

**Urban and Rural Reserves  
NW Portland Open House - July 21, 2008**

The northwest Portland open house was designed to provide an opportunity for input for anyone in the region, but in particular Portland residents in the northwestern quadrant of the metro area including north and northwest urban neighborhoods, the west hills including Bonney Slope, Linnton, and Sauvie Island. Twenty six community members attended the Portland open house in addition to seven staff and three elected officials.

A few responses were received during the open house, written on large table maps, small map-questionnaires and flip charts. All responses from Phase 2 open houses will be compiled at the completion of the open house series.

**FLIPCHART NOTES:**

Below are verbatim flip chart notes:

- Will urban growth boundary go away when reserves are designated?
- Do county committees consider just their own county?
- Will staff use the DOGAMI Landslide Hazard Data? Buildability.
- How are historical resources taken into account?
- Has region considered lobbying legislature to do away with the five-year UGB review cycle?
- Are we in a reserve if our property is shown on the agriculture map?
- Some land, near 99W by Tualatin, is privately owned but part of Tualatin River Wildlife Refuge. How does this affect reserves designation?

**MAP/COMMENT SHEETS:**

Name: Jim Emerson

Email: [opecheelake@hotmail.com](mailto:opecheelake@hotmail.com) (already on Metro email list)

Phone: 503-283-4096

Address: 13900 NW Old Germantown Road, Portland, OR 97231

This map is a reasonable selection of areas to study for Urban & Rural Reserves. Since this map includes virtually all of the remaining agricultural land in the Tualatin Valley, plus critical forested uplands such as the Chehalem and Tualatin Mountains, we hope the emphasis is on rural reserves. After all, the area shown in white (inside the UGB) is already a large "Urban Reserve," and still has lots of unbuilt and underbuilt land!

***What additional information should be considered in defining these study areas?***

Factors in the enabling legislation are quite specific, but we are mostly concerned about instances where data may be incomplete. For instance, the FEMA Floodplain Map for Washington/Multnomah County's Rock Creek shows the floodplain extending upstream only to the county line. We have seen Abbey Creek (an eastward tributary) flood its floodplain repeatedly, a mile east of the county line! Similarly, for a 40- 50-year planning horizon, consideration should be given to the latest credible projections not too conservative, but applying

the “Precautionary principle”) for sea-level rise, landslide vulnerability, water shortages in summer, etc. The ecological, carrying capacity of the Portland Basin and its watersheds needs to be part of the discussion.

**What is your zip code?** 97231

**Why are you interested in the Urban and Rural Reserves process?** It’s critical to our collective future. We don’t want to wind up living in one of those places about which people say, “It used to be such a nice place to live . . .” Instead, we want ecological values, agricultural productivity, and natural beauty to be here into the future, along with the human-oriented community/economic values which always have plenty of advocates.

**Where did you receive this form? (Open house, presentation, etc.):** open house.

**Was the information shared there useful to you?** Yes.

**How can we improve?**

- You’re doing well with outreach. We suggest adding high schools (civics or history classes, and “assemblies?”) to your list of places (hence, people) to visit. We’re planning their world. And, they may tell or involve their parents.
- Can you encourage more newspaper/radio/TV coverage? Many neighbors are still unaware.

**Do you have additional comments or suggestions?**

The selection of a broad area to study is the easy part. From Sept. ’08 through the study/designation period will be an opportune year to engage more public input (lots of work thought that is) with the incentive that if not sufficiently engaged, there will be considerable public outcry at the last minute, as the 40- 50-year designations are about to be voted into place. I think Metro needs to lead this effort, and not rely on the three county advisory committees.

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Name: Jerry Grossnickle

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Address: 13510 NW Old Germantown Road, Portland, OR 97231

The southwestern slopes of the Tualatin Mountains between Forest Park and the Multnomah/Washington County line are particularly suited to the designation as a rural reserve. These are where the northeastern portion of the Tualatin watershed has its origins, with the headwaters of Abbey creek and Rock Creek coursing down occasionally rugged and steep canyons. The hills are mainly rural lands, with good habitat for wildlife and a still-functioning ecosystem that supports many native species as well as the Roosevelt elk that frequent the area. Additional housing or urban development will inevitably sever the wildlife corridors that connect this area to the larger coast range ecosystem, and now is the time to make a commitment to the wildlife, both plant and animal, and to the watershed of these slopes by designating the area as a rural reserve.

Note also that these forested slopes provide a sense of place for the Metro region, providing a calming, pastoral setting for the Tualatin Valley. Practically wherever you are in the Washington County, when you look to the north, you see this forested range of hills that bounds us in and reminds us that we are part of a large landscape where the natural world can still be found. Our sense of place would be quite different and much poorer if these slopes were covered with the same urban environment that threatens to engulf the valley floors.

**What additional information should be considered in defining these study areas?**

A final note: On the lower reaches of the Tualatin Mountains, where the slopes begin to flatten and the lands are suitable for farming, there is some fairly productive farmland. These lands are important to the migratory species and edge wildlife (including elk and many small mammal, amphibian and bird species) that depends on them for food, while nearby forested land provides shelter, protection and connection to the larger habitat. But they are also increasingly important to urban dwellers for produce (especially fruit, vegetables and meat products). As fuel prices escalate and we become more aware of the carbon costs of importing our food, these local farms will become increasingly important to Metro residents, and the farms themselves will become more profitable. We need to preserve these agricultural lands from urban development as well. Not only are they important for local food production, but they will continue to serve as a buffer between the urban developments and the wildlife habitat of the Tualatin Mountains.

**What is your zip code?** 97231

**How did you learn about this open house?** from Neighborhood Association email.

**Was this open house useful to you?** Yes – very well done.

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**Name:** Jeanne McGinnis

Address: 13118 NW Old Germantown Rd., Portland, 97231

**What information should be considered in defining these study areas?**

Should Study this too. (Her arrow drawn on the map shows that she referred to the Bonney Slope Area).

**What is your zip code?** 97231

Why are you interested in the Urban and Rural Reserves process? I am interested in preserving the rural nature of our community. As a 20-year resident of Old Germantown Road, I have seen the destruction of farmland in the Bethany area and the development of acres and acres into residential tract homes. I would like to preserve the wildlife paths (elk especially) and stop the development from encroaching on our rural neighborhood.

**How did you learn about this open house?** An email from Carol Cesarek.

**How can we improve?** Start on time.

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Name: Leslie Hilduia  
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Address: 7915 NW Skyline Blvd, 97229

**What is your zip code?** 97229

**Why are you interested in the Urban and Rural Reserves process?** I'm worried about our shrinking wildlife corridors and agricultural areas near Portland. I hope my neighborhood can be/stay a rural reserve for the enjoyment of all the Portlanders who live and recreate in the neighborhood around Forest Park.

**Where did you receive this form?** (*Open house, presentation, etc.*): email

**Was the information shared there useful to you?** Yes.