

**From:** [John Featherstone](#)  
**To:** [earthcraftservices@yahoo.com](mailto:earthcraftservices@yahoo.com)  
**Cc:** [Daniel Sinkovich](#)  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] City of Shoreline Goat Service 2025  
**Date:** Friday, March 7, 2025 10:15:00 AM  
**Attachments:** image001.png

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Hi Ed,

Thanks for reaching out with this proposal and request. I'm responding on behalf of Dan and the Surface Water Utility. We would like to thank Earthcraft (you, and the many goats) for the years of service and assistance to maintain vegetation across multiple City surface water facility sites. We received a lot of positive feedback from the public enthused to see the goats and are sorry to hear that the business is closing. However, we cannot take the suggested measures (seasonal employment, additional insurance) or other extraordinary steps to continue receiving these services – it is simply outside of what the City can do. We wish you the best of luck in future endeavors.

Sincerely,

John

**John Featherstone, P.E. | Surface Water and Wastewater Systems Manager**

*He/him pronouns*

Public Works | City of Shoreline | 206.801.2478

*Supporting a sustainable and vibrant community through  
stewardship of our public infrastructure and natural environment*



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**From:** Ed Portnow <[earthcraftservices@yahoo.com](mailto:earthcraftservices@yahoo.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2025 8:16 PM  
**To:** Daniel Sinkovich <[dsinkovich@shorelinewa.gov](mailto:dsinkovich@shorelinewa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Chris Roberts <[croberts@shorelinewa.gov](mailto:croberts@shorelinewa.gov)>; Annette Ademasu <[aademasu@shorelinewa.gov](mailto:aademasu@shorelinewa.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] City of Shoreline Goat Service 2025

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the City of Shoreline. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi,

It's Ed from Earthcraft-

“all green goat service”

I'm reaching out regarding the 2025 goat maintenance contract.

Unfortunately, after 30 years ( including 14 years of goat service) I've had to close the Earthcraft business.

I have very much appreciated the working relationship with City of Shoreline, the City Employees and the Shoreline Community.

It has largely been a wonderful and amazing experience. The goats and I are very grateful.

In a nutshell, the decision to close Earthcraft as a business is based on three factors:

1. insurance costs - the business is seasonal but the insurance fees are annual. These costs aren't sustainable. There is the liability needed for the animals and a commercial vehicle policy for the goat transport van. Shoreline requires this insurance from independent contractors.
2. Licence fees, bookkeeping & corporate taxes
3. Increased expenses- gas/truck costs, pasture, feed, and medical

Pre-pandemic there was enough regular service sites to justify these costs.

It's understandable that in the last few years, post pandemic, the scope of services has been limited to two sites.

The payment for this work from the City of Shoreline is very fair but unfortunately, our annual costs (as listed above) make continuing in the current situation unsustainable.

The original goal was to create a Cost Effective Program.

This program would provide a Sustainable "Green" service for the removal of invasive plants for the Community

and ... that People would Love It.

I think we have been very successful

On a personal level, I would like to continue working with the City of Shoreline.

I have been thinking about possible solutions for consideration...

Would City of Shoreline be receptive to continuing working together with our service as a “seasonal employee “?

Perhaps, the City could incorporate the goat service insurance into existing Shoreline policy coverage?

Could payment for services be classified as a city employee with taxes and withholdings for the duration of the seasonal employment?

It might even save money ?

A Win/Win Situation

I’m open to any thoughts

Ultimately, I’m just very grateful to all at City of Shoreline who believed in and helped shepherd our “all green goat service” for many years.

Thank you

Ed Portnow

(206)240-5573

[www.earthcraftservices.com](http://www.earthcraftservices.com) [www.facebook.com/earthcraftservices](https://www.facebook.com/earthcraftservices)

Sent from my iPhone