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Submitted values are:

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Testimony:

The pictures below are of the Roosevelt elk herd that resides on Metro's McCarthy Creek land holding off of McNamee Road. In these pictures, which were taken on April 15th, 2018, you can see Metro's blue property marker behind the elk. The elk emerged from Metro's McCarthy Creek forest just moments before these photos were taken.

These pictures, as well as so many others of local wildlife that have previously been submitted to county planners and commissioners, illustrate how the McCarthy creek zoning code of SEC-h (Significant Environmental Concern - Wildlife Habitat) should not be questioned. Metro's land is prime elk habitat. The herd calves here annually and is present in and around McCarthy Creek for the majority of each year.

In addition, Metro's McCarthy Creek land is home to many other species, such as coyote and bobcat. Both black bear and cougar have also been spotted just off of McNamee Road within the last year and a half.

Unfortunately, no one in Metro's employment, in ODFW, or in the Multnomah County Planning office understands how wildlife uses this land as well as local residents do. It is simply not possible for "outside" observers, even those who spend multiple days in a row on the McCarthy Creek land, to have a holistic, decades-long understanding of how fundamental this acreage is to the life cycle of, in particular, these Roosevelt elk.

I personally have lived next to Metro's McCarthy Creek land for three and a half years. Our closest neighbor, Larry Luethe, has lived here for seventy years. In the short time my family has lived here, my children, husband and I have seen these animals on a regular basis, observed their annual feeding, sleeping and calving behaviors from afar, and done our utmost to not disturb them. Larry Luethe, and his wife, Laura, have decades more observations under their belts, and have confirmed multiple times that the calving/feeding/migration behaviors we have witnessed since moving in is typical of this herd. The one exception to the norm was a period of time when the elk abandoned the McCarthy Creek habitat for approximately ten months. The abandonment directly correlated with an increase of trail maintenance, spraying, and native re-planting activities performed by Metro employees and contractors.

Thank you, once again, for your time and careful consideration of the various sides to this issue. My sincere hope is that your final judgement is one that protects Oregon's precious wildlife, who enjoy very few protections, rather than Oregon's outdoor enthusiasts, who have a plethora of beautiful natural areas to enjoy and the means to travel in order to do so.

Lindsey Laughlin

Attachment 1: https://multco.us/sites/default/files/webform/IMG_1477.jpg
Attachment 2: https://multco.us/sites/default/files/webform/IMG_1485.jpg
Attachment 3:



