

Planning and Sustainability Commission
1900 SW 4th
Portland, OR

9-17-2014

Re: Protect West Hayden Island

Esteemed Commission,

I adamantly oppose the rezoning of West Hayden Island (WHI) from its current open space (OS) designation to heavy industrial (IH).

There is a Native American saying I embrace:

We are not inheriting the land from our fathers we are borrowing it from our children.

Some significant questions this proverb might ask are: How far in the future are we considering impacts? Ten years or 100? What will be the critical issues 100 years from now? A need for industrial based jobs or preserved and protected habitat for all species that survive until then? Will future generations appreciate our careful treatment of the land? Or will they be saddened that we cared so little for the natural splendor around us and chose pavement over paradise?

Currently I am the chair of the Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area Advisory Committee at Metro. Smith and Bybee is less than ¼ mile south of WHI. I have been involved in the natural area for 25 years and can attest to the increased pressure on wildlife because of industrial development in Rivergate. The loss of wildlife habitat on WHI due to more industry will increase the pressure in this area all the more. One is left to ask, how much loss of habitat can our native wildlife handle before they are extirpated from the community around them? It is the loss of habitat and native species that will be our sad legacy if we are not careful.

For me the choice before us is a moral one not economic. I find it morally unacceptable to continue destroying what remains of open space habitat in Portland, particularly when it's driven by competition between the Port of Portland and the Port of Vancouver. Across the Columbia River from WHI the Port of Vancouver has an estimated 20 year supply of industrial land in reserve. Add to the Port of Vancouver capacity the 900 acres of industrial brownfields in Portland that are not included in the Industrial Land Inventory and it seems including all or part of the 800 acres of WHI in this inventory is not necessary.

One Hundred years from now I'm quite certain future Portlanders will marvel that we have Forest Park, Smith and Bybee, the Columbia Slough, the 40 Mile Loop trail system and, hopefully, West Hayden Island as open space reserves for recreation and wildlife within the city of Portland. However, for this to be our legacy, today we need to choose what will sustain habitat for all and not settle for short term investment.

Please keep West Hayden Island in OS zoning and may we collectively find a way to permanently protect this treasure by buying it from the Port of Portland.

Sincerely, Troy Clark || 2821 NE Klickitat Port. OR 97212