

**WHATCOM COUNTY**

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**Mark Personius, AICP**  
Director

## Memorandum

TO: Honorable Whatcom County Councilmembers  
Honorable Satpal Sidhu, Whatcom County Executive

THROUGH: Mark Personius, Director, PDS *uip*

FROM: Becky Snijder van Wissenkerke, Conservation Easement Program Admin

DATE: January 13, 2022

SUBJECT: Presentation of the Conservation Easement Program update and request for approval to proceed with acquisition of four conservation easements

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Whatcom County Conservation Easement Program (CEP) staff would like to provide a program update and request approval to enter into a Purchase and Sale Agreement to acquire conservation easements on the Vander Veen, Rethlefsen, Savage, and Moors application parcels.

- The Vander Veen application is located off of Lindsay Rd in Johnson Creek watershed. This application will result in acquiring 5 development rights and effectively protect 57 acres of working farmland.
- The Rethlefsen application is located off of Y Rd in Anderson Creek watershed. This application will result in acquiring 9 development rights and effectively protect 49 acres of working farmland.
- The Savage application is located off of Main St, Custer in California Creek watershed. This application will result in acquiring 3 development rights and effectively protect 40 acres of working farmland.
- The Moors application is located off of Sand Rd in Anderson Creek watershed. This application will result in acquiring 7 development rights and effectively protect 35 acres of working forestland.

Thank you for receiving this program update and considering the above referenced request.

### **Request Summary**

Conservation Easement Program Staff requests approval of the ranked list recommended by the Conservation Easement Program Oversight Committee and approval to authorize the Executive to enter into a Purchase and Sale Agreement to acquire conservation easements on the Vander Veen, Rethlefsen, Savage, and Moors applications, provided appraisal is completed, conservation easement is drafted which meets the CEP guidelines, landowners have agreed to the offer price and conditions, and budget authority has been adopted by Whatcom County Council.

Please contact CEP Administrator, Becky Snijder van Wissenkerke, at (360)778-5956 with any questions.