task Force voted to approve the draft Whatcom County Forest Resilience Plan at their final meeting on September 15, 2025 and submitted the plan to Council on September 25, 2025; and

WHEREAS, on October 7, 2025, the Whatcom County Council approved [Resolution 2025-032](#), receiving the Forest Resilience Plan submitted by the Task Force as an initial draft; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 2025-032 tasks the Forest Advisory Committee, as outlined in Whatcom County Code 2.123, with recommending actions to support implementation of ongoing work as outlined in the Forest Resilience Task Force's draft Forest Resilience Plan and continuing development of a Whatcom County Forest Resilience Plan for consideration and formal adoption by the County; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Resilience Task Force was established for a limited duration and tasked solely with drafting a Forest Resilience Plan and, having accomplished this work, the Task Force will sunset December 31, 2025 per Ordinance 2023-058.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Whatcom County Council that Ordinance 2023-058 is hereby repealed, effective December 31, 2025.

ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2025

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Cathy Halka, Clerk of the Council

Kaylee Galloway, Council Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

WHATCOM COUNTY EXECUTIVE
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Kimberly Thulin (via email 10/20/2025)

Civil Deputy Prosecutor

Satpal Sidhu, County Executive

() Approved () Denied

Date Signed: _____