

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN POLICIES PERTAINING TO WETLANDS, RIPARIAN AREAS AND WILDLIFE HABITAT

WETLANDS AND RIPARIAN AREAS POLICIES

Policy 5.18 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:

1. 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);
2. Natural area value (areas valued as habitats for plant, animal or aquatic life, or having a state or federally listed plant or animal species);
3. Recreation value, where compatible with underlying natural area value;
4. Educational research value (ecologically and scientifically significant lands), or;
5. Public safety (municipal water supply watersheds, water quality, flood water storage areas, vegetation necessary to stabilize river banks and slopes).

Strategy 5.18-1: Maintain inventories and continue to protect all significant riparian corridors and wetlands in accordance with applicable ESEE analysis reports.

Strategy 5.18-2: 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.

Strategy 5.18-3: 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.

Strategy 5.18-4: Utilize the Statewide Wetlands Inventory (SWI) to identify the location of wetlands within the County.

Strategy 5.18-5: Update the County's wetland protection program to comply with Goal 5 safe harbor criteria and Oregon Department of State Lands (DSL) requirements.

Strategy 5.18-6: Periodically review and consider new data to update the inventory of significant wetlands and riparian corridors.

Policy 5.19 Periodically review and consider any new data to update, adjust, and more accurately show riparian corridor centerlines.

Policy 5.20 Promote creation of cooperative property owner organizations for the protection of individual streams and their watersheds.

Strategy 5.20-1: Encourage these and other organizations, including Soil and Water Conservation Districts, to provide technical assistance and information regarding financial resources to people about best management practices necessary to protect streams and adjoining riparian habitat.

Policy 5.21 Provide incentives through the Zoning Code for new development to be compatible with, and enhance, significant streams and adjoining riparian habitat.

Policy 5.22 Support and promote enforcement of existing stream protection standards in the Forest Practices Act. Multnomah County Comprehensive Plan Natural Resources

Strategy 5.22-1: Seek changes to the Forest Practices Act when necessary to better protect stream water quality.

Policy 5.23 Promote cooperation with owners throughout the entire watershed, regardless of jurisdictional lines.

Strategy 5.23-1: Work cooperatively with the local Soil and Water Conservation Districts and other interested parties in efforts to promote watershed health throughout the entire watershed.

Policy 5.24 Balance protection of significant streams with flexibility of use by property owners.

Strategy 5.24-1: Provide incentives to encourage development to be compatible with significant streams.

Strategy 5.24-2: Consider additional streams for significance and protection if requested by a property owner or other interested party.

Policy 5.25 Although a wetland area may not meet the County criteria for the designation “Significant,” the resource may still be of sufficient importance to be protected by State and Federal agencies.

FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT POLICIES

Policy 5.26 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:

1. 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);
2. Natural area value (areas valued as habitats for plant, animal or aquatic life, or having a state or federally listed plant or animal species);
3. Recreation value, where compatible with underlying natural area value;
4. Educational research value (ecologically and scientifically significant lands), or;
5. Public safety (municipal water supply watersheds, water quality, flood water storage areas, vegetation necessary to stabilize river banks and slopes).

Strategy 5.26-1: Maintain inventories and continue to protect all significant wildlife habitats in accordance with applicable ESEE analysis reports.

Strategy 5.26-2: Periodically review and consider any new data to update the inventory of significant wildlife habitats.

Strategy 5.26-3: Update the inventory of wildlife habitat and associated wildlife corridors in accordance with Statewide Planning Goal 5.

Strategy 5.26-4: Designate wildlife habitat and corridors mapped by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife as significant.

Strategy 5.26-5: Conduct an analysis of “Economic, Social, Environmental, and Energy” (ESEE) consequences on wildlife habitat that has been added to the inventory.

Strategy 5.26-6: 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 5.27 Protect significant native fish and wildlife habitat and wildlife corridors and specifically limit conflicting uses within these habitats and sensitive big game winter habitat areas.

Strategy 5.27-1: Utilize local and regional scientific information to identify significant native fish and wildlife habitat areas and wildlife corridors. If necessary, supplement this information with additional science-based analysis to identify additional significant habitat areas and corridors.

Strategy 5.27-2: Provide information through various existing programs to the community about how wildlife habitat can co-exist with other uses on private property.

Strategy 5.27-3: Work with the Oregon Department of Forestry to better protect wildlife habitat from the negative impacts associated with timber harvesting.

Strategy 5.27-4: Direct the Multnomah County Vector Control staff to coordinate with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, using that agency’s map of sensitive areas and their Vector Control Guidance for Sensitive Areas to identify important habitat for sensitive species like red-legged frogs and native turtles where an altered protocol should be used. The County’s vector control staff is encouraged to act as a resource in efforts to educate and collaborate with landowners about natural means of mosquito control.

Policy 5.28 Establish a Wildlife Advisory Committee to advise the County about matters under its jurisdiction and control that may affect wildlife.

Policy 5.29 Develop and implement a bird-friendly building policy for new buildings.

Strategy 5.29-1: Review Portland’s Green Building Design Guidelines and other sources for appropriate building requirements. 5.30 Encourage and promote bird-friendly building practices.

Policy 5.30 Encourage and promote bird-friendly building practices.

Strategy 5.30-1: Develop or procure educational materials about bird-friendly building design, construction, and management, and make those materials available to development applicants.

Policy 5.31 Protect significant forested wildlife habitat areas through large-lot zoning and educational programs.

Strategy 5.31-1: Provide information through various existing programs to the community about how wildlife habitat can co-exist with other uses on private property.

Strategy 5.31-2: Work with the Oregon Department of Forestry to better protect wildlife habitat from the negative impacts associated with timber harvesting.

Strategy 5.31-3: Work cooperatively with the local Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service to develop a public education and assistance program which informs landowners, including farmers, on how they can manage their properties to best protect wildlife habitat while continuing to make productive economic use of their land.

Policy 5.32 Provide incentives through the zoning code for new development to be compatible with and to enhance wildlife habitat.

Policy 5.33 Balance protection of wildlife habitat with flexibility of use by property owners.

Strategy 5.33-1: Enforce existing animal control restrictions on free-ranging domestic pets which can have a negative impact on wildlife.

Strategy 5.33-2: In significant wildlife habitat areas, encourage fencing which allows wildlife to pass through.

Strategy 5.33-3: Encourage clustering of development to minimize conflicts with wildlife.

Strategy 5.33-4: Where possible, streamline and simplify the Multnomah County Code to provide and encourage fish and wildlife habitat restoration and enhancement projects on public and private lands conducted by natural resource public agencies such as Metro, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Policy 5.34 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, bottomland cottonwood/ash forests, and old growth forests.

Policy 5.35 Work with and coordinate with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), local Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and other agencies or organizations authorized by the State to administer the Wildlife Habitat tax deferral programs for lands that are eligible by administrative rule or statute.

Policy 5.36 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.

Policy 5.37 Encourage educational programs regarding the maintenance and restoration of wildlife habitat, including programs addressing:

1. Maintenance and restoration of wildlife corridors.
2. Restoration and enhancement of wetlands, riparian areas, and grasslands.
3. Planting of native vegetation hedgerows.
4. Conserving Oregon white oak habitat and bottomland cottonwood/ash forests.
5. Use of wildlife-friendly fencing.