

Whatcom County

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TITLE FOR AGENDA ITEM:

Presentation and discussion regarding the National Center for Public Lands

SUMMARY STATEMENT OR LEGAL NOTICE LANGUAGE:

In October 2022, the National Association of Counties (NACo) and the Western Interstate Region (WIR) Board of Directors proposed the creation of a National Center for Public Lands Counties (The Center) to look towards the future of these unique and important lands, opportunities and investments.

The NACo and WIR Boards of Directors is establishing The Center to give public lands counties an enhanced opportunity to demonstrate how prosperous public lands counties create a prosperous America. The Center will identify and complete research projects, collect and create data and information, and at times provide detailed, individual research and written county profiles focused on the benefit, opportunities, and impact of public lands in our counties. The Center, if created, will use both traditional and new media-such as podcasts and video interviews-to tell stories and disseminate information.