




MEMORANDUM

TO: Satpal Sidhu, County Executive

FROM: Bennett Knox, Director 

RE: Sierra Pacific Land & Timber Company - Easement Agreement for Canyon Lake Community Forest

DATE: February 13, 2024

Attached is an Easement Agreement between Whatcom County, Western Washington University, and Sierra Pacific Land & Timber Company (Sierra Pacific) for your review and signature.

Background and Purpose

Canyon Lake Community Forest, was jointly acquired by Whatcom County and Western Washington University in 1998. It opened to the public in 2001 with access to the property via a road network through former Crown-Pacific, now Sierra Pacific, property until a major slide closed access in 2017.

This agreement will restore public access to Canyon Lake Community Forest upon completion of certain stipulated items, including the installation of certain gates and signage, by Whatcom County Parks & Recreation.

Funding Amount and Source

Sierra Pacific has agreed to convey the easement to Whatcom County and Western Washington University free of charge. Whatcom County has agreed to make a payment of \$100,000 to Sierra Pacific to cover maintenance costs incurred by Sierra Pacific for road improvements. Funding for this easement agreement, in an amount not to exceed \$100,000, is to be provided by the Parks Special Revenue Fund.