

RESOLUTION NO. _____

SUPPORTING FUNDING FOR STEWARDSHIP FORESTER POSITIONS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES SMALL FOREST LANDOWNER OFFICE

WHEREAS, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) requested funding of four Stewardship Forester positions in the Small Forest Landowner Office (SFLO); and

WHEREAS, the commitment to fully fund the SFLO has not happened for several years and was not included in the Governor’s budget; and

WHEREAS, in Whatcom County and throughout the state, small family forest owners play a vital role in providing clean water and salmon habitat, along with clean air, recreation opportunities, wildlife habitat, and forest products; and

WHEREAS, keeping forest lands healthy and well cared for is critical to all of us; and

WHEREAS, because of the increased risk of wildfires, invasive species, and forest conversion, it is important that family forest owners have technical assistance available to help them sustainably manage their lands; and

WHEREAS, the DNR Stewardship Foresters, along with their Extension Forester partners, have provided on the ground classroom and educational service for Whatcom County; and

WHEREAS, Whatcom County will no longer have the availability of a local Stewardship Forester to assist with small family forest owner education unless it is put in the state budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Whatcom County Council supports all efforts of our legislators to understand the importance of this issue and include the DNR request of at least four Stewardship Forester positions in the Budget.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this request will have positive results for Whatcom County and other timber counties and will end up reducing the state significant costs by saving the forests from wildfires, noxious weeds, and diseases.

APPROVED this _____ day of _____ 2019.

ATTEST

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council

Rud Browne, Council Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Civil Deputy Prosecutor