



MEMORANDUM

TO: Satpal Sidhu, County Executive

FROM: Bennett Knox, Director 

RE: Amended Interlocal Agreement with the City of Bellingham for the Lake Whatcom Watershed Forest Management Plan

DATE: March 18, 2025

Enclosed is an amended Interlocal Agreement (ILA) between Whatcom County and the City of Bellingham related to implementation of the Lake Whatcom Watershed Forest Management Plan.

Background and Purpose

On September 24, 2024 Council approved interlocal agreement between the County the City (County Contract 202409022) governing reimbursement to the County by the City up to \$41,295 to cover expenses associated with including COB parcels in the Lake Whatcom Watershed Forest management Plan (AB2024-606). On September 24, 2024, WC Council approved a contract with Northwest Natural Resource Group in the amount of \$133,060 that included these parcels (AB2024-605). Recently, the City of Bellingham has purchased an additional 754 acres in the watershed and has requested these new parcels be included in the planning process.

The attached amended Interlocal Agreement adds \$12,063 to the current ILA to bring total reimbursement to the County for COB parcels considered in the plan to \$53,358.

Parks is concurrently submitting a Supplemental Budget Request to increase budget authority from \$133,060 to a total \$145,123 to cover this additional planning effort.

Funding Amount and Source

If approved by Council, the total value of the contract for development of the management plan is will be increased to \$145,123 (source is Parks Special Revenue) . Per this interlocal agreement, the City of Bellingham will reimburse the County for up to \$53,358 in expenses related to their parcels (reimbursing Parks Special Revenue).

Differences from Previous Contract

Amends the total acres of COB parcels included in the Forest Management Plan from approximately 3,000 acres to approximately 3,754 acres. It also amends the reimbursement amount from \$41,295 to 53,358