

Memorandum



October 28, 2015

To: Community Advisory Committee
Cc: Project Team
From: Rithy Khut, Land Use Planner
Re: Goal 5 Policy Recommendations

POLICY DEVELOPMENT HISTORY

This memo presents proposed policies and strategies related to protection of riparian corridors, wetlands, and wildlife habitat that are being recommended by the Air, Land, Water, Wildlife and Hazards Subcommittee. The subcommittee discussed these policy topics at its September 2nd and 23rd meetings. The subcommittee was supportive of adding policy language and strategies that directed the County to add riparian areas and corridors, wetlands and wildlife habitat to the County's natural resource inventories and subject to SEC overlay zone protections. The subcommittee was also supportive of having the County conduct Economic, Social, Environmental, and Energy analyses for those added resources, if required.

RECOMMENDED AIR, LAND, WATER, WILDLIFE AND HAZARDS POLICY

GENERAL GOAL 5 POLICY

Policy: Review Goal 5 inventories and programs periodically in order to consider any new data and, if necessary, initiate amendments to the inventories and protection programs.

RIPARIAN CORRIDORS AND WETLANDS POLICIES

Policy 1: Designate as areas of Significant Environmental Concern, those water areas and adjacent riparian areas, streams, wetlands and watersheds that warrant designation as a protected Goal 5 resource or have special public value in terms of the following:

- A. Economic value, including ecosystem services value (the benefits people derive from ecosystems, including but not limited to: nutrient recycling, air purification, climate regulation, carbon sequestration, water purification, food, temperature regulation and aesthetic experience);
- B. Natural area value (areas valued for their fragile character as habitats for plant, animal or aquatic life, or having a state or federally listed plant or animal species);
- C. Recreation value, where compatible with underlying natural area value;
- D. Educational research value (ecologically and scientifically significant lands), or;
- E. Public safety (municipal water supply watersheds, water quality, flood water storage areas, vegetation necessary to stabilize river banks and slopes)

Strategies:

- A. Maintain inventories and continue to protect all significant riparian corridors and wetlands in accordance with applicable ESEE Analysis Reports.
- B. Update the inventory of riparian corridors, including water areas and adjacent riparian areas, to include significant riparian corridors identified in Metro's Urban Growth Management Functional Plan Title 13, Nature in Neighborhoods inventory within unincorporated Multnomah County.
- C. As appropriate, rely upon the findings contained within Metro's analysis of "Economic, Social, Environmental and Energy" (ESEE) consequences to apply the Significant Environmental Concern overlay for streams (SEC-s) to riparian corridors that have been added to the updated inventory.
- D. Utilize the Statewide Wetlands Inventory (SWI) to identify the location of wetlands within the County.
- E. Update the County's wetland protection program to comply with Goal 5 safe harbor criteria and Oregon Department of State Lands (DSL) requirements.
- F. In addition to safe harbor protection program criteria, apply the Significant Environmental Concern overlay (SEC-w) to significant wetlands located on Sauvie Island and Multnomah Channel as required by the Wetlands Inventory/ESEE analysis conducted in 1988 and as adopted by Ordinance 801 or as revised by any subsequent ESEE analysis.

Policy 2: Periodically review and consider any new data to update, adjust and more accurately show riparian corridor centerlines.

Policy 3: Work with State and local agencies, Soil and Water Conservation Districts and other public and private conservation groups to:

- A. Educate people about best management practices to protect streams, wetlands, headwaters and watersheds.
- B. Incorporate headwaters management strategies into County planning activities with the understanding of the importance of headwaters and their critical ecosystem role.

Policy 4: Update erosion and stormwater management regulations to include Low Impact Development (LID) standards to reduce the impact of built areas, promote the natural movement of water within an ecosystem and better protect riparian areas, streams, wetlands and watersheds.

WILDLIFE HABITAT POLICIES

Policy 1: Designate as areas of Significant Environmental Concern, those habitat areas that warrant designation as a protected Goal 5 resource or have special public value in terms of the following:

- A. Economic value, including ecosystem services value (the benefits people derive from ecosystems, including but not limited to: nutrient recycling, air purification, climate regulation, carbon sequestration, water purification, food, temperature regulation and aesthetic experience);
- B. Natural area value (areas valued for their fragile character as habitats for plant, animal or aquatic life, or having a state or federally listed plant or animal species);
- C. Recreation value, where compatible with underlying natural area value;
- D. Educational research value (ecologically and scientifically significant lands), or;
- E. Public safety (municipal water supply watersheds, water quality, flood water storage areas, vegetation necessary to stabilize river banks and slopes)

Strategies:

- A. Maintain inventories and continue to protect all significant wildlife habitats in accordance with applicable ESEE Analysis Reports.
- B. Periodically review and consider any new data to update significant wildlife habitats.
- C. Update the inventory of wildlife habitat and associated wildlife corridors in accordance with Statewide Planning Goal 5.
 - 1. Designate wildlife habitat and corridors mapped by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife as significant.
- D. Conduct an analysis of “Economic, Social, Environmental and Energy” (ESEE) consequences on wildlife habitat that has been added to the inventory.
 - 1. If warranted by an ESEE analysis, apply the Significant Environmental Concern overlay for wildlife habitat (SEC-h) to any newly identified significant wildlife habitat.

Policy 2: Work with State and local agencies, Soil and Water Conservation Districts and other public and private conservation groups to protect high value habitat such as, but not limited to, oak woodlands and old growth forests.

Policy 3: Work with and coordinate with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and local Soil and Water Conservation Districts to administer the Wildlife Habitat tax deferral program for lands that are eligible by administrative rule or statute.

Policy 4: Encourage voluntary conservation efforts such as conservation easements and community-based restoration projects that complement Multnomah County’s Goal 5 (Natural Cultural Resources) and Goal 15 (Willamette River Greenway) regulatory programs, and if possible, extend the Wildlife Habitat tax deferral to all lands that are eligible by administrative rule or statute within the County. (Taken from the SIMC plan and expanded to include all eligible lands within the county)

Policy 5: Explore amendments to the Significant Environmental Concern overlay for wildlife habitat (SEC-h) to limit the size and building footprint of houses in order to minimize harm to wildlife habitat in significant habitat areas.