



Associated Students of  
Western Washington University  
Viking Union 530 – MS 9106  
516 High Street, Bellingham, WA 98225  
360-650-4648  
as.wwu.edu

**A Resolution of the  
Associated Students of Western Washington University  
“ASWWU’s Support of Restored Access to the Canyon Lake Community Forest”**

**WHEREAS,** The Canyon Lake Community Forest is co-owned by Western Washington University and Whatcom County; and

**WHEREAS,** The Canyon Lake Community Forest is a well desired location for WWU student and community hikers; and

**WHEREAS,** Opening this forest is critical to the community because there is currently a lack of research in this geographic area; and

**WHEREAS,** Studies from this area can contribute to the overarching fight against the climate crisis in various ways including analysis of old growth ecosystems, forest health, and water monitoring; and

**WHEREAS,** Access to green spaces is very important to Western students and around 200 Western students have signed a petition requesting access to the Canyon Lake Community Forest; and

**WHEREAS,** Public access to the community forest has been restricted after a storm washed out the culvert on Canyon Lake Road in 2007; and

**WHEREAS,** The other access point lies along Racehorse Creek Road which connects with Canyon Lake Road and these two roads merge after a gated segment of the road that is under the control of Sierra Pacific Industries Logging; and

**WHEREAS,** An easement agreement has been submitted to Sierra Pacific Industries; and

**WHEREAS,** Western Students pay tuition to the university and deserve access to this space.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY:**

**THAT,** Public vehicle access to the Canyon Lake Community Forest be restored.

**THAT,** Efforts are made to convince Sierra Pacific to approve the easement and county’s purchase of the road segment that connects to Canyon Lake Road.

**THAT,** Whatever measures are necessary to restore vehicular access to Canyon Lake be taken.

**THAT,** Sierra Pacific will be subject to a condemnation process if they can not reach an agreement with Whatcom County on the easement.



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**THAT**, The forest advisory committee, which includes two representatives from Whatcom County, two from Western Washington University, and one from Whatcom Land Trust, should be reactivated.

**THAT**, The forest advisory committee should help in making decisions for the management and maintenance of the forest and the trails of Canyon Lake Community Forest.

**THAT**, Copies of this resolution be distributed via email to President Sabah Randhawa, Vice President for Enrollment and Student Services Melynda Huskey, the WWU Board of Trustees, and the general WWU student body.

**THAT**, Copies of this resolution be sent via email to Whatcom County Council and Sierra Pacific Industries Logging.

**PASSED AND APPROVED** by the Associated Students of Western Washington University Executive Board on May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

**ATTEST:**

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Glory Busic  
AS President  
Chair, ASWWU Executive Board

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Eli W. Stanciu Jr.  
AS VP for Governmental Affairs  
Vice-Chair, ASWWU Executive Board

### **Appendix**

[1]: This resolution was formed off of this statement approved by the AS Executive Board. [Canyon Lake Statement. https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:VA6C2:c570288d-5142-462e-8011-d2d21c50f35e](https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:VA6C2:c570288d-5142-462e-8011-d2d21c50f35e).