

**Subject:** Online Form Submittal: Board and Commission Application  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 22, 2023 4:30:43 PM

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## Board and Commission Application

### Step 1

Application for Appointment to Whatcom County Boards and Commissions

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#### Public Statement

*THIS IS A PUBLIC DOCUMENT: As a candidate for a public board or commission, the information provided will be available to the County Council, County Executive, and the public. All board and commission members are expected to be fair, impartial, and respectful of the public, County staff, and each other. Failure to abide by these expectations may result in revocation of appointment and removal from the appointive position.*

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Title Mr.

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First Name Alexander

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Last Name Harris

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Today's Date 11/22/2023

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Street Address [REDACTED]

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City [REDACTED]

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Zip [REDACTED]

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Do you live in & are you registered to vote in Whatcom County? Yes

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Do you have a different mailing address? *Field not completed.*

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Primary Telephone [REDACTED]

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Secondary Telephone *Field not completed.*

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Email Address [REDACTED]

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### Step 2

1. Name of Board or Committee Forest Resilience Task Force

Forest Resilience Task Force	Community member with expertise in climate, salmon recovery, and natural resources policy
2. Do you meet the residency, employment, and/or affiliation requirements of the position for which you're applying?	Yes
3. Which Council district do you live in?	District 3
4. Are you a US citizen?	Yes
5. Are you registered to vote in Whatcom County?	Yes
6. Have you declared candidacy (as defined by RCW 42.17A.055) for a paid elected office in any jurisdiction within the county?	No
7. Have you ever been a member of this Board/Commission?	No
8. Do you or your spouse have a financial interest in or are you an employee or officer of any business or agency that does business with Whatcom County?	No
You may attach a resume or detailed summary of experience, qualifications, & interest in response to the following questions	Attached

9. Please describe your occupation (or former occupation if retired), qualifications, professional and/or community activities, and education

I work as a natural resources policy professional for RE Sources, a conservation non-profit founded in Bellingham 40 years ago. I have been working in natural resources and climate policy since 2015, and I completed a graduate program in Environmental Policy at Western Washington University in 2022. I track numerous public processes relating to forest practices, water resources management, farmland preservation, salmon recovery, and flood mitigation. A major focus of my work is climate adaptation as it relates to floods, wildfires, and low summer streamflows; however, I also have experience in energy and carbon policy, including forest carbon policy.

As the Land & Water Policy Manager at RE Sources, I participate in numerous watershed restoration processes in WRIA 1: I facilitate the WRIA 1 Environmental Caucus; I participate in the WRIA 1 Planning Unit; I attend all meetings of the WRIA 1 Watershed Management Board; and I attend all meetings of the Lake Whatcom Policy Group. As a private citizen, I sit on the Acme Van Zandt Flood Subzone Committee, where I help advise the county on river and flood related issues.

Another major policy focus of mine is salmon recovery. RE Sources is the local "waterkeeper" for this watershed, and as such, my organization played an important role in local salmon recovery for the past few decades. At the state level, I advocate for increased salmon recovery investments so the county, the Nooksack Tribe, and Lummi Nation can expedite their efforts to improve water quality and restore salmon habitat in the Nooksack watershed. In the years ahead, I plan to be heavily involved in the Nooksack adjudication, seeking solutions that restore the Nooksack watershed while ensuring that our agricultural economy stays viable into the future.

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10. Please describe why you're interested in serving on this board or commission

Climate change will impact our region in numerous ways, but perhaps most notable is the altered timing and magnitude of streamflows (i.e. climate change will bring higher winter flows and lower summer flows). I believe that the way we manage our public forestlands can either exacerbate future climate impacts or mitigate these impacts, making our communities and ecosystems more resilient.

I have a proven track record of being a bridge builder and a mediator in natural resource conflicts that pit rural vs. urban, environmentalists vs. industry. I believe we need forest solutions that meet the needs of our mills and timber industry while ensuring that our forests, ecosystems, and watersheds are resilient to future climate impacts. Numerous other communities around the Pacific Northwest are exploring community forestry, which is what I focused my graduate research on at WWU. My research demonstrated that there are many models out there for threading the needle, ultimately it's up to the community to

determine their own path.

That's why I'm eager to participate in this Task Force—I believe this could be a very productive space to talk "apples to apples" about the numerous tradeoffs associated with different forest management approaches. I appreciate the leadership of County Council to create this Task Force and I would be honored to participate.

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References (please include daytime telephone number):

Chris Elder, Whatcom County – 360-840-3064  
Grace Wang, Western Washington University – 360-303-9300  
Ian Smith, Cascadia Farm and Forestry – 360-319-8917

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Appointment Requirements

I understand and agree

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Signature of applicant:

Alexander Harris

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Place Signed / Submitted



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# ALEXANDER HARRIS

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## EDUCATION

### **Western Washington University**

- M.A. Environmental Policy (2022)
- Research focus: Community-driven forest stewardship
- Graduate Teaching Assistant: ENVS 203 - Physical Geography
- Coursework: land use law, water policy, salmon ecology, natural resource management, and GIS.

### **University of Oregon**

- B.A. Philosophy and Political Science (2014)
  - Magna Cum Laude (GPA: 3.82)
  - Proficient Spanish speaker
  - Philosophy Club
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## POLICY EXPERTISE

- Forest management
- Climate adaptation and resilience
- Land use law
- Salmon recovery
- Watershed restoration

## WORK EXPERIENCE

### **LAND & WATER POLICY MANAGER** 04/2022 - Present

#### **RE Sources - Bellingham, Washington - re-sources.org**

My work involves advocating for the protection and restoration of the Lake Whatcom watershed and the Nooksack River basin (WRIA 1). I track numerous public processes relating to forest practices, water resources management, farmland preservation, salmon recovery, and flood mitigation. In November 2022, I launched a new campaign at RE Sources promoting ecological forest management on local public lands. My job entails:

- engaging in regulatory processes, monitoring forest practices
- coalition building, facilitating group projects
- lobbying and educating elected officials
- producing educational short films, infographics, and maps
- training and mobilizing grassroots advocates
- bridge building between disparate interests

### **FOREST POLICY CONSULTANT** 03/2019 - 04/2022

As a consultant, I provided a variety of professional services for five conservation non-profits, including: Evergreen Land Trust, Whatcom Land Trust, Stand.earth, Cascadia Wildlands, and Oregon Wild. My work entailed:

- |                                   |                         |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| - technical writing and analysis  | - engaging stakeholders |
| - coalition building/facilitation | - grant writing         |
| - community forest development    | - in-depth research     |
| - community outreach planning     | - public speaking       |
| - wildfire policy analysis        | - legislative lobbying  |
| - science communication           | - news media monitoring |
| - reporter wrangling              | - website development   |

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## SERVICE

### **Twin Sisters Farmers Market**

- Secretary, Board of Directors
- Member farmer, Brackenshire Farm
- 01/2023 - Present

### **Acme-Van Zandt Flood Subzone Committee, Whatcom County**

- Committee Member
- 01/2022 - Present

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## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Cancer survivor
- Published in the Oregon Undergraduate Research Journal (2014)
- Winner of the UO Undergraduate Philosophy Conference (2014)
- Captain of Ashland High School Tennis Team (2009, 2010)
- Eagle Scout Award (2007)

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## SKILLS

- Coalition building & facilitation
- Technical writing & analysis
- Science communication
- Strategic campaign planning
- Public education
- Video production
- Stakeholder engagement

## WORK EXPERIENCE (CONTINUED)

### **PUBLIC LANDS ORGANIZER** 12/2016 - 01/2019

#### **Oregon Wild - Portland, Oregon - [oregonwild.org](http://oregonwild.org)**

I worked as a community organizer to build support for the protection of Oregon's National Forests and other public lands. This involved organizing educational forums and grassroots trainings across the state, while generating pressure on key elected officials through a variety of grassroots techniques. My job entailed:

- cultivating grassroots leadership
- coalition building
- convening a public lands coalition
- lobbying elected officials
- maintaining social media channels
- science communication
- developing a forest-carbon report
- organizing large events

### **CONSERVATION ORGANIZER** 12/2015 - 12/2016

#### **Sierra Club - Portland, Oregon - [sierraclub.org](http://sierraclub.org)**

I worked as a grassroots organizer to build opposition to major oil, coal, and gas export proposals along the Columbia River. I also tracked federal forest policy relating to a biomass energy proposal in Boardman, Oregon. My work on these campaigns entailed:

- coalition building
- grassroots mobilization
- planning rallies
- organizing edu. forums
- news media/communications
- training volunteers
- lobbying elected officials
- research & dissemination

### **COMMUNITY ORGANIZER** 03/2015 - 12/2015

#### **Rogue Climate - Phoenix, Oregon - [rogueclimate.org](http://rogueclimate.org)**

I worked as an organizer building awareness of a major liquefied natural gas export project in SW Oregon. My work was primarily devoted to organizing "Hike the Pipe!" – a 310-mile awareness hike along the entire route of the proposed pipeline. My role entailed:

- recruiting volunteers and hikers
- managing volunteers
- coordinating all logistics
- messaging/media work
- fundraising/budgeting
- community outreach

*Addendum with prior work experience available upon request.*

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