



Whatcom County

COUNTY COURTHOUSE
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Agenda Bill Master Report

File Number: AB2022-636

File ID:	AB2022-636	Version:	1	Status:	Adopted
File Created:	10/31/2022	Entered by:	JFleisch@co.whatcom.wa.us		
Department:	Planning and Development Services Department	File Type:	Ordinance		
Assigned to:	Council Climate Action and Natural Resources Committee			Final Action:	12/06/2022
Agenda Date:	12/06/2022			Enactment #:	ORD 2022-093

Primary Contact Email: jshannah@co.whatcom.wa.us

TITLE FOR AGENDA ITEM:

Ordinance amending Whatcom County Code 2.118, reactivating the Whatcom County Wildlife Advisory Committee beyond December 31, 2022

SUMMARY STATEMENT OR LEGAL NOTICE LANGUAGE:

The Whatcom County Wildlife Advisory Committee (WAC) completed the Whatcom County Ecosystem Report in 2017. The Whatcom County Council authorized the reactivation of the Committee via Ordinance #2017-068, directing the WAC to continue to provide technical support in advancing Goal(s) 9 and 11 of the Growth Managment Act. Ordinance #2017-068 contained a sunset clause of December 31, 2022. Members of the WAC request the County Council authorize continuation of the WAC so they may continue working on wildlife related issues in Whatcom County.

HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE FILE

Date:	Acting Body:	Action:	Sent To:
11/22/2022	Council	INTRODUCED	Council Climate Action and Natural Resources Committee
		Aye: 7 Nay: 0 Absent: 0	Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Frazey, Galloway, and Kershner
12/06/2022	Council Climate Action and Natural Resources Committee	RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION	

Aye: 2 Donovan, and Galloway
Nay: 0
Absent: 0
Abstain: 1 Elenbaas

12/06/2022 Council

ADOPTED

Aye: 5 Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Frazey, and Galloway
Nay: 1 Elenbaas
Absent: 1 Kershner

Attachments: Proposed Ordinance, Staff Memo, Wildlife Committee Accomplishment Memo 11.29.2022

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SPONSORED BY:
PROPOSED BY: Planning
INTRODUCTION DATE:

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-093

AMENDING WHATCOM COUNTY CODE 2.118, REACTIVATING THE WHATCOM COUNTY WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMITTEE BEYOND DECEMBER 31,2022

WHEREAS, the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA) requires Whatcom County to engage in comprehensive land use planning; and

WHEREAS, the GMA indicates that Whatcom County’s comprehensive land use planning efforts should foster land use patterns and develop a local vision of rural character that will be compatible with the use of the land by wildlife and for fish and wildlife habitat; and

WHEREAS, goal nine (9) of the GMA, in Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 36.70A.020, is to retain open space, enhance recreational opportunities, conserve fish and wildlife habitat, increase access to natural resource lands and water, and develop parks and recreation facilities; and

WHEREAS, in RCW 36.70A.160, the GMA directs local governments to identify open space corridors within and between urban growth areas useful for recreation, wildlife habitat, trails and connections between critical areas; and

WHEREAS, habitat conservation areas must be identified, designated and protected through the use of best available science, according to RCW 36.70A.172; and

WHEREAS, goal eleven (11) of the GMA is to encourage the involvement of citizens in the planning process and ensure coordination between communities and jurisdictions to reconcile conflicts; and

WHEREAS, Whatcom County citizens have expressed to the County Council their desire for the County to incorporate wildlife management and conservation planning for fish and wildlife habitat into the Whatcom County land use planning process; and

WHEREAS, the Whatcom County Council would benefit from the advice and recommendations of those with background and technical expertise, including but not limited to, in wildlife management, conservation science, and wildlife biology, when making land use policy decisions, and

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WHEREAS, the County Council acknowledges the community has finite resources requiring good fiscal and environmental stewardship, and the community would benefit from achievable wildlife management recommendations, and;

WHEREAS, the County Council recognizes people are part of the landscape and within a watershed diverse uses interact and depend on limited resources, requiring balanced wildlife management recommendations which provide visible community and ecological services, and;

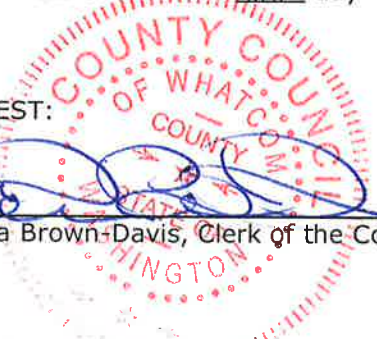
WHEREAS, the County Council authorizes Planning and Development Services Department or Public Works to fund a .25 FTE to staff the Wildlife Advisory Committee.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Whatcom County Council that Whatcom County Code 2.118, creating the Whatcom County Wildlife Advisory Committee, is amended as shown in Exhibit A.

ADOPTED this 6th day of December, 2022.

ATTEST:


Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council



WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Todd Donovan, Council Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Approved by email /s/ Royce Buckingham/MR
Royce Buckingham, Civil Deputy Prosecutor

WHATCOM COUNTY EXECUTIVE
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Satpal Sidhu, County Executive

Approved () Denied

Date Signed: 12/12/22

EXHIBIT A

Chapter 2.118 WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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Sections:

- 2.118.010** Established
- 2.118.020** Purpose
- 2.118.030** Function
- 2.118.040** Qualifications
- 2.118.050** Membership
- 2.118.060** Term of Office
- 2.118.070** Organization – Meetings
- 2.118.080** Committee Staffing

2.118.010 **Established.**
The wildlife advisory committee is hereby established.

2.118.020 **Purpose.**
The committee will advise the Whatcom County Planning and Development Services Department and Public Works Department staff and the Whatcom County Council on the value of wildlife and habitat management issues as they relate to the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan, with the goal of integrating wildlife management and protection into the community planning process.

2.118.030 **Function.**

A. The committee will provide recommendations on integrating wildlife management and protection issues relative to fulfilling goal nine (9) of the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA): to retain open space, enhance recreational opportunities, conserve fish and wildlife habitat, increase access to natural resource lands and water, and develop parks and recreation facilities. The full committee shall provide a recommendation on the need for an ongoing wildlife advisory committee.

- B. Each committee recommendation will consist of:
1. Identified issue or constraint;
 2. Discussion of ecological process, function or species addressed;
 3. Range of solutions considered;
 4. Preferred solution;
 5. Cost of implementation. A cost-benefit analysis is required when an existing industry recognized method is available; at a minimum a discussion of project costs and positive or adverse impacts where community and ecological uses intersect;
 6. Cite and reviewed references.

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C. The technical advisory subcommittee, as defined in WCC 2.118.050(B), will:

1. Provide a periodic update to the Whatcom County Ecosystem Report that includes the inventory, characterization, and assessment of wildlife habitats and ecosystems that includes an analysis of risk to the existing ecosystem conditions (Existing Condition Report), to make management recommendations using best available science that will provide appropriate habitat conditions for local species, with an emphasis on biodiversity and healthy ecosystem processes and functions. This may include recommendations regarding wildlife corridors, landscape ecological planning, wildlife habitat management, and avoiding or minimizing human/wildlife conflict.
2. Address technical questions from the Whatcom County Council, Whatcom County staff, or the Wildlife Advisory Committee.

2.118.040 Qualifications.

To qualify for County Council appointment to fill any vacancy on a board, committee, or commission, a person shall be a qualified registered voter in Whatcom County and be a member or employee of the agency or group he or she is appointed to represent.

2.118.050 Membership.

- A. The committee shall consist of 11 members.
- B. Seven of the 11 members will have technical expertise in wildlife and habitat management or current or past professional experience such as, but not limited to, at least one of the following: wetlands manager, wildlife biologist, conservation biologist, natural resources manager, watershed scientist, ecological restoration specialist, forestry protection, and tribal representative.
- C. The County Council will appoint the voting committee members. Member terms will be four years
- D. The committee members shall serve without compensation.

2.118.060 Term of Office.

The committee shall serve until December 31, 2026.

2.118.070 Organization – Meetings.

- A. Meetings of the Committee shall be open and accessible to the public and shall be subject to the Open Public Meetings Act.
- B. The Committee shall meet as needed to address wildlife related planning needs.

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- C. The Committee shall be responsible for taking accurate written records.
- D. Whatcom County staff shall be responsible for assuring the meetings are audio recorded.
- E. Written and audio recordings of meetings, resolutions, findings, and recommendations shall be kept, and such records shall be public.
- F. The Committee shall comply with Whatcom County Code 2.03 - Boards and Commissions.
- G. The Committee shall adopt its own rules and procedures for the conduct of business.
- H. The Committee shall elect a chairperson from among its members who shall preside at its meetings.

2.118.080 Committee Staffing.

- A. The Whatcom County Planning and Development Services Department and Whatcom County Public Works Department shall provide available geographic information system (GIS) data and other information to the committee as requested.
- B. The Whatcom County Planning and Development Services Department and the Whatcom County Public Works Department shall provide technical assistance and assist with meeting coordination.