

BEFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE
METROPOLITAN SERVICE DISTRICT

SUPPORTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF) RESOLUTION NO. 91-1521
A NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE IN THE)
VICINITY OF SHERWOOD, OREGON) Introduced by
) Councilor Richard Devlin

WHEREAS, The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFW) has been conducting a study with respect to establishing a 3000 acre National Wildlife Refuge on lands near Sherwood, Oregon including areas adjacent to and generally south of the "Beef Bend" section of the Tualatin River, and the Chicken Creek and Rock Creek tributaries of the river, and

WHEREAS, This study has drawn the strong support of the greater Sherwood community, urban and rural, agricultural and business, and initial discussion of the National Wildlife Refuge concept was initiated with USFW by the City of Sherwood and its citizens, and

WHEREAS, USFW has completed an Environmental Assessment of this Refuge project, the results of which confirmed the desirability and viability of a National Wildlife Refuge along the Tualatin River and its tributaries in the Sherwood area, and

WHEREAS, The establishment of a Sherwood-area National Wildlife Refuge is consistent with regional and local open space policies, including the Metropolitan Service District's "Metropolitan Greenspaces" program and the City of Sherwood's greenway preservation policies; and

WHEREAS, The establishment of a Sherwood area National Wildlife Refuge has potential for providing numerous, interrelated and significant benefits to the local area and the region as a whole

including: preservation of open space and wetlands as contemplated by local plans and the "Metropolitan Greenspaces" program, improvements to surface water quality in the Tualatin River and its tributaries, opportunities for re-use of treated waste water available from the Unified Sewerage Agency, sustaining the quantity and quality of groundwater resources within the Columbia Basalt Aquifers underlying the area, the maintenance of the physical separation and unique identities of the area's communities, economic development through the Refuge's impact as a major visitor attraction, and as a resource for expanding and enhancing environmental and scientific educational programs at all levels; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED,

That the Council of the Metropolitan Service District supports the establishment of the Refuge, and urges USFW to expeditiously obtain the necessary authorizations to proceed with land acquisition and facility development.

ADOPTED by the Council of the Metropolitan Service District this
26 day of November, 1991.



Tanya Collier, Presiding Officer

STAFF REPORT

FOR THE PURPOSE OF SUPPORTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL
WILDLIFE REFUGE IN THE VICINITY OF SHERWOOD, OREGON

Date: November 12, 1991

Presented By:
Councilor Richard Devlin

FACTUAL BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

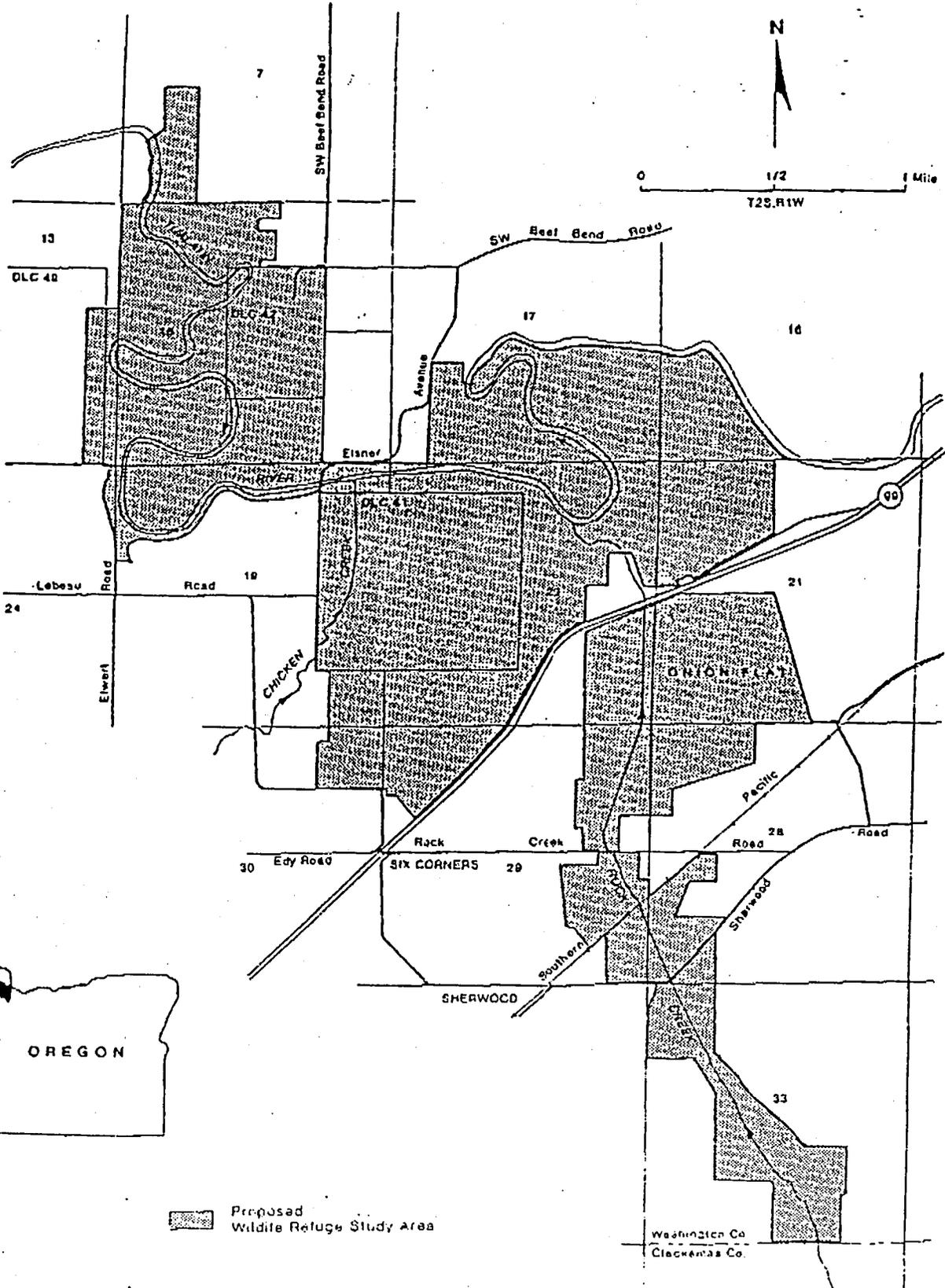
The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFW) has been studying the feasibility of establishing a 3,000 acre National Wildlife Refuge on lands near Sherwood, including areas adjacent to and generally south of the "Beef Bend" section of the Tualatin River, and the Chicken Creek and Rock Creek tributaries of the river. Farm and forest lands, and wetlands make up the proposed refuge. Most of the land is zoned for agriculture. The USFW Service is interested in protecting the banks of the Tualatin River and adjacent streams, flood plain and wetlands, as well as upland forested areas in the proposed refuge.

USFW Service has completed an Environmental Assessment of the proposed Refuge project, the results of which confirmed the desirability and viability of a National Wildlife Refuge along the Tualatin River and its tributaries in the Sherwood area.

The proposed refuge is consistent with regional and local open space policies, including the Metropolitan Greenspaces program and the city of Sherwood's greenway preservation policies. In addition, the project is complementary to efforts underway in the Tualatin River Basin to improve water quality; increase tourism and economic development through visitor attraction; and serve as a magnet and resource to enhance environmental and scientific educational programs in the region.

The refuge concept has enjoyed strong public support from the greater Sherwood community, urban and rural interests, agriculture and the business communities, and citizens. Public meetings, forums and open houses have been held to inform property owners and citizens about the project.

The policy and technical advisory committees of the Metropolitan Greenspaces program have passed motions to endorse the proposed Sherwood Wildlife Refuge.



Proposed Wildlife Refuge Study Area

Washington Co
Clackamas Co.

TRANSPORTATION AND PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

RESOLUTION NO. 91-1521, SUPPORTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
A NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE IN THE VICINITY OF SHERWOOD, OREGON

Date: November 15, 1991

Presented by: Councilor Devlin

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: At the meeting on November 12, 1991, the Committee voted 4-0 to recommend Council adoption of Resolution No. 91-1521. Voting in favor were Councilors Devlin, Gardner, McLain and Van Bergen. Councilor Bauer was excused.

COMMITTEE ISSUES/DISCUSSION: Sherwood City Manager Jim Rapp described the background and status of the proposed refuge.

Councilor McLain asked for clarification of the relationship between the Western Bypass and the proposed refuge. Mr. Rapp explained that the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) is conducting a corridor study, and the refuge is within the corridor. In his view, since almost all of the refuge is wetland, floodplain, or river, the freeway will not cross them, although there might be some marginal impact. A memorandum of understanding between U. S. Fish and Wildlife and ODOT is being prepared to address this issue, and is anticipated to be completed shortly.

Councilor Van Bergen asked if the refuge is in the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB). Mr. Rapp explained that the Rock Creek corridor between Sherwood and Rock Creek Roads is in the boundary; the rest of the refuge is not. He said that more of the refuge would be in the Metropolitan Service District boundary.

Councilor Van Bergen asked about the Council's authority to endorse projects outside the District's boundary. Councilor Gardner noted this is not a binding resolution, but an expression of support. He noted the resolution has been endorsed by the Greenspaces technical and policy advisory committees. Since it is consistent with the direction of the Greenspaces program, he believes it is appropriate to express support.

Councilor Devlin said that U.S. Fish and Wildlife seeks community support for activities of this nature, and support is beneficial to federal funding efforts. He noted it is directly adjacent to the UGB, and that there are only three facilities of similar size: Forest Park, Sauvie Island, and Smith and Bybee Lakes. He said it would be a real loss to the region if the refuge was not created.

Councilor Van Bergen asked whether Sherwood might later be concerned about lack of land. Mr. Rapp said that some of this property had been taken out of the UGB for the express purpose of preserving it, because it is in a flood plain.

Councilor McLain said this is a worthy project, and its importance should be recognized.