

**RESOLUTION NO.**

**A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE REVENUE DISTRIBUTION FROM FOREST SERVICE PAYMENTS**

**WHEREAS**, on February 20, 2026, the United States Forest Service announced that counties will receive payments through the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) program for the first time in nearly two years; and

**WHEREAS**, the SRS program provides funding for critical local government services like education, transportation and public safety to counties with National Forest System land. Federal land is untaxable, but counties still have government services responsibilities on and around federal land, and payments are especially vital for timber counties as they navigate economic transition and work towards long-term stability; and

**WHEREAS**, Since 1908, federal law has directed 25 percent of all revenue from timber in national forests to counties, and that funding supported county budgets. After federal land management priorities changed and timber harvests declined, Congress created the SRS program in 2000 to alleviate financial challenges faced by rural counties; and

**WHEREAS**, funds must be distributed between Title I uses which includes schools and roads, and Title II uses which include habitat related projects on Federal lands; and

**WHEREAS**, previously 80% of the funds are used for Title I uses, and 20% of the funds are used for Title II uses; and

**WHEREAS**, shifting to an 85/15 split would net an estimated \$24,000 for county priorities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Community Self Determination Act of 2000 requires that funding allocations for the SRS program must be submitted to the Washington State Treasurer by July 20th.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Whatcom County Council that that the county will utilize 85% if the Forest Service payment for Title I uses and 15% towards Title II uses.

**APPROVED** this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cathy Halka, Clerk of the Council

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Kaylee Galloway, Council Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Brandon Waldron (approved by email 7/7/26/RS)

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Civil Deputy Prosecutor