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Metro's land-use application for North Tualatin Mountains - public comment

Jinnet Powel <jinnetandpat@gmail.com>

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To: kevin.c.cook@multco.us

Cc: Karen Vitkay <Karen.Vitkay@oregonmetro.gov>



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Kevin Cook
Multnomah County Land Use Planning
1600 SE 190th Avenue
Portland OR 97233-5910

Re: Metro Burlington Creek and North Tualatin Mountains land-use application.

Dear Mr. Cook and Multnomah County Land Use Planning Committee:

I am writing in full support of Metro's land-use application for enhancing our public lands collectively referred to as North Tualatin Mountains Natural Area. I am writing specifically in support of their plans to provide shared trails at Burlington Creek that will allow mountain biking within the Portland Metro area.

In the end-of-summer crunch of visiting family, getting kids back to school, and preparing for teaching, I nearly forgot to submit this testimony. So, what jolted my memory? It was driving back from Bend where my family had spent Labor Day weekend orienteering, hiking, and mountain biking. As I drove over Mount Hood, whose glaciers are looking increasingly scant, I thought that as much as I love Bend, if we are to be good stewards, we really need to encourage more staycations and wilding our urban areas. Then I remembered our plan for multi-use access nature trails in our own backyard, and realized I better get my act together and write you before I missed my window.

I say "our" plan because these lands were purchased with voter-approved public funds for the purpose of protecting natural resources for our shared benefit - including greater local access to outdoor spaces. I also say "our", because as a community representative on the Stakeholder Planning Committee since 2014, I've devoted a lot of hours to working with other stakeholders and Metro to create a plan that would balance our many "wants" while striving to stay true to core values of community well-being, equity, and ecological health.

The process has given me insight into the challenges of equitably stewarding shared spaces, and tremendous respect for the Metro planners in weighing passionate and sometimes conflicting community interests. As someone who cares about stream quality, the elk herd, and the vitality of the North Tualatin Mountains as a wildlife corridor as well as local residents' being able to get out and active in nature, I hope to see the impacts of usage closely monitored so that we can learn and adjust if needed. I am glad that planning has been thoughtful and rigorous. The result is a plan that we collectively have invested significant resources into devising. It is now time to put the vision into action.

Sincerely,

Exhibit D.87

Jinnet Powel

A bit about me: I became involved in the North Tualatin Mountains Stakeholder Advisory Meetings in 2014 because of my role as parent, volunteer, and environmental educator at Skyline School. However, I'm also urging your support for making the trails at Burlington a reality as a long-time resident of St. Johns in N. Portland. I have also served as a seasonal interpretive ranger at Olympic NP, where the park has successfully managed a high-volume of visitors to the Hoh Visitor Center while protecting the health of the resident elk herd. I know that many of the families from Skyline, St. Johns and neighboring areas will benefit from access to nature and bike trails at Burlington. And that in the process of getting outdoors, they will connect both intellectually and emotionally with nature. This is how we build the next generation of Stewards.

Jinnet Powel

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