

WHATCOM COUNTY**Parks & Recreation**

3373 Mount Baker Highway
Bellingham, WA 98226-7500




Bennett Knox, Director

Christ Thomsen, Operations Manager

MEMORANDUM

TO: Satpal Sidhu, County Executive

FROM: Bennett Knox, Director 

RE: Professional Services Contract for the Lake Whatcom Watershed Forest Management Plan

DATE: September 5, 2024

Enclosed are two (2) originals of the professional services contract between Whatcom County and Northwest Natural Resource Group for your review and signature. The contract amount is \$133,060.

Background and Purpose

Parks requests approval of the attached contract with Northwest Natural Resource Group for development of a forest management plan for County properties in the Lake Whatcom watershed (Lake Whatcom Park and Lookout Mountain Forest Preserve). The scope of this contract also includes development of recommendations for management of City of Bellingham-owned parcels in the watershed.

Whatcom County Parks & Recreation will manage this contract and enter into an interlocal agreement (ILA) between Whatcom County and the City of Bellingham which outlines respective responsibilities, including payment by the COB to Whatcom County to cover expenses related to COB parcels. This ILA is under review and will be submitted for council consideration on September 24, 2024

The contract will result in a management plan over an approximately three-decade planning horizon. It will include ecological forestry-based silvicultural prescriptions for management of these properties to address community goals as expressed most directly by the Lake Whatcom Policy Group.

Funding Amount and Source

\$100,000 in funds for this project were allocated as part of the 2023-2024 biennial budget. Those funds lapsed and were re-appropriated by Whatcom County Council on April 23, 2024 through Ordinance AB2024-239. The budgeted funds are insufficient to award the contract given the addition of COB parcels and as a result a Supplemental Budget Request in the amount of \$33,060 to fully this contract will be introduced at Whatcom County Council on September 10, 2024 for consideration on September 24.

The City of Bellingham will reimburse Whatcom County for a maximum of \$41,295 in expenses under this contract.

Funding Source: Parks Special Revenue

Differences from Previous Contract

This is a new contract.

Please contact me at extension 5855 if you have any questions or concerns regarding the terms of this agreement

Encl.