

TO ALL COUNCILMEMBERS:

SUBSTITUTE VERSION

For

June 23, 2015

INTRODUCTION #1

AB2015-175

1. **Ordinance establishing Whatcom County Code 2.118, creating a Wildlife Advisory Committee (AB2015-175) (proposed schedule - July 7 Natural Resources Committee and Council)**
Pages 1-11

DISTRIBUTED: June 23, 2015
TIME: 10:34 AM
SUBMITTED BY: NR Committee

SPONSORED BY: Buchanan & Brown
PROPOSED BY: Buchanan & Brown
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

1 **WHEREAS**, Whatcom County citizens have expressed to the County Council their
2 desire for the County to incorporate wildlife management and conservation planning for
3 fish and wildlife habitat into the Whatcom County land use planning process; and
4

5 **WHEREAS**, the Whatcom County Council would benefit from the advice and
6 recommendations of those with background and technical expertise, including but not
7 limited to, in wildlife management, conservation science, and wildlife biology, when
8 making land use policy decisions, and
9

10 **WHEREAS**, the County Council acknowledges the community has finite resources
11 requiring good fiscal and environmental stewardship, and the community would benefit
12 from achievable wildlife management recommendations, and;
13

14 **WHEREAS**, the County Council recognizes people are part of the landscape and
15 within a watershed diverse uses interact and depend on limited resources, requiring
16 balanced wildlife management recommendations which provide visible community and
17 ecological services, and;
18

19 **WHEREAS**, THE Council authorizes Planning and Development Services
20 Department to fund a .25 FTE to staff the wildlife advisory committee from the
21 Conservation Futures Fund.
22

23 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Whatcom County Council that
24 Whatcom County Code 2.118, creating the Whatcom County Wildlife Advisory
25 Committee, is hereby established as outlined in Exhibit A of this ordinance, and;
26

27 **BE IT FINALLY ORDAINED** by the Whatcom County Council that this ordinance
28 will sunset within one year of its adoption.
29

30
31 **ADOPTED** this ____ day of _____, 2015.
32
33

34
35
36 ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

37
38
39
40 _____
Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council

Carl Weimer, Council Chair

41
42
43
44 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

WHATCOM COUNTY EXECUTIVE
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

45
46
47
48 _____
Civil Deputy Prosecutor

Jack Louws, County Executive

1
2
3
4
5
6

() 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 the value of wildlife and habitat management 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 integrating wildlife management and protection 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 a recommendation on the need for an ongoing wildlife advisory committee.

B. Each committee recommendation will consist of

- i. Identified issue or constraint
- ii. Discussion of ecological process, function or species addressed
- iii. Range of solutions considered
- iv. Preferred solution
- v. Cost of implementation. A cost benefit analysis is required when an existing industry recognized method is available; at a minimum a discussion of project costs and positive or adverse impacts where community and ecological uses intersect.
- vi. Cited and reviewed references

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

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

2.118.040 Qualifications.

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

2.118.050 Membership.

- A. The committee shall consist of 11 members.
- B. ~~The County Council will appoint seven of the 11 members following the adoption of this ordinance to serve as a Wildlife Technical Advisory sub-committee of the full Wildlife Advisory Committee. These Seven of the 11 members will have technical expertise in wildlife and habitat management or current or past professional experience such as, but not limited to, at least one of the following: wetlands manager, wildlife biologist, population biologist, natural resources manager, watershed scientist, conservation specialist, forestry protection, and tribal representative.~~
- C. ~~The Whatcom County Council will appoint the remaining four members during its annual board and committee appointment process in January 2016.~~
- D. The committee members shall serve without compensation.

COUNCILMEMBERS:
The Committee did not include these amendments to 2.118.050 (B-C). Councilmember Buchanan will make a motion to amend the ordinance for Introduction.

42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51

2.118.060 Term of Office.

The committee shall serve until July 31, 2016.
A. Initial Staggered Terms:

1 i. ~~Three of the initial seven Technical Members shall initially~~
2 ~~serve a term ending on January 31, 2018.~~

3
4 ii. ~~Four of the initial seven Technical Members shall initially serve~~
5 ~~a term ending on January 31, 2019.~~

6
7 B. ~~Thereafter, all eleven (11) member terms will be four years.~~

8
9 **2.118.070 Organization – Meetings.**

- 10
11 A. Meetings of the committee shall be open and accessible to the
12 public and shall be subject to the Open Public Meetings Act.
13
14 B. The committee shall determine its own meeting schedule, but shall
15 meet at least ~~monthly~~ **quarterly** **bimonthly**.
16
17 C. The committee shall be responsible for taking complete and
18 accurate written records.
19
20 D. Whatcom County staff shall be responsible for assuring the
21 meetings are audio recorded.
22
23 E. Written and audio recordings of meetings, resolutions, findings,
24 and recommendations shall be kept, and such records shall be
25 public.
26
27 F. The committee shall comply with Whatcom County Code 2.03 –
28 Boards and Commissions.
29
30 G. The committee shall adopt its own rules and procedures for the
31 conduct of business.
32
33 H. The committee shall elect a chairperson from among its members
34 who shall preside at its meetings.
35

36 **2.118.080 Committee Staffing.**

- 37
38 A. The Whatcom County Planning and Development Services
39 Department and Whatcom County Public Works Department shall
40 provide geographic information system (GIS) data and other
41 information to the committee as requested.
42
43 B. The Whatcom County Planning and Development Services
44 Department and the Whatcom County Public Works Department
45 shall provide technical assistance and assist with meeting
46 coordination.