



## MEMORANDUM

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

**Through:** Elizabeth Kosa, Director *EK*

**From:** Doug Ranney, P.E., County Engineer *DWR*  
Josh Cihak, P.E., Engineering Manager *JC*  
Erin Page, MS, PWS, Senior Planner/Environmental Scientist

**Date:** August 22, 2025

**Re:** **Department of Ecology 2025-2026 Washington Conservation Corps (WCC)  
"Spike Crew" Agreement for Capital Project Environmental Mitigation Site and  
Land Management**

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Please find attached for your review a copy of a contracted agreement between the Washington State Department of Ecology and Whatcom County Public Works Engineering. The authorized agreement will be signed electronically through DocuSign.

### Requested Action

Public Works respectfully requests that the County Council authorize the County Executive to enter into this agreement with the Washington State Department of Ecology.

### Project Background

The contract was solicited by Public Works between the Washington Department of Ecology to utilize WCC "Spike Crews" to perform vegetation maintenance to assure the meeting of mitigation site permit conditions on several Capital Project Mitigation Sites, including but not limited to the Birch Bay Drive and Pedestrian Facility (Birch Bay Berm – CRP NO. 907001), the 2022 Capital Wetland Mitigation (Northwest Annex- CRP No. 914002&917001) and East Hemmi Road / Tenmile Creek Flood Mitigation (CRP no. 916007). Washington Conservation Corps (WCC) crews are managed by the Washington State Department of Ecology as part of the AmeriCorps program. Use of the spike crews is low cost and the crews are highly skilled in native riparian vegetation restoration. Whatcom County currently has an on-going partnership and separate contract with a full time WCC crew in the Public Works Natural Resources Department. This contract is for supplemental crews since the existing crew has no additional availability for the larger capital project mitigation sites.

### Funding Amount and Source

Whatcom County will be using the local road funds for this contract from the "Mitigation and Monitoring" cost center budget, which covers the expenses of maintenance of planting sites. A total of \$451,000 has been budgeted for this cost center for 2025-2026.

Please contact Erin Page at extension 6281 if you have any questions or concerns regarding the terms of this agreement.