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## [Comprehensive Plan] Fwd: Testimony

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**Kelsey Cardwell** <kelseyc@nw-trail.org>

Mon, May 9, 2016 at 4:16 PM

To: compplan@multco.us

Good afternoon,

I heard last minute about the opportunity to provide testimony on the draft Comprehensive Plan. I think I narrowly missed the opportunity to submit comments, but I hope these can still be considered. Our board was able to quickly put something together over the weekend and finalize our comments today. Here they are:

Multnomah County Planning Commission  
c/o 1600 SE 190th Avenue  
Portland, Oregon 97233

### NWTA COMMENTS - Draft Comprehensive Plan Updates

Dear Planning Commission:

Northwest Trail Alliance creates, enhances and protects mountain bike riding opportunities in northwest Oregon and southwest Washington. On behalf of our 1,000 dues paying members, and many more avid cyclists in our region, we wanted to express our concerns with the current draft of the comprehensive plan updates.

We recently took part in a Metro planning process to expand access to off-road cycling trails--of which there are few--for Multnomah County families. Our advocacy team helped shape the plan, our members wrote 100 letters to Metro councilors in support of the plan, and several gave public testimony during the Metro council hearing. We are happily engaged with Metro to expand opportunities for Multnomah County families to stay happy and healthy by accessing the outdoors.

We are concerned that the draft plan does not successfully balance the interests of Multnomah County residents. It unnecessarily inhibits recreational development above other forms of development, and could discourage our community from fully and fairly continuing our engagement with recreational planning in the region.

Specifically, language stating "support only those recreational activities within the West Hills area that are complementary to, and do not cause undue negative impacts on-, natural and environmental resources that are identified in Goal 5 and in the Metro Greenspaces Master Plan and lands approved in Metro's Acquisition eofinement Plan," is unrealistic and restricting. It sets an unreasonable precedence for future recreation development against other forms of development that we have not seen elsewhere. Instead, we recommend you state that recreational development must balance the interests of our community and the local environmental needs.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Kelsey Cardwell, President & the NWTa Board of Directors

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Kelsey Cardwell  
*President*

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[www.nw-trail.org](http://www.nw-trail.org)

*To create, enhance, and protect mountain bike riding opportunities; to advocate for trail access; to promote responsible mountain biking; and to build, maintain, and ride sustainable trails.*

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