



METRO

Meeting: **FUTURE VISION COMMISSION**

Date: **September 12, 1994**

Day: **Monday**

Time: **4:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.**

Place: **Metro, Room 370**

Approximate
Time

1. CALL TO ORDER

15 minutes

2. ROLL CALL

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

4. OTHER BUSINESS

5. MINUTES

Approval of the July 25, 1994 minutes

5. WORK SESSION

◦ Carrying Capacity Discussion

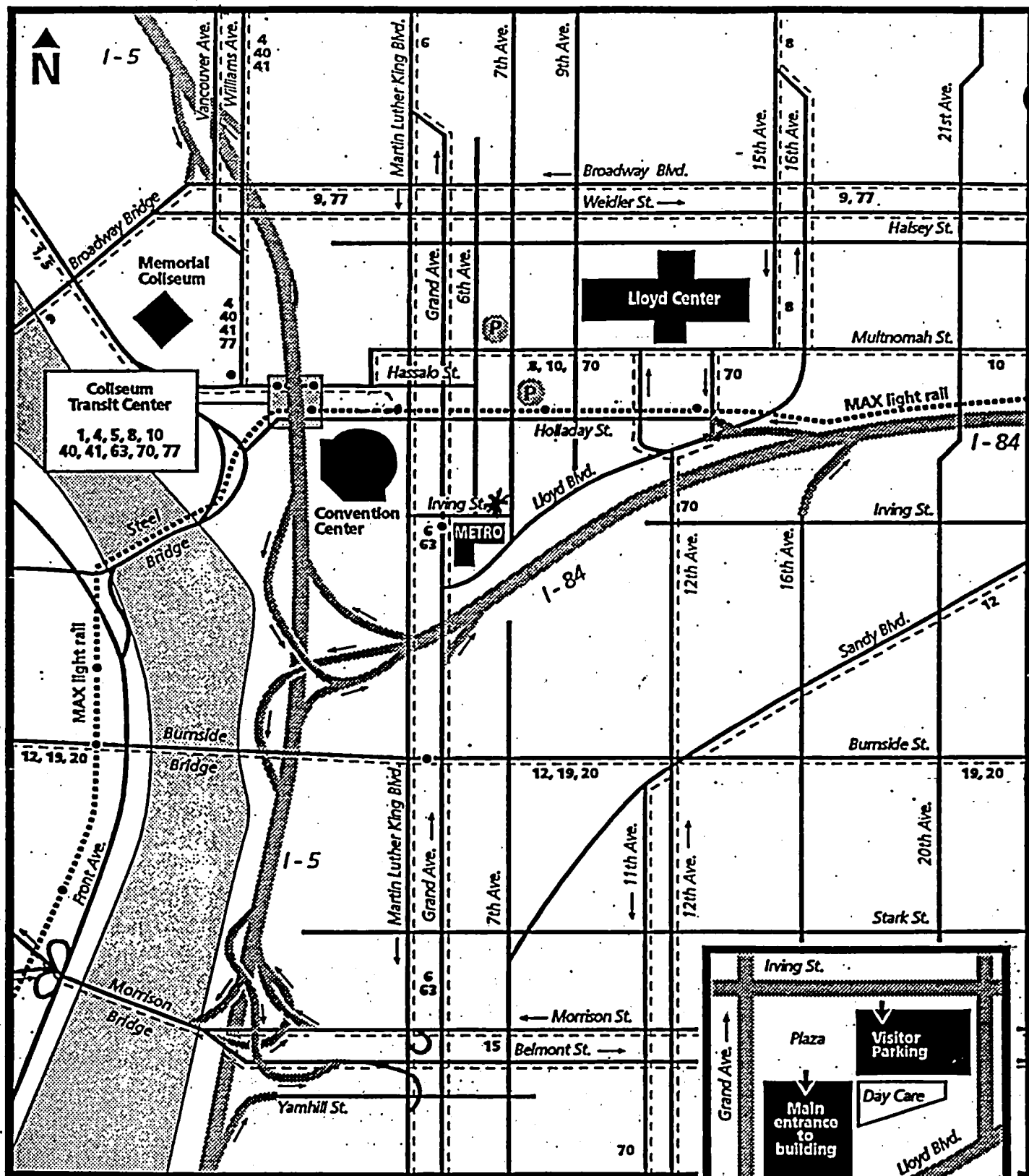
135 minutes

Enclosures:

Queen Salmon info from Mike Houck

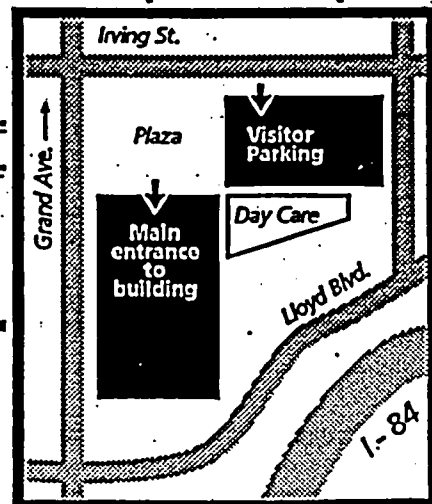
Memo from Ethan Seltzer and Ken Gervais

Questions? Call Barbara Duncan at 797-1562.



Legend

- = bus route
- 70 = bus number
- = street
- ⬢ = freeway
- = max
- = bus/max stop
- Ⓟ = public parking; \$2 half day, \$4 full day



Enter Metro visitor parking from Irving Street (time limit 4 hours per visit). Enter Metro Regional Headquarters from the plaza.

FUTURE VISION COMMISSION

Meeting Summary, July 25, 1994

Members in attendance: Len Freiser, Chair; Judy Davis, Mike Houck, Wayne Lei, Peggy Lynch, Robert Liberty, Peter McDonald, Susan McLain, John Magnano, Ted Spence and Bob Textor.

Others in attendance included: David Ausherman, Glen Bolen, Barbara Duncan, Ken Gervais, Ethan Seltzer, Larry Shaw and Ron Weaver.

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 4:15 by Chair Freiser.

II. Public Comment - none

III. Other

Judy Davis provided an executive summary of *"Transit Supportive Development in the United States"*.

A sincere thanks went to Peter McDonald and his family for their generosity at the Commission picnic last Monday, a good time was had by all.

Peggy Lynch submitted Notes on various topics. [Full copies of were included in the 8/9 meeting packet]

Peter McDonald stated that an early explorer (Lewis & Clark?) said "it could support 40,000 - 50,000 souls" this was likely the first attempt to talk about carrying capacity

Ethan Seltzer mentioned a Sunset magazine article on Portland.

VI. MPAC/JPACT Joint Meeting

Susan McLain stated that the Preferred Alternative (PA) will be a proposal on scale and scope, but not site specific recommendations. The Planning Committee heard a presentation on the PA and gave feedback to staff. It should be decided who and what the FVC wants to present at the Joint meeting.

Robert Liberty stated that regarding the PA designation of areas as "Urban Reserves" this (even proposed) designation has impacts on ownership and value of those lands.

Motion: Robert Liberty moved to recommend to MPAC and JPACT that they adopt "no urban reserves" and no expansion into Exclusive Farm Use (EFU) land or forest land. The motion was seconded by Peter McDonald.

Commissioners discussed the map, the urban reserve areas shown, current zoning and priorities for urban reserves. There was discussion of soil types and farming viability.

Susan McLain stated that meetings are being planned to speak directly with people farming in the area.

Members discussed the definition of exception and urbanizable lands.

Peter McDonald stated that in Oregon there are 180 crops being grown, "prime farm land" can have a different meaning for different crops. You cannot just preserve class A & B soils, you need to preserve areas for farming to be viable.

David Ausherman discussed the amount of acreage and criteria in Category 1 and 2 expansion lands. The marked up maps from work sessions with local government planning staffs will be folded into the draft 2 map. Mike Houck stated that the discussion of the Commission is not how the map should be changed, but how it compares to the Commission's goals.

Ethan Seltzer suggested an amendment to Robert Liberty's motion that the maps showing the PA not reflect more than the acreage needed to accommodate the expected population.

Ken Gervais stated that the Vision document is what 2040 has to conform with. The Commission should not be

commenting on the PA, but stating how it is inconsistent with the Vision. Also it is trade off decisions, if not this land, then what land?

Members discussed the location of greenbelts or "rural reserves". Mike Houck questioned why there was no greenbelt between the Metro area and Estacada. David Ausherman stated that this is a 50 year plan, greenbelts are focused on transportation corridors and intended to keep communities separate.

Larry Shaw stated that Robert Liberty's motion would mean zero EFU use which is more strict than the state policy on urban reserves.

Peter McDonald stated concern about the term greenbelt.

Robert Liberty restated and wrote his motion as below:

- 1) Under Metro's Charter, the Commission is charged with preparing a Future Vision document which, among other things, must address "(2) how and where to accommodate the population growth of the region while maintaining a desired quality of life for its residents, and (3) how to develop new communities and additions to the existing urban areas in well planned ways".
- 2) In April, the Commission adopted a principle that any expansions of the regional UGB into urban reserves should not be allowed on lands now zoned for farm and/or forest use.
- 3) The draft preferred alternative identifies 7,000 acres zoned for farm or forest use as Urban Reserves. This is inconsistent with the Future Vision Commission's principle and thus the 2040 urban growth concept staff recommendation is likely to be inconsistent with the Future Vision to be proposed to the Council next year.
- 4) The need for any urban reserves at all assumes the region will accept and accommodate all the projected population increase. Whether or not this is appropriate or possible, depends on the region's carrying capacity. The Charter requires the Future Vision Commission to analyze the region's carrying capacity. Until this analysis is completed the Commission does not accept or reject the recommendation that 18,000 acres must be added to the regional UGB.

Vote: The above motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Mike Houck moved that greenbelts be designated consistently surrounding the region.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Robert Liberty moved that in order to assist in the public's understanding of the Preferred Alternative, maps should show only the 18,000 acres of urban reserves, or less, that are being discussed.

Vote: Peter McDonald seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Commissioners discussed Regional Centers, Town Centers and the Commission's stated desire to have vibrant community centers.

Judy Davis wrote a motion to address the Commissions goals on urban issues as follows:

We (the Commission) note with pleasure that our Vision agrees with the Preferred Alternative on the following points:

- 1) Downtown Portland continues as the economic and cultural center of the region,
- 2) People have choices in the types of neighborhoods they live in and methods of transportation they can use to get around,
- 3) Development occurs largely in clusters and transit corridors to support a strong transit system,
- 4) Open space occurs both within and outside the Urban Growth Boundary.

We also believe that Clark County is an integral part of the region and Vancouver needs to be included as a Regional Center.

Peter McDonald stated that the Commission had previously agreed to other regional centers and town centers such as Longview, Battleground, Ridgefield and other places south of the Metro area such as Woodburn.

Vote: Robert Liberty seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The Commissioners discussed who would speak to the MPAC/JPACT group.

V. Other

Ethan Seltzer spoke about having a discussion of carrying capacity at the next meeting, August 8th.

Susan McLain mentioned the need to reach Commissioners who have not been attending regularly and requested that there be no meeting August 15th. Members discussed the workload and agreed to skip a week.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Barbara Duncan.

September 7, 1994

To: Members of the Future Vision Commission

From: Ken Gervais,  Ethan Seltzer 

Re: Carrying Capacity Discussion Results

How many people the region can accommodate depends on how much we are willing to share and/or change our lifestyles on one hand, and what we are willing to accept on the other. On a global level and over longer time spans it is quite possible that there are absolute numbers which our environment can sustain. However, you are not called on to address these issues through your vision. You are, however, being asked to determine whether your vision can fit within the carrying capacity of the region to the year 2045. At issue here is the quality of the "fit" between what you propose, where seem to be headed, and what our landscape can sustain.

We have taken the results of your discussions on carrying capacity and sorted them into four main categories:

- 1) **Infrastructural Carrying Capacity** - the capacity of the infrastructural systems of the region to accept additional growth, or to be modified in a manner that does not create carrying capacity constraints in other categories.
- 2) **Institutional Carrying Capacity** - the ability for the institutions in the region to respond to growth, and the likelihood that the region will remain within standards for environmental quality or system function established by law locally, regionally, statewide, or nationally.
- 3) **Perceptual Carrying Capacity** - the degree to which our sense of place will be retained or enhanced as the region changes in the future.
- 4) **Sustainable Carrying Capacity** - the degree to which the needs of the present generation can be met without limiting the ability of future generations to meet their own. Of critical importance here is our collective use of natural resources and the degree to which our actions limit or threaten the ability of other species to survive.

Please note that we have altered Aspeslagh's categories in two important ways. First, we combined his environmental, biotic, and sustainable carrying capacity levels into one: sustainable carrying capacity. We did this because addressing the issues surrounding sustainability demand consideration of environmental and biotic constraints or limits. Second, we have expanded his institutional category to include the capacity of the institutions themselves to respond to the challenges of growth and/or change.

We then sorted the results of your discussions into these categories as shown on the attached tables. Several observations can be made at this point. First, land is a different kind of resource than air or water, primarily because its use defines its meaning, and use is in the eye of the beholder. Land is the one category where it may have been worthwhile to retain all of Aspeslagh's levels because they force greater consideration of the uses of land for other than human or societal purposes.

Second, water seems to have an easier time of being understood in its sustainable dimensions, perhaps because of our familiarity with it and ability to understand its boundaries. This is especially true for surface water, though appreciation for the hydrology of watersheds suggests that groundwater resources and aquifers are not totally beyond the realm of comprehensibility. Note, too, that water is described in less detail than air and land as a matter of institutional concern. Again, water is something with which we have a more direct or intuitive understanding, where air and land are often only described in terms of their institutional or societal dimensions.

Third, perceptual issues make a solid showing for all three resources. In many cases, they describe our sense of place as a blending of both built and natural landscape elements. Note that perceptual issues linked to landscape may offer the Commission an important focal point for designing the monitoring activities in the vision and for outlining issues to be addressed by the Regional Framework Plan elements. It is precisely because they stand out as a synthesis of landscape features that the perceptual issues are so important, and are probably worthy of much more intensive discussion. Much more than the other categories, the perceptual issues are simultaneously a window into what we know and what we want, and are therefore useful for helping us understand whether our expectations for this place are or are not sustainable.

Finally, institutions come up short. If there was one serious carrying capacity issue, it has to do with the likelihood that resource managing institutions are up to the task of taking a sustainable path, short and long-term. This is no small matter, especially since those institutions are also the forums used in this society to forge consensus, or at the very least a solid compromise.

In sum, from your discussions we can conclude that the primary challenges for air quality are to be found in the institutional and sustainable categories, for water in the perceptual and sustainable categories, and for land in the institutional and perceptual categories. Therefore, the vision statement, to be consistent with the mandate in the Charter, should demonstrate its fit with these resources accordingly. A review of your June 14 draft suggests the following consistencies, inconsistencies, and omissions:

- a) Values - your value statements at the beginning of the vision speak to themes of sustainability. However, the Commission should consider adding a more targeted statement on sustainability along the lines of endorsing

efforts to meet the needs of the present in a manner which does not limit the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

b) The vision statements that deal with civic involvement, civic literacy, and education in the "each individual" and "our society" sections should be revised to incorporate principles of sustainability, particularly with respect to the design and function of institutions. Further, the actions to be taken and the items to be monitored should include ones associated with the carrying capacity issues associated with air, land, and water.

c) The vision statements in "our place" do a good job of incorporating all of the carrying capacity levels in their construction. However, it may be useful to consider the incorporation of a more specific carrying capacity discussion and monitoring program in P-8, which calls for an ongoing dialogue about the future of the region and how we're doing.

In conclusion, your draft does a good job of addressing carrying capacity constraints. With a little fine-tuning it can do even more. At the next meeting, come prepared to discuss these results and to walk through the draft vision statement to identify issues for subcommittee consideration. We will also take another look at the draft vision statement and propose additional editing and revision tasks.

Please feel free to contact either of us should you have any comments or questions.

Thanks!

	Air	Water	Land
Infrastructural	externalities of land use patterns and societal trends	CSO's; nonpoint source pollution is profound; waste management (sewers); water storage for fire prevention, other uses	adequate provision of truly public places; need for affordable housing
Institutional	aging lungs more vulnerable; needs of industry; allocation of limited resources; cumulative impacts of individual actions; state and federal standards and rules; regulating by microclimate; lack of good public info and ed; mgmt of auto use; trade-offs associated with ag and land mgmt generally; quality issues link the states; in compliance but need action now to stay that way; maintaining our own vision; conservation options needed; ozone...local action to address global issue; investigate innovative bi-state management models	impacts of users/compatibility of uses; willingness to pay; nonpoint source pollution is profound; finance and governance of water resources; allocation of limited resources; Clark County not involved in regional study; lack of public info and ed	land ownership and responses to privacy and crowding; ag deferral inside UGB; adequate provision of truly public places; stewardship vs. ownership, duty to the future; tension between public use and private ownership; too much land zoned indust.; no clear "exception" land policy; saving land for a range of uses, not just the "hot" ones; institutionalizing stewardship and making responsibilities known; reclamation and restoration; maintaining blocks of land for natural resource enterprises; \$ for greenspaces; governance of land outside Metro boundary; big lots

	Air	Water	Land
Perceptual	<p>capacity to absorb particulates before views gone; air should feel and smell good/ see the mountains, not the air; use of fossil fuels, woodstoves, fireplaces; airborne noise pollution/ availability of calm/ noise from flying machines; trade-offs associated with ag; more people, more activity, more impact; in compliance but need action now to stay that way; maintaining our own vision; conservation options needed; ozone...local action to address global issues</p>	<p>rivers cleaner today than 50 years ago; growing awareness of pollutants; what is clean water?; lack of free flowing rivers; touching water, need to be near; rivers and tribs used to define the landscape/ great river confluences; gray water; how much public access should we expect; natural, historic, scenic, rec values need to be maintained</p>	<p>distinctive regional landscape features not recognized in land management (ridgetops gone); cityscape a limited and fragile resource; need range of density choices; private ownership of land and responses to privacy and crowding; aging pop needs appropriate settlement choices; greed and technology eliminating beauty and passing bad news to next 7 gens; ugly transitions between uses</p>

	Air	Water	Land
Sustainable	<p>capacity to absorb particulates before views gone; aging lungs more vulnerable; use of fossil fuels, woodstoves, fireplaces; externalities of land use patterns and societal trends; renewable energy sources needed but not all positive; trade-offs associated with ag; more people, more activity, more impact; people driving more; cost; anticipation of pollutant "trapping"; ozone...local action to address global issues</p>	<p>artificial water regimes resulting in high winter, low summer flows, lack of infiltration; rivers have capacity to meet needs for human consumption; discharges; endangered fish species; gravel dredges; wetland and habitat losses; groundwater; what is clean water?; acid rain (governance); nonpoint source pollution is profound; channel dredging and spoil disposal/ecological implications of deeper dredging; lack of free-flowing rivers; Hanford; indicator species needed (GBH's); water for transportation; safe-to-eat fish, crawdads, frogs; aquifer quality and recharge; Clark County not involved in regional study; overuse of water for lawns; conflicts over use of surface; natural, historic, scenic, rec values need to be maintained; waste mgmt (sewers); flood control/mgmt of streamflow/structural mgmt inadequate/ben floods eliminated; maintenance of banks and veg buffers; local resources part of larger basins and systems</p>	<p>giving voice to the needs of other species; recognizing landscape values; saving land for a range of uses, not just the "hot" ones; greed and technology eliminating beauty and passing the bad news on to the next 7 gens.; no recognition of relationship between landscape and hydrology of watersheds, sustainable watersheds needed now; big lots</p>

Queen Salmon



A Musical Comedy for People of All Species — and Watersheds.

Benefit performance

Tuesday, September 13th

8:00 pm, Reception 6:00 pm

Winningstad Theater, 1111 SW Broadway

Tickets \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door.

Proceeds benefit the Lower Willamette River Watershed Council
a coalition of stream restoration and watershed groups
working to restore the region's urban waterways.

Sponsors: Audubon Society of Portland, Portland's Bureau of Environmental Services,
Human Nature, NW Regional Power Planning Council, US Fish and Wildlife Service,
Unified Sewerage Agency, and The Wetland Conservancy's Urban Streams Council.

For tickets call FASTIXX, 224-8499

Queen Salmon continues September 14th - 25th, \$12 in advance \$15 at the door.

About Human Nature and Queen Salmon: Human Nature of Petrolia, California uses theater to help humans better understand how watersheds and ecosystems function and to advocate for a healthier relationship between humans and their environment. Queen Salmon, which grew from efforts to restore the Mattole River in northwestern California, focuses on watersheds as a basis for restoring ecosystems and communities. Human Nature seeks to reduce polarization within those communities and promotes cooperative efforts to restore native salmon runs throughout the Pacific Northwest. For more information call 707-629-3670.

About the Lower Willamette Watershed Council: Neighborhood, stream and watershed groups and non-profit organizations are working to protect, restore and manage watersheds within the Portland-Vancouver metropolitan region. Government agencies such as Portland's bureau of Environmental Services; Unified Sewerage Agency; Metro's Region 2040 Water Resources Program; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and others are working to clean up our region's waterways. The Lower Willamette Watershed Council encourages cooperation, communication, sharing of technical information and promoting an ecosystem approach to protecting and restoring the region's watersheds. For more information call the Urban Streams council at 225-9916.