

To the Planning and Sustainability Commission,

It's hard to understand what you folks are up to over there. You must not have enough work to do as I thought this whole West Hayden Island issue was put to rest last year. After 5 years of hard work by all those concerned for the area, it was decided that the area would not be rezoned and developed. Now we're back at it again.... Like the previous years of work and commitments had no meaning what so ever.

I can only shake my head at the complete waste of time and public money that this new proposal will create. Not to mention the complete lack of concern and integrity that this office seems to have towards due public process.

I submit below three key points that have been more elegantly put forth by Portland Audubon. The points are sound and valid. Just as much so as they were the first time we went all through this. That we are having to go through this all over again is truly disheartening.

The points:

1) The Planning and Sustainability Commission made a commitment to the community that it would not recommend allowing West Hayden Island development to move forward without a binding agreement in place that the Port of Portland fully mitigate for all impacts to the environment and the community. The draft Comprehensive Plan turns its back on that commitment and does an end run on five years of public process. It breaks faith with the community and the commitments of the Planning and Sustainability Commission.

2) The Planning and Sustainability Commission should remove the section on West Hayden Island from the Comprehensive Plan and instead retain its current zoning designations or designate it as openspace. It should not be designated for industrial zoning or future industrial development.

3) The City should not convert critical natural areas or openspaces to industrial use. If the City needs more industrial land, it should focus on cleaning up its 900 acres of brownfields, intensifying use of its industrial land base, and preventing organizations like the Port of Portland from converting existing industrial lands to other uses in order to make a profit.

Do the right thing and stand by your word. Protect what little is left of the Natural World in and around our City.

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