



Rithy KHUT <rithy.khut@multco.us>

[Comprehensive Plan] My comprehensive plan comments

Lightcap8 via Comprehensive Plan Update <compplan@multco.us>

Mon, May 9, 2016 at 3:46 PM

Reply-To: Lightcap8@aol.com

To: compplan@multco.us, rich.faith@multco.us

Cc: lightcapa@yahoo.com, chesarek4nature@earthlink.net, kammy@wmswcd.org, george.sowder@gmail.com

TO: Multnomah County Planning Commision

From: Brian Lightcap, 13342 NW Newberry Rd., Burlington, OR.

Date: May 9, 2016

Subject: Revised Multnomah County Comprehensive Plan, March 2016 draft

I was unable to attend the most recent hearing, as I was in Ohio for a week.

The East and West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation (WMSWCD) Districts were not invited to participate in the early stages of this document. It believe that would have added some strength and credibility to the document. It would have helped focus the direction of the water quality portions. The WMSWCD is working hard to satisfy the intent of the comment period that ends today. I also believe there needs to be more practical solutions to dealing with roof top water management, and get some prioritization real water quality issues.

I am very concerned about the very lengthy comments provided by Metro at the last minute, long after they were invited to participate in the revision of the plan. I am especially, concerned that the public has no knowledge of their lengthy comments and their motive to comment so extensively. It is very clear that after their attempts to assuage the North Tualatin Mountain (NTM) neighborhood , there remains much opposition to their intent to insert "adventure biking" on their lands in NTM. They now realize they have to get permits from Multnomah County. SO..... they are attempting to remove wildlife corridor language from the comprehensive plan. They want to have that phrase changed to water quality, recreation and wildlife.

At the final hearing before the County Commissioners, I will be sure to bring this to public attention.

Finally, there needs to be a clearer path in the comprehensive plan that leads to codes that are more friendly to farm and forest family efforts to continue efforts to effectively pass on operations to the next generation of natural resource mangers within the family. Siting a new house on small acreages less than 40acres, is very challenging, expensive and often new homes need to be sited away from farm and forest activity. Small parcels that have farm and forest plans should be given more credit for having them. They usually have an important wildlife component. In my experience, county planners prefer to persuade landowners to site a house in farm and forest acreage essential to the efficiency of farm/forest endeavor. Lets pave the way to welcoming the new generation of rural dwellers.

IAlso, I very much appreciate the hard work that Carol Chesarik has done to provide her comments.

Brian Lightcap, landowner, ecologist and graduate forester

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