

TO: Kevin C Cook CC: Jonathon Soll, Metro

From: Brian Lightcap, adjacent landowner

RE: North Tualatin Regional Nature Park

T3-2017-9765, T4 2017, EP20175680

I am expressing my concern for Metro's Natural Resources/property manager's lack of transparency to landowners in regards to the Burlington, Ennis and McCarthy Creek trails and the natural resource plan. What has happened to me seems to be validation of the distrust that landowners in the Burlington Creek area have for Metro. For that, I request that you delay your decision on the Burlington Cr matter until you and the public can trust that Metro will be a respectful and listening governmental agency. I reviewed and commented on the plan at Metro's invitation in 2018 on impacts in those watersheds. My concerns are much the same, except I now am really feeling those impacts.

– I'm concerned there was no justification for road closures and that was fake news, especially in Ennis Cr. which was based upon water quality and erosion issues. No evidence was ever provided to the public.

– I remain concerned the road closures would make access for fire control very difficult and that climate change will increase that risk. As a forest land manager here since 1975, my boots are on the ground in this concern. I see and experience the changes.

– I am especially concerned that Metro's recent decommissioning of the Ennis Cr entrance from Newberry Rd last fall will complicate fire control access.

– I am concerned that Metro is fast tracking the entrance to Ennis Creek Nature park and is currently, working on the parking lot on the Margolis property ½ mile up Newberry Rd.

– Metro had allowed my access to the family property for 20 years, but that access was terminated without any advisement. So, now the family suddenly can not get access to manage invasive weeds (ivy and tansy ragwort), manage a diverse stand of the young trees we planted and visit our ancient forest;

- Because of Metro's new property manager's decision, my family now will be unable to manage and harvest trees. Also, I estimate that I pulled 3-400 tansy ragwort weeds along 4 miles of the Ennis Cr road every year. I let the previous property managers (Jim Morgan and Kate Holleran) know that.

– With reference to the misleading erosion justification for decommissioning some access roads. Metro last fall has dug a 50'x125' trench that is 30' deep that is highly erodable Cascade silt loam, very poor planning and there are current erosion issues . No private landowner would get away with this. Further 500 feet of road was covered with 6"- minus rock. Then Metro planted 200 cedar and hemlock in the rock. The seedlings are all dying because they can't grow

in 12" of rock. This is the kind of disrespect that active land manager's, like my family is getting. Thus, I certainly can sympathize with any other landowners' concerns in all of the 3 watersheds, especially right now in Burlington Creek. I spoke to the new manager in the summer 2022 after Kate Holleran directed me to him. He could have been honest then, but gave me no hint the fall plans. However, it was never clear which roads were to be de-commissioned.

The hikers and bikers all around Metro area have received a very upbeat and rosy picture of the North Tualatin plan's progress. However, they can not feel the grief we are all feeling out here ! Can you imagine how vilified this community is now feeling, because people who do not live out here will judge and attack us like the biker crowd did when the plan was debated at Skyline school. I was treated with indifference and arrogance by 2 councilors at the school. Taxpayer dollars certainly have been carelessly spent with closure of many of the fire lanes in the Ennis Cr.

Rather than spending \$40,000 to block my family's access to our ancient forest and even more money closing other logging access roads, money would have been better spent fixing those roads. They could be used for firelane access, like in Forest Park and they could be used by bikers. Also noted is all these areas are designated commercial forest. Let's build on this and educate the public how these forests can be more than a monoculture, but more diverse, as Kate Holleran noted in her farewell letter. If these are no longer commercial forest, the county needs to re-designate them as recreation or equal.

Certainly, Metro knows that they get the vocal support from those who disregard the dignity of this rural community. We here are 1% voice standing the remaining 99% of the the throngs that wish see our resistance trampled. We live here 24/7, they do not.



Respectfully, Brian Lightcap, adjacent landowner.

- property manager of family's 53 acres.
- Professional forester and ecologist
- graduate forester. BS Iowa State, MS Southern Ill. University
- Wetland program leader, retired from US Army Corps of Engineers

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