

SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL
Snohomish County, Washington

MOTION NO. 25-493

MOTION TO APPROVE AND ADOPT THE 2025 SNOHOMISH COUNTY
COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN

WHEREAS, the wildfire risk is increasing in Snohomish County with 12 large fires over 100 acres occurring within the county since 2003, including the Bolt Creek Fire in 2022, burning 14,820 acres between King and Snohomish Counties; and

WHEREAS, there are approximately 995,000 acres of forestland in Snohomish County, with 4,584 acres owned and managed by the County without an active forest management plan; and

WHEREAS, approximately 130,000 residents live within Wildland Urban Interface areas in Snohomish County and one in five residential building permits issued since 2020, have been within these locations; and

WHEREAS, on May 24, 2023, the Snohomish County Fire Chief's Association sent the Department of Emergency Management (hereinafter DEM) a letter requesting coordination on developing a Countywide Community Wildfire Protection Plan (hereinafter CWPP), analyzing the wildfire risk within the County, assisting with establishing best practices and coordination of Snohomish County Fire Agencies, developing mitigation strategies to reduce the risk of wildfire ignition, and providing resources to communities and individuals for wildfire mitigation and preparedness; and

WHEREAS, completing a State and Federal approved CWPP allows local jurisdictions, tribes, agencies and organizations to be eligible for many sources of wildfire mitigation funding opportunities and adoption of a CWPP allows prioritization of Federal fuels treatment projects within the county; and

WHEREAS, the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (hereinafter HFRA), establishes the requirements and the approval process for CWPPs, the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy (hereinafter NCWFMS) adds additional standards and recommendations for CWPPs by the US Department of Agriculture and Department of Interior, and the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (hereinafter DNR) CWPP Handbook establishes the State process for approval of CWPPs; and

WHEREAS, DEM worked with 50 community partners from local jurisdictions, public agencies, special districts, non-profits and private timber companies to develop five goals adhering to the requirements in the HFRA, and aligning those goals with the NCWFMS and the Snohomish County Strategic Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Snohomish County CWPP complies with the standards and requirements in the HFRA, the NCWFS, and the DNR CWPP Handbook, provides 70 mitigation strategies to increase wildfire resiliency in the county, and was approved and signed by DNR and the State Forester on October 5, 2025, followed by the Snohomish County Fire Chief's Association on October 7, 2025;

NOW, THEREFORE ON MOTION,

1. The Snohomish County Council adopts, for purposes of Federal funding eligibility and prioritized fuels treatment projects as required in the 2003 Healthy Forests Restoration Act, the Snohomish County Community Wildfire Plan in full, dated August 15, 2025, and incorporated here by reference. A copy of the plan is on file in the Office of the Clerk of the Council.
2. The Snohomish County Council authorizes the Executive to sign the approved 2025 Snohomish County Wildfire Protection Plan.

PASSED this _____ day of _____, 2025.

SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL
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Council Chair

ATTEST:

Deputy Clerk of the Council