

DRAFT - LWMP 2025-2029 Work Plan – July 2024

Program Area 12: Forest Management

Objective: Implement strategies on forest lands that minimize water quality impacts from harvesting and/or recreational activities while simultaneously managing forested lands to minimize wildfire threats.

2025-2029 Estimated Investments: \$2.1 million

The Lake Whatcom Management Program (LWMP) supports responsible management of public forest land as well as provides education to private forestland owners about wildfire risks and preparedness.

12.1 Forest Management Plans

Support development and implementation of sound forest management plans.

12.1.1 Create and implement Forest Management Plans (FMP) for county and city-owned forestland in the Lake Whatcom watershed.

12.1.2 Implement existing city plans for forest thinning to improve structural diversity and health.

12.2 Forest Practices Review

Review and comment on Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and private forestry activities to minimize adverse water quality impacts.

12.2.1 Actively participate in the Interjurisdictional Committee and review and comment on DNR forestry activities.

12.2.2 Review and comment on private forest practice applications.

12.2.3 Track permitted forest practice activities (including harvests, replanting, road building and abandonment, and herbicide spraying).

12.3 Forest Roads

Manage forest roads on city and county-owned lands to reduce impacts to water quality.

12.3.1 Maintain and abandon city and county-managed forest roads using

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recommendations from the upcoming Lake Whatcom Forest Management Plan.

12.4 Wildfire Preparedness and Risk Assessments

Inform watershed residents about resources and programs to address wildfire risk.

12.4.1 Engage in partnerships to encourage wildfire risk assessments and mitigation on public and private land in the Lake Whatcom Watershed.

12.4.2 Engage in partnerships to educate watershed residents about wildfire preparedness.

Reporting Metrics:

- Acres of timber harvested and replanted on forest lands per year
- Acres of land treated with herbicides on forest lands per year
- Proportion of watershed residents who are knowledgeable about wildfire risk reduction work measured every five years through the Lake Whatcom Watershed Baseline Survey