

To: Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability
Re: Floodplain Resilience Plan
Date: January 27, 2022

I am writing to voice my strong support for adopting the Floodplain Resilience Plan that now goes before the Planning and Sustainability Commission and the Portland City Council.

As a resident of the Johnson Creek Watershed and longtime volunteer with the Johnson Creek Watershed Council, I am especially interested in the application of the Plan's proposals in the Foster Floodplain, Beggars-Tick, West Lents, and Luther Road natural areas to assure the resilience and good health of natural systems and the residential neighborhoods that share those specific areas. I also believe that the Plan's proposals are critical to the ongoing progress of salmon and habitat restoration projects that so many of my fellow citizens and government agencies have engaged in cooperatively for decades.

Among the proposals that must be adopted: 1) updating the City's floodplain maps to include all areas within the 100-year floodplain and areas inundated in the 1996 floods; 2) the inclusion of all floodplains within the project area that are within an environmental or river overlay zone; 3) increasing mitigation ratios for trees removed and loss of flood storage capacity when floodplains are developed; 4) applying additional habitat requirements within 170 feet of ordinary high water to increase habitat near rivers and streams.

All things considered, it is urgent that a Floodplain Resilience Plan be put in place now to guide all future development in Portland in a manner that respects new standards of environmental sanity at a time of many ecological uncertainties. Accordingly, I also stress that the City of Portland move to assess and update in timely fashion floodplain regulations in portions of the city not covered in the current plan.

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