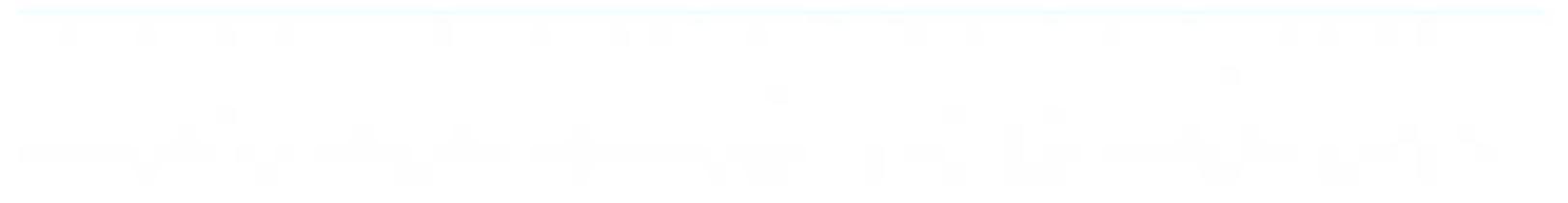


ATTACHMENT D

Natural Resources Assessment



**Multnomah County SEC-h
Natural Resources Assessment
ODOT Skyline Stockpile Project
Washington County/Portland, Oregon
(Township 2 North, Range 1 West, Section 31C,
Lots 02 400 & 500)**

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Pacific Habitat Services, Inc. (PHS) conducted a natural resources assessment for a property designated as Significant Environmental Concern-wildlife habitat (SEC-h) by Multnomah County for the proposed Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) open stockpile project located southeast of the intersection of NW Cornelius Pass Road and NW Skyline (Township 2 North, Range 1 West, Section 31C, Tax Lots 02-400, 02-500). Figure 1 illustrates the location of the study area, and Figure 2 shows SEC-h habitat located on site and the closest off-site SEC-s (stream resource) as mapped by Multnomah County (all Figures are in Appendix A).

The proposed development plans include a driveway and access road from NW Skyline, an equipment storage building, a materials storage area, gate and security fencing, electrical utilities, and landscaping (Figure 3). Since Multnomah County designated the entire site as significant wildlife habitat, a resource assessment was required. This report documents and evaluates wildlife habitat resources.

2.0 WILDLIFE HABITAT ASSESSMENT

Multnomah County mapped the entire site as a resource of Significant Environmental Concern including significant wildlife habitat (SEC-h). It has also identified an offsite stream as significant riparian habitat (SEC-s).

2.1 Purpose

The purpose of this assessment was to determine the presence of significant wildlife habitat on the project site and describe the expected effects the proposed development may have this resource. This was accomplished by evaluating the approval criteria outlined in MCC 39.5860 of the Multnomah County Community Development Code.

2.2 Methods

Prior to beginning field work, Multnomah County Significant Environmental Concern natural resource maps, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) topographic maps, and aerial photographs were reviewed to determine the extent and type of natural resources mapped in the vicinity of the project area. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) was also consulted regarding significant wildlife habitat on site and in the vicinity of the project.

A wildlife habitat assessment was conducted on December 12, 2020, to evaluate wildlife habitat conditions, vegetation composition and structure, evidence of wildlife utilization, and other unique features. Descriptions of observed habitats and wildlife usage are included below.

2.3 Discussion

2.3.1 Habitat Description

The project area is dominated by an agricultural grass field. Vegetation in the field is dominated by non-native tall fescue (*Festuca arundinacea*) with smaller amounts of bentgrass (*Agrostis spp.*) and trace amounts of curly dock (*Rumex crispus*) and Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*). On the northern edge of the field adjacent to NW Skyline, where the driveway is proposed to enter the site, there is a single row of young, approximately 15-year-old, Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) with a couple of red alder (*Alnus rubra*) and one seed hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) trees. The row of trees has a broad border of Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*) that had been mowed at the time of the site visit.

South of the project development site lies the headwaters of an unnamed tributary to Rock Creek. The unnamed tributary is mapped by the USGS as an intermittent stream. At the time of the site visit (after recent rains), water was flowing in the drainage at about 3 gallons/minute and was clear. It is not mapped by Multnomah County as a significant resource but is mapped by Metro as a Title 13 resource. Slopes along the drainage are gentle to moderately steep, and canopy cover varies from dense Himalayan blackberry to an open woodland community. West of NW Cornelius Pass Road the riparian canopy becomes closed. Woodland canopy vegetation is dominated by mature Douglas fir and big leaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*) with smaller amounts of Oregon white oak (*Quercus garryana*). The understory is dominated by vine maple (*Acer circinatum*), snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*), and sword fern (*Polystichum munitum*) with smaller amounts of Pacific blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*).

As a headwater basin, the tributary contributes seasonal water to Rock Creek and eventually the Tualatin River. No fish inhabit the headwaters, but ODFW has recorded fish occurring downstream in Rock Creek including cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarkii*), reticulate sculpin (*Cottus perplexus*), 3-spined stickleback (*Gasterosteus aculeatus*), redbelt shiner (*Richardsonius balteatus*), western brook lamprey (*Lampetra richardsoni*), and largescale suckers (*Catostomus macrocheilus*).

2.3.2 Wildlife

Wildlife habitat on the project site consists of managed monotypic grassland with dense thatch. There is no water and limited cover. Wildlife observed or heard during the brief winter site visit included song sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*) and American robin (*Turdus migratorius*). Both species are year-round residents that feed in grasslands, nest in adjacent tree/shrub habitat, and find seasonal intermittent water off site to the south. Potential nesting species in the grassland include savannah (*Passerculus sandwichensis*) and white-crowned (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) sparrows. Other common urban/rural avian species such as red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), northern flicker (*Colaptes auratus*), and California scrub-jay (*Aphelocoma californica*) likely use the site. Black-tailed deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*), and a variety of smaller mammal species such as coyote (*Canis latrans*), raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), white-footed deer mice (*Peromyscus maniculatus*), could inhabit the field as well.

Since the entire site is mapped as Wildlife Habitat of Significant Environmental Concern (SEC-h) by Multnomah County, ODOT requested that ODFW provide them with information regarding this designation. ODFW assistant district wildlife biologist, Amy Darr, responded that the site is located *“within and Impacted Habitat area and in context with the surrounding area is not likely to have a significant impact to local big game populations. The tax lots are immediately adjacent to, but separated by NW Cornelius Pass Road, year-round peripheral habitat for deer and elk and a herd of elk is known to cross the road just south of the project site. Peripheral habitat contains important forage and cover interspersed in intensively managed areas.”* A herd of 10-50 elk individuals are regularly observed in the fields and pastures of Upper Rock Creek (Deshler, 2012). They forage in the fields and find protective cover in the forest and constantly move between foraging areas.

The project area might provide some forage opportunities for elk and deer that roam through the Upper Rock Creek Drainage but not a significant amount. Elk and deer will continue to find food and cover in other portions of the drainage basin. Development of the project site will not significantly impact deer or elk populations in the vicinity.

3.0 SEC-H APPROVAL CRITERIA

Since the entire property is located within the SEC-h overlay, a SEC-h permit is required. If development standards in MCC 39.5860(B) cannot be met a Wildlife Conservation Plan will be required. Each applicable section of the code is discussed below.

§ 39.5860(B) Development standards:

(1) Where a parcel contains any nonforested "cleared" areas, development shall only occur in these areas, except as necessary to provide access and to meet minimum clearance standards for fire safety.

Response: The subject parcel contains only nonforested “cleared” areas. Development in any part of the subject property complies with this provision.

(2) Development shall occur within 200 feet of a public road capable of providing reasonable practical access to the developable portion of the site.

Response: The proposed development, consisting of a storage pad for materials and a small building for storage of chemical compounds for winter road application, is situated mainly (but not exclusively) in the southern part of the property within 200 feet of the NW Cornelius Pass Road right-of-way.

(3) The access road/driveway and service corridor serving the development shall not exceed 500 feet in length.

Response: Because grades and sight distances are more favorable at the north, driveway access is proposed only on NW Skyline Boulevard. The proposed driveway meets this requirement.

(4) For the purpose of clustering access road/driveway approaches near one another, one of the following two standards shall be met:

Response: The proposed driveway location has been optimized based on grades, the horizontal and vertical profiles of the abutting roadways, and achieving a satisfactory distance from the Skyline Drive-Cornelius Pass Road intersection to the west. Please see applicants detailed submittal.

(5) The development shall be within 300 feet of a side property line if adjacent property has structures and developed areas within 200 feet of that common side property line.

Response: The proposed development area is within 300 feet of the property's side (eastern) property line. This requirement is satisfied.

***(6) Fencing within a required setback from a public road shall meet the following criteria:
(f) Fencing standards do not apply where needed for security of utility facilities.***

Response: The proposed development is a form of utility facility to support maintenance for safe winter operations of public roads by ODOT, and is therefore exempt.

(7) The nuisance plants in MCC 39.5580 Table 1 in addition to the nuisance plants defined in MCC 39.2000 shall not be planted on the subject property and shall be removed and kept removed from cleared areas of the subject property.

Response: The site contains limited nuisance plants. A patch of Himalayan blackberry with at least one, one seed hawthorn occurs adjacent to Skyline Road at the proposed entry to the project. Most of these plants will be removed for construction of the driveway and any remaining nuisance plants will be removed. The field contained at least two Canada thistle plants which will be removed with site development. The proposed planting plan does not include any nuisance plants and complies with this requirement. No nuisance plants will be planted and if any remain on site after development they will be removed.

§ 39.5860(C) Wildlife Conservation Plan:

An applicant shall propose a wildlife conservation plan if the applicant cannot meet the development standards of subsection (B).

Response: The applicant can meet Section 39.5860(B) Development standards; no Wildlife Conservation Plan is required.

4.0 CONCLUSIONS

The proposed project will not seriously interfere with the preservation of designated Multnomah County SEC-h natural resources. Ample deer and elk browsing habitat will remain in their foraging range. Site development will also avoid impacts to the unnamed seasonal tributary located adjacent to the site. Although this resource was not included as a significant environmental concern by the county, it is a headwater area that should be protected from potential water quality impacts. Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be implemented within the project area to ensure the protection of offsite water quality and wildlife habitat values. All appropriate erosion control measures will be implemented to minimize soil movement during and following construction per Multnomah County requirements.

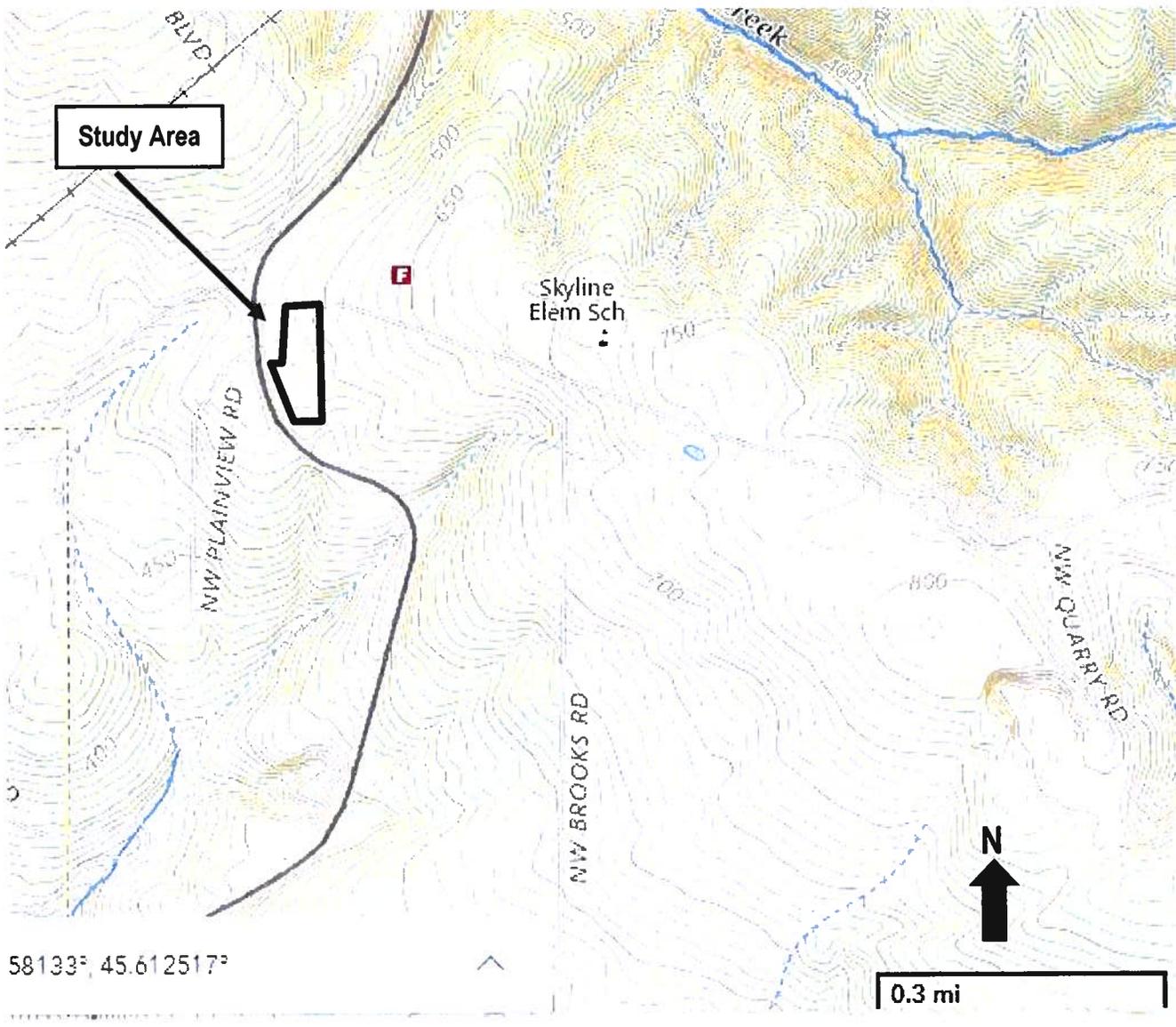
5.0 REFERENCES

- Deshler, John. 2012. Forest Park Wildlife Report. City of Portland Parks and Recreation.
- GoogleEarth Map. 2020 aerial photograph.
- Metro, 2020. Regional Land Information System (RLIS). *Title 13 Inventory*. October 2005.
- US Geological Services, 2020. 7.5 Minute topographic map. Linnton, Oregon quadrangle.
- Multnomah County Development Code. *MCC 39.5860 Criteria for Approval of SEC-h Permit – Wildlife Habitat*.

Appendix A

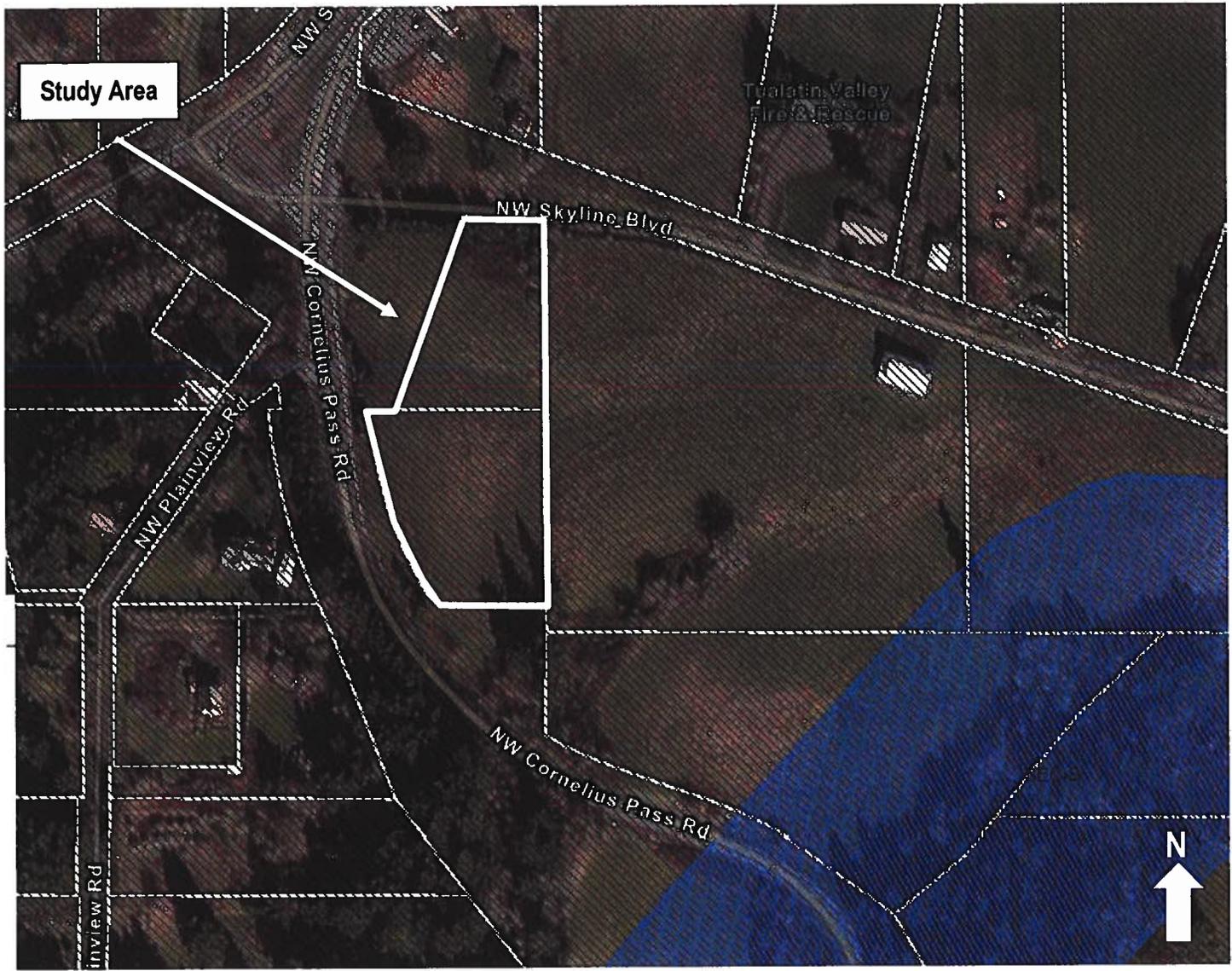
Figures





General Location and Topography
NW Skyline Blvd Stockpile Site - Portland, Oregon
United States Geological Survey (USGS) Linnton, Oregon 7.5 quadrangle, 2020
(viewer.nationalmap.gov/basic)

FIGURE
1



Multnomah County Significant Environmental Concern Areas
NW Skyline Blvd Stockpile Site - Portland, Oregon
multco.maps.arcgis.com

FIGURE
2