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**Mark Personius**  
Director

## Memorandum

TO: Honorable County Councilmembers and  
Honorable Executive Satpal Singh Sidhu

THROUGH: Mark Personius, Director, Whatcom County PDS

FROM: Jon-Paul Shannahan, Natural Resource Manager PDS

DATE: November 2, 2022

SUBJECT: Continuation of the Wildlife Advisory Committee

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The Whatcom County Wildlife Advisory Committee (WAC) completed the Whatcom County Ecosystem Report in 2017. Whatcom County Council authorized the reactivation of the Committee via Ordinance # 2017-068 directing the WAC to continue to provide technical support in advancing Goal(s) 9 and 11 of the Growth Management Act.

Goal 9 of the Growth Management Act: 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.

Goal 11 of the Growth Management Act: Citizen participation and coordination. Encourage the involvement of citizens in the planning process and ensure coordination between communities and jurisdictions to reconcile conflicts.

The Whatcom County Council Natural Resource Committee also recommended the WAC reassess the general recommendations identified in the 2017 Ecosystem Report and advance a process to rectify known data gaps to foster the development of the best available science for future policy or code updates. During the last two years the WAC successfully completed a project to identify species of local importance per WCC 16.16. 710.(12) but has lacked the resources for updating the Ecosystem Report. The WAC would like to prioritize the Ecosystem Report update in time for coordination with the Whatcom County Comprehensive plan update scheduled to be completed in 2025.

Ordinance # 2017-068 contained a sunset clause of December 31, 2022. Respectfully, members of the Wildlife Advisory Committee request County Council reactivate the WAC, so that the WAC may continue working on wildlife related issues in Whatcom County.