

**Written Testimony For:
Multnomah Co. Remand Hearing April 16 2025
Portland Water Bureau Filtration Plant.**

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This is my written testimony on the effects to Natural Resources that I have observed in the area of the new Filtration construction site and how they have been and are being impacted.

I have lived on Cottrell Road for 25 years and I have lived in the local area within 1 mile of the Construction site on Carpenter Lane for 40 years. When I first moved to this area the City of Portland operated a tree nursery on this site. The local area is extraordinarily rich in wildlife, it's essentially the transition area between rural and natural forest land including the Bull Run Watershed. I will divide my testimony up into 3 sections where I personally have made observations:

- 1) Cottrell Road
- 2) Dodge Park Boulevard.
- 3) Beaver Creek

Cottrell Rd

On the property behind my house Deer, Cayotes, Rabbits, Owls and many species of birds can be seen year-round. Annas Hummingbirds overwinter in our garden, owls and several types of birds of prey can be regularly seen and heard. Bats are also regularly seen in my back field (I don't know what species).

Other wildlife though is no longer as common as it was. Every late winter / early Spring I have lived here with the exception of this winter / Spring I would find bear scat in our back field, there was none this past year.

Most years a heard of Elk that move through the area in the Fall and bed down for a week or so in fields behind our house. They were not seen in the fall of 2024.

There have been multiple sightings of Bobcats & Cougars in the woods & fields behind our house by myself and by my neighbors, but none have been seen in the last 12 months.

I am also greatly concerned about the level of light pollution that this new site will generate not only whilst being built but also when completed and the effects this will have on the nocturnal animals, birds & bats that live in the area. Not to mention the loss of our own dark skies in the area.

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Dodge Park Boulevard

Of all that has happened so far with the construction of this site the wanton destruction of the trees and wildlife habitat along Dodge Park Boulevard is something that has not only greatly saddened me but also been very detrimental to the natural resources of the area. I walk along Dodge Park Boulevard 6 days a week 52 weeks a year at 6:00am rain or shine.

The trees along this road were a mix of Big Leaf Maple, Poplar, Western Red Cedar, Douglas Fir, some of these trees were over 70 years old (I counted the rings after they were cut down). There was also wild sown cherry trees and apple trees along with Pines, Hazel, native spirea Vine Maple and countless other shrubs in a strip that was between 25' – 50' wide. This strip was teeming with wildlife from small animals, amphibians (frogs & salamanders) even Opossums could be seen here as well as countless species of birds. When walking this mile long stretch of road every morning it was teeming with the sounds of birdsong and wildlife.

Now when I walk this road each morning there is silence there is no birdsong, no owls hooting, or birds of prey sitting on the wires waiting to swoop down on a meal.

I also cycle this road twice a day on my way to and from work, the trees provided welcome shade on my cycle ride home during the summer months there is no shade anymore for people or animals. This is a significant loss to the habitability for the whole area both for animals, people & plants alike.

In my opinion the only correct thing to do is to replant trees along Dodge Park Boulevard and return this natural resource that has been destroyed.

Beaver Creek

Beaver Creek begins as a spring just to the East of Cottrell Road and North of Dodge Park Boulevard. Water collects in a small pond before beginning its journey to Troutdale. The creek is home to Salamanders, Frogs, herons, eagles, otters and so much more. It's even home to returning Salmon closer to Troutdale. While the new Filtration Plant itself is not being constructed in the Beaver Creek Watershed some of the support facilities like the new road being built between Dodge Park Boulevard and Lusted Road do affect it.

I remember several years ago Multnomah County spent a good deal of time and money retrofitting the culverts along Dodge Park Boulevard to make the whole watershed more Salmon friendly. Now a whole new impermeable road is being installed between Dodge Park Boulevard and Lusted Road in the very same area where this Salmon restoration work was done!

Beaver Creek is also being adversely affected by the PWB Filtration Plant construction on Lusted Road. An area of field that never had water runoff has been packed and graveled, so it is no longer permeable. I have documented on several occasions muddy water running off this site and down the road into Beaver Creek. If this small area can have such significant runoff, then I can't even image what negative consequences the millions upon millions of gallons running off the surface of the main site on Carpenter Lane into Johnson Creek are having. Even if the water is filtered before leaving the site it's still going to be dumping millions of gallons of extra water into the headwaters of Johnson Creek every time it rains there is nowhere else for it to go. This will obviously have an adverse effect on the creek and the natural resources the creek supports.

Photos:



Dodge Park Boulevard before the removal of all the trees and habitat.



Dodge Park Boulevard before the removal of all the trees and habitat.



Dodge Park Boulevard after the removal of all the trees and habitat.



Dodge Park Boulevard after the removal of all the trees and habitat.

More photos showing the destruction of trees and habitat along Dodge Boulevard can be found here:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/X9nSyQhLgkxS31sW8>



Uncontrolled water runoff into Beaver Creek from the PWB Lusted site. March 21 2025



Uncontrolled water runoff into Beaver Creek from the PWB Lusted site. February 23 2025



Uncontrolled water runoff into Beaver Creek from the PWB Lusted site. February 23 2025

This area never flooded or suffered from runoff before the ground was compacted and graveled by PWB construction.

More photos of runoff from this site can be found here:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/tA1sty5fnGzdg2166>

END OF MY TESTIMONY



Uncontrolled water runoff into Beaver Creek from the PWB Lusted site. February 23 2025



Uncontrolled water runoff into Beaver Creek from the PWB Lusted site. February 23 2025



Dodge Park Boulevard before the removal of all the trees and habitat.



Dodge Park Boulevard before the removal of all the trees and habitat.



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TESTIMONY SUBMITTAL FOR PWB Remand Hearing on 04/16/2025

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Fri, Apr 11, 2025 at 9:13 AM

To: LUP-Hearings@multco.us

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Please find attached to this email a file which is my written testimony for the PWB Remand Hearing on 04/16/2025. I am submitting it in PDF format. If another file type is required then please let me know.

Sincerely
Guy E Meacham.



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