

BEFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE
METROPOLITAN SERVICE DISTRICT

FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENDORSING THE) RESOLUTION NO. 92-1564
U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE'S) Introduced by Rena Cusma,
PROPOSED OREGON ECOSYSTEMS PROGRAM) Executive Officer

WHEREAS, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Portland Field Office is proposing "The Oregon Ecosystems Program: A Partnership Approach to Maintaining Bio-diversity" and

WHEREAS, the proposed program would be a non-regulatory and cooperative approach in working with other governmental agencies, nonprofit conservation organizations, private landowners and citizens; and

WHEREAS, the proposed program would be complementary to the goals and objectives of the Metropolitan Greenspaces Program which focus on the protection of natural areas, and fish and wildlife habitat; and

WHEREAS, the program as summarized in "Exhibit A" hereto would provide another linkage between the Metropolitan Greenspaces Program and the federal government; and

WHEREAS, Congress has selected the Metropolitan Greenspaces as one of only two models for the entire country for urban natural resource protection programs which are multi-objective in approach; and

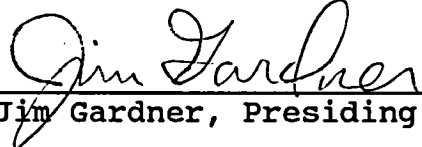
WHEREAS, the USFWS has been a key planning partner, cooperator and major revenue source for the Metropolitan Greenspaces Program; and

WHEREAS, the proposed "Oregon Ecosystems Program" would also include future revenues for the Metropolitan Greenspaces Program, as well as other urban natural areas programs in Oregon; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED,

That the Council of the Metropolitan Service District hereby endorses the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Portland Field Office's proposed "Oregon Ecosystems Program: A Partnership Approach to Maintaining Bio-diversity."

ADOPTED by the Council of the Metropolitan Service District this 26th day of March, 1992.



Jim Gardner, Presiding Officer

EXHIBIT A

THE OREGON ECOSYSTEMS PROGRAM

A Partnership Approach to Maintaining Biodiversity

SUMMARY

The Fish and Wildlife Service's Portland Field Office, in cooperation with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and other resource partners, proposes to establish the Oregon Ecosystems Program. This non-regulatory program will rely on coordinating existing programs and expertise (private, local, regional, State, and Federal), at appropriate landscape levels, to proactively seek resolution of fish and wildlife resource issues.

Like many western states, especially along the Pacific Coastline, Oregon has seen a rising human population, with concurrent increases in development and demand for natural resources. Unfortunately, ecological maintenance has not kept pace with the rate and extent of resource demand and development. Resulting ecosystem degradation, species extinctions and reductions threaten Oregon's economic and environmental foundations and accordingly Oregon's "livability". Widespread biodiversity reductions are likely to include species and gene pools crucial for maintaining ecosystem resilience to disturbance. Many of these species have potential commercial and pharmaceutical importance. Since species loss is permanent, related economic options cannot be realized in hindsight.

The Oregon Ecosystems Program has three objectives: to incorporate an ecosystem approach into existing Service activities; to develop partnerships for achieving integrated actions on the ground; and to involve and educate the public, resource managers, and the Service. These activities would provide the Service with a proactive capability to deal with resource issues. The Service will maintain involvement in review and regulatory processes, while working to minimize conflicts over the long-term by stressing cooperative partnership efforts for resolving resource problems. Program objectives will be developed in three arenas: statewide, regional, and site (ecosystem) specific.

Statewide emphasis will be on cooperation and coordination with existing agencies and programs. Existing State planning programs and resource management cooperatives will be an integral part of the program.

Regionally the program will structure activities within relevant ecologic boundaries, recognizing the need to manage resources as they are used by plants animals and man, not according to artificial boundaries. Current programs such as the Oregon GAP Analysis program, provide a landscape approach based on regional classifications, and can be utilized to coordinate and direct Ecosystem Program actions.

Site specific actions, will develop integrated responses to resource problems at appropriate ecological scales. For example, providing assistance to implement the Portland/Vancouver Greenspaces Program and expanding the Service's involvement to other metropolitan areas, Eugene/Springfield, Salem, and Medford that are interested in managing their natural areas. The program will stress aid to and cooperation with private land owners to develop site specific ecosystem restoration actions, such as restoring and/or enhancing wetland and riparian areas on their property. Cooperative voluntary efforts on private lands can significantly augment conservation efforts on public lands, hastening ecosystem and listed species recovery, helping to reduce the need for future Endangered Species listings, and avoiding related economic constraints.

TRANSPORTATION AND PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 92-1564, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENDORSING THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, PORTLAND FIELD OFFICE'S PROPOSED "OREGON ECOSYSTEMS PROGRAM"

Date: March 10, 1992

Presented by: Councilor Devlin

Committee Recommendation: At the March 10, 1992 meeting, the Transportation and Planning Committee voted unanimously to recommend Council adoption of Resolution No. 92-1564. Voting in favor: Councilors Devlin, Bauer, Buchanan, McLain and Washington.

Committee Issues/Discussion: Patrick Lee, Regional Planning Supervisor, presented the staff report on the resolution. He said that the Oregon Ecosystems Program is a proposal of the Regional Fish and Wildlife Service to establish a base level of funding to be allocated toward urban natural resource programs, like the Greenspaces program. If base level funding is achieved, the department views the program as "continuing" funding source for these types of programs.

This was discussed recently in Washington, D. C. during a meeting between several Metro Councilors and staff and the Oregon Congressional delegation. Councilor Devlin, who attended the meeting, said that the Congressional delegation believed that the funding level would probably be between \$250,000 and \$300,000.

STAFF REPORT

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 92-1564 FOR THE PURPOSE OF
ENDORING THE U.S FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, PORTLAND FIELD
OFFICE'S PROPOSED "OREGON ECOSYSTEMS PROGRAM"

Date: March 10, 1992

Presented by: Pat Lee and
Mel Huie

FACTUAL BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

Resolution No. 92-1564 endorses the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Portland Field Office's proposed "Oregon Ecosystems Program: A Partnership Approach to Maintaining Bio-diversity." The proposed program would be a non-regulatory and cooperative approach in working with governmental agencies, nonprofit conservation organizations, private property owners and citizens in protecting natural areas, and fish and wildlife habitat.

Key components of the initiative would include coordinated planning at the state and regional levels; expanding the urban natural areas planning efforts to other metropolitan areas in the state; working with and providing technical assistance to private landowners to carry out voluntary management practices on their property which support fish and wildlife habitat; site specific restoration projects; and continued financial support for the Metropolitan Greenspaces Program to carry out additional restoration projects.

The initiative is supportive and complementary of the Metropolitan Greenspaces Program's goals and objectives. It would provide: continued funding for the Greenspaces Restoration Grants to local communities and nonprofit organizations; technical assistance and stewardship training to private landowners; enhance existing planning activities among the various governmental agencies and conservation organizations; and strengthens the federal commitment to natural resources planning and implementation activities in Oregon.

The Greenspaces Technical Advisory Committee endorsed the initiative on February 14. The Greenspaces Policy Advisory Committee endorsed the initiative on February 26.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

The Executive Officer recommends adoption of Resolution No. 92-1564.