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Planning and Sustainability Commission
City of Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability
1900 SW 4th Ave, Suite 7100, Portland, OR 97201

Dear Commissioners:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is submitting this testimony on the City of Portland's June 2016 draft of the Central City 2035 Plan (Plan). The Plan will become part of Portland's Comprehensive Plan and will include goals, policies and zoning codes for land use decisions in the Central City area. We wanted to go on record with our support for the many elements included in the plan that will help to conserve fish and wildlife and their habitats, provide places for Portland's diverse urban communities to access and experience nature, and promote climate change resiliency. The following are a few examples of the policies leading to zoning codes in the draft Plan that address fish and wildlife conservation:

Policy 1.3 Center of urban innovation. Strengthen the role and stature of the Central City as a laboratory and showcase for innovative urban development and as a regional leader in the development of businesses related to clean technology, green practices and design, and resource conservation.

Policy 4.6 Watershed health and native species recovery. This policy addresses watershed health, threatened, endangered and at risk species and floodplains, and is followed by associated policies specific to Central City districts adjacent to the Willamette River.

Policy 6.4. Green infrastructure. Increase the use of trees, ecoroofs, vertical gardens, sustainable site development, landscaped setbacks and courtyards, living walls and other vegetated facilities to manage stormwater, improve the pedestrian environment, reduce heat island effects, improve air and water quality and create habitat for birds and pollinators.


Policy 6.8. Upland habitat connections. Create an upland wildlife habitat corridor using trees, native vegetation in landscaping, public open spaces, ecoroofs, and bird-safe building design and practices that provide a safe, functional connection for avian and pollinator species between the West Hills, Mt. Tabor, Powell Butte, Rocky Butte and the Willamette River.

Policy 6.13. Bird and wildlife-safe development. Encourage bird-friendly building and lighting design and management practices to reduce hazards to resident and migrating birds, fish and other wildlife species.

We are especially pleased to note that the bird-safe building design elements in the Plan are examples of the City's on-going commitment to the conservation of migratory birds. This year marks the 13th year of the Urban Conservation Treaty for Migratory Birds (Treaty) partnership between the Service and the City of Portland. Nationally, and in the City of Portland's 2011 Bird Agenda, it is recognized that bird strikes with windows and night lighting are significant concerns for bird populations. As promised in Resolution No. 37034, the City is continuing to incorporate bird-friendly design and practices into its plans and policies. This is a meaningful example of important fish and wildlife conservation opportunities that exist in urban areas. The outcome will be showcased in the City's "Center of Urban Innovation" (see policy 1.3 above), serving as a model to help educate others and pave the way for similar efforts in cities across the nation. We encourage the City's application of the Bird-Safe Exterior Glazing (33.510.223) and Exterior Lighting (33.510.253.E.5.h.) standards wherever birds and other wildlife may benefit.

We are proud to have the City as one of our nation's Treaty partners, and appreciate your efforts to conserve fish and wildlife and their habitats. Feel free to contact Jennifer Thompson at (503) 231-6179 or Jennifer_Thompson@fws.gov if you have any questions or comments on our testimony.

Sincerely,



Paul Henson, Ph.D.
State Supervisor