



February 12, 2008

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Dear Councilor Harrington and Commissioners,

This is a follow up with you regarding the Reserves Steering Committee (SC) meeting. The information given to the Reserves SC is inadequate to discuss the importance of the region's natural landscape features and natural resources in the context of recommending lands that should be included in Rural Reserves and/or excluded from Urban Reserves.

I would like to request that the SC receive a complete discussion of the methodology used to create the natural features map(s) and---consistent with the information regarding agricultural and forestry resources in the region---be provided with all the well-researched, peer-reviewed information and the data sources used in developing the Natural Landscape Features inventory. This will allow the SC to see what information went into creating the composite map and make it possible to have a more informed discussion regarding which landscape features constitute the highest priority areas that should be protected from urbanization, in the same vein as the agricultural lands map identified foundation lands and those areas of lower priority.

In addition to the data layers, you should be aware there will be a new *Willamette Valley Synthesis* map integrating data sets from Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and The Nature Conservancy available this month. That product, along with Metro's Title 13 Habitats of Concern and DOGAMI's slide hazard area maps should be integrated with the data sets used to develop the composite Natural Landscape Features map.

I would also like to request that Jim Morgan, staff ecologist in Metro's regional parks and greenspaces program, who finalized all of the mapping information, give a presentation to the SC as part of the methodology discussion at the March meeting. Mr. Morgan is the most knowledgeable staffer at Metro with regard to the evolution and scientific information that went into the mapping process.

Respectfully,

Mike Houck