



# WHATCOM COUNTY

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## WASHINGTON

### Planning & Development Services

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### Memorandum

TO: Whatcom County Council

FROM: Alexander Harris, Planner II

THROUGH: Mark Personius, Director

DATE: July 14, 2025

SUBJECT: Open Space Applications April 2025

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Every 6 months, staff at Planning & Development Services (PDS) present Open Space Land applications to the Planning Commission and County Council. The attached Staff Report summarizes findings and recommendations on **ONE** application for classification of land as "Open Space Land" as authorized under RCW 84.34 and Whatcom County Ordinance No. 1995-040.

### **New Applications:**

#### OSP2024-0006 - Lewis

- PDS staff conducted a site visit and evaluated the subject property according to the Public Benefit Rating System, which yielded a score of 48.18.
- PDS policy dictates that scores over 45 receive a staff recommendation for approval, and therefore, PDS recommends approval of this Open Space application.
- The Planning Commission hosted a Public Hearing on April 10, 2025 and voted to recommend approval of the application.

### **Summary of Request:**

Per RCW 84.34 and county code, Whatcom County Council is the granting authority that must make a final decision on all applications to Open Space Land. Council is requested to approve (in whole or in part) the Lewis application by passing the Proposed Resolution, or to deny the application.