

1 SPONSORED BY:
2 PROPOSED BY: Planning
3 INTRODUCTION DATE:

4
5 **ORDINANCE NO. _____**
6

7 **AMENDING WHATCOM COUNTY CODE 2.118, REACTIVATING THE WHATCOM**
8 **COUNTY WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMITTEE BEYOND DECEMBER 31,2022**
9

10 **WHEREAS**, the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA) requires
11 Whatcom County to engage in comprehensive land use planning; and
12

13 **WHEREAS**, the GMA indicates that Whatcom County's comprehensive land use
14 planning efforts should foster land use patterns and develop a local vision of rural
15 character that will be compatible with the use of the land by wildlife and for fish and
16 wildlife habitat; and
17

18 **WHEREAS**, goal nine (9) of the GMA, in Revised Code of Washington (RCW)
19 36.70A.020, is to retain open space, enhance recreational opportunities, conserve fish
20 and wildlife habitat, increase access to natural resource lands and water, and develop
21 parks and recreation facilities; and
22

23 **WHEREAS**, in RCW 36.70A.160, the GMA directs local governments to identify
24 open space corridors within and between urban growth areas useful for recreation,
25 wildlife habitat, trails and connections between critical areas; and
26

27 **WHEREAS**, habitat conservation areas must be identified, designated and
28 protected through the use of best available science, according to RCW 36.70A.172; and
29

30 **WHEREAS**, goal eleven (11) of the GMA is to encourage the involvement of
31 citizens in the planning process and ensure coordination between communities and
32 jurisdictions to reconcile conflicts; and
33

34 **WHEREAS**, Whatcom County citizens have expressed to the County Council their
35 desire for the County to incorporate wildlife management and conservation planning for
36 fish and wildlife habitat into the Whatcom County land use planning process; and
37

38 **WHEREAS**, the Whatcom County Council would benefit from the advice and
39 recommendations of those with background and technical expertise, including but not
40 limited to, in wildlife management, conservation science, and wildlife biology, when
41 making land use policy decisions, and
42

1 **WHEREAS**, the County Council acknowledges the community has finite resources
2 requiring good fiscal and environmental stewardship, and the community would benefit
3 from achievable wildlife management recommendations, and;

4
5 **WHEREAS**, the County Council recognizes people are part of the landscape and
6 within a watershed diverse uses interact and depend on limited resources, requiring
7 balanced wildlife management recommendations which provide visible community and
8 ecological services, and;

9
10 **WHEREAS**, the County Council authorizes Planning and Development Services
11 Department or Public Works to fund a .25 FTE to staff the Wildlife Advisory Committee.
12

13 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Whatcom County Council that
14 Whatcom County Code 2.118, creating the Whatcom County Wildlife Advisory
15 Committee, is amended as shown in Exhibit A.
16

17
18 **ADOPTED** this ____ day of _____, 2022.
19
20

21
22 ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

23
24
25
26 _____
Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council

Todd Donovan, Council Chair

27
28
29
30 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

WHATCOM COUNTY EXECUTIVE
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

31
32 Approved by email /s/ Royce Buckingham/MR

33 _____
Royce Buckingham, Civil Deputy Prosecutor

Satpal Sidhu, County Executive

34
35
36
37 () Approved () Denied
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39
40 Date Signed: _____
41

EXHIBIT A

Chapter 2.118 WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Sections:

- 2.118.010 Established
- 2.118.020 Purpose
- 2.118.030 Function
- 2.118.040 Qualifications
- 2.118.050 Membership
- 2.118.060 Term of Office
- 2.118.070 Organization – Meetings
- 2.118.080 Committee Staffing

2.118.010 Established.

The wildlife advisory committee is hereby established.

2.118.020 Purpose.

The committee will advise the Whatcom County ~~p~~Planning and ~~d~~Development ~~s~~Services ~~d~~Department and Public Works Department staff and the Whatcom County ~~e~~Council on the value of wildlife and habitat management issues as they relate to the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan, with the goal of integrating wildlife management and protection into the community planning process.

2.118.030 Function.

- A. The committee will provide recommendations on integrating wildlife management and protection issues relative to fulfilling goal nine (9) of the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA): 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. The full committee shall provide a recommendation on the need for an ongoing wildlife advisory committee.
- B. Each committee recommendation will consist of:
 - 1. Identified issue or constraint;
 - 2. Discussion of ecological process, function or species addressed;
 - 3. Range of solutions considered;
 - 4. Preferred solution;
 - 5. Cost of implementation. A cost-benefit analysis is required when an existing industry recognized method is available; at a minimum a discussion of project costs and positive or adverse impacts where community and ecological uses intersect;
 - 6. Cite and reviewed references.

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- C. The technical advisory subcommittee, as defined in WCC 2.118.050(B), will:
1. ~~Continue to provide~~ Provide a periodic updates to the Whatcom County Ecosystem Report that includes the inventory, characterization, and assessment, of wildlife habitats and ecosystems ~~which that~~ includes an analysis of risk to the ~~of~~ existing ecosystem conditions (Existing Condition Report), ~~and~~ to make management recommendations using best available science that will provide appropriate habitat conditions for local species, with an emphasis on biodiversity and healthy ecosystem processes and functions. This may include recommendations regarding wildlife corridors, landscape ecological planning, wildlife habitat management, and avoiding or minimizing human/wildlife conflict.
 2. Address technical questions from the Whatcom County eCouncil, Whatcom County staff, or the ~~w~~Wildlife Advisory management eCommittee.

2.118.040 Qualifications.

To qualify for eCounty eCouncil appointment to fill any vacancy on a board, committee, or commission, a person shall be a qualified registered voter in Whatcom County and be a member or employee of the agency or group he or she is appointed to represent.

2.118.050 Membership.

- A. The committee shall consist of 11 members.
- B. Seven of the 11 members will have technical expertise in wildlife and habitat management or current or past professional experience such as, but not limited to, at least one of the following: wetlands manager, wildlife biologist, ~~population conservation~~ biologist, natural resources manager, watershed scientist, ~~conservation~~ ecological restoration specialist, forestry protection, and tribal representative. ~~Agriculture or land development representatives are encouraged to apply for at least two of the remaining four positions.~~
- C. The County eCouncil will appoint the voting committee members. Member terms will be four years
- D. The committee members shall serve without compensation.

2.118.060 Term of Office.

1 The committee shall serve until December 31, 202~~2~~6.

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3 **2.118.070 Organization – Meetings.**
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- 5 A. Meetings of the eCommittee shall be open and accessible to the
6 public and shall be subject to the Open Public Meetings Act.
7 B. The eCommittee shall meet as needed to address wildlife_-related
8 planning needs.
9 C. The eCommittee shall be responsible for taking ~~complete and~~
10 accurate written records.
11 D. Whatcom County staff shall be responsible for assuring the
12 meetings are audio recorded.
13 E. Written and audio recordings of meetings, resolutions, findings,
14 and recommendations shall be kept, and such records shall be
15 public.
16 F. The eCommittee shall comply with Whatcom County Code~~Chapter~~
17 ~~2.03, WCC -~~ Boards and Commissions.
18 G. The eCommittee shall adopt its own rules and procedures for the
19 conduct of business.
20 H. The eCommittee shall elect a chairperson from among its members
21 who shall preside at its meetings.
22

23 **2.118.080 Committee Staffing.**
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- 25 A. The Whatcom County ~~p~~lanning and ~~d~~evelopment ~~s~~ervices
26 ~~d~~epartment and Whatcom County ~~p~~ublic ~~w~~orks ~~d~~epartment
27 shall provide available geographic information system (GIS) data
28 and other information to the committee as requested.
29 B. The Whatcom County ~~p~~lanning and ~~d~~evelopment ~~s~~ervices
30 ~~d~~epartment and the Whatcom County ~~p~~ublic ~~w~~orks
31 ~~d~~epartment shall provide technical assistance and assist with
32 meeting coordination.