

WHATCOM COUNTY

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Mark Personius, AICP
Director

Memorandum

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

THROUGH: Steve Roberge, Assistant Director, PDS

FROM: Lauren Templeton, CEP Administrator

DATE: September 12, 2024

SUBJECT: Request approval to sign a grant contract with USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in order to secure matching funds for the Taylor Conservation Easement through the Conservation Easement Program.

Whatcom County Conservation Easement Program staff applied for the USDA NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) grant. The Taylor application has been awarded matching funds to contribute towards the purchase of a conservation easement on the Taylor property. The Taylor property is 14 acres located along the Middle Fork Nooksack River that will protect forested riparian habitat and floodplain.

This request is to sign a grant contract to secure funding from USDA. It does not obligate Whatcom County to spend funds. This project will still require Council approval before a conservation easement can be completed. We will return for Council approval to acquire the easement in 2025.

Request Summary

Conservation Easement Program Staff request approval for the Executive to sign the NRCS Parcel Contract for contract number 91054624002T to receive matching funds to support the acquisition of a conservation easement on the Taylor property. This request is to secure funding from NRCS.

Please contact Conservation Easement Program Administrator Lauren Templeton at (360)778-5956 with any questions.