

Memorandum



September 16, 2015

To: Air, Land, Water, Wildlife and Hazards Subcommittee
Cc: Project Team
From: Rithy Khut, Assistant Planner
Re: Air, Land, Water, Wildlife and Hazards Policy Recommendations

DRAFT AIR, LAND, WATER, WILDLIFE AND HAZARDS POLICY AMENDMENTS

This memo presents draft proposed policies and strategies related to protection of riparian corridors, wetlands, and wildlife habitat discussed by the Air, Land, Water, Wildlife and Hazards Subcommittee at their September 2nd meeting. These revised policies and strategies implement direction given by the subcommittee during that meeting.

Changes to the policies and strategies as presented at the September 2nd meeting are shown as underlined italics (text being added) and ~~strikeout~~ (text being deleted).

GENERAL GOAL 5 POLICY

Policy: Review Goal 5 inventories and programs periodically in order to consider any new data and, if necessary, initiate amendments to the inventories and protection programs.

RIPARIAN CORRIDORS AND WETLANDS POLICIES

Policy 1: Designate as areas of Significant Environmental Concern, those water areas and adjacent riparian areas, streams, wetlands and watersheds that warrant designation as a protected Goal 5 resource or have special public value in terms of the following:

- A. Economic value;
- B. Recreation value;
- C. Educational research value (ecologically and scientifically significant lands);
- D. Public safety (municipal water supply watersheds, water quality, flood water storage areas, vegetation necessary to stabilize river banks and slopes);
- E. Natural area value (areas valued for their fragile character as habitats for plant, animal or aquatic life, or having endangered plant or animal species), or;
- F. Ecosystem services value.

Strategies:

- A. Maintain inventories and continue to protect all significant riparian corridors and wetlands in accordance with past ESEE Analysis Reports.

- B. Update the inventory of riparian corridors, including water areas and adjacent riparian areas, using the safe harbor inventory criteria of Statewide Planning Goal 5 in order to designate Newberry Creek (also known as Ennis Creek) in the West Hills area as a significant riparian corridor.
- C. Conduct an analysis of “Economic, Social, Environmental and Energy” (ESEE) consequences on riparian corridors that have been added to the updated inventory.
 - 1. If warranted by an ESEE analysis, apply the Significant Environmental Concern overlay for streams (SEC-s) to any new significant riparian corridors and protect them by applying the SEC-s overlay zone.
- D. Adopt the Statewide Wetlands Inventory (SWI) to identify the general location of wetlands within the County.
- E. Update the County’s wetland protection program to comply with Goal 5 safe harbor criteria and Oregon Department of State Lands (DSL) requirements.
- F. In addition to safe harbor protection program criteria, apply the Significant Environmental Concern overlay (SEC-w) to significant wetlands located on Sauvie Island and Multnomah Channel as required by the Wetlands Inventory/ESEE analysis conducted in 1988 and as adopted by Ordinance 801.

Policy 2: Periodically review and consider any new data to update, adjust and more accurately show riparian corridor centerlines.

Policy 3: Work with State and local agencies, Soil and Water Conservation Districts and other public and private conservation groups to:

- A. Educate people about best management practices to protect streams, wetlands, headwaters and watersheds.
- B. Consider incorporating headwaters management strategies into County planning activities with the understanding of the importance of headwaters and their critical ecosystem role.

Policy 4: Consider updating erosion and stormwater management regulations to include low impact development (LID) standards to reduce the impact of built areas, promote the natural movement of water within an ecosystem and better protect riparian areas, streams, wetlands and watersheds.

WILDLIFE HABITAT POLICIES

Policy 1: Designate as areas of Significant Environmental Concern, those habitat areas that warrant designation as a protected Goal 5 resource or have special public value in terms of the following:

- A. Economic value;
- B. Recreation value;
- C. Educational research value (ecologically and scientifically significant lands);

- D. Public safety (municipal water supply watersheds, water quality, flood water storage areas, vegetation necessary to stabilize river banks and slopes);
- E. Natural area value (areas valued for their fragile character as habitats for plant, animal or aquatic life, or having endangered plant or animal species), or;
- F. Ecosystem services value

Strategies:

- A. Maintain inventories and continue to protect all significant wildlife habitat in accordance with past ESEE Analysis Reports.
- B. Periodically review and consider any new data to update significant wildlife habitats.
- C. Update the inventory of wildlife habitat and associated wildlife corridors using the safe harbor inventory criteria of Statewide Planning Goal 5.
 - 1. Designate wildlife habitat and corridors mapped by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife as significant.
- D. Conduct an analysis of “Economic, Social, Environmental and Energy” (ESEE) consequences on wildlife habitat that has been added to the inventory.
 - 1. If warranted by an ESEE analysis, apply the Significant Environmental Concern overlay for wildlife habitat (SEC-h) to any newly identified significant wildlife habitat.

Policy 2: Work with State and local agencies, Soil and Water Conservation Districts and other public and private conservation groups to protect high value habitat such as, but not limited to, oak woodlands and old growth forests.

Policy 3: Work with and coordinate with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to administer the Wildlife Habitat tax deferral program for ~~farm and forest~~ lands that are eligible by administrative rule or statute.

Policy 4: Encourage voluntary conservation efforts such as conservation easements and community-based restoration projects that complement Multnomah County’s Goal 5 (Natural Cultural Resources) and Goal 15 (Willamette River Greenway) regulatory programs, and if possible, extend the Wildlife Habitat tax deferral to all MUA lands that are eligible by administrative rule or statute within the County. (Taken from the SIMC plan and expanded to include all eligible lands within the county)

Policy 5: Explore amendments to the Significant Environmental Concern overlay for wildlife habitat (SEC-h) to limit the size and building footprint of houses in order to minimize loss of wildlife habitat in significant habitat areas.