WHEREAS, wildfires increasingly pose a threat to homes and communities throughout Washington State as more people are moving into the wildland areas; and

WHEREAS, most wildfires in Western Washington are human caused; and

WHEREAS, Western Washington is becoming increasingly susceptible to wildfire with increasing temperatures, decreasing summer rain, and earlier snowmelt; and this has elevated the need for wildfire prevention and preparedness at both the community and individual homeowner levels; and

WHEREAS, Whatcom County residents must be encouraged to move from the expectation of being protected from wildfire to the understanding that they must be prepared to survive wildfire and work together to prepare their homes and community to survive wildfire; and

WHEREAS, when whole communities implement appropriate pre-fire activities they improve the survivability of their individual homes and community during wildfire; and

WHEREAS, local, state and federal agencies and organizations are working together in Whatcom County to increase awareness of wildfires.

NOW, THEREFORE, do I, Satpal Singh Sidhu, Whatcom County Executive, hereby proclaim the month of May to be:

Wildfire Awareness Month

in Whatcom County, as a means for education and a call for residents of Whatcom County to take action to reduce the wildfire threat to their homes and help our community move toward becoming more fire-adapted.

Signed this 27th day of February, 2020.

Satpal Singh Sidhu, County Executive