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*Replaced
to be in
charge
w/ Barry
Buchanan*

SPONSORED BY: Buchanan
PROPOSED BY: Buchanan
INTRODUCTION DATE: _____

ORDINANCE NO. _____

ESTABLISHING WHATCOM COUNTY CODE 2.118, CREATING THE WHATCOM COUNTY WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA) requires Whatcom County to engage in comprehensive land use planning; and

WHEREAS, the GMA indicates that Whatcom County's comprehensive land use planning efforts should foster land use patterns and develop a local vision of rural character that will be compatible with the use of the land by wildlife and for fish and wildlife habitat; and

WHEREAS, goal nine (9) of the GMA, in Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 36.70A.020, is to retain open space, enhance recreational opportunities, conserve fish and wildlife habitat, increase access to natural resource lands and water, and develop parks and recreation facilities; and

WHEREAS, in RCW 36.70A.160, the GMA directs local governments to identify open space corridors within and between urban growth areas useful for recreation, wildlife habitat, trails and connections between critical areas; and

WHEREAS, habitat conservation areas must be identified, designated and protected through the use of best available science, according to RCW 36.70A.172; and

WHEREAS, goal eleven (11) of the GMA is to encourage the involvement of citizens in the planning process and ensure coordination between communities and jurisdictions to reconcile conflicts; and

WHEREAS, Whatcom County is required by RCW 36.70A.130(1) to regularly review and update the comprehensive plan, with the latest update due by June 30, 2016; and

WHEREAS, Whatcom County staff recommends revisions and amendments based on several elements and objectives, including updating the narrative and policies to address current issues and planning initiatives or to reflect new policy direction; and

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WHEREAS, Whatcom County citizens have expressed to the County Council their desire for the County to incorporate wildlife management and conservation planning for fish and wildlife habitat into the Whatcom County land use planning process; and

WHEREAS, the Whatcom County Council would benefit from the advice and recommendations of those with background and technical expertise, including but not limited to, in wildlife management, conservation science, wildlife biology and citizen science, when making land use policy decisions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Whatcom County Council that Whatcom County Code 2.118, creating the Whatcom County Wildlife Advisory Committee, is hereby established as outlined in Exhibit A of this ordinance.


ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2015.

ATTEST: WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council

Carl Weimer, Council Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM: WHATCOM COUNTY EXECUTIVE
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Civil Deputy Prosecutor

Jack Louws, County Executive

() Approved () Denied

Date Signed: _____

EXHIBIT A

Chapter 2.118 WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Sections:

- 2.118.010 Established
- 2.118.020 Purpose
- 2.118.030 Function
- 2.118.040 Qualifications
- 2.118.050 Membership
- 2.118.060 Term of Office
- 2.118.070 Organization – Meetings
- 2.118.080 Committee Staffing

2.118.010 Established.

The Wildlife Advisory Committee is hereby established.

2.118.020 Purpose.

The committee will advise the Whatcom County Planning and Development Services Department staff and the Whatcom County Council on wildlife and habitat issues as they relate to the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan, with the goal of integrating wildlife management and protection into the community planning process.

2.118.030 Function.

A. The committee will provide recommendations on issues relative to fulfilling goal nine (9) of the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA): to retain open space, enhance recreational opportunities, conserve fish and wildlife habitat, increase access to natural resource lands and water, and develop parks and recreation facilities. The full committee shall provide an annual report once each calendar year beginning in 2016.

B. The Technical Advisory sub-committee, as defined in Section 2.118.050(B), will:

- i. Prior to the end of 2015, develop the initial inventory, characterization, and assessment, which includes an analysis of risk, of existing ecosystem conditions (Existing Condition Report), and to make management recommendations using best available science that will provide appropriate habitat conditions for local species, with an emphasis on biodiversity and healthy ecosystem processes and functions. This may include recommendations regarding wildlife corridors, landscape ecological planning, wildlife management, avoiding human/wildlife conflict.

- 1 ii. Continue to provide periodic updates to the Existing Condition
2 Report or to address technical questions from the Whatcom
3 County Council, Whatcom County staff, or the Wildlife
4 Management Committee.
5

6 **2.118.040 Qualifications.**

7 To qualify for County Council appointment to fill any vacancy on a board,
8 committee, or commission, a person shall be a qualified registered voter
9 and be a resident of the district or a member or employee of the agency
10 or group he or she is appointed to represent.
11

12 **2.118.050 Membership.**

- 13
- 14 A. The committee shall consist of 11 members.
- 15
- 16 B. The County Council will appoint seven of the 11 members following
17 the adoption of this ordinance to serve as a Wildlife Technical
18 Advisory sub-committee of the full Wildlife Advisory Committee.
19 These seven members will have technical expertise in wildlife and
20 habitat management or current or past professional experience
21 such as, but not limited to, at least one of the following: wetlands
22 manager, wildlife biologist, population biologist, natural resources
23 manager, watershed scientist, conservation specialist, urban
24 forestry protection, and citizen science. Two of these seven
25 members may be tribal representatives.
26
- 27 C. The Whatcom County Council will appoint the remaining four
28 members during its annual board and committee appointment
29 process in January 2016.
30
- 31 D. The committee members shall serve without compensation.
32

33 **2.118.060 Term of Office.**

- 34
- 35 A. Initial Staggered Terms:
- 36
- 37 i. Three of the initial seven Technical Members shall initially
38 serve a term ending on January 31, 2018.
- 39
- 40 ii. Four of the initial seven Technical Members shall initially serve
41 a term ending on January 31, 2019.
42
- 43 B. Thereafter, all eleven (11) member terms will be four years.
44

45 **2.118.070 Organization – Meetings.**

- 46
- 47 A. Meetings of the committee shall be open and accessible to the
48 public and shall be subject to the Open Public Meetings Act.
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- 50 B. The committee shall determine its own meeting schedule, but shall
51 meet at least monthly.

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- C. The committee shall be responsible for taking complete and accurate written records.
- D. Whatcom County staff shall be responsible for assuring the meetings are audio recorded.
- E. Written and audio recordings of meetings, resolutions, findings, and recommendations shall be kept, and such records shall be public.
- F. The committee shall comply with Whatcom County Code 2.03 – Boards and Commissions.
- G. The committee shall adopt its own rules and procedures for the conduct of business.
- H. The committee shall elect a chairperson from among its members who shall preside at its meetings.

2.118.080 Committee Staffing.

- A. The Whatcom County Planning and Development Services Department and Whatcom County Public Works Department shall provide geographic information system (GIS) data and other information to the committee as requested.
- B. The Whatcom County Planning and Development Services Department and the Whatcom County Public Works Department shall provide technical assistance and assist with meeting coordination.