

**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, collectively serving in their capacity as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors

**THROUGH:** Elizabeth Kosa, Public Works Director *EK*

**FROM:** Gary Stoyka, Natural Resources Manager *GS*  
Chris Elder, Senior Watershed Management Planner

**DATE:** June 24, 2024

**RE:** RCO Community Forest Program Grant Agreement 22-1301A

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Please find attached for your review a copy of RCO Grant Agreement 22-1301A between Washington State and project sponsors, Whatcom Land Trust and Whatcom County. The authorized agreement will be signed electronically through DocuSign.

**Requested Action**

Public Works respectfully requests that the Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors authorize the County Executive to sign this agreement.

**Background and Purpose**

Whatcom Land Trust and Whatcom County will partner together to use this grant to support acquisition of Phase 2 of the Stewart Mountain Community Forest. The County will be the owner of this Phase 2 acquisition, subject to Council approval of property transaction documents not yet requested for review and approval. The County will manage the site to promote long-term forest health and watershed resilience, support local jobs in the woods and produce high quality wood products. The project also includes public outreach to local community members, stakeholder groups, and tribes to determine long-term balance of recreation, cultural use, timber production and watershed health. The primary benefit of this project is the preservation of working forestland.

**Funding Amount and Source**

This agreement will provide \$3,000,000 to support acquisition of Phase 2 of the Stewart Mountain Community Forest. This agreement is fully funded by a Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office Community Forest Program grant and will provide funds for fee title acquisition and associated closing costs. Budget authority for this agreement will be secured through a supplement budget request or through the 2025/2026 budget once the necessary funding for the acquisition has been arranged. No matching funds are required from Whatcom County.

Please contact Chris Elder at extension 6255 if you have any questions or concerns regarding the terms of this agreement.

Encl.  
Last edited 06/23/2023