

CLEARANCES	Initial	Date	Date Received in Council Office:	Agenda Date	Assigned To:
Originator- Executive Office	<i>AB</i>	12-9		12/17/91	Council Intro
Division Head-				1/7/91	Council-hearing
Department Head-					
Prosecutor Review-					
Purchasing/Budget Dir.-					
Executive-					

**SUBJECT:**

Conservation Futures Property Tax Levy Ordinance

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Proposed Ordinance

Public Hearing Needed? Yes/X/No/\_\_\_/

**SUMMARY STATEMENT:**

The proposed Conservation Futures Property Tax Levy of six and one-quarter cents per thousand dollars of assessed valuation would be imposed county-wide for purchase of open space land, farm and agricultural land and timber land so as to protect, preserve, maintain, improve, restore, limit the future use of, or otherwise conserve the property for public use or enjoyment. The tax would generate approximately \$350,000 in 1993. The Natural Heritage Task Force, Parks and Recreation Board and Executive Office all support this levy.

**ORIGINATOR'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Pass as recommended.

**COMMITTEE ACTION (including dates):**

**COUNCIL ACTION (including dates):**

1/7/92: Passed 4-3.

Related File Numbers: \_\_\_\_\_

Ordinance or Resolution Number: 092-002

ORDINANCE NO. 92-002

**IMPOSITION OF CONSERVATION FUTURES  
PROPERTY TAX LEVY AND  
CREATION OF FUND**

WHEREAS, the Whatcom County Council considers adequate provision of open space and the conservation of farm and timber land to be essential to the quality of life in Whatcom County; and

WHEREAS, open space, farm and agricultural lands, and timber lands are becoming depleted as urban growth pressures increase; and

WHEREAS, the property tax levy authorized by RCW 84.34.230 provides a reliable and predictable funding source to assist in acquiring interests in open space, wetlands, farm and agricultural land, and timber land in both the unincorporated and incorporated portions of Whatcom County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Whatcom County Council that pursuant to RCW 84.34.230, there is hereby imposed a real property tax levy to be applied against all taxable real property within Whatcom County. The levy shall be applied at a rate of six and one-quarter cents per thousand dollars of assessed valuation.

A special revenue fund shall be established , as provided for in RCW 84.34.240, which shall be known as the Conservation Futures Fund and to which shall be credited all taxes levied pursuant to this ordinance. The Executive Office shall act as manager of the Fund.

The amounts placed in the Conservation Futures Fund shall be used solely to acquire rights and interests in open space land, farm and agricultural land, and timber land, as such are defined in Chapter 84.34 RCW, so as to protect, preserve, maintain, improve, restore, limit the future use of, or otherwise conserve the property for public use or enjoyment. No revenue generated by this tax shall be used for the acquisition of any real property or interest in real property through the use of eminent domain.

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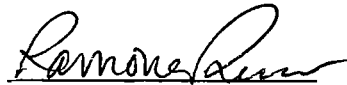
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4 The Conservation Futures Tax Levy established herein shall begin for the 1992 levy to be  
5 collected for the 1993 tax year.  
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7 ADOPTED this 7th day of January, 1992.  
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10 ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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14 Ramona Reeves, Council Clerk




Daniel M. Warner, Chairman

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16 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Approved       Denied

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20 Civil Deputy Prosecutor

  
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Shirley Van Zanten, Executive  
Date: 1-8-92

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