

SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL
Snohomish County, Washington

MOTION NO. 23-240

TO APPROVE AN AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES BETWEEN
SNOHOMISH COUNTY AND PAWS FOR WILDLIFE REHABILITATION SERVICES

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2021, the United States Congress passed the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (“ARPA”) and Section 9901 of ARPA created a Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund (“LATCF”); and

WHEREAS, the LATCF is a general revenue enhancement program for use on any governmental purpose except for lobbying activity; and

WHEREAS, the 2018-2022 Strategic Tourism Plan for Snohomish County identified outdoor recreation and adventure as a major attraction of Snohomish County; and

WHEREAS, maintaining a healthy natural environment is important to Snohomish County’s tourism industry; and

WHEREAS, Snohomish County’s tourism industry is an integral part of Snohomish County’s economy; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Snohomish County benefit from both a healthy local economy and from a healthy natural environment; and

WHEREAS, the Bolt Creek fire caused damage to 14,000 acres of land in Snohomish County beginning in September 2022; and

WHEREAS, since September 2022, Snohomish County Animal Services has received requests for services related to injured and burned wildlife entering more urban areas and refers directly to licensed wildlife rehabilitators for these issues; and

WHEREAS, because of the unprecedented nature of the Bolt Creek fire, Snohomish County has seen an associated rise in calls related to wildlife service and an increased need for wildlife rehabilitation; and

WHEREAS, the Bolt Creek fire was caused by the driest July through September period on record for the area combined with an unusually wet spring creating hazardous fire conditions; and

WHEREAS, long-term burn scars related to the Bolt Creek fire can lead to landslides and fallen trees that can cause injury to people, animals and property; and

WHEREAS, Progressive Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) is the only permitted wildlife rehabilitation facility in Snohomish County that is authorized to rehabilitate large carnivores and currently 30% of all calls that PAWS responds to are from Snohomish County residents requesting wildlife services;

NOW, THEREFORE, ON MOTION, the Snohomish County Council resolves the following:

Section 1. The County Council finds that it promotes public health and welfare and protects local tourism industry to engage in a one-time service contract for wildlife rehabilitation in response to the Bolt Creek fire.

Section 2. The County Council approves the Agreement for Professional Services between Snohomish County and PAWS for wildlife rehabilitation services and authorizes the executive to execute the same.


PASSED this 14th day of June, 2023.

SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL
Snohomish County, Washington



Council Chair

ATTEST:



Deputy Clerk of the Council