

CHARACTER OF THE AREA TESTIMONY

[Case File: T3-2022-16220]

1. **Name:** Holly H. Martin
2. **Address:** 39100 SE Lusted Road, Boring OR 97009
3. **Email:** Martinlegal@cs.com

4. Please describe the “character of the area” of where you live, and what do you like about it?

We have a small family farm on 28 acres where we have spent the last 30 years raising our children and enjoying the rural lifestyle. Approximately half of it remains in forest, where we maintain walking paths and wildlife habitat. Redtail hawks hunt our fields; owls hunt the woods. We have resident deer and coyote and transitory elk, as we are on a migration route to and from the Sandy River. People driving past our property stop to watch when the elk are in the field in the evening or early morning. Cougar and bobcats also transit the area, although they are a rare sight. We have a seasonal wetland, which is host to a myriad of amphibians, including the Northern Red Legged Frog (*Rana Aurora*), which is Federally listed as a Species of Concern and listed by Oregon as a Sensitive Species. The owls and the frogs provide our night music, with the occasional coyote concert.

We know our neighbors—they are our friends. We trade plants and check on each during winter power outages. There is no heavy industry in the neighborhood, only farms, homes, stables and the occasional home-based business. It is a quiet, safe and beautiful place to live. Traffic is minimal and peaks in summer when people head down to the Sandy River to recreate.

We are in agribusiness/agritourism. At one point, we were the largest grower of Monkey Puzzle trees in the state, as Elk Pass Nursery. We also grow peonies and are busy in June taking flowers to the Gresham Farmers Market and inviting the public out to our farm for open field days, where they walk in the peony patch, take photos or paint, get flowers cut to order and pick out the peonies they want to grow themselves. In addition to the peonies, people tell us they love coming out to enjoy the beautiful, peaceful surroundings. We also have two truffle orchards (dba *TrufNoire*) and will be sponsoring winter hunts, in which the rural atmosphere and quiet country character of the area are an important part of the appeal (not to mention the ridiculously cute truffle hound who lives with us).

Nothing speaks like a picture, so I have included with this submission an overhead drone shot of our farm with the peonies in bloom, as well as various pictures of the wildlife mentioned above, all of which speak to the character of the area.

5. How would the proposed water filtration facility be inconsistent with what you described in #4?

The proposed water filtration facility is a huge industrial installation in a rural area, totally inconsistent and actually destructive of the rural character of this area. While we are not right next door to the facility itself, we will suffer the effects of the construction and on-going operations of this facility if it is approved. We have to go right by the facility site whenever we go into Gresham, Troutdale or Portland, and most of our agribusiness clients take the same routes coming to us. Our peaceful community will be disrupted by heavy truck traffic too close to schools, road delays/ closures during construction, and ruined roads that were not designed for the weight of those trucks. Most alarmingly, we will suffer inadequate emergency services as they will be strained by increased response time due to damaged roads, more traffic accidents, and potential hazardous material releases, as documented by the fire departments submitting their report in this application process. The light and noise pollution associated with both the construction and ongoing operation of this facility are antithetical to the rural character of the area, ruining the night sky and drowning out and driving off the wildlife, disregarding the habitat destruction that occurs from the construction itself.

We are also concerned that Portland Water Bureau is not a good steward of the land or at all concerned with preserving the wildlife that is an integral part of the character of our area. Our farm is right across the street from the PWB's Hudson Intertie on SE Lusted Road. We were initially the first property that the pipeline bringing water to the proposed filtration plant would cross. Midway through the planning process, the routing changed so that our property was no longer slated for immediate use, although PWB took care to obtain from us a correction on their pipeline easement for later use. PWB did an environmental assessment of our property during the time the pipeline route was to cross our property. They had access to our property and a whole team including outside consultants came out. We requested PWB to focus particularly on our seasonal wetland. I informed the PWB engineer in charge of the suspected presence of the Northern Red Legged Frog and provided a picture of one found run over on our driveway. I later requested a copy of the various assessments done of our property. I was given information concerning the entire pipeline length (not just our property)—869 pages. I reviewed the Phase I and Phase 2 Environmental Site Assessments contained therein. The environmental assessments done specifically excluded wetlands¹ and made no assessment of the impact of construction of the proposed pipeline on area wildlife, but rather concerned soil structure and chemical contaminants. Hence my conclusion that Portland Water Bureau is not a good steward of our land nor does it understand or care about what makes this area unique and gives it character.

ATTACHED: Exhibits 1-5

¹ "...wetlands are not included in this scope of work." Paragraph 2.2, page 7 of 45. A *Phase I Environmental Site Assessment* prepared by Assessment Associates, Inc., Environmental Consultants for Portland Water Bureau. February 11, 2021



39100 SE Lusted Road taken June 4, 2023, demonstrating peaceful rural character of area

Exhibit 1 to Testimony of Holly Martin

Resident deer at 39100 SE Lusted Road (note: we stopped recording with the borrowed wildlife camera, after the pipeline route was changed.)



Exhibit 2 to Testimony of Holly Martin\

Coyotes resident at 39100 SE Lusted Road



Dec 28, 2021



Dec 28,2021

Exhibit 3 to Testimony of Holly Martin

Transitory Elk at 39100 SE Lusted Road



Elk Movie



ELK Hazel orchard
Agu-0Niov 2021 DSC

Exhibit 4 to Testimony of Holly Martin

NORTHERN RED-LEGGED FROG



OVERVIEW

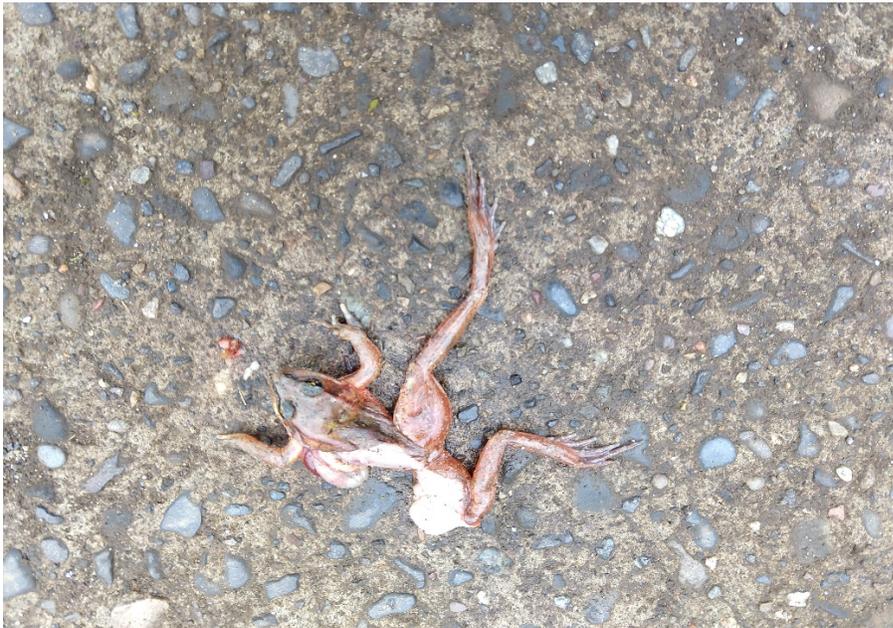
Species Common Name
Northern Red-legged Frog

Species Scientific Name
Rana aurora

Federal Listing Status
Species of Concern

State Listing Status
Sensitive

screenshot 9/12/2021 of <https://oregonconservationstrategy.org/strategy-species/northern-red-legged-frog/>



April 3, 2019

Roadkill on our driveway near our wetland of suspected Northern Red-legged frog

Exhibit 5 to Testimony of Holly Martin