

6/23/15
Replaced with
Substitute after
6/23 Natural Resources
Committee for
6/23

SPONSORED BY: Buchanan & Brown

PROPOSED BY: Buchanan & Brown

INTRODUCTION DATE: _____

ORDINANCE NO. _____

ESTABLISHING WHATCOM COUNTY CODE 2.118, CREATING THE WHATCOM COUNTY WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA) requires Whatcom County to engage in comprehensive land use planning; and

WHEREAS, the GMA indicates that Whatcom County's comprehensive land use planning efforts should foster land use patterns and develop a local vision of rural character that will be compatible with the use of the land by wildlife and for fish and wildlife habitat; and

WHEREAS, goal nine (9) of the GMA, in Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 36.70A.020, is to 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; and

WHEREAS, in RCW 36.70A.160, the GMA directs local governments to identify open space corridors within and between urban growth areas useful for recreation, wildlife habitat, trails and connections between critical areas; and

WHEREAS, habitat conservation areas must be identified, designated and protected through the use of best available science, according to RCW 36.70A.172; and

WHEREAS, goal eleven (11) of the GMA is to encourage the involvement of citizens in the planning process and ensure coordination between communities and jurisdictions to reconcile conflicts; and

WHEREAS, Whatcom County is required by RCW 36.70A.130(1) to regularly review and update the comprehensive plan, with the latest update due by June 30, 2016; and

WHEREAS, Whatcom County staff recommends revisions and amendments based on several elements and objectives, including updating the narrative and policies to address current issues and planning initiatives or to reflect new policy direction; and

1 **WHEREAS**, Whatcom County citizens have expressed to the County Council their
2 desire for the County to incorporate wildlife management and conservation planning for
3 fish and wildlife habitat into the Whatcom County land use planning process; and
4

5 **WHEREAS**, the Whatcom County Council would benefit from the advice and
6 recommendations of those with background and technical expertise, including but not
7 limited to, in wildlife management, conservation science, and wildlife biology and citizen
8 science, when making land use policy decisions.
9

10 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Whatcom County Council that
11 Whatcom County Code 2.118, creating the Whatcom County Wildlife Advisory
12 Committee, is hereby established as outlined in Exhibit A of this ordinance.
13

14 **ADOPTED** this ____ day of _____, 2015.
15
16
17

18
19 ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

20
21
22
23 _____
Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council

Carl Weimer, Council Chair

24
25
26
27 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

WHATCOM COUNTY EXECUTIVE
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

28
29
30
31 _____
Civil Deputy Prosecutor

Jack Louws, County Executive

() Approved () Denied

Date Signed: _____
32
33
34
35
36
37

EXHIBIT A

Chapter 2.118 WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1
2
3
4
5
6 **Sections:**

- 7 **2.118.010 Established**
8 **2.118.020 Purpose**
9 **2.118.030 Function**
10 **2.118.040 Qualifications**
11 **2.118.050 Membership**
12 **2.118.060 Term of Office**
13 **2.118.070 Organization – Meetings**
14 **2.118.080 Committee Staffing**
15

16
17 **2.118.010 Established.**

18 The Wildlife Advisory Committee is hereby established.
19

20 **2.118.020 Purpose.**

21 The committee will advise the Whatcom County Planning and
22 Development Services Department staff and the Whatcom County Council
23 on the value of wildlife and habitat management issues as they relate to
24 the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan, with the goal of integrating
25 wildlife management and protection into the community planning process.
26

27 **2.118.030 Function.**

28
29 A. The committee will provide recommendations on integrating wildlife
30 management and protection issues relative to fulfilling goal nine (9) of
31 the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA): to retain open
32 space, enhance recreational opportunities, conserve fish and wildlife
33 habitat, increase access to natural resource lands and water, and
34 develop parks and recreation facilities. The full committee shall provide
35 an annual report once each calendar year beginning in 2016.
36

37 B. It is understood that the community has limited resources, it is unlikely
38 that it will be possible to treat all species equally, competing interests
39 exist between humans and the natural environment, and competing
40 interests exist between one local native species and another.
41 Therefore, the committee will make recommendation as how best to
42 balance these competing interests and ideally will provide a cost benefit
43 analysis associated with each recommendation.
44

45 BC. The Technical Advisory sub-committee, as defined in Section
46 2.118.050(B), will:

- 47
48 i. Prior to the end of 2015, develop the initial inventory,
49 characterization, and assessment, which includes an analysis of

1 risk, of existing ecosystem conditions (Existing Condition Report),
2 and to make management recommendations using best available
3 science that will provide appropriate habitat conditions for local
4 species, with an emphasis on biodiversity and healthy ecosystem
5 processes and functions. This may include recommendations
6 regarding wildlife corridors, landscape ecological planning, wildlife
7 management, avoiding human/wildlife conflict.
8

- 9 ii. Continue to provide periodic updates to the Existing Condition
10 Report or to address technical questions from the Whatcom
11 County Council, Whatcom County staff, or the Wildlife
12 Management Committee.
13

14 **2.118.040 Qualifications.**

15 To qualify for County Council appointment to fill any vacancy on a board,
16 committee, or commission, a person shall be a qualified registered voter
17 and be a ~~resident of the district or a~~ member or employee of the agency
18 or group he or she is appointed to represent.
19

20 **2.118.050 Membership.**

- 21
22 A. The committee shall consist of 11 members.
23
24 B. The County Council will appoint seven of the 11 members following
25 the adoption of this ordinance to serve as a Wildlife Technical
26 Advisory sub-committee of the full Wildlife Advisory Committee.
27 These seven members will have technical expertise in wildlife and
28 habitat management or current or past professional experience
29 such as, but not limited to, at least one of the following: wetlands
30 manager, wildlife biologist, population biologist, natural resources
31 manager, watershed scientist, conservation specialist, ~~urban~~
32 forestry protection, and ~~citizen science. Two of these seven~~
33 ~~members may be~~ tribal representative.
34
35 C. The Whatcom County Council will appoint the remaining four
36 members during its annual board and committee appointment
37 process in January 2016.
38
39 D. The committee members shall serve without compensation.
40

41 **2.118.060 Term of Office.**

- 42
43 A. Initial Staggered Terms:
44
45 i. Three of the initial seven Technical Members shall initially
46 serve a term ending on January 31, 2018.
47
48 ii. Four of the initial seven Technical Members shall initially serve
49 a term ending on January 31, 2019.
50
51 B. Thereafter, all eleven (11) member terms will be four years.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39

2.118.070 Organization – Meetings.

- A. Meetings of the committee shall be open and accessible to the public and shall be subject to the Open Public Meetings Act.
- B. The committee shall determine its own meeting schedule, but shall meet at least ~~monthly~~ quarterly.
- C. The committee shall be responsible for taking complete and accurate written records.
- D. Whatcom County staff shall be responsible for assuring the meetings are audio recorded.
- E. Written and audio recordings of meetings, resolutions, findings, and recommendations shall be kept, and such records shall be public.
- F. The committee shall comply with Whatcom County Code 2.03 – Boards and Commissions.
- G. The committee shall adopt its own rules and procedures for the conduct of business.
- H. The committee shall elect a chairperson from among its members who shall preside at its meetings.

2.118.080 Committee Staffing.

- A. The Whatcom County Planning and Development Services Department and Whatcom County Public Works Department shall provide geographic information system (GIS) data and other information to the committee as requested.
- B. The Whatcom County Planning and Development Services Department and the Whatcom County Public Works Department shall provide technical assistance and assist with meeting coordination.