

WHATCOM COUNTY

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Mark Personius, AICP
Director

Memorandum

TO: Honorable Whatcom County Councilmembers
Honorable Satpal Sidhu, Whatcom County Executive

THROUGH: Mark Personius, Director, PDS *MAP*

FROM: Becky Snijder van Wissenkerke, PDR Program Administrator *BCS*

DATE: April 14, 2020

SUBJECT: Request approval to sign agreement with Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office in order to secure matching funds for the acquisition of a forestry conservation easement on the Squalicum Forest property through the Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) Program.

Whatcom County PDR Program staff applied to the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Forestland Preservation grant program in 2019 for several of the Purchase of Development Rights Program applications. Several of the Whatcom County applications ranked well and upon passage of the Washington State Capital Budget in 2020, the Squalicum Forest application has been awarded matching funds to contribute towards the purchase of a forestry conservation easement on the Squalicum Forest property. Currently, the state legislature is looking to reclaim grants that are not yet under an agreement. It is therefore urgent that this agreement be signed immediately in order to not lose funding.

This request is to sign a grant agreement to secure funding from RCO. It does not obligate Whatcom County to spend funds. This project will still require Council approval before a forestry conservation easement can be completed.

Squalicum Forest applied to the PDR Program in May of 2015. Authorization to apply for funding assistance for this application was approved by Whatcom County Council on May 21, 2019 through Resolution 2019-027.

Request Summary

PDR Program Staff request approval for the Executive to sign the Funding Board Project Agreement for project number 19-1330A (Squalicum Forestry Conservation Easement) to receive matching funds to support acquisition of a forestry conservation easement on the Squalicum Forest property. This request is to secure funding from RCO and does not obligate Whatcom County to spend funds.

Please contact PDR Program Administrator Becky Snijder van Wissenkerke at (360)778-5956 with any questions.