

**WHATCOM COUNTY
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

**Elizabeth Kosa
Director**



NATURAL RESOURCES

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Satpal Singh Sidhu, Whatcom County Executive, and The Honorable Members of the Whatcom County Council

THROUGH: Elizabeth Kosa, Public Works Director *EaK*
Gary Stoyka, Natural Resources Manager *GS*

FROM: Chris Elder, Senior Watershed Management Planner

DATE: July 18, 2025

RE: Department of Ecology Streamflow Restoration Grant for Stewart Mountain Phase 2 Acquisition

Requested Action

Public Works respectfully requests that the County Council authorize the County Executive to enter into grant agreement between Whatcom County and Washington State Department of Ecology in support of Whatcom County application #WRSRP-2022-WhCoPW-00167, Stewart Mountain Community Forest Phase 2.

Background and Purpose

This grant agreement provides funding to support acquisition of Phase 2 of the Stewart Mountain Community Forest for the purpose of restoring and improving streamflows. This grant will provide \$5,517,000 in funds to support acquisition of 1,616 acres of forestland on the east side of Stewart Mountain. Ecological forest management of Stewart Mountain was identified during the Regional Water Supply Planning process as the highest ranked project to restore and enhance streamflows in the pilot basins. Receipt of these funds will support acquisition of acreage to be managed for streamflow enhancement, forest product extraction, and other key goals.

Funding Amount and Source

This grant agreement from the Washington State Department of Ecology represented a grant application to the Streamflow Restoration Grant Program in 2023. The total award to Whatcom County is for \$5,517,000 to support acquisition of Phase 2 acreage. Funds secured by this agreement will be deposited directly into escrow to support acquisition of Phase 2. A separate Council agenda item describes current status of Stewart Mountain Community Forest ownership and management.

Please contact Chris Elder at extension 6225, if you have any questions or concerns regarding the terms of this agreement.

Encl.
Grant agreement