

**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

FROM: Gary Stoyka, Natural Resources Manager 
John N. Thompson, Sr. Salmon Recovery Planner

DATE: August 25, 2025

RE: Department of Ecology 2025-2026 Washington Conservation Corps Agreement

Please find attached for your review a copy of an agreement between the Washington State Department of Ecology and the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District. 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

Through this agreement with Ecology, the County will sponsor a 6-member Washington Conservation Corps (WCC) Crew for the October 1, 2025 to September 30, 2026 term. The WCC crew will assist Public Works with the installation and maintenance of native vegetation plantings in support of salmon recovery, fish passage, flood, stormwater, and road projects including mitigation and monitoring. The crew supports water quality and marine nearshore monitoring and are available for emergency response.

The County continues to partner with the Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association (NSEA) to support the WCC Crew. The County provides the full sponsor cost through this agreement with Ecology. Under a separate agreement between the County and NSEA, NSEA will provide a minimum of \$45,000 reimbursement to the County for crew time spent on NSEA's grant-funded projects along with providing supervisor office space, equipment storage, and the use of power tools and machinery.

Funding Amount and Source

The \$258,720 for this new agreement is included in the Public Works Natural Resource Division 2025 budget and the proposed 2025 Natural Resource Division Budget.

Differences from Previous Agreement/Contract

This is a new agreement.

Please contact John N. Thompson at extension 6295 if you have any questions or concerns regarding the terms of this agreement.

Encl.