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Form submission from: Comment Form

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To: kevin.c.cook@multco.us

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Submitted values are:

Name: Owen Rodabaugh
Address: 16500 SW Myrtle Ave. Portland, OR 97224
Email: owen.rodabaugh@gmail.com
Testimony:
I write to you to ask that you approve the North Tualatin Mountains Access Master Plan. It will be good for conservation and recreation in the county.

Metro has a strong record of conservation and throughout the planning process they have taken an approach based in science and shaped by community input that ensures healthy habitats and provides meaningful experiences. Now they are recommending trails optimized for off-road cycling to meet the existing and growing demand for this type of nature based recreation. Providing a variety of ways for people to experience nature can only increase how much those people value it and want to see it conserved.

Off-road cycling is experiencing significant growth nationwide and the Portland metro area has been very slow to create high quality off opportunities close to home. Individuals and families who want to experience this type of recreation on bike optimized trails in forest settings are forced to drive an hour or more outside the city. This plan provides that access within 20 minutes of the city center, which makes it easily accessible by car and also likely by public transit.

With the careful planning that Metro has shown and will continue to show, it’s possible to create opportunities for people to enjoy nature while also protecting it. Well-designed and constructed trails will limit habitat impacts by minimizing erosion and stream crossings, by providing corridors for wildlife to move, and by leaving the canopy intact. Trails constructed using modern standards have significantly less environmental impact that many of the existing trails within the metro area.

The shared trails will be family friendly and designed for beginning and intermediate riders. Northwest Trail Alliance will be a key partner for Metro in the maintenance and monitoring of these trails. NWTA has a record if helping to build and maintain the trails their members ride on, and provide significant volunteer effort each year to do.

Mountain biking is important to me for a few reasons. It's a great way to experience nature, it's really fun so I keep coming back, and it keeps me fit and healthy. My experience has been that it is significantly safer than riding on the road. Speeds are lower, duff is softer than pavement, and cars don't drive on singletrack. Having beginner and intermediate trails close to work will make it a lot easier to get out for a ride with my friends and family after work, many of which are novice riders who don't have many other options within the city.

Please approve the North Tualatin Mountains Master Plan.

Thank you,

Owen Rodabaugh
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