

The Honorable Patty Murray
173 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

January 24, 2000

Senator Murray,

Living in the Northwest, we know the importance of our environment and, more importantly, protecting that environment for the future. At Metro, we have spent the past decade working to preserve the nature of our region so that our children and our children's children will know the legacy that our forefathers left to us.

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This just one example out of many. I ask you to help us fund other projects in the future so that we can, collectively, have a direct impact on the lives of the people we serve.

Sincerely,

Rod Park
Metro Council
District 1

The Honorable Norman Dicks
2467 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

January 24, 2000

Representative Dicks,

Living in the Northwest, we know the importance of our environment and, more importantly, protecting that environment for the future. At Metro, we have spent the past decade working to preserve the nature of our region so that our children and our children's children will know the legacy that our forefathers left to us.

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Sincerely,

Rod Park
Metro Council
District 1

The Honorable Brian Baird
1721 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

January 24, 2000

Representative Baird,

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Sincerely,

Rod Park
Metro Council
District 1

The Honorable Gordon Smith
404 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

January 24, 2000

Senator Smith,

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Sincerely,

Rod Park
Metro Council
District 1

The Honorable Slade Gorton
730 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

January 24, 2000

Senator Gorton,

Living in the Northwest, we know the importance of our environment and, more importantly, protecting that environment for the future. At Metro, we have spent the past decade working to preserve the nature of our region so that our children and our children's children will know the legacy that our forefathers left to us.

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Sincerely,

Rod Park
Metro Council
District 1

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
2134 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

January 24, 2000

Representative DeFazio,

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Rod Park
Metro Council
District 1

The Honorable Greg Walden
1404 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

January 24, 2000

Representative Walden,

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Sincerely,

Rod Park
Metro Council
District 1

The Honorable Ron Wyden
516 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

January 24, 2000

Senator Wyden,

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Sincerely,

Rod Park
Metro Council
District 1

The Honorable David Wu
510 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

January 24, 2000

Representative Wu,

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Rod Park
Metro Council
District 1

The Honorable Darlene Hooley
1130 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

January 24, 2000

Representative Hooley,

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Rod Park
Metro Council
District 1

The Honorable Earl Blumenauer
1406 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

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Representative Blumenauer,

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Rod Park
Metro Council
District 1

COUNCILOR ROD PARK

600 NORTHEAST GRAND AVENUE
TEL 503 797-1547

PORTLAND, OREGON 97232 2736
FAX 503 797-1793



METRO

August 18, 2000

Jack Glass
1208 East Historic Columbia River Highway
Troutdale, Oregon 97060

Dear Mr. Glass:

We spoke recently about Metro's position regarding angling from a floatation device at Oxbow Regional Park. I wanted to follow up with a brief explanation of how the policy was derived.

In June, the issue came before Metro's Regional Parks and Greenspaces Advisory Committee. The advisory committee is an 11-member citizen committee which advises and comments on the policies, plans, programs, fees and budget of the Parks and Greenspaces Department. After discussing the issue, the committee voted unanimously to support the current regulations. I have enclosed a copy of the resolution and the staff report.

To date, the question of fishing from a floatation device at Oxbow has been considered a management decision. If the Metro Council were to consider the issue, and vote on a formal Metro position, we would first ask for a recommendation from the Regional Parks and Greenspaces Advisory Committee.

The Regional Parks and Greenspaces Advisory Committee meets monthly, and all meetings are open to the public. I encourage you to work with the advisory committee to voice your concerns about Metro's current position. Any change in Metro policy would typically be initiated by the advisory committee and forwarded to the Metro Council. For more information about the advisory committee, please call Patricia Sullivan at 797-1870.

I hope this addresses your concerns. Please feel free to call me at 797-1547, if you would like to discuss the issue further.

Sincerely,

Rod Park
Metro Councilor, District 1

Enclosure

**A REQUEST OF THE OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSION TO
MAINTAIN THE CURRENT REGULATION AND TO REJECT A PROPOSAL TO OPEN THE
SANDY RIVER IN THE VICINITY OF OXBOW REGIONAL PARK TO ANGLING FROM A
FLOATING DEVICE (BOAT)**

WHEREAS, Metro Regional Parks & Greenspaces owns and manages Oxbow Regional Park on the Sandy River; and

WHEREAS, Metro's goals at Oxbow Regional Park include the provision of natural resource dependent recreation, including angling; and

WHEREAS, since 1949, the Sandy River in the vicinity of Oxbow Regional Park has been reserved by the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife for bank angling only; and

WHEREAS, the banks of the Sandy River (more than three (3) miles on both sides of the river) within Oxbow Regional Park are easily accessible from existing roads and trails; and

WHEREAS, existing access opportunities are heavily used by bank anglers from throughout the Portland metropolitan area; and

WHEREAS, this portion of the Sandy River is the only segment of river in the entire Willamette Zone reserved exclusively for bank angling; and

WHEREAS, previous experience has shown the development of considerable conflicts between boat and bank anglers for prime angling locations; and

WHEREAS, a significant portion of the Sandy River is currently open to angling from a floating device (boat); and

WHEREAS, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife policy calls for a "diversity of angling opportunities"; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED,

That the Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces Advisory Committee respectively requests that the Oregon Fish & Wildlife Commission maintain the current regulation and reject Proposal #135P sponsored by several professional guides to open the Sandy River in the vicinity of Oxbow Regional Park to angling from a floating device (boat).

Adopted by Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces Advisory Committee this 6th day of June, 2000.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jim Battan", is written over a horizontal line.

Jim Battan, Chair
Regional Parks and Greenspaces Advisory Committee

METRO REGIONAL PARKS AND GREENSPACES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RPAGAC)

Committee Report

Proposed Action:

That the Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces Advisory Committee respectively requests that the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife Commission maintain the current regulation and reject Proposal #135P sponsored by several professional guides to open the Sandy River in the vicinity of Oxbow Regional Park to angling from a floating device (boat).

Existing Rule:

Oregon Angling Synopsis; A Special Rule for the Sandy River: "[There shall be] no angling from a floating device that supports the angler upstream from powerline crossing located one mile downstream from Oxbow Park boundary."

Background and Analysis:

An area of the Sandy River has been reserved for bank angling since 1949. Between 1949 and 1988 all areas above the Stark Street (Viking) Bridge were reserved for bank angling. In January of 1988 the area from the Stark Street Bridge to Big Creek, near the downstream end of Oxbow Park, was added to the area where anglers could fish from a floating device. During the winter of 1988 anglers were surveyed and asked to voice their opinions regarding that rule amendment. There were several reports of conflicts. The results of that survey and other information and observations which were compiled in a report entitled *An Evaluation of Amended Rule 635-17-110(56)* led to a compromise adjustment of the angling from a floating deadline to an alignment with the major powerlines crossing the Sandy River approximately one mile below Big Creek (four miles upriver from the former deadline).

The current deadline has worked well. Boat anglers are allowed to fish from shore any place above the floating device deadline. No conflicts between boat and bank anglers have been reported to park staff since its implementation in 1990.

Another proposal to change the angling from a floating device deadline has been submitted this spring. The proposed changes allow fishing from a floating device from the upper boundary of Oxbow Park downstream, an addition of slightly more than four miles of river.

The Regional Parks & Greenspaces Advisory Committee recommends that no changes be made in the location of the "Angling From a Floating Device" deadline on the Sandy River for the following reasons:

1. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's *Guidelines for Diversity of Angling Opportunities* states: "ODFW will provide diversity of steelheading consistent with angler surveys, traditional methods and patterns, the biological and physical capabilities of the streams, and compatible with the primary uses of the lands and waters of the state."

The only survey conducted on this issue (Multnomah County Parks Services Division, winter 1988) showed overwhelming opposition to the idea of opening more water on the Sandy River to angling from a floating device. Seventy-nine (79) percent of all those surveyed opposed opening more water. Sixty three (63) percent of the anglers who angled predominantly from a boat opposed opening more of the Sandy River to angling from a floating device. The last time this type of proposal was aired, at the June 26, 1991 ODFW

public meeting at Mt. Hood Community College, the public sentiment was overwhelmingly opposed to these proposals.

Bank angling can certainly be identified as a traditional method of angling in this area. The bank angling only rule has been in effect since 1949 through the entire section except for an unsuccessful two-year trial period on the lower one-mile referred to in this proposal.

Except for the first couple hundred yards of river upstream of the powerlines, the section of the Sandy River being considered for a rule change is owned and managed entirely by Metro Regional Parks or the YMCA at Camp Collins. Metro Regional Parks and the YMCA have both gone on record opposing any changes to the current deadline.

2. All anglers, whether they can afford to own a boat, hire a guide, or just get to the river bank are on equal footing when it comes to methods they may employ to catch fish. One of the objectives of the state steelhead management plan is to "provide a diversity of opportunities for consumptive and non-consumptive uses". Opening more water on the Sandy River to angling from a floating device is contrary to this objective because of the substantial number of anglers who seek out areas where there is no direct competition from boat anglers (who are allowed advantageous methods to catch fish). The section of the Sandy River being considered, is the only river section in the Willamette zone where novice boat anglers and bank anglers both have easy access but all anglers are required to use the same methods to fish.
3. Angling from a floating device is recognized as a more effective method to catch fish. The opportunity for this method to be used will decrease the number of fish available for those employing bank-angling methods. Areas currently utilized for bank angling will be used by anglers in boats, eliminating areas for bank anglers to fish. The increased harvest by boat anglers will likely lead to decreased harvest opportunity for bank anglers.
4. Boat anglers have a multitude of opportunities to employ their methods, most notably the nearby Clackamas. Quite remarkably, only eleven river sections (including one 111 foot long and one 400 foot long closure) in the entire state are officially designated as closed to angling from a floating device.
5. A change in the current rule will greatly diminish bank anglers' ability to effectively fish in these waters and most certainly will result in conflicts between bank and boat anglers. Social conflicts were a primary reason for closing the stretch of river between the lower boundary of Oxbow Park and the powerline below YMCA Camp Collins in 1990. Conflicts are sure to arise if the "Boat Ramp to powerlines" section is opened because there is easier bank access and the areas are already heavily fished by bank anglers.
6. Opening more water to competing and generally conflicting methods will increase pressure, decrease the quality of the bank anglers' experience and quite possibly negatively affect bank anglers' success rates. Any of these could provide the spark for social conflict.
7. On the subject of access, boats are already allowed on this stretch. Anglers are required to fish from the shore so as to prevent conflict between different user groups. The current bank angling area is now, and always has been, open to bank angling despite private ownership along the river in some areas. We have knowledge of not a single "no trespassing" sign along the river in the bank angling area being proposed for opening. Some landowners do object to visitors venturing beyond the high water mark but, in general, landowners along this section of the Sandy are extremely generous to the recreating public, especially the angling public.