BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF APPROVING A REFINEMENT PLAN FOR THE JACKSON BOTTOM-DAIRY/ MCKAY CREEKS TARGET AREA AS OUTLINED IN THE OPEN SPACE IMPLEMENTATION WORK PLAN	))))))	RESOLUTION NO. 96-2342 Introduced by Mike Burton Executive Officer

WHEREAS, in July 1992, Metro completed the Metropolitan Greenspaces Master Plan which identified a desired system of natural areas interconnected with greenways and trails; and

WHEREAS, at the election held on May 16, 1995, the electors of Metro approved Ballot Measure 26-26 which authorizes Metro to issue $135.6 million in general obligation bonds to finance land acquisition and capital improvements pursuant to Metro's Open Spaces Program; and

WHEREAS, Jackson Bottom-Dairy/McKay creeks was designated as a greenspace of regional significance in the Greenspaces Master Plan and identified as a regional target area in the Open Space, Parks and Streams Bond Measure; and

WHEREAS, in November 1995, the Metro Council adopted the Open Space Implementation Work Plan, which calls for a public "refinement" process whereby Metro adopts a Refinement Plan including objectives and a confidential tax-lot-specific map identifying priority properties for acquisition; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 95-2228A authorizes the Executive Officer to purchase property with accepted acquisition guidelines as outlined in the Open Space Implementation Work Plan, now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED,

That the Metro Council adopts the Jackson Bottom-Dairy/McKay Creeks Refinement Plan, consisting of objectives and a confidential tax-lot-specific map identifying priority properties for acquisition, authorizing the Executive Officer to begin the acquisition of property and property rights as detailed in the Open Space Implementation Work Plan adopted in November, 1995 and in Resolution No. 95-2228A.

ADOPTED by Metro Council this 27th day of June, 1996.

Jon Kvistad

Jon Kvistad, Presiding Officer

Approved as to Form:

Daniel B. Cooper

Daniel B. Cooper, General Counsel

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Staff Report

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 96-2342, FOR THE PURPOSE OF APPROVING A REFINEMENT PLAN FOR THE JACKSON BOTTOM - DAIRY/MCKAY CREEKS TARGET AREA AS OUTLINED IN THE OPEN SPACES IMPLEMENTATION WORK PLAN

Date: June 24, 1996 **Presented by:** **Charles Ciecko**
Jim Desmond

PROPOSED ACTION

Resolution No. 96-2342, requests approval of a refinement plan and adoption of Target Area boundaries and objectives for the Jackson Bottom (Dairy/McKay creeks) Regional Greenspace. These boundaries and objectives will be used to guide Metro in the implementation of the Open Spaces Bond Measure.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

The target area description in the Bond Measure Fact Sheet (authorized by Council Resolutions 95-2113, 94-2050 and 94-2029B) was as follows:

> "Jackson Bottom Dairy/McKay Creeks Addition. Acquire 335 acres in area of creeks' confluence."

In the 1992 Greenspaces Master Plan, the target area was described as follows:

> "Dairy Creek is a low-gradient tributary of the Tualatin River in western Washington County. Remnant forest patches can be found along this system, but it is generally agricultural. There is a narrow, but almost continuous, corridor of riparian vegetation along the creek. At its confluence with the Tualatin, significant wetland habitat enhancement projects are underway or planned as part of the Jackson Bottom Master Plan. A major water quality planning effort to reduce phosphorous loads in the Tualatin is underway."
>
> "McKay Creek is a low-gradient stream flowing through primarily agricultural land east of the city of North Plains. It enters Dairy Creek just north of the confluence of Dairy Creek and the Tualatin River on the west side of Hillsboro. Blocks of adjacent upland forest still exist along the stream, although many are grazed. A major water quality planning effort to reduce phosphorous loads in the Tualatin is underway."

Target Area Description:

The Dairy and McKay creeks drain a largely agricultural watershed within Washington County. McKay Creek forms the western boundary of the City of Hillsboro and flows into Dairy Creek to the north of the Tualatin Valley Highway. Dairy Creek then forms the western boundary of Hillsboro to the confluence with the Tualatin River on the south.

Refinement Process

The Open Spaces Implementation Work Plan, adopted by the Metro Council in November 1995, requires that a Refinement Plan be submitted to the Council for review and adoption prior to the acquisition of property in each target area. The Refinement Plan will contain objectives and a confidential tax-lot-specific map identifying priority properties for acquisition, enabling Metro to begin the acquisition of property and property rights as detailed in the Open Space Implementation Work Plan and in Resolution No. 95-2228. Resolution No. 95-2228 "authorizes the Executive Officer to acquire real property and property interests subject to the requirements of the Acquisition Parameters and Due Diligence guidelines of the Open Space Implementation Work Plan."

During the refinement process, Metro staff compiled available information about the Dairy and McKay creeks target area, analyzed maps, and conducted biological field visits. In April of 1996, approximately 15 stakeholders were interviewed to identify key issues pertaining to the Dairy/McKay Creek Regional target area. These interviews included representatives of the City of Hillsboro and the City of Cornelius, Washington County, Unified Sewerage Agency, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, Washington County Soil & Water Conservation District, Washington County Farm Bureau, McKay Creek Valley Association, and the Tualatin River Watershed Council. The key points from the interviews are summarized in Appendix A.

A public workshop to discuss the proposed Refinement Plan was held on May 13, 1996 at the Shirley Huffman Cafeteria in Hillsboro. Notices of the workshop were mailed to area residents and other interested stakeholders. Approximately 50 people attended and their comments are summarized in Appendix B. A questionnaire was distributed at the workshop to gather public input on key resource issues and important connections, and eleven questionnaires were returned. A copy of the questionnaire is included as Appendix C.

Findings

- The Jackson Bottom Dairy/McKay Creeks Addition is a regionally significant natural area due to its fish, wildlife and water quality values.

- The Jackson Bottom Dairy/McKay Creeks Addition is a regionally significant greenway due to its water quality and connectivity values.

- The floodplain associated with Dairy and McKay creeks provides a "break" in the Urban Growth Boundary between the cities of Hillsboro and Cornelius. Metro's 2040 Growth Concept designates this area between the two cities as a "rural reserve" and the Tualatin Valley Highway is designated as a "green corridor" to reinforce the permanent open space separation of the two communities.

- The southerly end of the Dairy and McKay creeks watershed is anchored by Jackson Bottom, a regional wetland area with significant public ownership (approximately 500 acres). For over 15 years, the City of Hillsboro, the Unified Sewerage Agency, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the U.S. Soil Conservation District, and the Portland Audubon Society have been working together to preserve and enhance the natural resources of Jackson Bottom. Their efforts have been directed toward improving

the wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities and water quality at Jackson Bottom and in the Tualatin River.

- Jackson Bottom sits in the middle of the Tualatin River basin, near mile 45 of the 83-mile Tualatin River. The Tualatin River meanders through the Jackson Bottom study area, traversing a total of 9.5 river miles. The river is roughly 40 to 60 feet wide within the study area. A concept master plan for Jackson Bottom was prepared in January 1989 and the active "Friends of Jackson Bottom" has taken a leadership role in implementing wetland and recreational enhancement projects at Jackson Bottom, including plans for an interpretive center. A map of the Jackson Bottom Master Plan is attached as Appendix D.

- The Jackson Bottom wetland complex is part of a chain of regional wetlands that provide habitat and forage for a variety of migratory and wintering waterfowl as well as a variety of resident fish and wildlife. The riparian corridor extending north of Jackson Bottom along Dairy and McKay creeks provide an important link between agricultural lands, upland habitat and the river and wetland habitats at Jackson Bottom.

- The City of Hillsboro owns a natural area/park site to the east side of Dairy Creek and south of the Tualatin Valley Highway. The City has worked with developers to obtain protection and dedication of the 100-year floodplain as a condition of land division and subdivision adjacent to the creeks.

ROOD BRIDGE?

- The Banks Wetland, an approximate 240-acre wetland site, has been identified as a unique site containing all that remains of an estimated 10,000 acres of willow wetland/marsh that occurred on poorly drained labish, semiahmoo, and wapato soils. The site is located on Highway 6, and is part of the west fork of Dairy Creek Drainage. Biologists and the Nature Conservancy recommend protection of this site.

- Outside of the Urban Growth Boundary, agriculture is the predominant land use adjacent to Dairy and McKay creeks. In addition, two golf courses are located adjacent to the creeks between the cities of Hillsboro and Cornelius, a boy scout camp is located along McKay Creek to the west of Glencoe Road, and cemeteries abut the creek to the north of the Tualatin Valley Highway.

FIND ON MAP

- A biologist evaluated the Dairy and McKay creeks area based on the regional target area criteria. The evaluation is included as Appendix E and provides key findings leading to staff's recommended Refinement Area Boundary.

- Easements, dedications, donations, and other voluntary property-owner agreements should be pursued in addition to fee acquisition in order to stretch the impact of the regional dollars spent.

- A need exists for coordination with other government agencies and regulatory authorities to avoid duplication of protection efforts within the target area.

Regional Parks and Greenspaces Advisory Committee

A presentation of the staff report was given by Metro staff and consultants at a public meeting in Room 370A of Metro Regional Center on May 21, 1996. This analysis and the

resulting objectives were approved by a unanimous vote of The Regional Parks and Greenspaces Advisory Committee.

GOAL

Expand Jackson Bottom Wetlands complex at the confluence of Dairy Creek and the Tualatin River. Protect other significant wetlands associated with Dairy Creek and its tributaries. Provide a linear greenway connection extending north along Dairy and McKay creeks for multiple values:

- Wildlife habitat
- Water quality and water quantity management (floodplain protection)
- Education and stewardship opportunities
- Greenway corridor to regional open space at Jackson Bottom and the Tualatin River
- Permanent open space separation of Hillsboro and Cornelius.
- Passive recreation.

OBJECTIVES

Tier I Objectives:

- Acquire a minimum of 335 acres along Dairy and McKay creeks, with an emphasis on the creek confluence area south to Jackson Bottom.

- Acquire key parcels near the Dairy Creek confluence with the Tualatin River to complete public ownership of the Jackson Bottom Master Plan area for multiple purposes (habitat, water quality, public access, education).

- Acquire/protect the Banks Wetland in the upper Dairy Creek watershed because of unique soil and vegetation characteristics, flood control and water quality benefits.

- Acquire/protect areas along Dairy Creek north of Jackson Bottom to the confluence of Dairy and McKay creeks, with a focus on protecting riparian corridors along the creeks.

- Acquire/protect areas adjacent to the streams with upland forest habitats.

Tier II Objectives:

- Acquire/protect the riparian and wooded corridor along Dairy and McKay creeks extending north of the confluence of Dairy and McKay creeks to Hornecker Road, including the confluence of Council and Dairy creeks.

- Acquire/protect the riparian and wooded corridor along the Tualatin to connect Jackson Bottom to Fernhill Wetlands.

Partnership Objectives:

- Pursue partnership opportunities with the City of Hillsboro, City of Cornelius, Friends of Jackson Bottom, and the Unified Sewerage Agency to leverage the regional bond dollars targeted to the Dairy and McKay creeks target area.

- Pursue partnership opportunities with the farm community to retain agricultural land base within the target area.

- Coordinate with other government agencies and regulatory authorities to avoid duplication of protection efforts within the target area.

Executive Officer's Recommendation

The Executive Officer recommends passage of Resolution No. 96-2342.

Appendix A
Jackson Bottom/McKay and Dairy Creeks
Summary of Stakeholder Interviews

- Strong support to continue expansion of the Jackson Bottom Wetlands consistent with the concept master plan.

- Support from the cities of Cornelius and Hillsboro to use open space acquisition to reinforce the permanent separation of the two communities.

- City of Hillsboro vision to provide a linear greenway connection along Dairy and McKay creeks to Jackson Bottom and the Tualatin River on the south.

- Metro should explore opportunities to keep farm lands in production and focus acquisition efforts along the creek corridor; be sensitive to farmer concerns regarding trespass, excessive traffic and vandalism.

- There are many partnership opportunities in this target area, including at least the City of Hillsboro, City of Cornelius, Unified Sewerage Agency, Friends of Jackson Bottom and local schools.

- Questions from many farmers regarding future plans for construction of a public access trail along McKay Creek.

Stakeholders Interviewed:

Hal Bergsma and Jim Tice, Washington County Planning Dept., phone: 640-3519

Tom VanderPlaat, Water Resource Program Mgr., USA, phone: 648-8621

Larry Eisenberg, Washington County Facilities Management, phone: 648-8829

Rob Stockhouse, Biology Professor, Pacific University, Phone: 357-5161

Ivan Burnett, City Manager; Karl Mawson, Planning Director; Jim Smither, Associate Planner, City of Forest Grove, phone: 359-3226

Susan McLain, Metro Councilor, phone: 797-1553

Tualatin River Watershed Council, Staff Contact: Jackie Dingfelder, phone: 281-9623

Gene Herb, Joe Pesek and Holly Michel, ODF&W

Rob Foster, City Engineer, City of Forest Grove, phone: 359-3228

Tim Ewert, Manager, Joint Water Commission

McKay Creek Valley Association (meeting with about 8 people), Contact: Chris King, President, phone: 647-0007

Meeting with members of the Washington County Farm Bureau (about 10 individuals)

APPENDIX B
Jackson Bottom/McKay Creek/Dairy Creek/Gales Creek
Questions and Comments

Public Workshop, May 13, 1996, Shirley Huffman Cafeteria, Hillsboro
Attendance: approximately 50 persons

If Metro has $135 million to spend on 6,000 acres - that's $20,000 per acre and that would buy a lot of land in this area.

Staff responded by explaining budget breakdown by target area, and that the Dairy and McKay and Gales creeks target areas each have their own budget.

Who will pay the taxes on the land you acquire?

Staff explained that the properties are taken off the tax roll, but tradeoff is enhanced livability to attract businesses, adding to tax base.

If your Tier II objective (on Dairy/McKay) is to "pursue acquisition of riparian corridors," if you have one unwilling seller left in the area, will you delete the objective or take by acquisition?

Staff explained that there will always be some unwilling sellers, stressed that natural resources can still be protected by partial ownership, and that is goal.

So there is no question that a minority will ever be condemned?

Staff expanded explanation of willing seller program - Metro has no intent to condemn.

Does Metro have power of condemnation?

Yes, but we feel it would seriously harm the program.

Who do we come after ten years from now when you're gone?

Staff explained three year timeline to acquire at least 60%, stressed that Metro is not going to condemn.

If Metro decides to do a trail, we can't believe they won't condemn a holdout.

Staff explained that the Open Space Bond Measure is for acquisition only; some trails areas are already clearly identified in other areas.

If Metro has the honest intent of not condemning property, they should sign a binding contract. We are suspicious of government. A few years ago Metro showed us a map with trails for this area.

Staff responded that other areas are now designated trails, and this bond measure is different than one proposed in 1992 because it included target areas and goals.

Is it possible that the City of Forest Grove will do a trail in the city?

Metro will be happy to work with the City if that is one of their projects.

If you acquire creek frontage, will you manage the creek? (remove downed trees, etc.)

Staff responded that Metro will be as responsible as any property owner would be, that sometimes trees should be left down for fish habitat reasons, as flooding is a natural phenomenon.

What is your timeline?

Staff explained timeline and fund distribution between objective tiers, and that it also depends on finding willing sellers.

Most of the land (targeted) is outside the UGB, already in public ownership, or floodplain, therefore undevelopable and protected.

Staff responded that Metro won't buy public lands, and there are more threats than just residential development, i.e. water quality issues. Each parcel is evaluated individually.

Councilor McLain stated that if a property is wetland, it can be developable due to mitigation, filling, drainage, etc.

Is Metro creating another bureaucracy to manage the lands we acquire?

Staff explained funding for program by Metro Council, the general revenue process, and importance of partnerships.

What are the long term objectives, can funds be used for enhancement?

Staff explained landbanking, which may include enhancement, i.e., replanting clearcuts, repairing slides, etc.

A person said he supports acquisition of the Banks Wetland area.

Please review the public access issue.

Staff responded that one of our problems will be controlling public access, and that access won't happen immediately, but some areas may already have public access. Reviewed management plans and public processes. Short term issues include maintaining the status quo, which may mean putting up gates or fences.

What's to stop this all from changing to very public active recreational areas ten years from now?

Councilor McLain stated that public figures change over time, and that future generations may decide on a trail, but we cannot now take away rights of future Council and public to determine policy. We can only be responsible for today; however, intent of Measure 26-26 is open spaces and willing seller program. All decisions will be made in a public process.

Staff responded that the voters voted for the bond measure as it currently stands.

Bond measure was voted down the first time, and Metro should have listened to the voters.

Staff explained differences between the two proposals.

The Tualatin River Water Quality Plan imposes a ban on usage 25' from banks. Why do we need Metro if it's already protected?

The objectives state that we don't want to take active agricultural or already protected land.

Why didn't Metro just go to the landowners first to see if you had any sellers?

Staff explained refinement plan to identify natural resource areas, which determines properties Metro may want to purchase.

Why not simply take all the Bond Measure funds to improve sewage and stormwater management if you are interested in water quality?

That is not the sole intent of the Bond Measure.

A participant encouraged acquisition around Fernhill Wetlands and Jackson Bottom, especially to create educational opportunities.

A participant stated the importance of protecting biological values because conditions will certainly change in 20 years. Stated we should all be working toward this together.

How is the $25 million in local share dollars spent?

Staff explained local share program. Scott Talbot with the City of Hillsboro talked of specific projects--Noble Woods, Rood Bridge Park and Rock Creek acquisitions and enhancements.

We (the community) have seen uncontrolled growth and we don't trust politicians.

A member of the audience stated they support more funds being spent in urban developed areas, especially for water quality issues. Buy the USA land in Forest Grove.

Does zoning get lifted for Metro?

Staff responded that it does not. We are not that different from other landowners.

Various participants stated that it is important to buy contiguous parcels, they were looking for information on conservation easements, and to keep the UGB where it is.

METRO

DAIRY/MCKAY CREEKS
JACKSON BOTTOM ADDITION
QUESTIONNAIRE

The Metro staff invites you to participate in the Refinement process for the Dairy/McKay Creeks study. Refinement is the public process through which Metro adopts specific geographic boundaries and objectives for each target area. In the course of this process we interview stakeholders, evaluate the undeveloped land in the target area and formulate preliminary objectives. Please assist us by completing this questionnaire and sharing your ideas.

1. For the Refinement process being undertaken by the Metro staff for Dairy/McKay Creeks, what key elements should be emphasized in the land acquisition? (Rank in order from 1 to 5, with 1 being the most important and 5 the least important).

____ Acquisition of properties adjacent to Jackson Bottom.

____ Acquisition of land along the Dairy/McKay Creek corridor to provide a connection from Hillsboro neighborhoods to Jackson Bottom and the Tualatin River.

____ Link of Council Creek at the northeast edge of Cornelius with Dairy/McKay Creeks and Jackson Bottom.

____ Acquisition of parcels east of Dairy/McKay Creek and within the urban growth boundary.

____ Acquisition of parcels between the cities of Hillsboro and Cornelius to maintain a permanent open space separation of the two communities.

2. What other objectives should be emphasized? (Rank 1 to 5, same as above).

____ Preservation/restoration of natural wildlife habitat.

____ Wetlands and riparian corridors.

____ Watershed/tributary protection.

____ Public access.

____ educational opportunities.

3. Specifically, where do you think public access is appropriate?

4. Are there locations where you would recommend against access? Please briefly explain why.

What suggestions would you propose to enhance the regional natural area?

Additional comments:

Are you interested in participating in the Open Space Program as a willing seller or benefactor in the form of a donation, dedication or conservation easement?

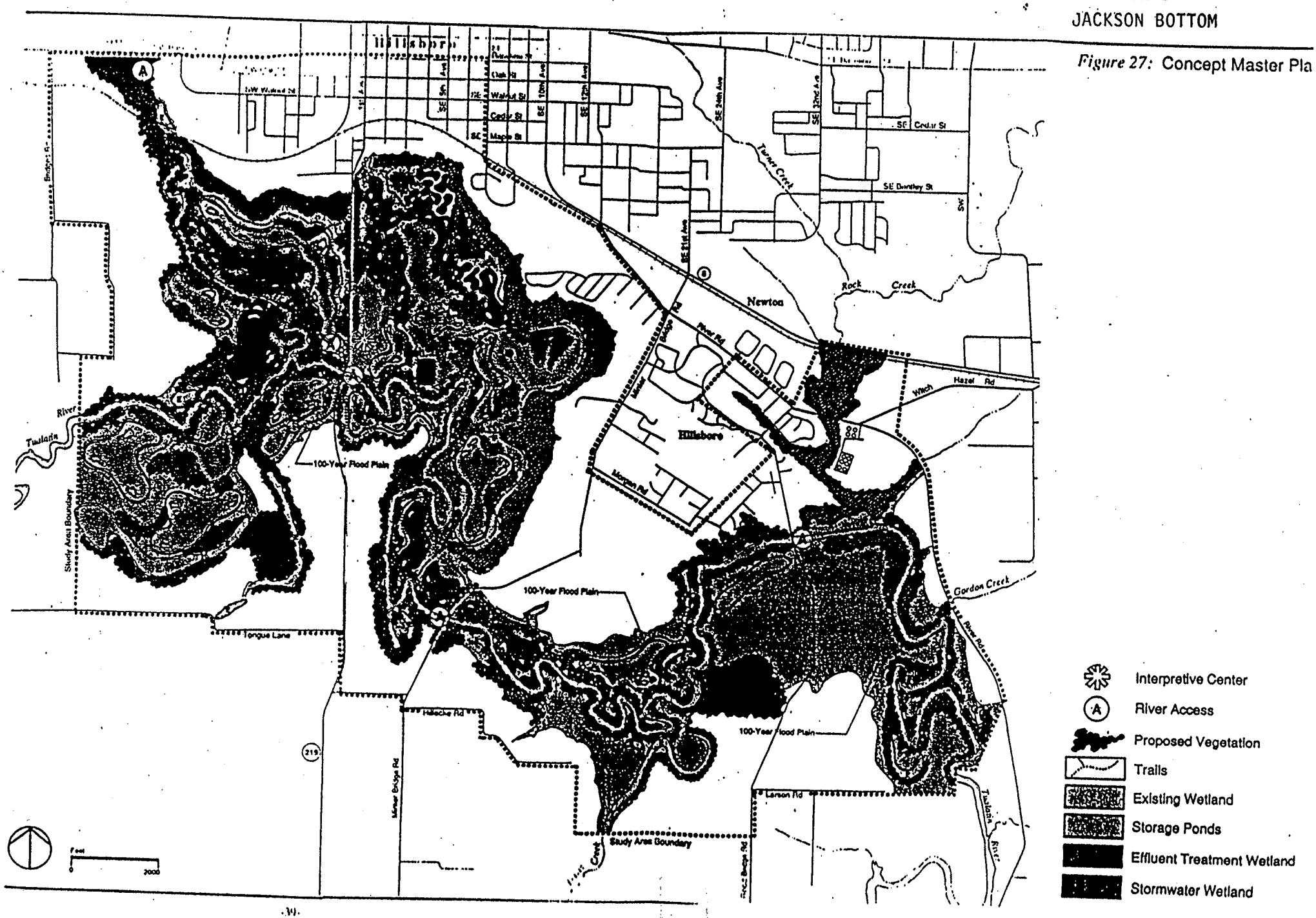
Name, Address, Phone Number (OPTIONAL)

Please add my name to your Dairy/McKay Creek mailing list for future information, public meetings and events.

Please return questionnaire to Metro Open Spaces Program, 600 NE Grand Avenue, Portland, OR 97232-2736. You may also call Metro's Open Space Hotline (797-1919) for more information or to leave a comment.

APPENDIX D
JACKSON BOTTOM

Figure 27: Concept Master Pla



APPENDIX E

BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT
of
McKay and Dairy Creek Drainages

Prepared for:

METRO - Regional Parks and Greenspaces Department
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INTRODUCTION

Fishman Environmental Services (FES) was contracted by Metro to conduct biological site evaluations of portions of the McKay and Dairy Creek drainage basins for the Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces Program. The study area includes McKay Creek between Glencoe Road and the confluence of McKay and Dairy Creek and Dairy Creek between Susbauer Road and its confluence with the Tualatin River. Banks swamp and Council Creek east of Susbauer Road are also included. Most sites are centered around stream reaches; site boundaries are defined by roads or extreme changes in riparian vegetation.

METHODS

Background information was collected from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW,1995), Jackson Bottom Management Plan (SRI, 1992), Oregon Natural Heritage Program (Christy, 1991), and Washington County Rural Natural Resource Community Plan (1985). Site descriptions are based upon a single site visit conducted on April 16 or April 20, 1996. Field surveys consisted of observing sites from roadways unless access was allowed by the property owner. Floral and faunal species lists were compiled for each site; project time constraints and excessive rain during the allotted time for field work limited observable wildlife species. Fish species were compiled from ODFW fish surveys. Each site was evaluated based on size, type, condition, structure, interspersion to other habitats, and unique features. Wetland functions of flood storage and water quality benefits were also included.

SITE EVALUATIONS

Dairy Creek and McKay Creek are low-gradient streams located within a largely agricultural watershed in Washington County. Dairy Creek is a tributary of the Tualatin River and McKay Creek enters Dairy Creek north of the Tualatin Valley Highway just north of the confluence of Dairy Creek and the Tualatin River at the southwest corner of the City of Hillsboro.

Nine sites were evaluated in the Dairy and McKay Creek drainages for this study (Figure 1). All of these resource sites provide important fish and wildlife habitat by providing water, food, and cover resources. A description of each site follows:

Site 1 Jackson Bottom (Vicinity)

Description: Site 1 is lower Dairy Creek and adjacent Tualatin River areas located south of the Southern Pacific rail line. It includes Jackson Bottom (approximately 450-acres), agricultural fields on both sides of Highway 219 (private, approximately 200 acres, and Unified Sewerage Agency, approximately 230 acres), and riparian areas at the lower end and mouth of Dairy Creek and the Tualatin River (approximately 75 acres).

Vegetation: Site 1 is dominated by agricultural fields and emergent wetlands located in the floodplain of the Tualatin River. The riparian corridor of Dairy Creek and the Tualatin River is typically narrow, approximately 25 - 50 feet on either side of the stream and generally with

moderate to moderately steep banks. Vegetation was observed from Highway 219 and the Kingfisher trail at Jackson Bottom. The predominantly deciduous canopy is dominated by Oregon ash (12-18" dbh) and includes willow and black cottonwood. The shrub understory is diverse and includes red-osier dogwood, willow, Indian plum, Oregon grape, serviceberry, spirea, beaked hazelnut, rose, vine maple, red elderberry, cascara, poison oak, and snowberry. Himalayan blackberry is dominant on the riparian margins at the disturbed edge of the plowed fields. Herbaceous vegetation is more limited due to the dense shrub cover; it includes reed canarygrass, fringecup, and sword fern. There are three contiguous woodlands located adjacent to the Dairy Creek riparian corridor: on the north end, in the middle and at the confluence of Dairy Creek and the Tualatin River.

Condition/Disturbance: Reed canarygrass dominates portions of Jackson Bottom; habitat has been diversified during the last 6 years by pond and island construction. One of the primary goals of the Jackson Bottom Management plan is habitat diversification. Agricultural fields dominate landscape.

Habitat Values:

- Fish and wildlife:
  - large flocks of wintering and migrant waterfowl, and nesting waterfowl in and adjacent to agricultural fields and Jackson Bottom
  - native cutthroat trout upstream in Dairy and McKay Creeks

- Habitat features:
  - wildlife travel corridor along creek
  - confluence of Dairy Creek and Tualatin River
  - forest pockets adjacent to creek northwestern corner near railroad, vicinity of confluence, adjacent to southwest field, and northeast corner of Jackson Bottom.
  - large size of contiguous undeveloped habitat
  - creek connects to Tualatin River

- Other features:
  - floodplain including large amount of agricultural, emergent, and forested wetlands
  - connectivity of City land on Dairy Creek with Tualatin River
  - large size of public land (USA, Jackson Bottom); potential for larger complex
  - potential for boat launching site on river
  - existing trails and educational opportunities already established at Jackson Bottom

Site 2 Dairy Creek: north and south of Tualatin Valley (TV) Highway

Description: Site 2 is located north and south of TV Highway and includes Dairy Creek and its associated riparian habitat (22 acres), and agricultural floodplain to the west (38 acres)
Note: adjacent land east of Dairy Creek within UGB has already been filled for commercial/industrial development)

Vegetation: The riparian corridor along Dairy Creek is narrow and limited to streambanks. Vegetation is similar to lower Dairy Creek (Site 1). The adjacent floodplain is farmed and contains emergent wetlands.

Condition/Disturbance: This site is visible from TV Highway; wildlife inhabiting site impacted by highway disturbances and noise. Agricultural disturbances to native vegetation.

Habitat Values: important connection between upper creek and lower creek.

- Fish and wildlife:
  native cutthroat trout upstream in Dairy and McKay Creeks
  most likely winter waterfowl habitat in agricultural fields

- Habitat features:
  connectivity of Dairy and McKay Creeks to Tualatin River
  wildlife travel corridor along stream

- Other features:
  floodplain including emergent wetlands provide water quality and hydrologic control

McKay Creek
Golf
course

Site 3 McKay Creek and confluence of McKay w/ Dairy Creek

Description: Site 3 includes portions of McKay and Dairy Creeks and associated riparian habitat (approximately 115 acres) including the confluence of McKay and Dairy creeks, and adjacent lands (approximately 200 acres) including an upland and wetland forest island, a large area of emergent camas wetland (McKay golf course course), and a few Douglas fir woodland pockets.

Vegetation: The riparian community adjacent to McKay Creek extends beyond the top of the hillslope in portions of this reach. Riparian vegetation is dominated by native species. The canopy is dominated by Oregon ash and black cottonwood and includes Oregon white oak and cherry. Shrubs include red-osier dogwood, rose, red elderberry, snowberry, Indian plum, tall Oregon grape, serviceberry, and vine maple. The understory is dominated by lily (Erythronium), fringecup, meadow rue, and camas and includes reed canarygrass and bittersweed nightshade on streambanks. The island forest is multi-layered with abundant woody debris. It contains wetlands to the south and uplands to the north. It is dominated by Oregon ash, spirea, and reed canarygrass on the south end and big leaf maple, Douglas fir, Oregon white oak, star-flowered solomon's seal, and snowberry on the north end.

Condition/Disturbance: Himalayan blackberry is present on field margins where soil has been plowed but is not dominant. A small patch of English ivy occurs in the woodland. Fields have been plowed and seeded for agriculture and golf course. Abundant camas remains in golf course field.

Habitat Values: Stream meanders in natural channel and is generally shaded by riparian vegetation; large size and diverse habitats.

- Fish and wildlife: Cutthroat trout have been observed in this reach
  winter waterfowl, nesting woodducks
  great-horned owl, deer, raccoon, and a variety of riparian species observed

- Habitat features:
  McKay Creek generally contains diverse native riparian vegetation
  meandering natural channel; stream 75%+ shaded by canopy vegetation
  connectivity to Tualatin River; wildlife travel corridor along stream
  mosaic of different habitat types

- Other features:
  broad floodplain includes emergent and forested wetlands
  large floodplain wetlands protect water quality, quantity, and hydrologic control

small farms

Site 4 Unnamed tributary to McKay Creek (lower Glencoe swale)

Description: Site 4 is located west of NW Hornecker Road and east of McKay Creek. It includes a small tributary to McKay Creek and its narrow riparian corridor (aproximately 22 acres). Upstream northeast of Glencoe Road this tributary is known as Glencoe swale. Site 4 was observed from Hornecker Road and from Padgett Road. LEISTER RD; UPPER REACHES

Vegetation: The upper end of the stream is approximately 10 feet wide and contains a well-developed riparian canopy. Vegetation is dominated by red alder and includes Oregon ash and black cottonwood. Understory vegetation includes grass with pockets of skunk cabbage. Roadside fill slopes on the upper end are dominated by Himalayan blackberry. The lower two-thirds of the stream does not contain riparian vegetation and the stream narrows. This portion of the stream is grazed by cattle. Vegetation is dominated by grass with scattered clumps of skunk cabbage and shrubs.

Habitat values:

- Fish and wildlife:
  - fish habitat limited due to seasonal nature of tributary
  - contributes to wildlife habitat especially songbirds
- Habitat features:
  - connectivity to McKay Creek
- Other features:
  - narrow floodplain dominated by emergent vegetation
  - some water quality benefits
  - proximity to residential development

Site 5 Scout Camp Ireland (Vicinity)

Description: Site 5 is located in the vicinity of McKay Creek north of Hornecker Road and between Leisy and Glencoe Roads. It includes McKay Creek, riparian habitat, and adjacent forest and agricultural fields. McKay Creek meanders through a natural channel on the east half of this site; a western fork of the creek appears to have been channelized and contains a couple of dams. Site 5 was observed from Hornecker Road and Camp Ireland and includes approximately 340 acres.

Vegetation: Woodland vegetation adjacent to the stream at Camp Ireland contains Douglas fir, Pacific yew, western red cedar, big leaf maple, and grand fir in the canopy. Shrub vegetation includes vinemaple, salal, snowberry, and tall Oregon grape. Understory vegetation supports a variety of wildflowers including trillium, duckfoot, wood violet, buttercup, vanilla leaf, waterleaf, and sword fern. Riparian vegetation is dominated by Oregon ash, red alder, western red cedar, and spirea. The meandering stream is well-shaded by the canopy. The forest area is surrounded by agricultural fields.

Condition/Disturbance: Portions of the woodland at the scout camp have been trampled for trail use, camping and picnicking purposes. Scouts have installed a bridge crossing and soft path trails. Even with heavy use, the adjacent woodland retains a dominance of diverse native vegetation.

Habitat Values: Site 5 contains the broadest woodland habitat adjacent to a riparian corridor of all sites.

- Fish and wildlife:
  - Cutthroat trout
  - owl, deer, variety of riparian, forest, and forest/field edge wildlife species
  - forest, riparian, and edge wildlife species

- Habitat features:
  - large forested areas (approximately 250 acres)
  - connectivity to Tualatin River
  - broad wildlife travel corridor
  - mosaic of diverse habitats

- Other features:
  - scout camp with existing trails and bridge over stream

HOBBS RD - 13257

Site 6 Council Creek

Description: Site 6 is located along Council Creek between Susbauer Rd. and Hobbs Rd. It includes the natural stream channel and broad (approximately 100 feet) forested wetland floodplain with forested deciduous and coniferous hillslopes (approximately 33 acres). Site 6 was observed from Susbauer and Hobbs roads.

Vegetation: Site 6 is dominated by a wetland shrub community. Vegetation is dominated by Pacific willow, red-osier dogwood, and reed canarygrass and includes Oregon ash, lady fern, and stinging nettle. The channel is approximately 20 to 25 feet wide and flows through a broader wetland (approximately 100 feet). The eastern third of Site 6 includes adjacent upland woodlands. Vegetation on upland hillslopes is dominated by Douglas fir and western red cedar.

Condition/Disturbance: reed canarygrass is dominant in emergent areas

Habitat values:

- Fish and wildlife:
  Riparian species (birds observed include common yellowthroat, rufous-sided towhee, and red-winged blackbird).

- Habitat features:
  connectivity to Dairy Creek (and eventually Tualatin River)
  adjacent forest community on east end

- Other features:
  floodplain including emergent and scrub-shrub wetlands
  relatively large floodplain wetlands for the size of stream protect water quality, quantity, and hydrologic control
  forested hillslopes protect slopes from erosion and protect water quality

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Site 7 Council Creek

Description: Site 7 is located along Council Creek between Hobbs Rd. and the confluence of Council Creek with Dairy Creek. This reach of Council Creek has been influenced by clearing and grazing. Site 7 includes Council Creek and its broad (approximately 100 foot) emergent floodplain (aproximately 44 acres).

Vegetation: Stream side vegetation is dominated by grasses with pockets of willow, red alder, and skunk cabbage.

Condition/Disturbance: Trees and shrubs are limited due to agricultural practices. Potential for restoration.

Habitat values:

- Fish and wildlife:
  Riparian species (birds observed include red-winged blackbird and rufous-sided towhee).

- Habitat features:
  connectivity to Dairy Creek (and eventually Tualatin River)

- Other features:
  floodplain including emergent wetlands
  relatively large floodplain wetlands for the size of stream protect water quality, quantity, and hydrologic control

Site 8 Dairy Creek: east of Susbauer Rd. and north of Council Creek

Description: Site 8 includes Dairy Creek and associated riparian habitat (approximately 109 acres) and adjacent agricultural land (approximately 280 acres) located east of Susbauer Road and north of Coucil Creek.

Vegetation: Site 8 is broad forested riparian corridor. Riparian vegetation is dominated by Oregon ash and includes willow and black cottonwood. The shrub understory is diverse and includes red-osier dogwood, willow, Indian plum, Oregon grape, serviceberry, spirea, beaked hazelnut, rose, vine maple, red elderberry, cascara, and snowberry. The adjacent forest to the north is dominated by big leaf maple and red alder. Herbaceous vegetation is limited due to dense canopy; it includes giant fawn lily, fringecup, and sword fern. Himalayan blackberry is dominant on the forest margins at the disturbed edge of the adjacent plowed fields.

Condition/Disturbance: Himalayan blackberry is dominant on the forest margins at the disturbed edge of the adjacent plowed fields. Garbage has been dumped in the forest margins along Susbauer Road.

Habitat values:

- Fish and wildlife:
  Riparian species

- Habitat features:
  broad riparian forest beyond top of hillslope
  connectivity to Tualatin River via creek corridor

- Other features:
  narrow floodplain includes forested wetlands and provides some water quality protection

Site 9 Banks Swamp

Description: Site 9 is a scrub-shrub swamp located on either side of Highway 6, 1.5 miles west of Banks. It includes approximately 240 acres. Banks swamp is a relic interior valley willow bottom occurring on organic soils. It occurs on an ancient lake bed formed by the impeded drainage of Park Farms Creek, a tributary of the West Fork of Dairy Creek. Most wetlands of this type have been converted to onion farms, pasture, or other agricultural land. This site has been ditched and grazed but grazing has been light in wetland areas.

Vegetation: Vegetation is dominated by dense stands of Geyer's willow with lesser amounts of Piper's willow and Pacific willow. The site also includes approximately 40 acres of Douglas spirea, reed canarygrass, sedges, and other emergent species and 30 acres of Oregon ash with an understory of reed canarygrass and sedges.

Disturbance/Condition: The site has been ditched and grazed for decades although grazing has been light in wet areas. The dense willow and spirea stands are in excellent condition. A single ditch extends the entire length of the wetland but is dammed in several places by beaver. Highway 6 was built across the wetland in the 1930's isolating 15 acres south of the highway. Routine maintenance of the PGE powerline corridor also impacts the site periodically. Reed canarygrass is dominant in portions of the site and non-native bullfrogs are abundant.

Habitat Values:

- Fish and wildlife:
  beaver, waterfowl, abundant red-winged blackbirds, swallows

- Habitat features:
  large size of scrub-shrub wetland with ponded water

- Other features:
  floodplain including emergent, scrub-shrub, and forested wetlands
  large floodplain wetlands protect water quality, quantity, and hydrologic control
    water quality benefits are significant due to upstream agricultural practices

Ecological significance: unique plant community; relic Willamette Valley scrub-shrub; largest contiguous stand of vegetation type remaining in the Willamette Valley. All that remains of an estimated 10,000 acres of willow swamp/marsh that occurred on poorly drained Labish, Semiahmoo, and Wapato soils. Geyer's willow is rare in the Willamette Valley and its occurrence as a dominant species is significant and reflects a pre-settlement vegetation type.

Note: The Nature Conservancy could not acquire Site 9 because it was too weedy to meet their acquisition goals. They would like to see it preserved. Most of the above information was taken from The Nature Conservancy's Preserve Design Plan authored by John Christy.

SUMMARY

In the study area both Dairy and McKay Creeks flow in natural meandering channels with well-developed multi-layered canopies providing shade over 70% of the stream and protecting stream water quality from erosion. ODFW sampled fish in Dairy Creek at Roy Road north of the study area and found native cutthroat trout and reticulate sculpin. Further upstream they observed western brook lamprey, cutthroat trout, rainbow trout, reticulate sculpin, and torrent sculpin. The abundance and diversity of these species reflects the high water quality of the stream. Cutthroat have also been observed on McKay Creek. Both streams also provide potential spawning and rearing areas for coho salmon and steelhead. It is important to preserve stream integrity and water quality for these species that are intolerant to warm water and sediment filled streams. It is also important to maintain large contiguous habitat for wildlife adjacent to streams. The broader the protected corridor surrounding a stream, the more species it will benefit. Woodlands adjacent to streams provide valuable food, cover and nesting resources. Due to extensive agricultural land uses in this drainage, it is important to preserve the few remaining woodlands as well as restore woodland and riparian vegetation once sites are acquired.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Acquire land adjacent to existing public land to increase the size of existing public greenspaces (Sites 1 & 2).

- Acquire upland forest habitat adjacent to stream corridors as it is uncommon in this area due to extensive agricultural land uses (Sites 1,3,5,6, and 8).