

Mike Houck

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Testimony to **Portland City Council** on the **Shelter to Housing Continuum Project, Recommended Draft**

I have included a PowerPoint presentation with images from Metro, the Johnson Creek Watershed Council, and my own photos that illustrate the ecological impacts and inhumane living conditions in the city's and Metro's natural areas, floodplains and Environmental Protection and Environmental Conservation zones. Many find these images troubling; and they are. They are not intended to discredit or otherwise denigrate those who find themselves without alternatives to camping in publicly owned natural areas or on ecologically sensitive areas. They represent the dual crises of homelessness and ecological degradation. Much public commentary and testimony decry the widespread impacts of trash or littering. Those impacts, while they do represent a legitimate quality of life concern, are ephemeral. My concern is the long term, and in some instances irreparable, impacts on the city's natural resources. They also illustrate the inhumane living conditions that predominate in these areas. The city must provide alternatives to these conditions. There are no silver bullets but adoption of the Shelter to Housing Continuum code changes, with the amendments I have suggested, is one program.

Testimony is presented without formatting.