

CITYWIDE TREE PROJECT

184522

IF YOU WISH TO SPEAK TO CITY COUNCIL, PRINT YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, AND EMAIL.

NAME (print)

ADDRESS AND ZIP CODE

Email

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✓ JOHN WARNER	3326 NE ALDINE ST 97212	JOHN.V.WARNER@VONO.COM
✓ TERRY PARKER	P.O. Box 13503 97213	
✓ FRED NILSBY	2744 SE 30 97202	tagflm@aracnet.com
✓ Albert Kaufman	1823 NE 13th Ave PDX 97212	albertkaufman@gmail.com
✓ Cecile Cooper	1823 NE 13th Ave. PDX 97212	ecoper@gmail.com
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<del>XXXXXXXXXX</del>		
✓ <del>Michael</del> <sup>McBOSKEY</sup> <del>McBoskey</del>	2929 SW SUNSET BLVD, 97239	
✓ GREG Schifsky	4131 SW Lee St 97221	
✓ Alyssa Isenstein Krueger	2348 SE Tamarack, 97214	alysaaiseinstein@yahoo.com

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✓	Jane Hansen Portland Design Commission	1100 NW Glisan #38 Portland, OR 97209	jane@langohansen.com
✓	Terri Preeg Riggsby	449 SW Freeman St. Portland, OR 97219	tpriiggsby@yahoo.com
26 ✓	JIM CHASSE	3246 SE 116 <sup>th</sup> 97266	JMCHASSE@Q.COM
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32 ✓	Paul Solimano	3428 NE Rodney Ave Portland	paul@willamettecra.com
	<del>Dick Honey</del>	<del>540<sup>th</sup> SW</del>	ICBConstruction@gmail
31 ✓	Dick Honey, AFM	55 SW Ash	dick.Honey@portlandoregon.gov
30 ✓	Nancy Seton	2020 SW Edgemood Rd	nancyseton@comcast.net
29 ✓	MIKE HOUCK	PO Box 6903 97220-6903	

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Email

28 ✓	Bob Gallinger	5151 NW Correll Row	bollinger@gmail.com
27 ✓	LINDA NETTEROVEN	HAND NEIGHBORHOOD ASSN VICE CHAIR	
26 ✓	RICHARD ROSS	HAND > SAVE OUR ELMS VICE PRES	
25 ✓	PETER LUNGSTEN	HAND	
24 ✓	TOMY DENING	LADD'S ADDITION NEIGHBOR	
23 ✓	<del>Georg Eighmey</del>	<del>HAND</del>	
22 ✓	Ali Young on behalf of EMSWCD	1737 SE Maple Ave Portland, OR 97214	alikyong@yahoo.com
21 ✓	Kathy Shearin	5211 N. Williams Ave PDX 97217	kathy@EMSWCD.org kjbutler@firstam.com
20 ✓	Louise Butler	222 SW Columbia, Portland 97201	
19 ✓	Justin Wood	1834 SW 5 <sup>th</sup> St, Portland, OR	Justin@FishConstruction NW.com
18 ✓	John Fiocchi	5420 SE 41 <sup>st</sup> Ave PDX OR	

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10 ✓	John Gibson	9822 SW Quail Post Portland 97299	jtgomery@aol.com
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14 ✓	Jim Labbe	8325 N. Albina #2	jlabbe@urbansung.org
17	Scott Foyant	7117 NE MLK	swtfc@kindsoffer.org
18	<del>Justin Wood</del>	<del>1834 SW 58TH Ave Portland 97221</del>	<del>Justin@fishconstruction.com</del>
19 ✓	Richard Kassebaum	16081 S. Moore rd +837 OREGON CITY OR 97045	rick@bluestonehomes.net
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21 ✓	MARK DANE	13005 SW FOUTHILL DR PDX OR 97225	mark@markdaneplanning.com
22 ✓	PATTY SCHWABEL	2030 SE MARKET ST PDX 97214	patty.pats@comcast.net
23 ✓	Patricia Korak	2010 SE Market St. P. OR 97214	pkoda@comcast.net

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Email

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5 ✓	<del>Jim Brown</del>	<del>3407 NE 27<sup>th</sup> " " 97212</del>	
4 ✓	<del>Marcela Vinocur</del>	SE Ladd Ave 97214	mvinocurmd@gmail.com
3 ✓	Jim Wentworth Plato	4250 NE Holman St Pdx 97218	<del>jimwp</del> jimwpfortrees@gmail.com

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NAME (print)	ADDRESS AND ZIP CODE	Email
2 <del>Craig Christolm</del>	473 Sixth St. Lake Oswego, <sup>97034</sup> OR	craig.chistolm@comcast.net
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✓ WAYNE PERSON	11611 SW 55 <sup>th</sup> Avenue	wlpersoncluchfca@comcast.net

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NAME (print)	ADDRESS AND ZIP CODE	Email
✓ MARY ANNE CASSIN	3541 SW Vermont St Portland 07219	maryanne@easystreet.net
<del>Joe Poracsky</del>	<del>6032 NE Hancock St 97213</del>	<del>poracskyj@pdx.edu</del>

184522

AUDITOR 02/16/11 PM 7:29  
Emailed Council 2/16  
KW

**To : City Council**

**Date: February 2, 2011**

**From ; Scott Fogarty, Executive Director Friends of Trees**

**RE: Friends of Trees Support / Comments on Tree Policy Package Proposal**

Good evening Mayor Adams and Commission members. Thank you for the opportunity for to share some thoughts on the consolidated Tree Code and for taking to time to recognize the social and economic values of trees and the very important role they play in our community.

My name is Scott Fogarty and I am ED of FOT and am on the stakeholder committee that reviewed this issue over the last 3.5 yrs. Many of my comments have been made at those meetings but I want to address three main issues tonight. Overall, we do believe that a uniform application of regulations is needed to address multiple issues with regard to trees and overall support the Citywide Tree Project.

Friends of Trees serves a variety of roles in planting and protecting trees including taking a lead on watershed health improvements, recruiting volunteers and sponsors, educating the public about the values of trees and helping to influence tree policy at the local, state and federal levels. Trees are a \$5 billion dollar asset of the City and provide drainage and watershed health ecosystem services, often for a fraction of the cost of providing single-objective grey infrastructure solutions.

Trees clean our air and water, provide wildlife habitat, increase our property values, sequester carbon dioxide, mitigate urban stormwater, reduce urban heat island effects, increase the energy efficiency in our buildings, reduce neighborhood crime and improve our quality of life and the livability of our city. Trees play an integral role in the success of many recently adopted city plans and programs including the Portland Watershed Management Plan, The Urban Forestry Plan, Grey to Green Initiative and the Climate Change Action Plan. Yet today protection for our urban trees is inconsistent at best.

Dramatic increases in tree planting efforts over the past decade are undermined by lack of protection and mitigation requirements for trees on much of our landscape, confusing and sometimes contradictory regulations, lack of educational outreach resources and insufficient enforcement capabilities. As older and larger trees are being lost, we are increasingly replacing them with smaller and more columnar trees which provide far fewer ecosystem services. An Urban Forestry Assessment recently completed by Audubon, Metro and PSU shows that Portland is increasingly lagging behind many neighboring communities in its efforts to protect its urban tree canopy. The proposal that is being brought forward this week will create clear, simple, consistent and comprehensive protections for our urban trees.



First, we believe that in order to achieve the goals of the city we cannot just plant thousands of trees as we are currently doing, we must also have in place stronger regulations for the preservation of trees. FOT believes that if we are going to shoot for a 33% canopy cover as outlined in the urban forest implementation plan, planting trees alone will not achieve that goal. Not only should we plant trees but also we must preserve and protect, to a reasonable level, and to the best of our ability, all those big, old trees that make up a great percentage of our current cover.

These propositions, preservation and preservation are not mutually exclusive and need very much to compliment one another to reach the canopy goal but also to continue to realize and recognize the many environmental, economic and social values trees provide to us. We applaud the city's efforts to plant more trees but we need more and we need to preserve on sites and not just on streets. The trees I plant today with my young daughters will take 20-30-40 years to achieve the cover we need if we simply plant but don't protect. They, you and I enjoy today the values and benefits of those trees planted by folks before us.

Therefore FOT would support regulation of trees down to 12inches and does not support a trigger of 20" for regulation on development sites. We feel this would create an inequity in balance of new and old trees and would further encourage the cutting of trees both on private non-development lots as well as on developable lots. This is an inherent conflict that needs to be resolved.

Further, FOT feels the tree density zone %ages as outlined on pg 135 Title 11 fall far short of what is necessary to accomplish the stated canopy coverage goal. They seem very low when looked at in the face of the value trees bring. These numbers seem to overwhelmingly undervalue the community benefits trees provide specifically with regard to lot size. For example, 1 tree per 3,000 – 5,999sq ft on residential lots seems far below stated goals and seems to vastly undervalue trees not just to the residential owner, but the greater community at large.

The price of doing business in a community includes internalizing externalities both positive and negative and looking at the actual value of those community assets brought forth by that business. The current proposal seems to vastly undervalue the positive community externalities related to trees on private property.

The price of retaining and increasing tree density standards is NOT prohibitive or unduly burdensome to infill development or low income development. I wonder what the actual %age of developable lots will even fall under these code changes and if truly there will be a burden to development. It would be nice to see some evidence that it would

Finally, FOT believes regulation and enforcement are necessary to protect the assets of the greater Portland community and that as a LAST resort, mitigation in the general proximity of tree removal is necessary. Mitigation requirements must be structured that the value of the tree removed is taken into consideration and that mitigation funds be directed to a specific, discreet fund to be used to plant trees or to help enforce regulation.

Absent this there will continue to be a lack of transparency and accountability. To this end I believe an audit of the mitigation, violation and current "tree bank fund" be conducted to determine the extent of infraction, punitive measures, mitigation payments and use of mitigation dollars. I am curious to see if, again, it is truly prohibitive to either conduct such measures or require a mitigation to occur in the first place.

In closing we support regulating 12" diameter and not allowing non mitigation above 20", we oppose programmatic permits without independent review, we support preservation as the first option for any development and encourage a closer look at density levels as outlined in Title 11. The first step needs to be preservation of big, older trees to keep our canopy growing which is consistent with several regional plans being developed and supports continued investment in our urban forest assets.

Thank you for your time and effort on this issue. Friends of Trees truly appreciates city efforts on this topic and strongly encourages this opportunity to implement equitable, fair and strengthened uniform code regulating trees in the urban setting.

Sincerely,

Scott Fogarty  
Executive Director

February 2, 2011

RE: Citywide Tree Policy Review and Regulatory Improvement Project

ORAL TESTIMONY OF Nancy Seton  
SW HILLS RESIDENTIAL LEAGUE Neighborhood Assn.  
Land Use Chair, Board Member

We are so pleased to see these important improvements in the Tree Code that we in many NH associations been asking for and hoping for for years.

Trees are essential to our Southwest Hills NH. Without healthy mature trees holding up our slopes, we'd be sliding down into Goose Hollow or on to Hwy 26.


Right now there are so many loopholes that make it very hard for our Land Use committees to protect trees, even in our environmental zones. We on the SWHRL Land Use Committee have often wished for clearer tree regulations, for stronger incentives for developers and homeowners to protect trees, especially significant native trees and groves on our slopes.

We strongly support the new protections for trees with and without development; on public and private property (including non-dividable single family lots), and especially in environmental overlay zones and riparian areas.

We support a process where a developer considers and designs around the natural features and the trees on a site.

I think it's time to put our money where our mouth is – to grow our urban tree canopy, we need to have zoning codes that work for, not against that goal.

We really appreciate the efforts of The Tree Project team. They have done an excellent job. We urge you to support this needed update to Portland's tree policies.

  
Nancy Seton  
Tel: 503-224-3840  
nancyseton@comcast.net

2/2/11

September 24, 2010


184522

**Tree Testimony City Council—new Title T-11**

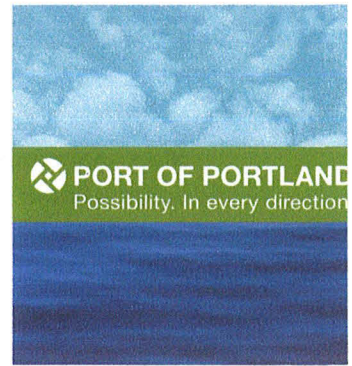
Part of the economic malaise in America is due to the rush for more unbridled growth, and this acts as a catalyst for more, ever more. Development in any city U.S.A. describes this condition instead of what's commonly referred to as "sustainable". But the driver is sometimes referred to as the development community is only a tiny fraction of the existing real community in Portland, which includes all species that inhabit this region.

The development community is a minority compared to the general population and both have differing perspectives and values when it comes to appreciating trees. Without recognizing the greater need for what provides a healthy community, such as tree protections, and a reminder that trees act as lungs for this regional eco-system and are still the best water quality enhancer known to science, it's clear that supporting the implementation of the BOP Tree Project's goals is more important than ever when considering the long-term health of this City and its inhabitants.

Water quality, the salvation of the noble Salmon, and all species living in these surroundings depend upon a larger tree canopy. I have no pearls of wisdom or license that can explain some backward slide to a darker age the country is caught in. Let me share this related abrasive story: Korea was denuded of almost all of its trees in the last century by an occupying power. Korea was also stripped of its topsoil 400 years ago by some island nation and forced to use human fecal matter to fertilize her crops. Do we return to such a dark time or preserve and protect today, what will enhance living conditions for our descendents?

Greg Schifsky   
4131 SW Lee St.  
Portland, OR 97221  
503-246-2714

184522



**Mission:** To enhance the region's economy and quality of life by providing efficient cargo and air passenger access to national and global markets.

February 2, 2011

Mayor Sam Adams  
Commissioner Nick Fish  
Commissioner Amanda Fritz  
Commissioner Randy Leonard  
Commissioner Dan Saltzman  
City Of Portland  
1221 SW 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Portland, Oregon 97204

**Re: Citywide Tree Policy Review and Regulatory Improvement Project**

Dear Mayor Adams and City Commissioners,

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the City-wide tree project. Recognizing that this is still a work in progress, we offer our staff expertise on the refinement work that the City Bureau of Planning Sustainability will undertake. In particular, we suggest that additional work is needed to clarify the hierarchy of plan districts relative to the proposed tree code regulations. Specifically, the tree standards in a plan district should be the overriding regulation and the tree development, preservation and maintenance standards should not be an added layer of regulation as implied in the current proposed code language.

The Port has been working with the city on several plan districts. We have undertaken these efforts because the plan district approach allows for specific rules or agreements that address details of the development of an area tailored to its unique characteristics. In these efforts, it has been our understanding that the specifics of the plan districts supersede overlays that are typically more generic in nature. We suggest the following:

- **Exempt the future Portland International Airport (PDX) Plan District & the existing Cascade Station/Portland International Center Plan District from the Tree Code (Title 33 and Title 11).**  
The Port plants and manages thousands of trees in the landscaped and built environment on Portland International Airport property in accordance with Federal Aviation Safety requirements for wildlife hazards and tall trees growing into navigable airspace. As a result the Port has an adopted Wildlife Hazard Management Plan that served as the foundation of the landscaping requirements in the PDX Plan District. We propose that the detailed airport specific landscape requirements developed in the Airport Futures process be the controlling requirement in the plan district. To address appropriate mitigation for removal of large trees, the draft PDX Plan District could be amended to add tree mitigation requirements consistent with the broad scope of the Airport Futures program and the city's tree goals.

Mayor Sam Adams  
Commissioner's Fish, Fritz, Leonard, Saltzman  
February 2, 2011  
Page 2

Additionally we appreciate the proposed exemption of industrial land IH, IG1 from these standards. Many of these sites are fully developed and currently have no minimum landscaping percentage requirement. Demonstrating compliance is likely to be expensive, time consuming and may impact the industrial land supply. We would like to work with city staff on a permanent resolution of this issue. We appreciate your consideration of our request and look forward to working with BPS staff on these proposals.

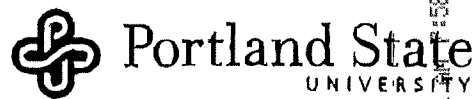
Sincerely,



Susie Lahsene  
Transportation and Land Use Policy Manager

cc: Susan Anderson  
Joe Zehnder  
Roberta Jortner

184522



AUDITOR 02/03/11

School of Social Work

Post Office Box 751 503-725-4712 tel  
Portland, Oregon 97207-0751 503-725-5545 fax

527 SW Hall UCB Suite 400 www.ssw.pdx.edu  
Portland, Oregon 97201

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

TO: City of Portland  
Council Clerk

FROM: Ginger Edwards

COMPANY:  
503 823 4571

DATE:  
2

FAX NUMBER:  
503 312 7135

TOTAL NO. OF PAGES, INCLUDING COVER:

PHONE NUMBER:

SENDER'S REFERENCE NUMBER:

RE: YOUR REFERENCE NUMBER:  
City Wide Tree Project

- URGENT
- FOR REVIEW
- PLEASE COMMENT
- PLEASE REPLY
- PLEASE RECYCLE

NOTES/COMMENTS:

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**City Wide Tree Project testimony:**

**Thank you for considering this program. I also want to thank City staff for the work on this project and volunteers who helped develop and refine it.**

**Trees help make our city and neighborhoods livable.**

**I come from Arbor Lodge neighborhood and speak for my neighborhood association.**

**We support the City Wide Tree Project enthusiastically.**

**We ask that you consider one aspect, off- site mitigation.**

**We would ask that if off site mitigation is the only option available to either a home owner or developer when a large tree is to be removed, that the priority be to plant a tree within that neighborhood. We understand this would be more difficult, perhaps a lesser fee could be levied if tree could be planted within the impacted neighborhood and if not, a greater fee for off-site mitigation would be levied outside of the impacted neighborhood. Our hope is that this would slow the loss of large, significant trees and if these trees cannot be saved, to add back into the neighborhood that experienced the loss.**

**Let me give you an example. Within 4 blocks of my home we have lost 2 large significant trees in the last year. One was a**



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**white (garry) Oak. The arborist we consulted estimated it was between 130-160 years old. It was healthy. The other was a large Douglas Fir, estimated to be between 60- 80 years old, also healthy. Both trees were visible for blocks around. Each provided shade, canopy, wildlife habitat, but mostly character to our neighborhood. It will take decades for any new trees to contribute to the neighborhood as these two trees did while standing.**

**If mitigation is always at an easy site, away from the impacted neighborhood, we could lose all the large significant trees that make our in town neighborhoods what they are. In fill is important, but maintaining the character of a neighborhood in the process is equally important.**

**Thank you for any consideration.**

**Ginger Edwards  
Arbor Lodge Neighborhood Association  
6730 N. Wilbur Ave  
Portland, Oregon 97217  
[gingere@involved.com](mailto:gingere@involved.com)  
(503) 312-7135**

**Testimony before the  
Portland City Commission  
February 2, 2011  
Regarding  
Citywide Tree Policy and Regulatory Improvement Project**

Members of the Commission, I am Jane Leo, Governmental Affairs Director to the 6500 members of the Portland Metropolitan Association of Realtors®. Of the Association's membership, more than 2500 list a Portland home address.

I am here today to commend efforts of the many people and staff who committed their time and resources to work towards a consistent and cohesive regulatory framework for tree preservation and planting within the City. Undoubtedly, trees do add to the aesthetics of the City and livability of the community. However, there remain some outstanding issues that should be addressed prior to adoption of the new Code Title 11 that's before you.

Specifically,

- Issues within the proposed Title 11 that conflict with other City Code must be clarified. As an example, it is unclear which has precedence: the City's attempts to meet goals to reduce the carbon footprint by promoting usage of alternative energy or the planting and maintenance of trees. Does a homeowner wanting to install solar panels on the home's roof have priority over the preservation of a tree? If a replacement tree cannot be planted on the lot, the property owner should not have to pay into an off-site tree fund for converting to solar energy.
- Funds paid into the off-site tree fund should be used exclusively to plant trees (not for education and to buy conservation lands as proposed within Title 11).
- There is a concern as to how the City will achieve its density goals at the same time requiring the preservation of trees that may prohibit property from being fully utilized.
- Consideration needs to be given to the number of trees that would be required to be planted on lots 5,000 square feet or less. This property may not be able to accommodate more than one tree plus the street trees. As currently proposed, Title 11 does not factor in surrounding tree canopy, the size of the trees at maturity, the impact of the maturing trees on the integrity of the house, roof, underground water and waste lines, foundations and the like. We strongly encourage Title 11 to be amended to allow for street trees and adjacent tree canopy to factor into the number of trees required to be planted on new development or when an existing tree is removed.
- We support reducing the tree preservation standard to 33% for trees greater than 12-inches.

Testimony before the  
Portland City Commission  
February 2, 2011  
Regarding Citywide Tree Policy and Regulatory Improvement Project  
Page 2

- Regarding the cost of homeownership, we are concerned about the added cost to the price of owning and maintaining a home through the implementation of Title 11 as currently written. Increasing fees for developers and builders, the potential of a work stop order being placed on a job site because of a misguided call to the Tree Hotline, all translate into a cost to the buyer of that property.

In closing, I would like to add concern for the cost of implementation of Title 11. The fiscal impact of the program, from inception to the hiring of 7.5 FTEs, cannot be ignored especially during a time in which the City and homeowners are struggling financially. Incentives to preserve and plant trees are a viable avenue that must be fully utilized especially in existing neighborhoods. The goal stated in the proposed Title 11 to increase the City's tree canopy cannot be achieved without involving existing neighborhoods.

On behalf of PMAR's members, thank you for consideration of these comments.

Testimony of  
John Gibbons

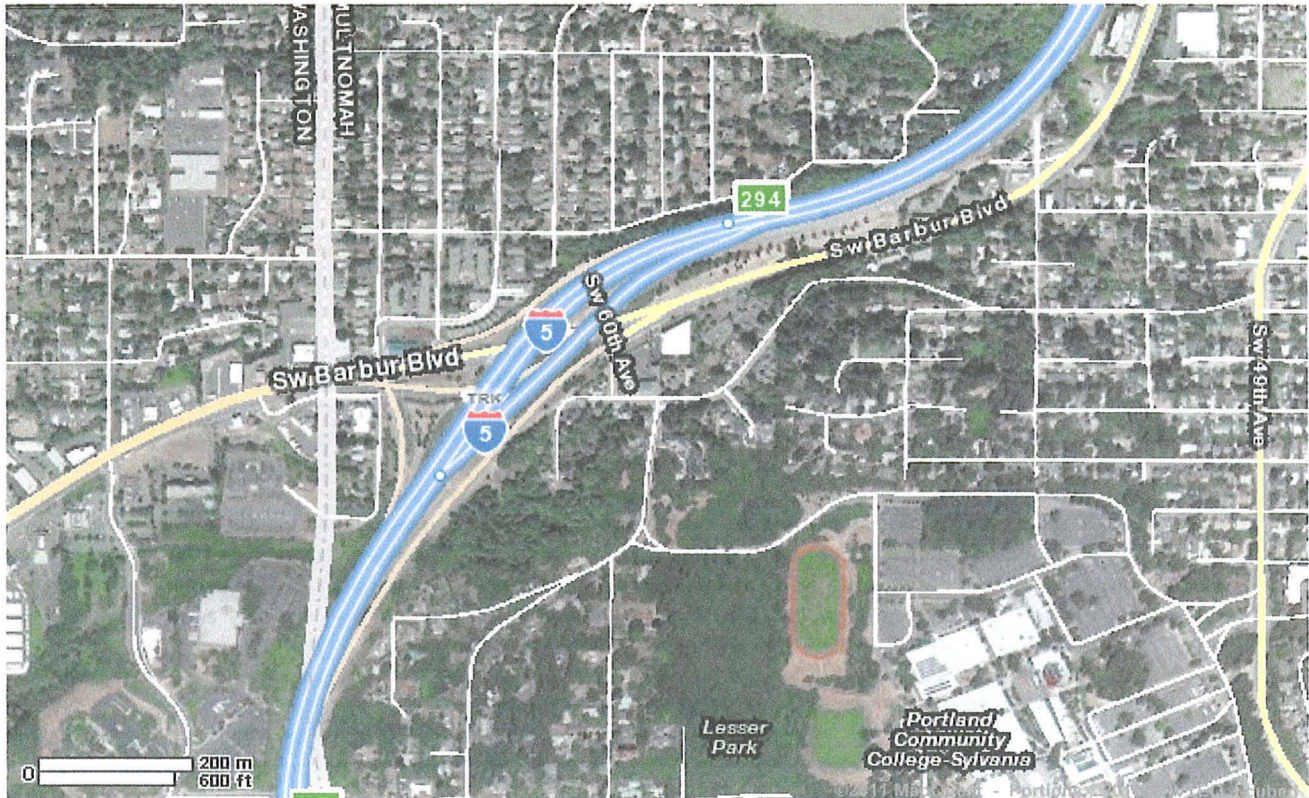
Notes

Oswego Springs Assisted Living Facility shows trees that can be preserved when multifamily style project is developed, maintenance of the trees and landscaping long term may become an issue.

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Map of:

SW Lesser Rd & SW Capitol Hwy  
Portland, OR 97219



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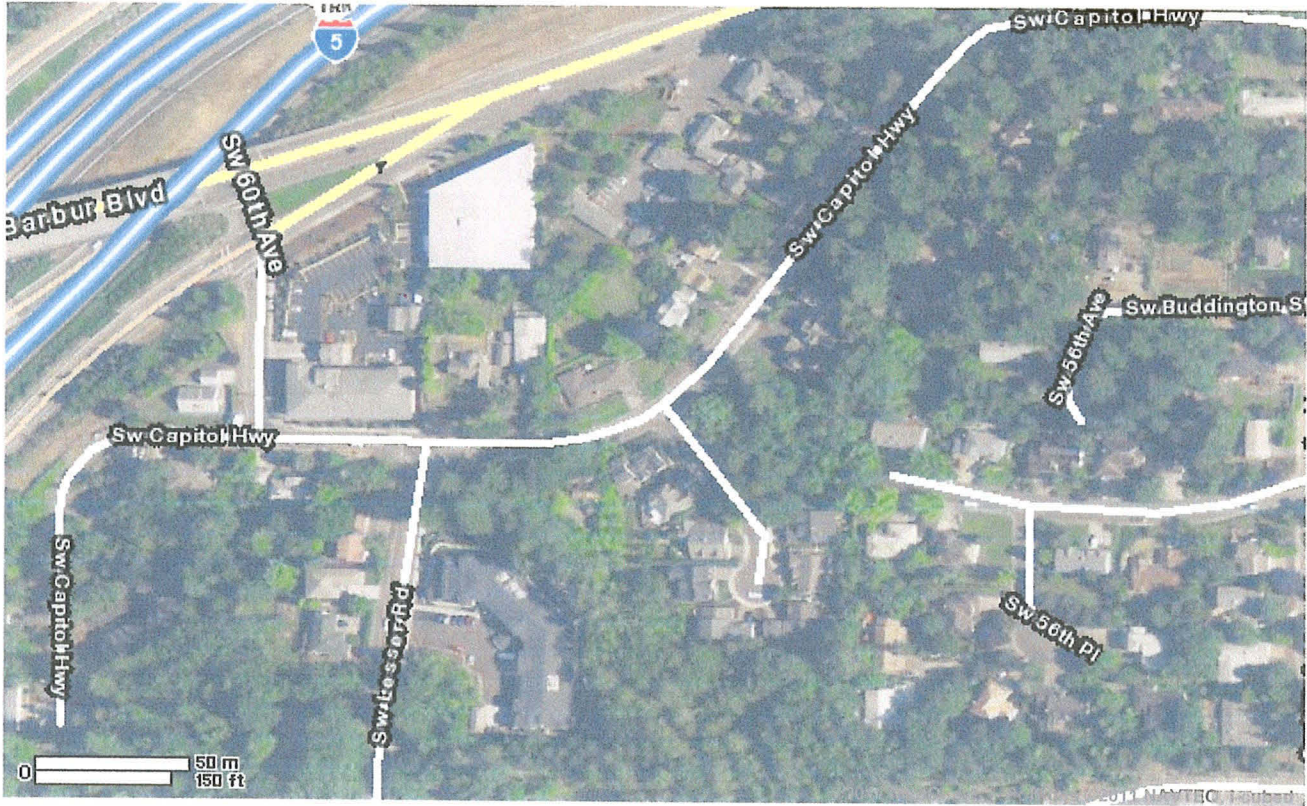
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Notes

The development on 58th Ct. shows the both the benefits and problems that come with the current system efforts to preserve trees on a site. The riparian area with smaller trees and woody plants is functioning as planned, closer to the common wall homes to the east 3 significant Douglas Firs are dying due to construction/residency disturbance

Map of:

SW 58th Ct & SW Capitol Hwy  
Portland, OR 97219



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Notes

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**Map of:**

11348 SW Capitol Hwy  
Portland, OR 97219-7245

Shows the area of disturbance lawn and parking adjacent to dying firs in adjacent to common wall homes east of SW 58th Ct.



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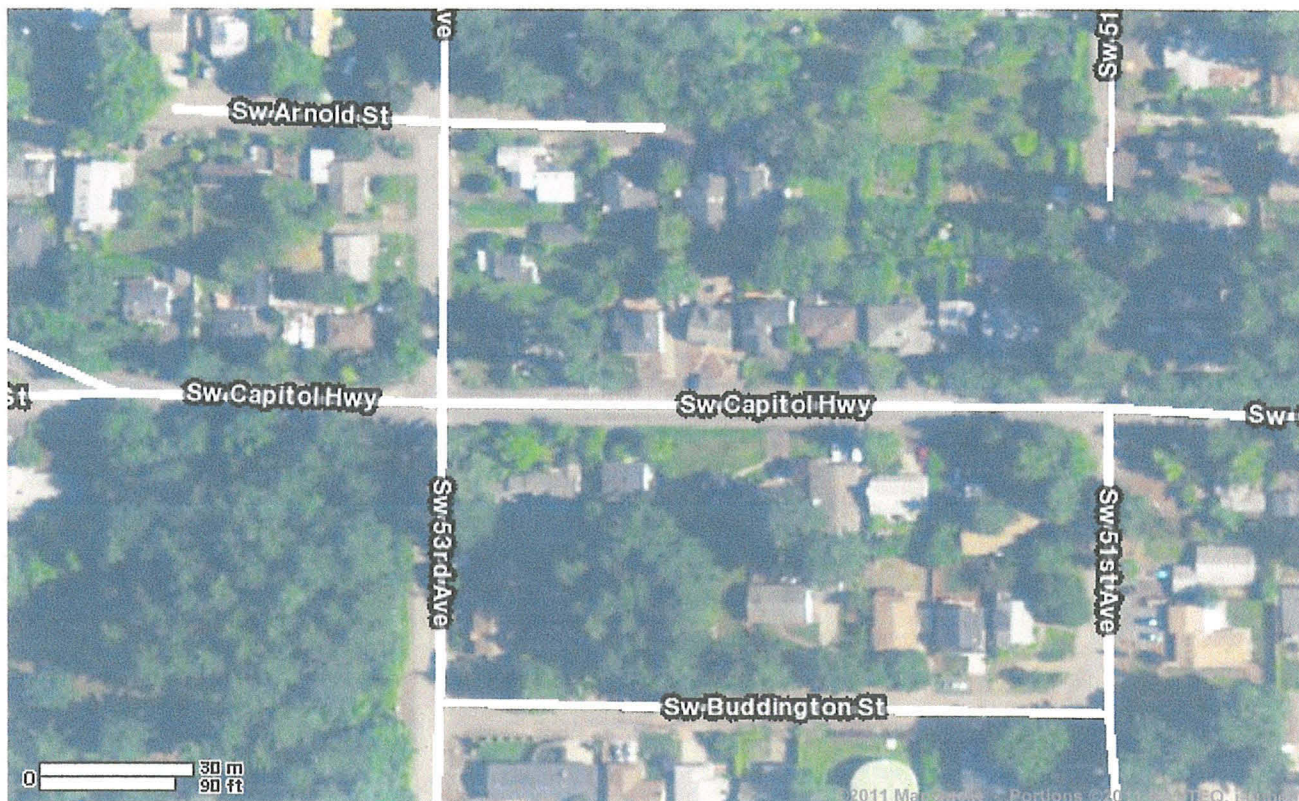
Notes

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Map of:

11251 SW Capitol Hwy  
Portland, OR 97219-7226

Property at 11251 SW Capitol Hiwy. was partitioned to create parcels for houses on each side, large doug fir retained in front of house (as condition of approval(?)). New owner needing parking for 3 SUVs and a boat removed tree.



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**Map of:**

9822 SW Quail Post Rd  
Portland, OR 97219-6365

Notes

4800 sq. ft. lot plus 3000 sq.ft common area costs of maintenance 15 yrs. at least \$12,000  
Solar - Neighbors not trimming down approximately 20% access.  
HOA - Thousands in tree maintenance on common area without plan need City involvement programatic planning Forestry/ BES/WMSWC



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Notes

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Shows impact of higher density development on wooded area, townhomes removed woods consistent with the character of the property immediately to the west.

Map of:

11299 SW Capitol Hwy  
Portland, OR 97219-7694



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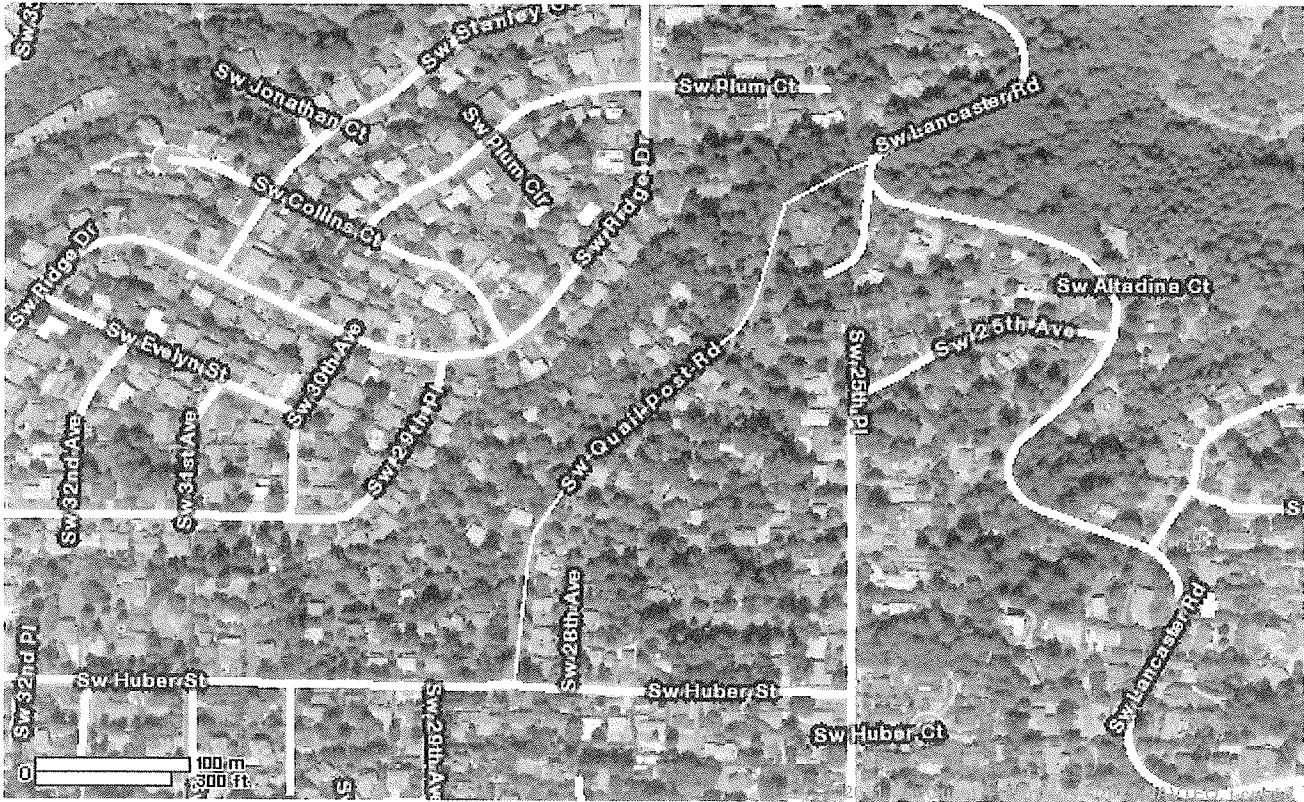
Notes

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Map of:

9822 SW Quail Post Rd  
Portland, OR 97219-6365

Quail Park shows possible impact of development with tree preservation (late 70's era) "existing trees" with one to one replacement requirement. Compare Indian Hills to NW 60s & 70s era no restriction and bigger lots. End result QP gets small BES stormwater reduction on wate/sewer. Thousands on tree maintenance.



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Please Distribute to all Council Members - Albert Kaufman

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Apple, Pear, Peach, Plum, Quince,  
 Persimmon, Chestnut, Walnut, Hazelnut  
 Mulberry, boysenberry, Cherry

---

A = Tree size? No trees should be cut

---

young people  $\Rightarrow$  education effort.

---

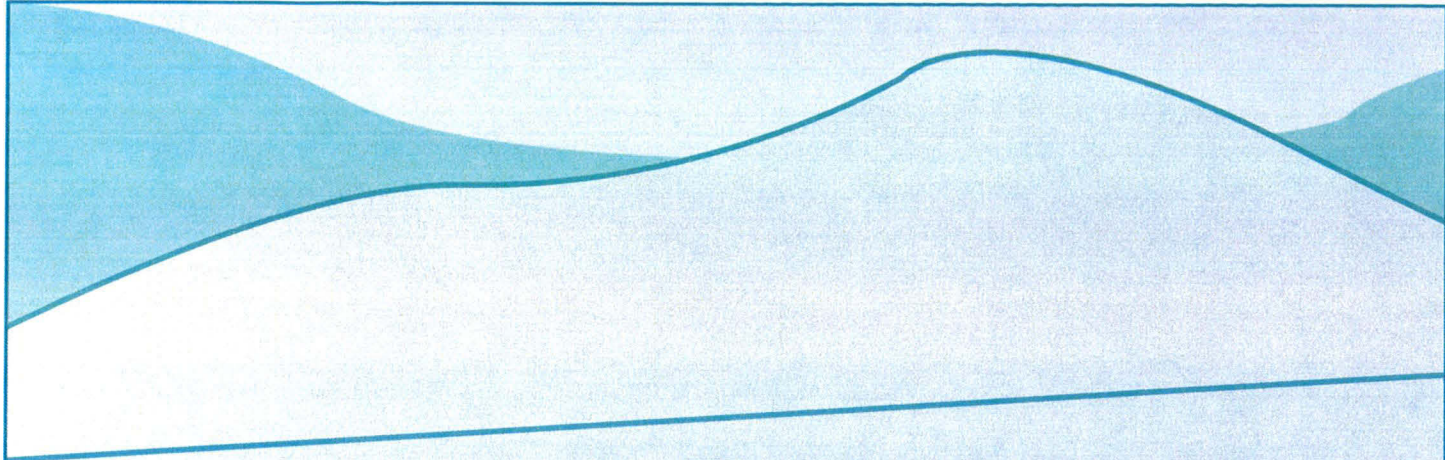
1. I am Albert - NC / Irvington - 3/12/11 planting  
 $\rightarrow$  tree planting in Seattle  $\Rightarrow$  DOT  $\Rightarrow$  Free Trees.

2. Report - points  $\Rightarrow$  plant food / fruit + points

3. If I was in charge?

Massive Massive effort to plant ASAP  
 as many trees as possible

change tree, change name of Soccer fields  
 Orchardists, Farmers



**Building Climate Resiliency  
in the Lower Willamette Region  
of Western Oregon**

**Summary for Decision Makers**

**The Resource Innovation Group's  
Climate Leadership Initiative**

**January 2011**

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### The Resource Innovation Group (TRIG)

TRIG is a 501(c)(3) that provides innovative solutions to the challenges of sustainability, climate change and other social, economic and ecological concerns. TRIG was founded in 1996, as an affiliate of the Portland State University Hatfield School of Government. In 2005, TRIG established the Climate Leadership Initiative (CLI) with a specific mission of fostering the development and application of innovative thinking and approaches to the complex causes and solutions to climate change. From 2001 through 2010 TRIG had an affiliation with the Institute for a Sustainable Environment at the University of Oregon. Today, TRIG is engaged in partnerships with a number of academic institutions, non-profits, private companies and government agencies nationwide.

# **Building Climate Resiliency in the Lower Willamette Region of Western Oregon**

*A Report on Stakeholder Findings and Recommendations*

## **Summary for Decision Makers**

**The Resource Innovation Group's  
Climate Leadership Initiative**

*Written by: Stacy Vynne, Steve Adams, Roger Hamilton, Bob Doppelt*

January 2011



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## Introduction

In 2010, the Climate Leadership Initiative (CLI) engaged over 200 experts from the Lower Willamette region of western Oregon in a series of workshops called Climate Futures Forums. Individuals from the following counties participated: Benton, Clackamas, Linn, Marion, Multnomah, Polk, Washington and Yamhill. Forum participant expertise expanded across the following systems: natural, built, economic, human and cultural.

Based on Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC 2007) modeling of two possible future emissions scenarios ("Business as Usual" and a greener scenario) for mid and end of century, the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute (OCCRI) developed downscaled projections of impacts for the Lower Willamette. These projections, coupled with other local research, provided the basis for the CLI Lower Willamette project.

The Climate Futures Forums had the following objectives:

- Assess regional climate change projections;
- Identify likely impacts to systems throughout the region; and
- Recommend strategies to prepare for those impacts.

CLI facilitated participant discussion to integrate strategies across the natural, built, economic, human and cultural systems and ensure that climate change preparedness actions produce complementary benefits the different sectors within the systems as well as reduce conflicting costs.

This document provides policy and decision makers with a summary of findings from CLI's 2010 Lower Willamette project. The full report, which contains a detailed description of the Climate Futures Forums, the modeling process and projections, and the impacts and recommendations, is available at [www.theresourceinnovationgroup.org](http://www.theresourceinnovationgroup.org). The complementary modeling projections report from OCCRI is also available.

While this summary and the accompanying report identify a number of consequences from climate change in the Lower Willamette, many opportunities are also presented. Climate change may bring new prospects for locally focused businesses, increased self-sufficiency among residents, and innovative networks to support vulnerable populations. These responses will make the region more resilient not only to climate change impacts, but could also buffer the local economy to rising energy costs and turbulent global markets.

The Climate Futures Forums and the results presented in this summary are only the beginning. Forum participants and stakeholders in the Lower Willamette must begin to assess the recommended strategies, identify priorities based on benefits and costs, and begin implementation. Effective implementation depends on broad coordination and collaboration across the many jurisdictions within Lower Willamette region: state and federal agencies, the private sector, institutions of higher learning, and non-profit organizations. Individuals from each of these institutions are encouraged to use the report to initiate dialogue on building resilience to the impacts of climate change in the Lower Willamette.

The people and institutions of the Lower Willamette have the capacity and innovation needed to effectively prepare for climate change. The region is likely one of the more resilient in the country. By initiating a process now to prepare the natural, built, economic, human, and cultural systems for climate change, the Lower Willamette will continue to prosper well into the future.



# Overview of Findings and Recommendations

## Key Projections

Key projections participants responded to include:

- Overall warming trend, with an increase of 10-15° F in summer under the Business as Usual emissions scenario;
  - Changes in precipitation patterns (more rain, more precipitation falling in a shorter amount of time);
  - Change in conditions to favor warmer vegetation types;
  - Significant loss of snowpack in the Cascades of about 80% compared to current conditions by end of century;
  - Higher stream runoff in winter and early spring (due to more precipitation falling as rain and in shorter periods), and decreased flows in summer for some locations; and
  - Higher intensity and increased distribution of fires.
- Increases in number of invasive, non-native plant and animal species (i.e. additional species coming into the area), and expansion of ranges (i.e. spread) of others.
  - Increased instances of heat illness, vector- and water-borne disease, mental health illness, respiratory distress; and
  - Loss of cultural resources (e.g. salmon) and historical landmarks (e.g. covered bridges, century old barns and iconic natural features).

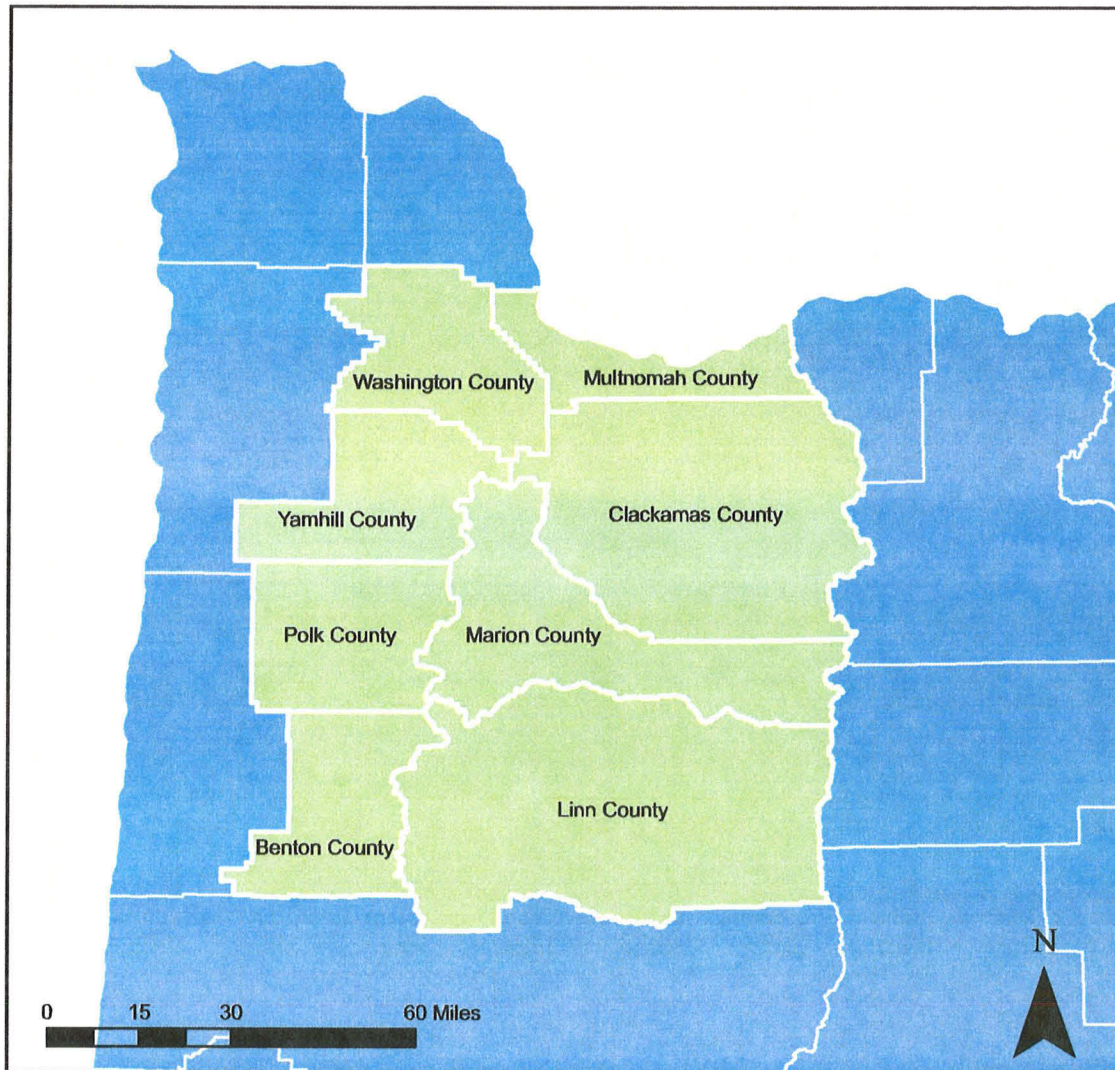
## Key Recommendations

Common themes of recommendations identified by participants include:

## Key Impacts

Common themes of impacts identified by participants include:

- Reduced water quality and shifts in water availability (i.e. more in winter, less in summer);
  - Mis-match in life history timing of many species, possibly leading to population decline due to diminishing availability of essential resources when needed by each species;
  - Decline in efficiency of, and potentially significant damage to, public works, transportation, and communication infrastructure;
  - Extended duration and shifts in timing of seasonal peak water demands;
  - Diminished productivity or total loss of some agricultural commodities, but potential opportunities for new crops and longer growing seasons;
- Protect floodplains, wetlands, and groundwater recharge areas;
  - Further assess anticipated habitat changes in order to preserve existing high quality habitat and promote restoration where feasible;
  - Preserve, expand, and connect existing high quality habitat and restore habitat of lesser quality that is crucial to species' survival;
  - Update infrastructure with projections for future population growth and climate change;
  - Anticipate increased energy needs and provide incentives for efficiency and conservation;
  - Diversify businesses, as well as agricultural and timber crops;
  - Increase preventative health initiatives, notification and warning systems, and diversify health and emergency management partnerships; and
  - Protect key cultural resources and improve historical architecture resiliency to extreme events.



*The counties of focus for this report are presented here. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) defines the Mid Willamette as the Willamette River at Canby, including the North and South Santiam, Yamhill, and Molalla-Pudding subbasins, and the Lower Willamette as the region around the mouth of the Willamette River and the Tualatin and Clackamas subbasins. Willamette Falls (located between Oregon City and West Linn in Clackamas County) is the upper end of tidal influence. Map courtesy of Kathie Dello, Oregon Climate Change Research Institute.*

# Impacts and Recommendations for Natural Systems

## Likely Impacts to Natural Systems

**Shifts in stream flow.** Extreme precipitation events could result in short- and long-term changes to river and stream morphology (i.e. shape and pattern), with a potential long-term shift to a different hydrologic regime such as timing and magnitude of flow. Some aquatic experts project increasing 'flashiness' of streams (a high stream flow lasting for a short period- typically less than six hours- following rainfall or snowmelt) due to increased warming and rainfall. These events may reshape the stream systems. While some aquatic organisms and habitats are adapted to flashiness, typically these events result in increased erosion, flushing of organisms due to excessive flows, scouring of streambeds, and loss of opportunity for ground water recharge.

**Reduced air quality.** Climate change amplifies air pollution problems in both rural and urban areas, increasing ground level ozone and particulate matter concentrations. Reduced air quality can disrupt regional ecosystem processes and genetic and population diversity, cause extensive damage to vegetation, and also lead to acidification of ecosystems. This could result in Clean Air Act noncompliance.

**Reduced water quality.** Increased precipitation events and runoff could lead to erosion and increased nonpoint pollutant loading to streams. Increasing stream temperatures may also lead to decreased water quality from nutrient loading and algae blooms. This could result in Clean Water Act noncompliance.

**Loss of genetic diversity and shift in species gender balance.** Reptiles such as the western pond turtle and western painted turtle may experience changes in male to female ratios, since gender is temperature dependent: females are produced at higher incubation temperatures than males. Cold water aquatic species or high alpine terrestrial species are also at greater risk by increasing stress, possibly leading to localized species extinctions and a loss of genetic diversity.

**Shifts in quality of habitat and refugia.** Wetlands are likely to experience increased drying during the summer months, impacting local amphibian and turtle populations, mammals, native vegetation and birds. Prairie habitat will be

threatened with further fragmentation risk through shifting precipitation patterns and increased fire, impacting the ability of prairie-dependent species to migrate. Forest species that rely on soil and ground cover may experience habitat loss, as well as species that require extensive habitat (impacting species management under the Endangered Species Act).

**Reduction in ecosystem services.** Climate change may impact the natural storage, filtration and pollination services provided by the systems of the Lower Willamette.

**Shifts in extreme events.** Extreme events, such as precipitation, fire, and wind, are expected to increase with climate change. These events will pose threats and opportunities for natural systems in the Lower Willamette.

**Increased intensity of urban heat island effect.** Urban areas with substantial impervious surfaces and concrete, devoid of vegetation and wetlands that moderate warming, may experience a more rapid warming compared to rural forested areas and smaller communities. This would lead to greater negative climate impacts on urban forests, parks, waterways, fish, wildlife, and vegetation.

**Loss of specialist and low mobility species.** Species that specialize in a particular habitat, prey, or whose current populations are rare, unhealthy or isolated, are very susceptible to climate change impacts. Species that must travel long distances to escape heat or find water are susceptible to changes in climate.

**Increase in invasive, generalist, and heat tolerant plant and animal species.** An increase in high intensity fire may make some ecosystems less resilient to invasive species colonization following disturbance (however, fire can also act as a control for invasives). Invasives may be more adapted to soil disturbances associated with fire and extreme events, as well as to warmer climate. Species that thrive in a variety of habitats and on a variety of food sources (i.e. generalist) may not be impacted severely with climate change.

**Shift in migration patterns and habitat range.** Generalist butterflies are expanding their ranges under current climate changes whereas specialist

butterfly species have been moving northward or are being squeezed out of their ranges. For birds, potential changes include species no longer present in Oregon during the summer, summer ranges expanding or contracting, and species without a current presence coming to Oregon in the summer. With warmer winters, there may also be an increase in resident waterfowl, leading to overgrazing of grasslands.

**Changes in intra-species interactions and life history timing.** With changes in vegetation, symbiotic relationships between benthics (bottom dwelling), aquatics, and terrestrial species will change, likely to the detriment of many native species. Key timing for life history requirements may become out of sync for some species, such as food availability not matching ingrained migration timing.

**Loss of culturally important species and landscapes.** Warmer temperatures and changing vegetation conditions may lead to a loss of species of tribal and general public importance. Scenic areas considered to be part of Oregon's identity might also be impacted (e.g. the glaciers of Mount Hood).

## Recommendations for Resilient Natural Systems

**Protect and restore floodplains and connect them to their rivers.** Maximizing connections between streams and their floodplains will reduce impacts from flooding on human and natural communities and encourage water storage. Management should focus on creating and maintaining off-channel habitats and reserves for deep-water storage in order to support resiliency of the floodplain system during extreme events. Local government, in collaboration with the state, can strengthen floodplain restoration policies and non-structural flood storage to improve flood control and reduce vulnerability to extreme flooding. Zoning and building codes can also be used to reduce development impacts on floodplains. Levee and other flood control management efforts should be integrated with natural systems protection to achieve win-win solutions in adapting to climate change.

**Increase the complexity of streams.** Stream complexity restoration is an effective strategy for ensuring coldwater availability and reducing stream flashiness. Recruitment of large wood to stream systems supports this, but may require a shift in Oregon Forest Practices to encourage interplanting of evergreens in Riparian Management Areas. The Oregon Water Resources Department, Department of Land Conservation and Development, local

governments, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Department of Forestry and Fish and Wildlife, irrigation districts and watershed councils can all play a role in reviewing and revising local stream policies and restoration projects to identify opportunities for improvement.

**Protect, expand and connect (where appropriate) existing, high quality habitat and restore and connect (where appropriate) habitats of lower quality.** Habitat protection policies under local, regional and state management, as well as habitat managed by conservation organizations, should prioritize protection and expansion of high quality urban and rural habitat with greater resilience to climate change. Increasing connectivity between habitats using buffers, anchors, and corridors should be encouraged. However, managers should also prevent "highway" corridors through which invasives and diseases can spread rapidly.

**Use a landscape approach to conservation.** To maximize protection of habitat and increase resiliency of species and ecosystems to climate change impacts, a landscape approach is needed to integrate efforts happening at a more localized scale with broader regional approaches (please see the full report for a more detailed description of landscape approach). ODFW, in coordination with the USFWS, should consider how invasives, as well as Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive (TES) species are identified and managed under a climate change future.

**Revise species management.** To increase effectiveness and avoid duplication of species management programs and policies, greater communication and collaboration is needed between researchers and land managers. Federal, state, and local species management agencies should increase coordination efforts. Species protection efforts under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) will need to be evaluated in light of a changing climate, including the possibility or likelihood that species' current habitats may have limited ability to support these species in the future.

**Restore and manage beaver presence in riparian communities.** Restoration of beavers will support aquatic habitat resilience, as they are a keystone species with a strong influence on ecosystems as a result of their dam-building and feeding activities. The benefits of beavers will need to be weighed with some of the negative impacts of beaver dams, which can threaten private structures and public infrastructure. Stormwater management facilities will need to plan for beavers, and enact road crossings.

**Reassess allocation of water rights.**

Overappropriation of streams in the region negatively affects water quality and quantity. The Oregon Water Resources Department may need to consider a review of water rights and potential shifts in regulation.

**Incorporate climate change preparation strategies into watershed management plans.**

If not already doing so, watershed councils and local governments should develop, adopt, and begin implementing local watershed management plans that set climate resiliency objectives for hydrology, physical habitat, water quality, and biological communities.

**Increase riparian vegetation.** Supporting riparian vegetation growth (along river margins and banks) could help to protect water quality from increased erosion and associated pollutants.

Increased riparian vegetation will also improve water quality through shading, habitat diversity, and cover for wildlife.

**Restore natural fire regime.** Natural fire regimes should be restored to build the resilience of ecosystems to climate impacts, as fires maintain diverse assemblages of vertebrate species and forest types.

**Reduce impervious surfaces.** Local governments should minimize the extent of impervious surfaces to protect the water quality of streams, improve infiltration, and reduce stream flashiness.

**Increase and refocus monitoring efforts.** Monitoring will need to be more adaptive and integrated with management regimes as a result of shifting climate conditions.

<b>Natural Systems</b>			
<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Co-Benefits/Costs</b>	<b>Mitigation Benefits</b>
Protect and restore floodplains, connect to rivers	FEMA, local government, private landowners	Reduce damage to infrastructure, increase water storage	
Increase stream complexity	WRD, DLCD, local governments, SWCD, DOF, DFW, irrigation districts and watershed councils, OWEB	May require removal of infrastructure and limit development, supports commercially and culturally valuable species, may reduce health risks	
Protect high quality, restore lower quality habitat	Regional jurisdictions, state agencies, nongovernmental conservation organizations, lottery funds	May limit development, provides ecosystem services, may boost property values, improves air and water quality, supports recovery of culturally important species	Yes, if sequestration
Use landscape approach	Conservation organizations, watershed councils, private landowners, and state and federal agencies	May limit some development	
Revise species management	ODFW, USFWS, watershed councils, and landowners		
Restore beavers	ODFW, USFWS, watershed councils, storm water managers, and landowners	May cause damage or restructuring of water infrastructure, benefits to other species and stream complexity	
Reassess allocation of water rights	WRD	Reduce strain on water infrastructure	Yes, if conserves water
Incorporate climate change preparation strategies into watershed management plans	watershed councils and local governments		
Increase riparian vegetation	watershed councils, landowners	Improve air quality	Yes
Restore natural fire regime	Oregon Department of Forestry, federal and state land manager	Reduce catastrophic fire damage to infrastructure, may impact timber production, supports recovery of culturally important species	
Reduce impervious surfaces	Local governments	Reduce flashflooding events, support species and ecosystem recovery, improves water quality for human use, may limit new development	Yes
Increase and refocus monitoring	conservation organizations, watershed councils, state and federal governmental agencies	Supports recovery of culturally important species as well as commercially valuable crops	

# Impacts and Recommendations for Community Systems (Built, Economic, Human and Cultural)

## Likely Impacts to Built Systems

### Damage to water and sewer infrastructure.

The greatest strain on water and sewer infrastructure may be felt during early winter and spring, when projections show an increased likelihood of intense rain events. The possible consequences of system failure due to extreme events include sewage system backup, submersion of sewage treatment plants, overwhelming of filtration systems from silt and other debris, and reduced availability of safe-drinking water through raw sewage leakage. As water utilities face longer summer-demand seasons from their customers, plus reduced summer flows in some or many of their surface water sources, they will increasingly turn towards groundwater as a supplemental source.

### Strain on public transportation and road conditions.

Roads may buckle due to increased temperatures, fire, or flood. This could cause interruptions in emergency response, as well as decrease worker productivity. With increased storms and runoff there may be large sediment increases in streams from blowouts of forest roads. If climate refugees move to the region as anticipated, the carrying capacity of roads may reach its limit and maintenance and repair may need to be done more frequently

**Bridge failure:** Structural soundness of these bridges may be compromised with climate impacts, particularly from "flashier" floods following heavy precipitation events.

**Air and rail disruptions:** Sea level rise may impact rail lines as many miles of railroad are along tidal rivers and streams. Rail lines are also susceptible to icing from winter storms, as well as significant temperature increases. The Portland International Airport (PDX) may experience increasing flight delays or cancellations as a result of extreme weather events.

### Impacts to utility transmission and meeting energy demand.

Electricity demand will be impacted by changes in future temperature. Less energy may be needed in winter with milder

temperatures, while warmer temperatures may increase demand in summer. Power outages may occur on very hot days when peak demand exceeds capacity. Population growth may further exacerbate energy demand and reduce availability. Further, transmission lines may be at risk due to climate change events such as fires or excessive heating during extreme temperatures and high use.

### Interruptions in communications infrastructure.

Above-ground communication infrastructure (internet, phone, television, etc) is at risk to high temperatures, flooding, fires, and extreme storm events such as wind and precipitation. Interruptions may put communities at greater risk during extreme events due to lack of information from emergency service providers.

**Impacts to buildings.** Homes, essential service infrastructure, and businesses located in floodplains are at risk to damage from floods. With projections showing wildfire likely to increase in frequency, intensity, and distribution, homes in the wildland-urban interface are likely to be damaged.

## Recommendations for Resilient Built Systems

### Update and improve water and sewer infrastructure:

Water and sewer infrastructure must be designed to cope with bigger and more frequent storm events. In addition, updates to infrastructure by local utilities, state and local governments should consider projections for future population growth, including the likely influx of climate refugees. Storm water management should incorporate catchment from gutters, green rooftop designs, increased green space, and separate storm water and wastewater systems with new pipe systems and upgrades. For cities experiencing low flow impacts, grey water reuse and stronger water conservation policies should be deployed. In addition, water pricing may need to be considered in order to deal with shortages and provide capital investment for system upgrades. To diversify sources, providers can integrate groundwater as a supplemental supply source and conjunctive water management such as Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR).

**Identify critical infrastructure in floodplains and relocation needs.** Floodplain management plans need to consider the projected impacts of a changing climate, while agencies producing maps (such as FEMA) need to update maps for likely floodplain areas.

**Improve and safeguard transportation infrastructure.** ODOT should explore new paving technologies for transportation infrastructure that reduce the impacts of increased temperatures. Communities will need to plan for mixed-use zones, such as employment clusters and mass transit located near condensed residential areas, as well as integrated land use, transportation, and development codes. Cities will require improved mass public transit, such as with high-speed rail. New transportation infrastructure development will need to consider future floodplain conditions and rerouting of major roads to prevent flood damage. Some airports will also need to consider relocation of runways under future projections for flooding, particularly at the Portland International Airport.

**Improve energy efficiency, promote renewables, and protect building infrastructure:** Energy efficiency education and outreach programs must grow to reduce the strain on hydropower systems and the potential for black/brownouts. City energy codes need vigorous enforcement while encouraging more LEED certifications. Government buildings should act as an example by improving the energy efficiency of their buildings and purchasing renewables (wind, solar, etc) for the energy used.

**Identify back-up communication sources.** City and county emergency service providers, in collaboration with communications companies, should identify alternative sources of communication during times of emergency events

**Update land use codes to prevent flood and fire damage to infrastructure.** Planning strategies should consider potential impacts to communities by incorporating future flood, fire and population projections. Participants recommended that the Department of Land Conservation and Development as well as local and regional governments consider: increasing the density of cities prior to expanding the urban growth boundary to prevent further risk if the UGB is expanded to fire- or floodprone areas; employing disincentives for development in flood or fire prone areas; requiring individuals to reduce risk (such as flow-through design, or fire-suppression sprinkler systems) when development is allowed in flood or fire prone areas; and revising development policies to minimize impacts in sensitive areas, especially along floodplains and riparian areas.

**Promote compact housing and protect the urban growth boundary.** Limiting future growth and promoting compact housing reduces the strain on emergency services, assists in neighborhood cohesion during major events, and reduces dependency on transportation infrastructure. However, higher density living may require a cultural shift, as many western communities are not accustomed to compact living: some regions of the Willamette have faced pushback from residents regarding infill development.

<b>Built Systems</b>			
<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Co-Benefits</b>	<b>Mitigation Benefits</b>
Update and improve water and sewer infrastructure	Local government, utility providers	Prevents contamination of drinking water and ecosystems	Yes, if improves efficiency, lowers energy use
Identify critical infrastructure in floodplains and relocation needs.	State and local jurisdictions	Reduces risk to human health	
Improve and safeguard transportation infrastructure	Amtrak, ODOT, Portland International Airport, and the Federal Railroad Administration	Improves reliability of food delivery and economic stability	
Improve energy efficiency of buildings	Business owners, government, community organizations	Reduces utility costs, improves air and water quality, improves worker productivity, provides urban habitat	Yes
Identify back-up communication sources	Government (local and state), communication service providers	Improves reliability of emergency services during events	
Update land use codes to prevent damage to infrastructure	Department of Land Conservation and Development, local jurisdictions	Protects natural systems, improves water quality	
Promote compact housing and protect the urban growth boundary	Local jurisdictions	Strengthens local businesses, protects agricultural and timber land, reduces strain on emergency services, protects ecosystems, may reduce urban habitat	Yes

## Likely Impacts to Economic Systems

**Vulnerability of small businesses:** Compared to larger businesses, small businesses may face greater challenges in recovering from climate change events such as a flood or fire. Their limited supply and demand chain may be at risk from interruptions to transportation, resources, and infrastructure.

**Changes in food prices and agricultural crops.** Agriculture and food processing will likely incur higher expenses for managing drought, extreme precipitation events, higher temperatures, and increases in disease outbreaks. Food being imported from other regions may be sold at higher prices due to increases in management costs, while imported food may be at risk to transportation disruptions or disease. Locally grown food may be impacted by an increase in the frequency of extreme weather events, such as heat, flood, or cold. On the other hand, opportunities may emerge in the Willamette for crops tolerant of warmer climates.

**Changes in grape variety and yield.** Climate change will impact the region's wine production because of narrow varietal bands of temperature tolerance, and climate being one of the most significant factors in determining quality and style of wine. An increase in temperature may alter the types of wine grapes grown, quality of grapes, and profitability of the region.

**Shifts in timber species and productivity.** Climate change may alter the species of commercially viable trees that are able to grow in the region. Trees such as coastal and Douglas firs yield larger profits than other species. Projections show that climate change will favor the warmer species such as ponderosa pine and hardwoods.

**Shifts in tourism and recreation.** Climate change may impact recreational activities including wine tours, hot air ballooning, river rafting, camping, agri-tourism, among others. Reduced snowpack will impact the skiing industry; however, longer summers may allow for more summer recreational activities such as camping, water sports, and fishing (likely for different fish species).

**Interruptions to freight transportation.** Freight transportation is vulnerable to flooding and landslides: some roads are in floodplains and at the same time are old and deteriorating. Rail is also essential to the movement of freight. Rail lines in the Lower Willamette are vulnerable to icing during winter storms, high temperatures, and flooding;

disruptions in service due to these weather events lead to economic losses.

**Increasing insurance rates.** Insurance rates may rise as risks for floods and wildfires increase. Homes and businesses located in flood and fire prone areas may be impacted.

### **Impacts to health care:**

*Access:* Current healthcare infrastructure in the Lower is robust, but climate change may reduce access and availability to healthcare. Emergency management services may be stressed with increased populations, reducing the ability of the healthcare system to efficiently respond.

*Insurance:* As extreme events exacerbate the spread of disease, diminish air quality, and reduce the health resiliency of the population, health insurers and public programs such as Medicare and Medicaid will likely see increases in claims.

*Cost:* A number of risks associated with climate change are expected to increase the cost of healthcare in Oregon, including costs related to new diseases, increased respiratory ailments, increased incidence of water- and food-borne diseases, and decline in nutrition and sanitation.

*Unintended consequences:* While healthcare costs accumulate under changing climate conditions, secondary costs will also affect the Lower Willamette including reductions in workforce productivity, particularly for vulnerable individuals and outdoor workers.

## Recommendations for Resilient Economic Systems

**Diversify and promote risk management.** Economic diversification (functionality, size and scale) will support the economy to recover more easily from a disaster. Regional economic development agencies, Chambers of Commerce, or State economic development agencies can promote climate risk assessment, monitoring, and preparation for all businesses to improve their resilience.

**Research and invest in climate tolerant crops.** Growers may want to consider diversifying the crops they are growing, reassessing planting and harvesting seasons, and changing the scale of their harvesting. OSU-Extension and the State Department of Agriculture should invest in research on crops tolerant to higher temperatures and



drought. Growers and producers of food, nursery, grass seed, and wine grapes that are considering new crops should take into account climate change projections for warmer temperatures.

**Shift industrial forest management practices.**

Timber practices should focus on planting a diverse mix of species, increasing buffers to prevent disease and fire, and limiting clearcuts to prevent erosion and landslides.

**Plan for shifts in transportation of freight.**

City, state and regional planners should identify roads most vulnerable to landslides, flooding, and fire, and have a preparedness plan available of the safest and most cost-effective alternate routes for freight travel.

**Meet insurance requirements.**

Insurance prices will continue to rise as risks increase due to climate change events such floods and fires. Laws and building codes must be modified in order to discourage building on floodplains or in close proximity to the wildland-urban interface.

**Prepare health care**

*Education:* Increasing opportunities and incentives for individuals to join the primary care field will help prepare for an influx in population and associated health needs. Because the Lower Willamette already has a number of professional health institutions, there is an opportunity to build on existing institutions and programs. In particular, building the preventative care workforce now can reduce the economic strain on health care and insurance in the long run.

*Comparative risk assessments and health impact assessments:* Insurers, governments and local health providers should incorporate climate change preparedness into their long-term planning and needs assessments.

*Preventative healthcare:* Policymakers, educational institutions, and health providers should emphasize preventative healthcare strategies to manage future healthcare cost and access.

<b>Economic Systems</b>			
<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Co-Benefits</b>	<b>Mitigation Benefits</b>
Diversify and promote risk management	Regional economic development agencies, Chambers of Commerce, State economic development agencies, individual businesses	Strengthens local economy, increase job opportunities	
Research and invest in climate tolerant crops	OSU–Extension and the State Department of Agriculture, growers	Promotes diversity of species, may reduce impact on soils and water needs, maintains nutritional value of food	Possibly, if less water and fertilizer needed
Shift industrial forest management practices	ODF, Weyerhaeuser and other timber companies	May reduce development in some areas, may promote diversity of tree species, improve air quality	Yes
Plan for shifts in transportation of freight	City, state and regional planners, ODOT	Reduced impact on infrastructure, maintains local economy during events, ensures food and supply delivery	
Meet insurance requirements	Emergency managers, local jurisdictions, insurance agencies, homeowners, businesses	Reduce impact on floodplains	
Prepare health care for change	Insurance agencies, cities, counties, educational institutions, health providers, individuals		Possibly through prevention strategies.

## Likely Impacts to Human Systems

### **Amplified risks to vulnerable populations.**

Projected increases in storm intensity, flooding, and wildfire, may render residents with limited access to healthcare, transportation, and property insurance more vulnerable to disasters. Severe summer heat and changes in precipitation may leave those without access to air conditioning, limited food and water availability, and with inadequate access to healthcare vulnerable to disease.

### **Overwhelmed emergency response systems capacity.**

Projected increases in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, outbreaks of vector-borne disease, and extreme heat is likely to place greater stress on existing emergency response systems.

### **Inadequate individual response capacity.**

Individual and community emergency response capacity may not be adequate as emergency events increase in number and intensity. According to workshop participants, many residents in the region are not aware of emergency protocols or the availability of emergency resources.

**Food and water scarcity:** The projected frequency and severity of emergency events along with expected changes in global food supply leave the Lower Willamette vulnerable to food and water scarcity. Emergency food systems, particularly in rural areas, are already widely utilized under non-emergency situations, and the need for emergency food is increasing.

**Stressed social services:** The absence of care and support within communities may strain local and state social services as populations deal with the effects of climate change. Large and growing elderly and low-income populations in the region will further stress social services.

**Public safety concerns:** Hotter summers and increasingly extreme events may amplify local crime rates.

**Outdated education:** A lack of quick adaptability in education systems suggests that curricula may not be responsive to new climate change concepts and job requirements.

### **Public health concerns:**

**Reduced air quality:** Increased air pollutants (mold, ozone, pollen, haze, etc), in combination with the higher likelihood of forest fires, threaten the respiratory health of the population.

**Reduced water quality:** Projections for increased flooding and an increased number of extreme heat events threaten drinking water quality.

**Increased mental health concerns:** The stress of extreme climate events on a population can exacerbate already stressful lifestyles, especially with displacement and/or the loss of a home.

### **Disease outbreaks:**

- **Vector Borne Disease:** There are mixed projections about the spread of disease under climate change. Some studies and local experts suggest that areas that have been able to control diseases in the past will have a high likelihood of continuing to do so. Some local experts expect an increased threat of insects that carry disease in the area, such as mosquito-borne diseases like malaria, filariasis, dengue fever, yellow fever, and West Nile virus.
- **Water Borne Disease:** Disease outbreaks can occur when bacteria, viruses, and protozoa contaminate water. During the summer months, outbreaks of toxic blue-green algae can result in public health threats.
- **Food Borne Disease:** With both warmer temperatures and increased precipitation, food borne disease outbreaks may become more common. While the Lower Willamette may be impacted less by climate change compared to other regions of the United States, preparedness strategies are important to determine the potential for outbreaks as well as prepare for potential diseases that may arrive in imported food.

**Increased heat events:** Several consecutive days of temperatures of 90° F or higher, and unusually warm nighttime lows in the 60s and low 70s, can lead to heat illness for populations without access to air conditioning, well insulated homes, or cooling centers.

**Reduced access to healthcare:** Climate refugees are expected to increase in the Pacific Northwest including the Lower Willamette. With increased population levels, resources and trained healthcare providers will be stretched, as will hospital space, pharmaceuticals, and medicine.

**Cumulative impacts:** While emergency responders and healthcare providers are able to tend to the needs of the community currently, there is significant concern among some local experts that the increased need for healthcare under climate change conditions will stress public health systems beyond their capabilities.

## Recommendations for Resilient Human Systems

**Identify and build resiliency of vulnerable populations.** State and local health departments and social service providers should assess the scope and needs of vulnerable populations. Mechanisms to promote self-resiliency, resource conservation, and efficiency measures may reduce the vulnerability of low-income, elderly, and geographically marginalized (i.e. rural) populations in the region.

**Strengthen local social networks:** To alleviate potential stress on the region's social services, local governments and NGO's should work to strengthen local social networks through events and organizations to encourage community members to meet their neighbors and fortify networks of support.

**Improve community outreach systems:** Public, private and non-profit outreach should ensure the delivery of diverse, culturally sensitive, and multi-lingual resources to the public to convey the public health and economic benefits of adaptation.

**Increase capacity of emergency and social service response systems.** Emergency management plans and resources should be evaluated for climate resiliency and updated to address the specific risks of climate change by local and regional governments as well as nongovernmental organizations. Updated plans should incorporate coordinated, regional management and involve contiguous jurisdictions to craft response strategies, recognizing that disasters do not adhere to jurisdictional boundaries.

**Increase individual response capacity.** Local governments and community-based organizations can work with individuals and social networks to build the preparedness capacity of individuals, therefore reducing the strain on emergency services.

**Enhance local food security.** To prevent food scarcity during emergency events and in the face of changing global food production, the Lower Willamette should develop more resilient local food systems. Localities, working with nongovernmental organizations, can adopt measures to increase local food production for all seasons, opportunities for food preservation, reduce dependence on food imports, and decentralize food sources.

**Increase residential water conservation:** To minimize water scarcity during emergencies, localities should adopt policies to promote water

conservation. Education and incentive programs should be expanded to encourage water saving practices including leak repairs and the installation of high efficiency fixtures.

**Decentralize home and community water storage.** Localities should ensure access to adequate systems to disseminate emergency water storage information. Localities should reevaluate current regulation on greywater and rain catchment sources (see below). Information and installation assistance for on-site residential rainwater collection and storage systems should be provided by local water utilities and/or building departments. The Oregon Water Resources Department should consider these recommendations with state funding to local jurisdictions for implementation. However, caution should be taken as there are a number of public health and equity issues associated with decentralized systems.

**Revise job codes and education certificates system:** Oregon's system for updating job codes and certificates should be revised to more quickly adapt to address changing technologies and the skills required to meet the demands for green jobs. New jobs in installation and operation of distributed renewable technologies, energy and water efficiency installations, flood and fire management, and environmental restoration should be incorporated into state job codes and linked to public and private educational curricula, including high schools, community colleges and universities.

**Build ecological and climate literacy into the education system:** State and local education agencies should develop and incorporate standards for ecological and climate literacy, building from the standards developed by NOAA.

### **Preparing public health:**

*Action-oriented education:* Local and state officials should educate the public about health impacts resulting from climate change to reduce fear and panic, while building self-sufficiency to reduce public dependence on health services.

*Protect water quality:* Local and state agencies should focus on water quality protection against events associated with climate change including more stringent pesticide standards will improve water quality and reduce chemical runoff, increased monitoring of water systems particularly at peak weather events, and a reassessment of water systems to ensure they can handle increased amounts of water to reduce the threat of contamination.

*Expand mental health services:* Local and state health agencies should incorporate mental health trauma needs into emergency response systems so that service providers recognize and treat symptoms early before they are exacerbated.

*Air quality notification:* Local and state agencies should ensure that communities, particularly vulnerable populations, are effectively notified of poor air quality events.

*Disease outbreak monitoring:* Local governments must prepare for increased vector-borne, water-borne and food-borne disease by increasing monitoring, testing and public alert systems.

*Heat-wave alert systems and education for vulnerable populations:* Establishing warning and alert systems within communities will aid in spreading knowledge of extreme heat days.

*Promote preventative health:* Educating individuals on preventative health will create a population more resilient to disease. Encouraging regular doctor visits, exercise, and healthy living is important for strengthening the health of the community. Prevention will reduce risks to vulnerable populations and lower the economic and capacity strain on the public health sector.

<b>Human Systems</b>			
<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Co-Benefits</b>	<b>Mitigation Benefits</b>
Identify and build resiliency of vulnerable populations	State and local health departments, community organizations, social service providers	Reduced energy demand, less building in flood prone areas	Yes
Strengthen local social networks	Cities, neighborhood associations, churches, community-based organizations, etc.	Decrease long term disaster recovery costs	
Improve community outreach systems	Local jurisdictions, community organizations		
Increase capacity of emergency and social service response systems	Local jurisdictions, Red Cross, Salvation Army, schools, private companies (e.g. grocery and hardware stores) and faith-based organizations	Reduce long term disaster costs, reduce flood damage to infrastructure	
Increase individual response capacity	Local jurisdictions, emergency and social service providers	Reduce strain on emergency services	
Enhance local food security	Local jurisdictions, farmers markets and local food banks	Builds local economy, may provide habitat for pollinators	Possibly, if reduce food transportation emissions
Increase residential water conservation	Individuals, local jurisdictions, businesses, farmers	Protect natural water bodies, reduce impact on water infrastructure	Yes
Decentralize home and community water storage	Local jurisdiction, Oregon Water Resources Department, individuals, businesses, water providers, public health	Decrease strain on water infrastructure, may have health conflicts	Possibly, if reduce energy use for pumping and treating water
Revise job codes and education certificate system	State, high schools, community colleges and universities, businesses		
Build ecological and climate literacy into the education system	State and federal education departments	Builds support for resiliency initiatives	
Prepare public health	Public health providers, local jurisdictions, neighborhood associations, individuals	Increased activity (reduced obesity, chronic diseases), use of public transportation	Yes, for some preventative measures

## Likely Impacts to Cultural Systems

**Loss of traditional resources:** Natural resources, namely salmon, represent the cultural, social, nutritional and economic cornerstone of native communities in the Pacific Northwest. Salmon populations are especially affected by changes in temperature, precipitation, and aquatic environments.

**Deterioration or destruction of historical architecture:** Historical structures, buildings, and districts "worthy of cultural preservation" attract significant tourism revenue, provide opportunities for community education, and preserve regional heritage. Fragile building material and structures without foundations and structural support are threatened by increasing extreme weather events.

**Conflicts with climate refugees:** The region may experience an influx of refugees displaced by global climate change impacts. This could exacerbate cultural tension stemming from competing values and identities, scarce water and other resources, which may further strain social services. Currently, no research exists on likely population growth in the Willamette associated with climate change. Climate refugees with the financial means to immigrate to the area may also have the means and skills to contribute positively to the Willamette Valley economy.

**Environmental justice concerns:** While low-income, rural, and native populations may contribute less to anthropogenic climate change, they are the least likely to have the resources to prepare for impacts. Greater awareness of environmental justice issues may become a prevailing source of cultural tension in the Lower Willamette as these impacts manifest more severely.

## Recommendations for Resilient Cultural Systems

**Protect key resources for tribal communities:** Native communities may need to consider diversification of crops and livestock as well as changes in timing of harvest, hunting and gathering. This will support preparation for changes in temperature and precipitation patterns as well as loss of snowpack. Outreach on climate change impacts to tribal communities, particularly to livelihood resources and public health, can improve self-sufficiency and reduce strain on social and emergency services.

**Encourage resource conservation and energy independence in tribal areas.** Measures should be taken by tribal communities to encourage energy conservation in order to reduce dependency on unreliable hydropower systems. Technologies and programs to better inform the public about their consumption habits through energy monitors, water heater timers, and separate utility bills, may reduce the strain on resources. Cooperatives and resource sharing schemes may foster community connectivity while easing competition for resources. Policies involving scarce resources should encourage conservation movements with incentives, rather than restrictions and penalties. Policymakers can utilize these tools to take advantage of changing social values, while curbing governability issues and cultural tension.

**Prepare for increased human population.** Water, land use, and transportation planners should consider shifts in population and demographics. Population growth research and modeling by universities as well as state and local agencies should be expanded to consider potential climate change impacts. Planning commissions may need to re-examine urban growth boundaries and lot-size requirements in accord with increased population projections (see section above on land use planning).

**Proactively address current cultural tensions and prepare for new cultures:** Communities should address and mediate current cultural tension before climate change-related stressors and demographic changes exacerbate problems. In addition, equity and environmental justice issues must be addressed now with outreach and empowerment programs. Outreach programs should be tailored to marginalized and vulnerable populations, in multiple languages and through multiple streams of communication.

<b>Cultural Systems</b>			
<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Co-Benefits</b>	<b>Mitigation Benefits</b>
Protect key resources for tribal communities	Tribal communities, ODF, ODFW, USFS, USFWS	Improve nutritional health	Yes, if sequestration through planting or restoration
Encourage resource conservation and energy independence in tribal areas	Tribal communities, DOE, renewable energy providers	Reduce strain on utility infrastructure, improve air quality	Yes
Prepare for increased human population	Planners, universities	Reduces strain on infrastructure, builds local economy, reduces development in natural areas, reduces impact on health	Yes, if increase public/alternative transportation and density/walkability in planning
Proactively address current cultural tensions and prepare for new cultures	Local jurisdictions, community organizations		

2/2/11

MAYOR ADAMS, COMMISSIONERS, GOOD EVENING

MY NAME IS COREY LARNER 1527 SW 57<sup>TH</sup> AVE PORTLAND OREGON

I AM A LIFETIME RESIDENT OF PORTLAND AND AM HERE TONIGHT TO BECOME PART OF THE OFFICIAL RECORD OF TESTIMONY REGARDING THE CONSIDERATION OF THE NEW ---- TREE POLICY AND REGULATORY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT.

FIRST I WOULD LIKE TO COMMEND THE BUREAU OF PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY STAFF FOR ALL OF THEIR HARD WORK AND DILIGENT EFFORT IN CREATING THIS IN DEPTH AND EXTENSIVE REVIEW. I HAVE FOLLOWED THIS PROJECT FROM IT'S COMMENCEMENT AND CAN HONESTLY SAY HAVE READ ALL OF THE DRAFTS IN THEIR ENTIRETY.

THE INTENT OF THIS PROJECT AS I UNDERSTAND IT WAS TO STREAMLINE , CONSOLIDATE AND, OR IN LAYMAN'S TERMS MAKE OUR EXITING TREE CODE MORE USER FRIENDLY WHILE INCREASING OUR PRESENT URBAN TREE CANOPY BY AT LEAST 7 PERCENT. THIS IS AN EXTREMELY VALUABLE AND NECESSARY GOAL. UNFORTUNATELY, SOMEWHERE ALONG THE LINE STAFF LOST TRACK OF THAT SIMPLE INTENT OR GOAL. THE RESULT OF THAT CAN BE DEMONSTRATED SIMPLY BY VOLUME OF TEXT OR ADDITIONALLY IN COMPLEXITY AND DETAIL ONCE ONE BEGINS TO INGEST THE MOST RECENT DRAFT.

I HAVE EXPERIENCE IN UTILIZATION (PRESERVATION OPTION )OF THE PAST AND PRESENT TREE CODES IN THE CITY OF PORTLAND THROUGH THE LAND USE REVIEW PROCESS CREATING MULTIPLE SUBDIVISIONS. THE PRESENT CODE IS NOT A CASUAL ONCE OVER REVIEW. THIS REVIEW IS A SITE SPECIFIC AS WELL AS A TREE SPECIFIC ANALYSIS THAT REQUIRES THE USE OF CERTIFIED ARBORISTS AND ENGINEERS WHO WORK CLOSELY TOGETHER WITH THE CITY STAFF TO ESTABLISH AND CREATE A SENSIBLE DEVELOPMENT. THIS PROCESS WORKS TO AVOID UNNECESSARY LOSS OF VALUABLE TREE INVENTORY AND ALSO TO CREATE A SENSIBLE MITIGATION OR COMPENSATION PLAN OF REPLANTING. THE APPLICATION OF THIS CODE AND UTILIZATION OF THE PRESERVATION OPTION IS AT TIMES DIFFICULT TO MEET ESPECIALLY ON SMALLER SITES, BUT NORMALLY RESULTS IN APPROPRIATE DEVELOPMENT; A BALANCE IF YOU WILL .

CAN THIS PROCESS BE IMPROVED UPON ???? OF COURSE IT CAN; BUT PLEASE KEEP IN MIND THE INTENT OF STAFF WAS TO INCREASE TREE CANOPY IN THE CITY BY 7%, WHILE @ THE SAME TIME STREAMLINING, CONSOLIDATING AND SIMPLIFYING THE EXISTING TREE REGULATIONS. ADDITIONALLY GOALS OF EQUITY AND CLARITY WERE INTENDED.

THIS CLEARLY HAS NOT HAPPENED. THIS DOCUMENT, AS WELL OF ALL OF US ARE HERE TONIGHT ARE HERE WAY TO PREMATURELY. I DO NOT WISH TO STAND HERE AND DEMONSTRATE THE LUDICROUS AND RIDICULOUS LEVEL OF “OVER-GOVERNING” CONTAINED IN THIS PROPOSAL. I DO BELIEVE THAT OTHERS AND THE DOCUMENT ITSELF WILL DO THIS ON THEIR OWN.

WHAT I AM FEARFUL COULD TRANSPIRE IF ADOPTED IN IT’S PRESENT FORMAT IS A BACKLASH OF SORTS IN PORTLAND. I BELIEVE THE ADVERSE OF THE INTENT OF PROPOSED CODE COULD OCCUR COMPLETELY DECIMATING WHAT WAS SET OUT TO ACCOMPLISH. LET ME EXPLAIN; THE INTENT IS TO INCREASE TREE CANOPY...RIGHT ? WELL IF THE PUBLIC MISCONSTRUES THEIR INTENT OR TONE YOU ARE AT RISK OF AN OVERALL LOSS OF TREE CANOPY. “IF I PLANT A TREES NOW, BUT CAN’T PRUNE OR REMOVE THEM LATER WITHOUT THE GOVERNMENT’S INVOLVEMENT AND A COST TO ME, WHY PLANT AT ALL? “

OR

IF THE TONE INFERS THAT WE AS PROPERTY OWNERS ARE NOT SOPHISTICATED ENOUGH TO MAKE DECISIONS THAT WE INTERPRET AS PROPERTY OWNERS RIGHTS, YOU HAVE SUCCESSFULLY ALIENATED AND CREATED A CONTENTIOUS RELATIONSHIP WITH WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN AN ALLY. EVEN WORSE; WHAT ABOUT THOSE INDIVIDUALS THAT PANIC AND REMOVE TREES OUT OF FEAR FROM FUTURE RESTRICTIONS REGULATING TREES ON THEIR PROPERTY ? LOSS OF CANOPY THROUGH LACK OF SENSIBLE GOVERNMENT

WITHOUT QUESTION THERE IS A MUCH BETTER WAY TO ACHIEVE THE GOALS OF INCREASED TREE CANOPY WHILE ALSO STREAMLINING PRESENT CODE. IT STARTS WITH THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC TO THE BENEFITS OF CANOPY INCREASE WHILE OFFERING THEM INCENTIVES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PLANTING OF TREES. IT IS A MUCH LESS OPPRESSIVE APPROACH TO GOVERNMENT TO USE NON- REGULATORY METHODS AND CREATE A PARTNERSHIP WORKING TOGETHER TOWARDS COMMON GOALS.



TREES ARE A MAJOR PART OF OUR IDENTITY HERE IN PORTLAND. THEY ARE A DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTIC OF OUR CITY AND MUST BE REGULATED, BUT THEY MUST BE REGULATED SENSIBLY. OUR LONG RANGE PLANNING GOALS AND PROJECTIONS ARE OFTEN 50 YEARS INTO THE FUTURE . IS IT ALSO NOT FEASIBLE TO UNDERSTAND WHAT A 50 YEAR GROWTH CYCLE OF TREES HERE IN THE NORTHWEST CONSISTS OF... AND TO CREATE CODE THAT RECOGNIZES THAT AND PLANS APPROPRIATELY ? WE NEED TO BE CAREFUL TO GOVERN IN SUCH A FASHION THAT RECOGNIZES TREES AS A PART OF OUR IDENTITY AND NOT OUR SOLE IDENTITY, WHILE ALSO ACKNOWLEDGING OTHER FUNDAMENTAL PROPERTY OWNERS RIGHTS. TREES CAN NOT BECOME THE SOLE AGENDA OF OUR CITY BECAUSE THAT LACKS BALANCE.

TONIGHT TO EVEN BE ENTERTAINING THIS REGULATORY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT IS WRONG. THIS DOCUMENT NEEDS TO BE REFINED , MODIFIED AND STAFF NEEDS TO ACCOMPLISH WHAT THEY WERE COMMISSIONED TO DO; WHICH WAS TO STREAMLINE, CONSOLIDATE AND SIMPLIFY THE EXISTING TREE REGULATIONS. PLANNING COMMISSION THOUGH INVOLVED AS PART OF THE PROCESS ,ONLY VOTED ON CONCEPTUAL IDEAS AND DIRECTION PROVIDED BY BPS STAFF. THE ACTUAL CODE VERBIAGE IN PRESENT FORM WAS NEVER PRESENTED TO THEM. THIS ALONE IS A GROSS PROCEDURAL ERROR AND MUST BE ACKNOWLEDGED AND CORRECTED. WHEN COUNCIL VOTES IN SUPPORT OF SOMETHING THAT IT IS READY AND IT BECOMES CODE, AN INTERESTING THING OCCURS, THAT VOTE HAS NOW CREATED WHAT IS KNOW AS THE"APPLICABLE CRITERIA". AT THIS TIME NO LONGER IS THERE ANY DISCUSSION OR CONSIDERATION OF COMMON SENSE OR PRACTICALITY WHEN UTILIZING AND APPLYING CODE. THIS WAS TO OCCUR DURING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CODE AND NOW WE ARE ONLY ENTERTAINING THE APPLICABLE CRITERIA. IF WE ARE TO ABANDON COMMON SENSE AND PRACTICALITY WHILE WE ARE CREATING CODE, WHAT TOOLS ARE WE LEFT TO GOVERN WITH ?

AS ELECTED OFFICIALS I KNOW YOU UNDERSTAND IT IS NOT YOUR JOB TO APPEASE EVERY VOICE AND CERTAINLY NOT THE LOUDEST ONE. IT IS OF COURSE PRUDENT TO PROCESS EVERY VOICE AND ACT UNDER WHAT APPEARS TO BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CITY. IT CERTAINLY IS NOT IN THE BEST INTEREST OF OUR CITY TO APPROVE SOMETHING THAT LACKS CLARITY, DIRECTION AND HAS A CORRELATION BETWEEN... WHAT PROBLEM WE ARE TRYING TO SOLVE AND A SPECIFIC REGULATION. ADDITIONALLY LET'S NOT IGNORE THE PRESENT ECONOMIC CLIMATE ..THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM...HOW DOES ANYONE PROPOSE TO PAY FOR A CODE IF APPROVED IN THE PRESENT FORMAT WHEN WE SIMPLY AFFORD IT. CAN WE CONSCIOUSLY ENTERTAIN BDS HAVING TO ADMINISTER THIS PROPOSAL UNDER PRESENT STAFFING CONSTRAINTS AND BUDGET LIMITATIONS ? I WOULD AGAIN LIKE TO USE THE WORD SENSIBLE !

AS COUNCIL OF OUR GREAT CITY IT IS YOUR JOB AND I IMPORE YOU TO DO IT... TO TABLE THIS PROPOSAL AND SEND IT BACK TO THE BUREAU OF PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILTY FOR REFINEMENT, CONSOLIDATION AND MODIFICATION. ONCE THAT OCCURS AND THE GOAL OF A MORE USER FRIENDLY CODE IS PRODUCED COUNCIL WILL BE IN A POSITION TO INTERPRET IT'S VALIDITY AND VOTE ON IT.

City Wide Tree Project before City Council 2/2/11

6pm Council Chambers @ City Hall 1221 SW 4<sup>th</sup> AVE

Hi my name is Patricia and this is my neighbor and friend Patty. We live in SE Portland on Market St off of 20<sup>th</sup> across from an undeveloped lot. The owner of the property is a developer. The developer met with the Bureau of Development Services in late October of 2009 inquiring about the proposed development for this site. He was informed at that time of the requirement for tree preservation. However, he decided to disregard this requirement and on Saturday Dec, 12<sup>th</sup> 2009 he cleared the lot of almost all vegetation that included a stand of 13 trees, one of which was a Douglas Fir that was 18" in diameter, a large Red Maple 24" in diameter, and many unknown species. I wasn't sure who to call or what to do. My gut told me that what this developer was doing wasn't right. So immediately I got on the City's web site for the Urban Forestry Division for answers. However, it was so confusing and I wasn't able to make heads or tails of the policies, regulations, or possibly what I could do next. In a matter of hours all 13 trees were gone.

I was able to save a few tree stumps and gather some of the tree leaves. Over the next few days the developer had the tree stumps ground down and the leaves raked and cleared. There was no evidence that there had ever been trees on this site. I left a message that Saturday for the Urban Forestry Division, as no one works on Saturday for emergencies or anything. Charlie Davis from the UFD showed up to the site the following Monday in the AM. Unfortunately, we did not save more of the other tree stumps or leaves for identification. The developer has been pleading since that he was unaware of the need for a permit and that the Douglas Fir was unhealthy and had to be removed anyway, and we ask why did he then remove the 12 other trees, especially since he told us that he is not planning on developing the property for 2 more years? That's 2 more years we could have enjoyed the many benefits of these trees and not having to look at a barren lot! In addition we have discovered from the aid of the Douglas Fir tree stump, photos, and professionals that the tree was not diseased.

The Urban Forestry Division placed the value for the 2 identifiable trees at \$24,000. The developer's fine was set at \$13,200. and a mitigation plan for tree replacement and the contractors fine was \$1,000. Eventually the developer's fine was reduced to \$6,000. and the mitigation plan was waived in lieu of the \$6,000 he paid. The contractor paid \$500. We were told the reduced fines were based on the fact that this was their first offense. Our question, how many times does it take for a developer to offend before fines are enforced that matter. The city has set standards so this shouldn't happen, but yet they don't enforce fines that make a difference that curtail and discourage this sort of thing from happening. There needs to be a limit to how much the fines can be reduced. The penalties need to make a difference! We feel a landscape contractor doing business in the city of Portland should be aware of the rules and regulations before the work begins. If a permit is needed, they should have asked to see a permit for the work.

We feel that the Bureau of Dev. Services is basically condoning the developer's unethical behavior as they state that there are no trees on the site to preserve so therefore, the developer can move forward with his plans without tree preservation. The Urban Forestry

Division also is condoning his actions by reducing the fine so greatly. We have also been informed that this sort of thing with development in the city of Portland is not unusual and happens frequently. It is hard to believe these city employees are residents of the City of Portland and are acting on behalf of its citizens.

We are pleased with the hard work and the changes that the City Wide Tree Project is proposing regarding regulatory improvements, and wish for them to be adopted as soon as humanly possible. The benefits we see from these improvements are many. For one thing it should help to decrease the confusion for lay people that might face a situation such as ours, and hopefully it will bring greater intolerance for those pleading ignorance on the backend, as the regulations will be clearly stated for everyone, and we are hopeful that this will make it easier to enforce penalties that will make a difference and deter folks from behaving in such a fashion as the developer we encountered in our neighborhood.

With all this said, we still feel that there is an important piece missing from the City Wide Tree Project plan, and that is some sort of forum for neighbors such as ourselves to appeal to an impartial party. It is our opinion that the City's current process regarding final decisions of trees and their removal, and the fines implemented has failed the people that really matter, and those are the people that live in the city. As it stands now, one governing body and possibly only one person within that governing body makes these final decisions and this happens without a public hearing or the approval of a council or commission. It's unfortunate that these decisions are made that affect an entire neighborhood and the neighborhood is silenced! The public needs to have a voice when they disagree with decisions that are made in their neighborhoods.

We do not feel that the Urban Forestry Division is that impartial forum we are referring to, and with all due respect we also do not feel that The Urban Forestry Commission is either, ~~as a few of the same members of the Urban Forestry Division are also members of the~~ Commission and this does not equal impartiality to the public. We do feel the Portland Bureau of Development Services is a powerful agency that seems to be able to control decisions to its benefit by pressuring other departments to streamline the existing rules and regulations in favor of development. We also feel many citizens do not bother to appeal any development process because there is no city liaison to advise them on their behalf.

City Council please implement: An impartial public appeal process for decisions that are made by the City of Portland that currently excludes our citizens, it is important to approve the emergency line for tree removal concerns, implement a way to look up on-line to check if someone has a permit to cut, we agree with fines that truly matches the value of the trees removed, and we believe that this should include monetary value, and also a mediation plan for tree replacement on the site or somewhere in the City, and no backing down for first offenders.

One last thing.... We would like our experience and this testimony to go on record as a statistic with the Portland City Council.

Thank you all for your time and consideration in this matter,

Patricia Kozak, Patricia Schnabel, and the neighbors of SE 20<sup>th</sup> and Market

TREES ON SE 20<sup>th</sup> + MARKET BEFORE CLEARING (2008)  
(View From Market St.)

184522



From PATRICIA KOZAK + Patty Schnabel

X 31-35 yr. old Douglas Fir Tree on Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> 2009 (Day of illegal tree cutting)

2 of 3



184522

From Patricia Kozak & Pally Schnabel

VIEW From SE Market St. after trees were almost cleared.



184522



From PATRICIA Kozuk & Patty schnabel