



Form submission from: Comment Form

Webform <webmaster@multco.us>

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To: kevin.c.cook@multco.us

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Submitted values are:

Name: Marcy Cottrell Houle

Address: 16600 NW Gillihan road, Portland, OR 97231

Email: newmoonfarms@gmail.com

Testimony:

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing you to ask that you do not accept METRO's North Tualatin Mountains Access Master Plan as an amendment to the County's Comprehensive Plan, and further, to deny issuing METRO the permits they are asking from Multnomah County.

The issue will be coming before you on May 7, 2018.

In brief, there are two problems that supersede all others with METRO's Access Master Plan proposal:

1. The Plan is in opposition to the newly adopted Rural Multnomah County Comprehensive Plan.

The updated County Comprehensive Plan specifically disallows recreation in this specified area to take precedence over the protection of the native wildlife requirements. .

WHY?: As a member of the Citizens Advisory Committee that worked for 1 1/2 years in helping update the Multnomah County Plan, this issue was specifically discussed among us.

It was unanimously decided among all members of the CAC that when recreation plans could negatively impact wildlife of this area, the needs and requirements of the environmental resource takes precedence.

Our wording was intentionally selected to address METRO's proposal, and others like it, that might come before the County in the future.

FROM THE MULTNOMAH COUNTY COMP PLAN:

"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."

2. METRO's proposal to significantly increase recreation within Burlington Creek Forest, and to a lesser extent, the McCarthy Creek Forest, would negatively impact the Wildlife Corridor that links Forest Park to the rural Coast Range.

WHY?: I am the wildlife biologist who studied the wildlife corridor for Multnomah County and wrote the report, "The West Hills Wildlife Corridor Study, Phase One" for Multnomah County Division of Planning.

The influence of the wildlife corridor cannot be overstated. Scientists nationwide are in agreement that this corridor is of tremendous value to our region.

Further, there have been no comprehensive wildlife studies conducted in the locations being proposed by METRO, therefore there is no baseline data for this crucial wildlife area. What needs to be remembered:

FROM THE WEST HILLS WILDLIFE CORRIDOR STUDY, MULTNOMAH COUNTY DIVISION OF PLANNING:

"The process of fragmentation of natural habitat is, for all practical purposes, irreversible."

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Marcy Cottrell Houle, MS, wildlife biologist

newmoonfarms@gmail.com

16600 NW Gillihan Road
Portland, OR 97231

[502-222-5455](tel:502-222-5455)

Attachment 1:

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3: