

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

APPROVING THE NATURAL AREAS ACQUISITION
REFINEMENT PLAN FOR THE EAST BUTTES
TARGET AREA

RESOLUTION NO. 07-3852

Introduced by Chief Operating Officer
Michael J. Jordan, with the
concurrence of Council President
David Bragdon

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2006, the Metro Council adopted Resolution No. 06-3672B “For the Purpose of Submitting to the Voters of the Metro Area a General Obligation Bond Indebtedness in the Amount of \$227.4 Million to Fund Natural Area Acquisition and Water Quality Protection,” recommending submission for voter approval a general obligation bond to preserve and protect natural areas, clean water, and fish and wildlife (the “2006 Natural Areas Bond Measure” or “Measure”); and

WHEREAS, at the election held on November 7, 2006, the voters approved Ballot Measure 26-80, the 2006 Natural Areas Bond Measure; and

WHEREAS, the East Buttes Target Area was identified in the Measure as one of 27 regional target areas for land acquisition, building on the success of land acquisitions in the East Buttes Target Area pursuant to Metro’s 1995 Open Spaces Bond Measure Program; and

WHEREAS, as provided in the 2006 Natural Areas Bond Measure, Metro has undertaken a public refinement process to establish specific acquisition strategies, goals, objectives, and a confidential tax-lot specific acquisition target area map for each of the 27 target areas; and

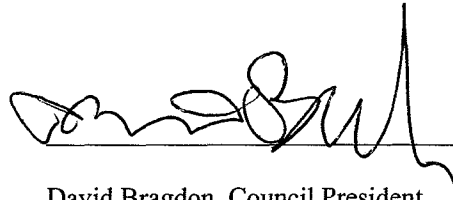
WHEREAS, Metro’s refinement process included the compilation of available information about each target area; biological field visits and expert analysis of maps; interviews with key stakeholders including natural resource experts, property owners, representatives from state and local government agencies, and advocates from water quality, fish, and wildlife preservation interest groups; and eight public open houses at sites throughout the region and a “virtual” open house available via the internet, at which draft refinement plans were made available for public review and participants could share their target area priorities either in-person or electronically; and

WHEREAS, on March 1, 2007, the Council approved Resolution No. 07-3766A, “Authorizing the Chief Operating Officer to Purchase Property with Accepted Acquisition Guidelines as Outlined in the Natural Areas Implementation Work Plan,” authorizing the Metro Chief Operating Officer to acquire properties identified on a Council-approved target area “confidential refinement map;” and

WHEREAS, the Council has reviewed the draft refinement plans and considered information it has received from citizens, scientists, advocates, and state and local governments; now, therefore

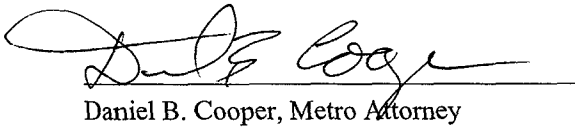
BE IT RESOLVED that the Metro Council adopts the East Buttes Refinement Plan attached hereto as Exhibit A, including the confidential tax-lot specific map reviewed by the Council in Executive Session on September 4, 2007, and signed by Council President David Bragdon, and hereby authorizes the Chief Operating Officer to acquire properties in the East Buttes Target Area consistent with the Council-approved Acquisition Parameters and Due Diligence Guidelines of the Natural Areas Implementation Work Plan.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this 13th day of September 2007.



David Bragdon, Council President

Approved as to Form:


Daniel B. Cooper, Metro Attorney

**2006 NATURAL AREAS ACQUISITION PROGRAM
EAST BUTTES TARGET AREA REFINEMENT PLAN**

Background

In 1995 Metro's goal for this target area was to create a biologically significant natural area between Gresham and Damascus. The focus of Tier I acquisition was along Butler Ridge, located south of Gresham, and on Mt. Talbert, with an acreage goal of 545 acres. Tier II and III objectives focused on enhancing and connecting existing open space properties at Mt. Scott, Powell Butte, Rocky Butte, Kelly Butte and Scouter Mountain, in addition to providing biological links between the East Buttes and the Clackamas River. Acquisitions at the more urban buttes (Talbert, Kelly, Rocky, and Powell) required a 25% local match. Metro acquired a total of 855 acres within this target area.

The 2006 Natural Area bond measure stated:

The remaining undeveloped wooded slopes of extinct lava domes in our eastern metropolitan region provide opportunities to protect water quality and large areas for wildlife habitat and wildlife corridors from the outer reaches of the Cascades to the inner Portland urban area such as Scouter Mountain and buttes in the Damascus area. Panoramic vistas east and south from the butte tops provide stunning views of valleys, farmland and the Cascades. The forested buttes frame the valleys, create a unique geography for local residents and provide welcome visual relief from surrounding land uses. By protecting these wooded slopes, Metro can maintain a system of natural area habitat patches connected to each other and ultimately to the Cascades via the Clackamas River corridor.

The East Buttes target area is connected by wildlife corridors to other target areas including Johnson Creek and Watershed, Deep Creek and Tributaries, and Clackamas River Bluffs and Greenway.

Target Area Description

A group of extinct volcanoes and lava domes in north Clackamas and east Multnomah counties lend unique geographic character to the region, providing wildlife habitat and panoramic vistas. The East Buttes target area is Metro's largest, stretching from Rocky Butte in Portland to the Clackamas River in the south, and from I-205 in the west to Highway 26 in the east. Primary goals are to secure a regionally and biologically significant natural area between Gresham and Damascus, and to help protect several urban buttes and extinct rugged lava domes rising 500 to 1,000 feet above the Willamette Valley floor. The area contains some of the largest contiguous wildlife habitat and wildlife corridors in the region.

South of Gresham on North and South Butler Buttes, a broad forested corridor of natural area stretches along a section known as "Butler Ridge" and the adjacent North Damascus Buttes. Part of this area along Regner Road has commanding mountain views to the north, northeast and east. At almost 2,000 feet elevation, a meadow near the crest of a forested butte north of Borges Road and east of 190th Avenue offers panoramic views of Mt. Hood, the entrance to the Columbia River Gorge and mountains of Washington state.

Sunshine Butte, adjacent to and east of Butler Ridge, provides excellent wildlife connectivity between upper Johnson Creek and upper Sunshine Creek and important linkages to North Butler Ridge and Dower Butte. Tower Butte and Zion Butte contain healthy forested areas and provide high-quality habitat and excellent connectivity with headwaters of Johnson Creek, Deep Creek, Noyer Creek, Sunshine Creek and Badger Creek.

Rising more than 700 feet above the valley floor, Scouter Mountain offers views of the Cascades and surrounding Pleasant Valley. Located between rapidly growing Happy Valley and Pleasant Valley east of

I-205, this area includes Mitchell Creek and its tributaries feeding Kelley Creek and ultimately Johnson Creek.

Mt. Talbert is the largest undeveloped butte in northern Clackamas County, rising as a forested green sentinel overlooking the busy I-205 and Sunnyside Road interchange just to the west. Metro and North Clackamas County Parks and Recreation District protected 193 acres with 1995 bond funds, including the top of the former lava dome. This preserved quality wildlife habitat as well as the integrity of west and north facing slopes visible to tens of thousands of people daily. A master plan has been approved for public use of the area, and the Mount Talbert Nature Park is slated for opening in summer 2007.

Refinement Process

During the refinement process, Metro staff compiled available information about the East Buttes target area, analyzed maps and conducted biological field visits. Individuals were interviewed representing various government agencies, property owners, interested friends groups and natural resource experts. The key concerns expressed during the interviews are summarized in Attachment 1.

Public open houses to discuss the proposed Refinement Plans were held on June 21, 2007 at Gresham City Hall and on June 25, 2007 at Boring Middle School, two of eight such open houses held throughout the region. Notices of the open houses were mailed to area residents and other interested citizens. Metro also conducted a “virtual” open house by making target area informational materials, including maps, available “online” via the internet and allowing participants to share their target area priorities electronically. A total of 527 people attended the regional open houses, and the online open house had 6,363 visits from 3,419 unique visitors. More than 700 target surveys were submitted either in person or online. Fifty-seven people completed the East Buttes survey. A copy of the survey questionnaire is included as Attachment 2. The map associated with the questionnaire for this target area is included as Attachment 3, and complete survey results are included as Attachment 4.

Findings

Scientific

- The East Buttes provide critical habitat to migratory wildlife and important linkages to the Clackamas River and Cascade Mountains.
- Larger patches of intact native vegetation should be protected in preference to smaller ones.
- Headwaters of urban creeks surround the buttes in all directions. These valuable riparian corridors serve as important wildlife corridors. Sustaining wildlife habitat connectivity moderates the seclusion of habitat fragments.
- Land acquisition strategies within the target area should promote contiguous core wildlife habitat, retain unique and at-risk habitats, and connections between wetlands, riparian corridors and upland habitat.
- High quality habitat adjoining lands already in public ownership is of high priority for conserving core wildlife habitat. This includes the land areas of South Butler Ridge, Sunshine Butte, North Butler Ridge and connectivity to Johnson Creek where a significant investment in publicly owned lands already exists.
- Sunshine Butte is one of the largest forested buttes in the target area and provides connectivity to upper Johnson Creek and Sunshine Creek riparian corridors and important linkages to North Butler Ridge and Tower Butte.
- Mt. Talbert, Zion Butte and Tower Butte areas have the best connectivity, better wildlife corridor and greater amounts of undeveloped land. The Tower Butte and Zion Butte areas have high-valued wildlife habitat but require the acquisition or protection of larger areas. The Zion Butte

and Tower Butte areas provide a significant north-south corridor from the Deep Creek system to the Butler Ridge system.

- Scouter Mountain, Johnson Creek Uplands and Damascus Buttes are important areas that buffer and connect habitats of concern. The areas are surrounded by dense urban development and several major arterial roads, both of which negatively affect the value of the core areas and connectivity. Within this area, it is recommended that priority be given to acquiring undeveloped land adjoining public land holdings on Scouter Mountain, which is a candidate for Oregon white oak habitat restoration.

Stakeholder

- Provide wildlife corridors and connectivity between the East Buttes target area and the Cascades via the Clackamas River riparian corridor. Deep Creek and Richardson Creek are the most mentioned routes, a link between Mt. Talbert and the Clackamas River was also highlighted.
- A top priority for acquisition is to fill in the gaps on Butler Ridge. This may be the last chance to purchase properties – they are at risk of development.
- To provide habitat connectivity, the pinch point between North Fork Deep Creek and Zion Hill, and a wildlife connection through Sunshine Valley are key to consider for acquisition.
- Sunshine Creek is fish bearing with resident cutthroat and historically supported anadromous fish. Mt. Scott Creek below Happy Valley remains a great riparian corridor with intact vegetation and some fish passage projects have enhanced habitats in upper reaches.
- Current Clackamas County, Happy Valley, Damascus and Gresham zoning and development regulations may not protect local natural resources. The degree of protection of buttes land within Damascus will depend upon future upland area protections and regulations enacted by the City of Damascus.
- The route of the Sunrise Parkway, from 172nd east through Damascus to Highway 26, will be a major factor in planning future wildlife corridors. The Sunrise Parkway is planned as a “landscaped corridor” with four lanes and proposed design speed of 45 miles per hour but the proposed design route is not firm. Preliminary design plans call for protection of the buttes, attention to views and vistas, and bridges over riparian areas.

Survey Results

- Fifty-seven people completed the East Buttes survey. Additional commentary was provided verbally at the open house, most of which was consistent with the written responses. In rank order, the public priorities were:
 1. *Map area E* – Protect lands on Scouter Mountain in close proximity to other protected areas and create a larger natural area on the butte to benefit wildlife and support water quality goals in Johnson Creek (Mitchell Creek).
 2. *Map area F* – Protect lands on the north side of Mount Talbert adjacent to other protected areas and including a connection to Mount Scott Creek.
 3. *Map area A* – Close gaps in public ownership along Butler Ridge to create a biologically significant natural area.
 4. *Map area B* – Protect lands on Sunshine Butte and along the tributaries of Sunshine Creek to preserve a wildlife corridor and a connection to the Clackamas River.
 5. *Map area D* – Protect lands along the unnamed tributary north of the North Fork of Deep Creek connecting to Tower and Zion buttes and the Deep Creek riparian corridor to preserve a wildlife corridor.

6. *Map area C* – Protect properties on Tower and Zion buttes for water quality benefits and connections to the Clackamas River.

Goals

- Connect the substantial Butler Ridge natural area in public ownership to create a wildlife corridor and potential access to the Clackamas River via Sunshine Butte, Tower Butte, Zion Butte and the North Fork Deep Creek.
- Protect butte tops and slopes for wildlife habitat and corridors between these wooded slopes and create scenic vistas that provide visual relief to urban residents.
- Protect headwaters of healthy streams through acquisition of wooded hillsides on Scouter Mountain and Mount Talbert.

Objectives

A target area map showing the tiered objectives described below is included as Attachment 5.

Tier I Objectives

- Protect wooded slopes on Sunshine Butte and along tributaries to Sunshine Creek to maintain wildlife corridors to the Clackamas River.
- Protect wooded slopes on Tower and Zion Buttes to secure wildlife corridors to the Clackamas River.
- Acquire land on Scouter Mountain in close proximity to other public land holdings to create a larger contiguous open space on the butte.

Tier II Objectives

- Close the gaps in public ownership by acquiring key parcels along Butler Ridge to create a biologically significant natural area and to facilitate public access to these lands.
- Acquire properties on the north side of Mt. Talbert contiguous with other public holdings and in the headwaters of Mt. Scott Creek.

Partnership Objectives

- Pursue partnership opportunities with the City of Damascus, ODOT, the City of Gresham, Clackamas County, North Clackamas Park District, Damascus, Happy Valley and the Three Rivers Land Conservancy to achieve the priority objectives and to leverage the regional bond funds.
- Explore partnership possibilities with school districts, including Gresham-Barlow School District on their facility development plans for their property on Sunshine Creek.

STAFF REPORT

IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 07-3852, APPROVING THE NATURAL AREAS ACQUISITION REFINEMENT PLAN FOR THE EAST BUTTES TARGET AREA

Date: September 13, 2007

Prepared by: Jim Desmond
Kathleen Brennan-Hunter

BACKGROUND—REFINEMENT PROCESS

The Natural Areas Bond Measure (Resolution No. 06-3672B, “For the Purpose of Submitting to the Voters of the Metro Area a General Obligation Bond Indebtedness in the Amount of \$227.4 Million to Fund Natural Area Acquisition and Water Quality Protection,” adopted by the Metro Council March 9, 2006) provided that Metro would undertake a “Refinement Process” to “gather additional information about each individual target area and begin zeroing in on particular parcels that would be valuable to acquire” (Exhibit A to Resolution No. 06-3672B). In addition, the Natural Areas Implementation Work Plan (Resolution No. 07-3766A, “Authorizing the Chief Operating Officer to Purchase Property with Accepted Acquisition Guidelines as Outlined in the Natural Areas Implementation Work Plan,” adopted by the Metro Council on March 1, 2007) authorized the Metro Chief Operating Officer to acquire properties without further Council approval if they have been identified on a Council-approved target area “confidential refinement map.” To implement those directives, the Refinement Plans for each target area contain overall target area objectives and confidential tax-lot specific target area maps identifying priority properties for acquisition, enabling Metro staff to begin the acquisition of property and property rights as detailed in the Natural Areas Implementation Work Plan.

Additional background information, target area information, a description of the specifics of the refinement process regarding this target area, and the refinement plan’s findings, goals, and objectives are described in further detail in Exhibit A to this resolution, the East Buttes Target Area Refinement Plan.

ANALYSIS/INFORMATION

1. **Known Opposition**

None.

2. **Legal Antecedents**

Resolution No. 06-3672B, “For the Purpose of Submitting to the Voters of the Metro Area a General Obligation Bond Indebtedness in the Amount of \$227.4 Million to Fund Natural Area Acquisition and Water Quality Protection,” adopted on March 9, 2006.

The voters’ approval of Metro’s 2006 Natural Areas Bond Measure at the general election held on November 7, 2006.

Resolution No. 07-3766A “Authorizing the Chief Operating Officer to Purchase Property With Accepted Acquisition Guidelines as Outlined in the Natural Areas Implementation Work Plan,” adopted by the Metro Council on March 1, 2007, established the Acquisition Parameters and Due Diligence Guidelines for the purchase of properties as part of the 2006 Natural Areas Bond Program.

3. **Anticipated Effects**

Acquisition of natural area properties in the East Buttes target area to achieve the goals and purposes of the 2006 Natural Areas Bond Measure.

4. **Budget Impacts**

The FY 2007-08 budget includes budgetary authority to purchase \$35 million in natural area lands, with an additional \$15.4 million in contingency, if necessary. It is estimated, based on historical spending patterns, that this authority will be sufficient to cover the anticipated acquisition activity for this fiscal year. Additional unappropriated fund balance (\$64 million) exists for land acquisition in future years, along with the authority to issue up to an additional \$102 million in General Obligation bonds in support of this program.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Staff recommends adoption of Resolution No. 07-3852.

Summary of Comments from Stakeholder Interviews for East Buttes Target Area

Stakeholder(s) Interviewed

Dan Bartlett, Damascus
Doug McClain, Clackamas County
Jason Tuck, Happy Valley
Michael Walters, Happy Valley
Rob Courtney, Gresham
Mary Weber, David Evans & Associates
Jim Labbe, Audobon Society
Melinda Trask, ODOT
Thomas Picco, ODOT
Jayne Cronlund, Three Rivers Land Conservancy
Ray Valone, Metro
Todd Alsbury, ODFW
Andy Cotugno, Metro
Dean Apostol, Landscape Architect

Key Themes Discussed

Water Quality

- Richardson Creek, especially the lower reaches, provides some of the highest quality habitat and aquatic resources in the Portland Metro region. Richardson Creek is still fish bearing and a coho spawning habitat, despite its flashiness. The upper watershed is subject to future development around Highway 212 in Damascus.
- Forested buttes are important to water quality in Johnson Creek.

Wildlife Habitat

- Focus on preserving larger patches of habitat. It is important to consider how wildlife are going to get from one patch to another.
- Riparian corridors between buttes are important wildlife connections, especially Sunshine Creek.
- The most often mentioned wildlife corridor connects Butler Ridge to Sunshine, Tower and Zion Buttes, then on to North Fork Deep Creek.
- Provide wildlife corridors and connectivity between the East Buttes Target Area and the Cascades via the Clackamas River riparian corridor. Deep Creek and Richardson Creek are the most mentioned routes, a link between Mt. Talbert and the Clackamas River was also highlighted.
- A top priority for acquisition is to fill in the gaps on Butler Ridge. This may be the last chance to purchase properties – they are at risk of development.
- To provide habitat connectivity, the pinch point between Deep Creek and Zion Hill and a wildlife connection through Sunshine Valley are key to consider for acquisition. Sunshine Creek is fish bearing with resident cutthroat and historically supported anadromous fish.

- Kelly Creek is the last remaining good riparian habitat draining into the lower Johnson Creek basin (which is heavily impacted). The Kelly/ Mitchell Creek riparian corridors are important to preserve.
- Mt. Scott Creek below Happy Valley is still a great riparian corridor with intact vegetation and some fish passage projects have enhanced habitats in upper reaches.

Land Use / Urban / Rural Form

- Clackamas County zoning is perceived as the most imminent threat to preserving and connecting wildlife habitats in the target area. Current Damascus and Clackamas County zoning and development regulations may not protect local natural resources. The degree of protection of buttes land within Damascus will depend upon future upland area protections and regulations enacted by the City of Damascus.
- Future development in Damascus may necessitate the construction of a sewer trunk line within the Richardson Creek corridor.

Miscellaneous Comments

- Look for opportunities to increase and build upon current land holdings within the target area.
- If more land were acquired on Scouter Mountain (west and northwest sides), it could become a nice park for Happy Valley. The value as a natural area would increase with a connection to Powell Butte via Mitchell/ Kelly Creek corridor.
- The route of the Sunrise Parkway, from 172nd east through Damascus to Highway 26, will be a major factor in planning future wildlife corridors. The Sunrise Parkway is planned as a “landscaped corridor” with 4 lanes and proposed design speed of 45 miles per hour but the proposed design route is not firm. Preliminary design plans call for protection of the buttes, attention to views and vistas, and bridges over riparian areas.
- Consider adding land holdings that will enable the East Buttes trail to continue and make connections to the Springwater Corridor/ Cazadero Trail in the future.

QUESTIONNAIRE

TARGET AREA: EAST BUTTES

In November 2006 voters directed the Metro Council to extend a regionwide program and acquire between 3,500 and 4,500 acres of additional natural areas to protect water quality and fish and wildlife habitat and to provide future generations opportunities for greater access to nature. Now it's time for the Metro Council to refine priorities in the 27 regional natural areas and trail corridors targeted for acquisition. Metro has acquired 866 acres in this target area since 1995. The 2006 program will provide additional funding for protection goals in this target area.

The Metro Council wants your ideas and input. We've been talking with scientists, land-use experts, groups and individuals who have special knowledge about the natural resource values and community visions for these areas. With this information Metro has begun to identify the potential strategies and opportunities that will achieve the best results. Now we need to know: Do we have it right? What have we missed? What is most important to you?

2006 NATURAL AREAS BOND DESCRIPTION FOR THIS TARGET AREA

The remaining undeveloped wooded slopes of extinct lava domes in our eastern metropolitan region provide opportunities to protect water quality and large areas for wildlife habitat and wildlife corridors from the outer reaches of the Cascades to the inner Portland urban area such as Scouter Mountain and buttes in the Damascus area. Panoramic vistas east and south from the butte tops provide stunning views of valleys, farmland and the Cascades. The forested buttes frame the valleys, create a unique geography for local residents and provide welcome visual relief from surrounding land uses.

QUESTIONS

- The following priorities were identified in the East Buttes target area based on scientific information about benefits to water quality, habitat diversity, wildlife connectivity and/or restoration potential and from information provided by key stakeholders in the area. Rank in order of importance to you from 1 to 6, with 1 being the most important and 6 being the least important.**

- _____ Closing gaps in public ownership along Butler Ridge to create a biologically significant natural area. **(Map area A)**
- _____ Protecting lands on Sunshine Butte and along the tributaries of Sunshine Creek to preserve a wildlife corridor and a connection to the Clackamas River. **(Map area B)**
- _____ Protecting properties on Tower and Zion buttes for water quality benefits and connections to the Clackamas River. **(Map area C)**
- _____ Protecting lands along the unnamed tributary north of the North Fork of Deep Creek connecting to Tower and Zion buttes and the Deep Creek riparian corridor to preserve a wildlife corridor. **(Map area D)**
- _____ Protecting lands on Scouter Mountain in close proximity to other protected areas and creating a larger natural area on the butte to benefit wildlife and support water quality goals in Johnson Creek (Mitchell Creek). **(Map area E)**
- _____ Protecting lands on the north side of Mount Talbert adjacent to other protected areas and including a connection to Mount Scott Creek. **(Map area F)**

2. **In general, what should be emphasized in the East Buttes target area? Rank in order of importance to you from 1 to 4, with 1 being the most important and 4 being the least important.**

_____ Preserving forested upland habitat for wildlife.
_____ Preserving streams and creeks to maintain water quality.
_____ Protecting wildlife corridors between the East Buttes and the Clackamas River.
_____ Providing public access to natural areas for recreation and wildlife watching.

3. **Are there other priorities that the Metro Council should consider in the East Buttes target area? Please be specific.**

4. **Do you have suggestions about partnerships Metro should pursue or other innovative ways to leverage regional funding and enhance this natural area?**

5. **Are you interested in participating in Metro's Natural Areas program by selling or donating your property or selling or donating a conservation easement on your property?**

☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, please be sure to provide your contact information below.

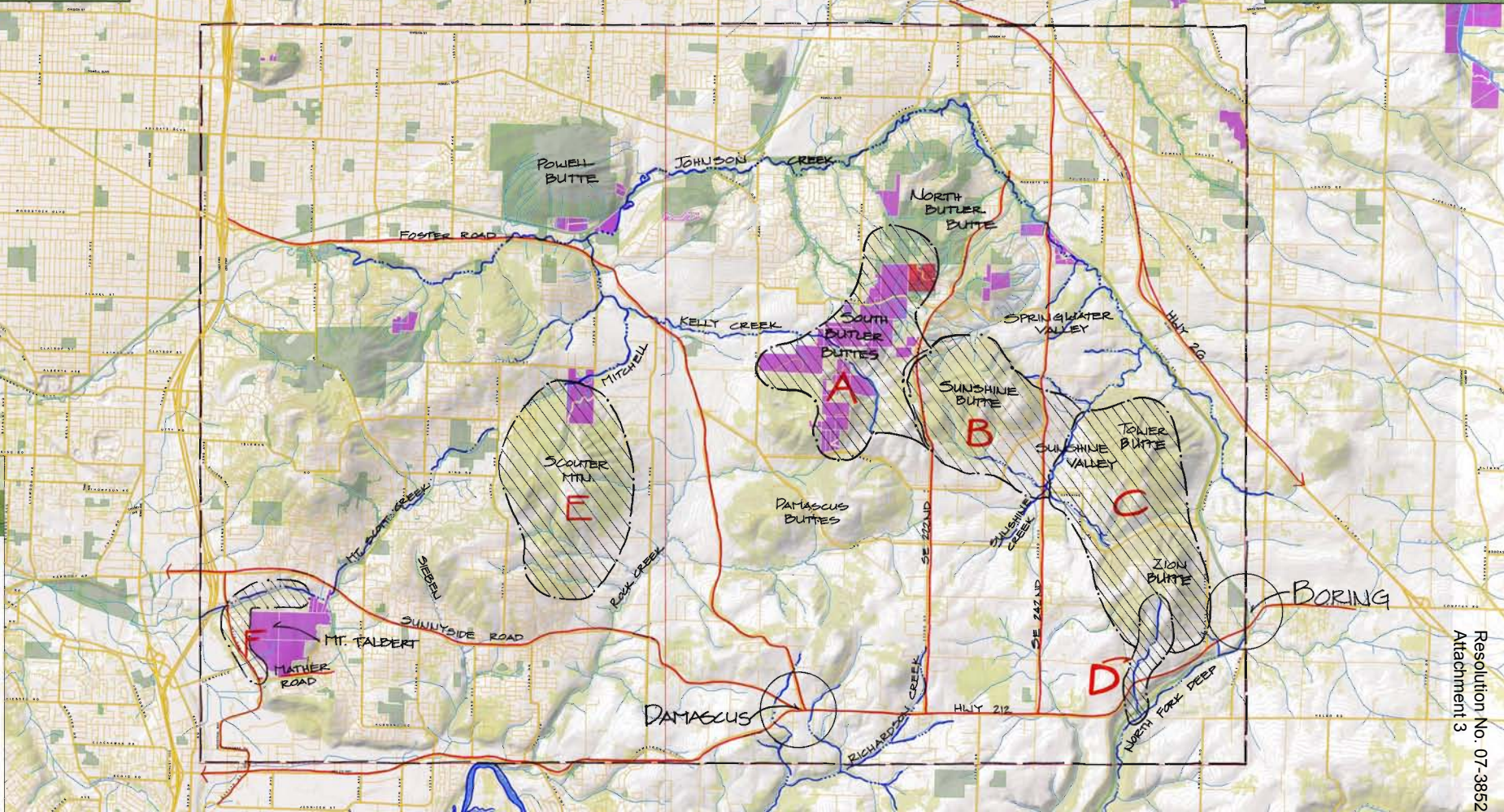
6. **Do you have any other comments about this target area?**

- ☐ **Please add my name to the East Buttes target area mailing list for future information, public meetings and events.**

Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Phone _____
E-mail _____

**You may complete this questionnaire online at
www.metro-region.org/naturalareas**

or mail it to Metro at
600 NE Grand Avenue, Portland, OR 97232
(503) 797-1741



	most important					least important	Rating Average	Response Count
Closing gaps in public ownership along Butler Ridge to create a biologically significant natural area. (Map area A)	21.7% (10)	8.7% (4)	23.9% (11)	13.0% (6)	6.5% (3)	26.1% (12)	3.52	46
Protecting lands on Sunshine Butte and along the tributaries of Sunshine Creek to preserve a wildlife corridor and a connection to the Clackamas River. (Map area B)	11.6% (5)	11.6% (5)	23.3% (10)	14.0% (6)	27.9% (12)	11.6% (5)	3.70	43
Protecting properties on Tower and Zion buttes for water quality benefits and connections to the Clackamas River. (Map area C)	6.8% (3)	9.1% (4)	20.5% (9)	31.8% (14)	18.2% (8)	13.6% (6)	3.86	44
Protecting lands along the unnamed tributary north of the North Fork of Deep Creek connecting to Tower and Zion buttes and the Deep Creek riparian corridor to preserve a wildlife corridor. (Map area D)	8.9% (4)	11.1% (5)	22.2% (10)	24.4% (11)	17.8% (8)	15.6% (7)	3.78	45
Protecting lands on Scouter Mountain in close proximity to other protected areas and creating a larger natural area on the butte to benefit wildlife and support water quality goals in Johnson Creek (Mitchell Creek) (Map area E)	48.0% (24)	18.0% (9)	10.0% (5)	4.0% (2)	10.0% (5)	10.0% (5)	2.40	50
Protecting lands on the north side of Mount Talbert adjacent to other protected areas and including a connection to Mount Scott Creek (Map area F)	17.0% (8)	40.4% (19)	4.3% (2)	12.8% (6)	10.6% (5)	14.9% (7)	3.04	47
	answered question							55
	skipped question							2

2. In general, what should be emphasized in the East Buttes target area? Rank in order of importance to you.

	most important			least important	Rating Average	Response Count
Preserving forested upland habitat for wildlife.	41.3% (19)	23.9% (11)	23.9% (11)	10.9% (5)	2.04	46
Preserving streams and creeks to maintain water quality.	20.4% (10)	44.9% (22)	28.6% (14)	6.1% (3)	2.20	49
Protecting wildlife corridors between the East Buttes and the Clackamas River.	32.6% (15)	23.9% (11)	26.1% (12)	17.4% (8)	2.28	46
Providing public access to natural areas for recreation and wildlife watching.	14.6% (7)	10.4% (5)	18.8% (9)	56.3% (27)	3.17	48
	answered question					52
	skipped question					5

3. Are there other priorities that the Metro Council should consider in the East Buttes target area? Please be specific.

Boy scout camp has lodge + day camp acres already in place on Scouters Mountain. Excellent outdoor school and educational value for kids--wildlife habitat so important with all the development--close to town, easy transport for school kids.

Accessing trails and outdoor areas by bike is important.

Please overlay the regional trails plan and also anticipate what will be needed for three trails that connect to Springwater in this area.

I picked area D since it may act as a buffer between Damascus and Boring. That way they can maintain their own character. C, B and A would help do the same thing.

It was tough to rank question number two. I came to this forum for all these reasons. Seems like most are covered but one other reason to consider is just to preserve the scenic beauty in our area and reduce noise, pollution, congestion resulting from dense housing development.

Preserve the beautiful scenery.

Scouter's Mountain.

Get the areas vulnerable to development first.

All of the items in question 3 are important and should be pursued.

If the lands will be available for public use, adequate parking or public transportation from "park and ride" facilities must be provided.

Please focus on protecting lands in and near Rock Creek's canyon...this area is between the Clackamas River and SE 172nd Avenue. It is an outstanding, existing corridor for wildlife that is between the East buttes and the Clackamas River.

Save Scouter Mt. public access to East Buttes.

Public access from the west. A trail that allows public to access the rim of the butte and Mt Hood views. A park for the public. We don't have any parks here except Blue Lake and a new park here, Johnson City (Springwater Trail) is really needed. It needs to be done NOW.

From question #1: I thought Clatsop Butte was to be part of "East Butte." Hopefully this is part of the plan to be included.

For question #1: We were under the impression that Clatsop Butte was part of the "East Buttes" (on extreme Western end) - That's the way it's listed on MANY maps.

Damascus Buttes

Respect and honor the viewpoints of current landowners in the target areas.

Scouter's Mountain is a natural wildlife preserve that should be maintained as a park if at all possible. Scouter's Mountain is link in the trail system between the east buttes and the Clackamas River as well as east-west trails.

Scouters mountain is a beautiful resource and has the opportunity to provide both habitat protection for the water resources and the wildlife that enrich the community while already having recreational facilities (Scouters Camp site) for the community. The area adjacent to Scouters Mountain is among the fastest growing in the Metro area, and has one of the highest percentages of children per household. It would be a shame to miss the chance to provide this unique resource to the surrounding communities and their children.

Preservation of historical landmarks should also be a priority such as the lodge on Scouters Mountain and the pioneer cemetery on the Southwest side of the mountain.

Scouters Mountain is "the" key butte to the inner larger habitat areas, which not only holds historical importance, that Metro is responsible for maintaining, IE cemeteries, but has been part of the Metro Trails master plan, since I worked on the data base for the very first bond measure back in 1991. The early Clackamas County Parks Map also once reflected this importance. The existing power & gas line easements between Butler Butte, down through Scouters Mountain, and unto the Clackamas Rivers are key habitat routes, and must be preserved. Scouters Mountain also provides the head waters to the Mt Scott & Kellogg Creek Drainages as they travel past Mt Talbert. Scouters Mountain is a hub for trails and routes of all kinds for human and wildlife....it has to be preserved. Routes from the NW...being the Elcoa/ the old Girl Scout Camp by Willamette National, to the north Johnson Creek/Bundy Park, The Springwater, and Powell Butte, NE to Butler Butte, Millers Creek, and East/SE to Pleasant Valley, and Deep Creek, South to Clackamas River via Seiban Creek, and west to Happy Valley Wetlands, Mt Scott Nature Park, Mt Scott Creek, and on down to Talbert. ***Thank-you

Connect open space to Clackamas River corridor to assure future development doesn't create an "Island" of nature. More emphasis on Johnson Creek Watershed through, and east, of Gresham to the south (near Sunshine Valley). This may help flood control.

Scouters Mountain is the most important acquisition priority due to its proximity to the City of Happy Valley and the quality of forested upland habitat for wildlife. The steep slopes of the mountain are visible from several other outdoor areas in the eastern part of Clackamas County. Scouter's Mountain has a long history of public use and conservancy.

Like all the projects which would preserve land along ridgetops, buttes, etc., this project would also enhance the quality of life for all in the visible area by providing us with views of greenery and open spaces along our hilltops, instead of McMansions. This greatly adds to the feeling of even more natural area in our neighborhoods, instead of urbanization and sprawl.

I find nothing on wildlife corridor(s)connecting East Buttes with Scouter Mountain ridge. The rather open valley (Pleasant Valley/upper Rock Creek Valley) is sandwiched between these two highland ridges, and currently wildlife crosses freely from one to the other in an east-west direction through meadows, riparian forests, nursery lands, Christmas tree farms, orchards, berry fields, and my garden. In this valley I've seen deer, foxes (both red and gray), a bobcat, elk, coyotes galore, and there's an active cougar scratching post next to a branch of Rock Creek on my property. I've counted up to 29 bird species on my property in one day. There seems to be no plan for preserving wildlife habitat or connecting corridors in this valley. Instead the traffic will be forced to follow the ridges. Though preserving the buttes is extremely important, I feel there should also be some provision for preserving cross-valley wildlife corridors.

Stop purchasing land which can be used for high end development.

The ranking above should not be construed to mean lower priorities are not important, i.e. provision of public access. This is important, but we can't provide access unless we buy it first. Metro needs to think of the east buttes as an ecological system in which upland forests, streams, wildlife corridors, and visual open space are integrated. Your questionnaire is phrased in a way that makes these appear to be separate issues, but they are not. We either conserve a system or we conserve a few fragmented patches of habitat. Unfortunately, you did not make the bond measure large enough to conserve systems throughout the Metro area.

Preservation of natural resources should take precedent, but resources also need to be allocated for trail and trail-head development too.

Balance – i.e. I think Scouter Mountain could be opened up to housing, but keep the rock stream area open for wildlife habitat. Also, filling in the "gap" between larger Metro and land to recreate a larger block of undeveloped land makes a lot of sense.

4. Do you have suggestions about partnerships Metro should pursue or other innovative ways to leverage regional funding and enhance this natural area? If so, please specify.

Perhaps some partnership with Boy Scouts? Caretakers on site now continue to offer security and maintain--Some repairs needed--potential for petting zoo? Volunteer opportunities to work with at-risk kids.

Receive funds from the lottery

What about personal and business financial donations?

Can Metro partner with businesses and corporations to preserve forest preservation? Local and national corporations give millions of dollars each year to good causes such as this.

Buy easements to stretch the dollar out.

If the City of Happy Valley can integrate their development plans to assist Metro with the necessary infrastructure, that would assist in reaching the goals.

The North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District now serves this entire area (Rock Creek canyon...between the Clackamas River and SE 172nd Avenue). They'd be a logical partner.

A partnership with the city of Gresham looking to local businesses.

Partner with North Clackamas Parks and Recreation and the City of Happy Valley to purchase Scouter's Mountain.

Metro should partner with Happy Valley and NCPRD to try to save as much of Scouters Mountain as possible.

Partnership with the other interested revenue sources: The Cities located in the area adjacent to the location: the Clackamas County government, the N. Clackamas Parks and Recreation District, the Nature Conservancy. Any potential Federal funding sources. A funding measure targeting to the voters for this specific vicinity.

Banning access to the north face of Mt Talbert is not a very good way to enhance or promote a natural habitat area. I was recently up on Mt Talbert and noticed that they had cut off access to the north side and a large trail area that enhances the size and beauty of the mountain.

The partners that I originally formed as Mayor of Happy Valley have long been forgotten at Metro, as, sadly, their original promises. We had hoped for better joint funding with Clackamas Parks, but they reprioritized their wishes via political interests elsewhere...we could have had the whole Scouters Mountain for under \$5 million back then, but was not a big enough city to carry the full load.

Metro has an opportunity to partner with the North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District, City of Happy Valley and Boy Scouts of America for preservation of the Scouters Mt. area.

Metro should work with the Boy Scouts of America, the City of Happy Valley and Clackamas County Recreation District to acquire 75-100 acres of Scouter's Mountain. The area is rapidly urbanizing on lands around the base of the mountain. It should be a key priority as land on and around the mountain is becoming highly desirable for housing and expensive to purchase. Other public groups would be interested in helping preserve Scouter's Mountain and the old Chief Obie Lodge on top.

Enhance and improve local neighborhood parks.

You have to forge a close working relationship with Damascus, the local watershed councils, and Gresham. Some sort of "Buttes Conservancy" should be established that helps integrate conservation programs. Metro tends to operate in its own universe too often.

Work with the Nature Conservancy and assorted land trusts if not already doing so.

5. Do you have any other comments about this target area? If so, please specify.

Scouters Mountain needs to be saved for kids and wildlife habitat! Potential income from events that could be held there.

If and where you already have land, I support adding to it, and creating a "mass" of space to create a larger long term impact. The areas that are rapidly developing need to be addressed, so you're not trying to recreate untouched areas...specifically in Happy Valley where the development seems to be on fast forward.

No mention of trying to maintain local small farms which also assist in wildlife migration and habitat.

Please save as much of Scouter's Mountain as possible. Many deer have been displaced and killed due to the loss of habitat to the quickly developing areas surrounding it. We want to see them survive. Also, Scouter's Mountain is a wonderful place for people to enjoy light recreation. Save the lodge too! It's beautiful in itself and has a larger than life breathtaking view of Mt. Hood.

This is the last/best chance to plan a new city with a complete greenbelt - including small farms. Be creative and stretch the dollars.

I urge you to purchase all of the Scouters Mountain. Please purchase as much of the property on the north side of Mt. Talbert. It is important for the health of Mt. Scott Creek.

I am a non-resident owner of property that will be affected and have no knowledge of the other areas referenced.

More public access. Park located on Johnson Creek or Kelly Creek. Somewhere South Gresham can use.

Scouter's Mountain is a rare opportunity to purchase land in the Metro area, the Boy Scouts are willing sellers, in the hands of one owner (200 acres) and it is a pristine property right on the edge of growth. We were told the goal was to acquire 70-90 acres of this property for open space and it has been lumped in with East Buttes where it is not very distinguishable.

I wholeheartedly agree with and support the following comments regarding Scouter's Mountain: "Scouter's Mountain is the key "hub" to all the SE "green areas", and has to be preserved to insure connectivity for both human hiking activity and wildlife migration. From Scouters Mountain heading north is the wheel spoke to the Miller Creek purchase (162nd & Clatsop) already completed by Metro, which starts the connected of the riparian areas all the way down to Johnson Creek, and the Spring Water Corridor. To the NE is the power and gas line easements that make the connection to Butler Butte/Gresham. To the east/south-east is the drainage going down into Pleasant Valley and the Rock Creek Riparian system. To the South is the beginning of Sebian Creek riparian area down to the Clackamas River. To the SW is the spoke through the open spaces, that run between the developments going towards Spring Mountain. To the west is the spoke to the Wetlands behind the grade school, city park, and the Mt Scott Creek Riparian areas, including connections later down stream to the Happy Valley Nature Park, and Mt. Talbert. Another key connection that keeps getting forgotten is from the Happy Valley Nature Park on the SE of slopes Mt Scott, and once was identified as a regional significant trail corridor that crested over Idleman, just west of Mt Scott Lane, and headed into both cemeteries...the riparian area going North/NE through Willamette National Cemetery connects to the already Metro purchased Elcoa/old Girl Campfire site. This Metro site just off of SE Flavel, and 124th makes a connection via a riparian area down to the covered bridge at SE 132ND/Deardorff Road. From the cover bridge is a old wagon road that connects upstream to the Metro purchased..."Bundy Park" at the end of SE 141st. If one walks north on 141st, then one can cross Foster Road, and quickly be on the Spring Water Corridor at the base of Powell Butte. This route made the significant connection of allowing on to hike from Powell Butte to Mt Scott, then to Mt Talbert. If one was then tried of the all the ups and downs, then one could return via the flatter I-205 bike route to the Spring Water Trail, and back to the beginning. This was a very significant hike with some great views."

The Happy Valley voters supported the Metro Bond under the assumption that a portion of Scouters Mountain would be saved (70-90 acres). We hope that Metro continues to work with the Boy Scouts in conjunction with the new developer to continue with the proposed plan.

All the protected areas should not be on butte alone.

As I testified before the Metro Council when they were still located on Front Ave, and considering the "Green Spaces Program"... "We don't inherit this land from our forefathers, but we borrow it from our children, the work we do today is just one of the loan payments." In reference below...already gave a easement for a riparian zone to the city on past property that I once lived on.

Scouter's Mountain is accessible via trails and roads built for the Boy Scouts of America. The BSA land is adjacent to a pioneer cemetery that holds the remains of the founding members of the City of Happy Valley. The trails, roads and old cemetery should be maintained. The headwaters of Mitchell Creek area on the eastern flank of the mountain and this water corridor should be preserved to connect with other scenic and outdoor areas between the Eastern Buttes.

Direction and focus to acquire land for the elite is misguided and overly cost burdensome for the well to do.

You won't be able to buy enough, so a parallel effort needs to be made to work with local land trusts and private landowners who wish to continue to own and manage their land. They need to be offered technical support and incentives in exchange for progressive management practices, including selective timber harvesting and sustainable farming.

On behalf of the Native Plant Society Of Oregon, Portland Chapter, I urge you to purchase the site on Kelly Butte that contains the population of Erythronium oregona, the Oregon Fawn lily. As you may be aware, Portland once had an abundant and diverse native flora community. We now have an opportunity to save the last remnant, but significant population of the beautiful Oregon Fawn Lily. It would be a shame to lose the largest population in Portland of a Fawn Lily named after our state. This opportunity to preserve this natural treasure should not be missed.

