

**WHATCOM COUNTY
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

Elizabeth Kosa
Director



NATURAL RESOURCES

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Satpal Singh Sidhu, Whatcom County Executive, and The Honorable Members of the Whatcom County Council

THROUGH: Elizabeth Kosa, Public Works Director *ek*

FROM: Gary Stoyka, Natural Resources Manager *gsto*

DATE: September 26, 2025

RE: Agreement with Whatcom Land Trust for Acquisition of Phase 2 of the Stewart Mountain Community Forest

Please find attached for your review a copy of an agreement between Whatcom County and the Whatcom Land Trust to provide funding from the Conservation Futures Fund to fulfill requirements of a Purchase and Sale Agreement for the Whatcom Land Trust to acquire Phase 2 of the Stewart Mountain Community Forest. The authorized agreement will be signed electronically through DocuSign.

Requested Action

Public Works respectfully requests that the County Council authorize the County Executive to sign this agreement.

Background and Purpose

On August 5th, 2025 the Whatcom County Council entered into a grant agreement with the Washington Department of Ecology to provide grant funds for the purchase of 1,616 acres of land as Phase 2 of the Stewart Mountain Community Forest. On September 9th, 2025 the County Council approved a motion to have the Whatcom Land Trust be the owner of the Stewart Mountain Community Forest and to develop a governing board for the Community Forest to include Whatcom County and the Whatcom Land Trust along with other parties. On September 23rd, 2025 the County Council approved a supplemental budget request for the County to provide \$200,000 in Conservation Futures Fund funding toward the acquisition of Phase 2 of the Community Forest and to allow extension of the Purchase and Sale Agreement from September 30th, 2025 to the end of 2025. Per the Purchase and Sale agreement, an escrow payment of \$267,000 is due by October 10th, 2025 to extend the sale date. This agreement provides the Whatcom Land Trust with \$200,000 of the total amount due to be deposited into the escrow account. The Whatcom Land Trust will provide the remaining \$67,000.

Funding Amount and Source

This agreement will provide \$200,000 in funding from the Conservation Futures Fund for an escrow payment due on October 10th, 2025. This funding was authorized by the County Council in a supplemental budget request on September 23rd, 2025.

Please contact Gary Stoyka at extension 6218, if you have any questions or concerns regarding the terms of this agreement.

Encl.
Grant Agreement Amendment