# Corvallis Forest Stewardship Plan Update Task Force Public comments received

# **Public comments: Corvallis Forest Stewardship Plan Update Task Force**

Below are public comments submitted to the task force. These comments were copied verbatim from the minutes of task force meeting agenda packets, (except one that was submitted but omitted from the meeting minutes):

# From CFSPUTF-03-22-23 agenda packet:

#### From Attachment F:

Comments on the "Background and History of the Corvallis Forest" Presented by Trout Mountain Forestry on January 17, 2023 Provided by Kathleen Westly, Marys River Watershed Council

### Corrections/Additions

- Page 18: Correction in Ongoing Partnerships Marys River Watershed Council
- Page 23:
  - o Fish distribution monitoring post fish passage improvements (2008)
  - o Add: Fish abundance monitoring annually 2010 through 2018 (including reports to the City providing the snorkel survey data in the context of water temperature monitoring data)
- Page 25: Should include any information on recent / current aquatic monitoring other than water temperature, if such is happening (cutthroat trout pit tag study and Pacific giant salamander study in 2020/21?)

# Notes on Guiding Principles and Accomplishments

Water-related Guiding Principles:

- Conservation-based management practices demonstrate that water quality, stream health, wildlife habitat enhancement and tree harvest can go hand in hand
- Protecting the health and diversity of the forest and its ecosystems are top priorities
- Corvallis Forest is managed to be comprised of a variety of different ages and types of forest to provide diversity of terrestrial and aquatic habitats;
- Corvallis Forest supports high quality water production for the City of Corvallis; We challenge the City to strive to be able to adopt the following as a Guiding Principle "Producing high quality water for the City of Corvallis and protecting the health and diversity of the aquatic ecosystem can go hand in hand"!

To that end, regarding the statement on Page 15: "Recommendations in CFSP were largely accomplished by 2012", there are some recommendations included in the 2006 FSP that were not completed by 2012. While MRWC celebrates the accomplishments made to date, most notably mitigating fish passage barriers at two water intakes and multiple culverts, as well as the large wood placements, we do note the following recommendations regarding water quality and quantity that have not been implemented and for which we have continued to make recommendations in the monitoring reports and presentations to the Watershed Management Advisory Board.

From 2006 FSP Recommendations for Fish Habitat & Stream Structure (page 58):

# Opportunities

- Water quality and quantity information can be enhanced by monitoring stream flows and water quality conditions below intake structures.
- Review Water System management procedures for opportunities to increase downstream water quality and quantity for fish.

Recommended Actions Fish Habitat & Stream Structure

- 1.5 Monitor stream flows and temperatures below water catchments to develop baseline data and identify impacts
- 1.10 Consider various changes in Water System management protocol to improve water quality and quantity

From Appendix C: Fish and Aquatic Habitat Analysis (pages 116-117): Recommendations

The identification of elevated summer water temperatures as the primary limiting factor for salmonids in the mainstem of Rock Creek suggest that it is imperative to address the maintenance of mainstem water quality for protecting the long term function of not only Rock Creek and its biotic communities, but also of the mainstem habitats lower in the Marys River Watershed that are the recipients of the cumulative impacts of upper basin management strategies. There are two distinct approaches to improving mainstem water temperatures.

- 1) The maintenance and preservation of water quality.
- 2) The maintenance and provision of water quantity.

### Addressing water quality

1) Management of the North Fork Rock Municipal Reservoir should include tracking water temperatures from the reservoirs surface spill and in the adjacent South Fork Rock Creek beginning in April. When these two temperatures begin to diverge and an elevation is detected in the North Fork spill, the sub surface gate valve (at the base of the earthen dam) should be opened to match the spill volume. This would extend the period of cold water contribution to the mainstem of Rock Creek until cessation of the normal surface spill in June.

### Addressing water quantity

1) Managing late summer water reserves within the reservoir to supplement summer pinch period low flows in the mainstem of

Rock Creek may be an attainable source of additional flow volume during some years.

2) Establishing minimum reserve stream flow criteria for each of the Rock Creek sub basins with water intake structures (Griffith, SF and NF Rock) would insure that any future pressure for expansion of the Rock Creek facilities water capacity would need to consider the impacts on watershed function addressed in this stewardship plan.

From 2013 FSP Update, "Given the Aquatic Habitat policy to maintain and restore high quality aquatic and riparian habitat" (Page 49):

- Water quality and quantity information can be enhanced by monitoring stream flows and water quality conditions below intake structures. Examples of management actions taken to this end include: o Monitoring stream flows and temperatures. Water levels at intakes and the reservoir are monitored regularly. Since 2009, water temperature of Rock Creek has been monitored annually to develop baseline data and identify impacts.
- Water System management procedures can be regularly reviewed, looking for opportunities to increase downstream water quality and quantity. Examples of management actions taken to this end include: o Changing Water System management protocol to improve water quality

and quantity. Since 2009, water temperature monitoring of Rock Creek has helped understand and minimize summer water temperature impacts. Monitoring should continue.

# From Attachment G: submitted by Doug Pollock

To: Corvallis Forest Stewardship Plan Update Task Force

c/o Corvallis Public Works Department

From: Doug Pollock

Re: Comments for 2/22/23 Task Force Meeting

# Dear Task Force Members,

In my email (of November 23rd, 2022) to the utilities manager of Corvallis Public Works, Tom Hubbard, I raised a number of concerns regarding the process you are now embarked upon - updating the stewardship plan for the Corvallis Watershed. I have included the text from my original email, along with the reply from the public works director, Jeff Blaine, at the bottom of this letter for reference. In his response, Director Blaine assured me that, "Public Works is entering this process with good intentions and no hidden agendas."

The worst kind of bias is the one we cannot see because it is part of very our nature. Like racism or sexism, it is an insidious force that is deep-seated and almost impossible to change. When I look at the Task Force, I see some very distinct bias in favor of a traditional (regressive) approach to forestry. I also see strong connections to Corvallis Public Works' past management of the watershed, an approach that has often prioritized timber production behind a facade of forest stewardship. Finally, I see substantial implicit bias in favor of the city's consultant, Trout Mountain Forestry.

These distinct biases are contrasted by a glaring lack of expertise in forest ecology, forest hydrology, ecological forestry, and even basic silviculture. The fact that director Blaine claims there were "good intentions and no hidden agendas" in the secretive process that chose committee members forces us to question his objectivity. Bias by omission, whether intentional or not, undermines the credibility of your committee.

Director Blaine claims the city manager "set the procedures establishing" your committee and explains Mr. Shepard's "...Office did receive submittals from parties interested in serving on various bodies". What the director fails to explain is how anyone would even know to apply for your committee, or what process or criteria were used to select you! The lack of public notification - both about the opportunity to serve on the Task Force and the revision process itself - undermines the legitimacy of your committee. The deliberate exclusion of those citizens (well known to Director Blaine, Mr. Hubbard, and Mr. Hollenbeck) who have advocated on behalf of the watershed forests further diminishes public trust. It also demonstrates a profound lack of integrity on the part of city managers. Despite your best intentions, these fundamental failings will inevitably erode the product of your efforts. Unfortunately, these city leaders have squandered the public trust that your success depends on.

Even if Corvallis citizens begrudgingly accept the flawed planning process, I believe they will share my concerns when they learn more about the specific omissions and biases represented on the Task Force. They will question why your committee should have TWO long-time employees of the Siuslaw National Forest (Frank Davis and Ken McCall) when there's no one representing a more progressive approach to forestry. They will question why a retired forest planner who worked in the Olympic National Forest back when they decimated old-growth

forests now sits on the Task Force for our watershed. They will question why a former Corvallis public works director and watershed specialist (Steve Rogers and Ken McCall) should serve on the committee when both men supported substantial thinning of the watershed forests in the past. Citizens will question how several senior members of the Task Force with an extensive history of collaboration with the city's forestry consultant (Trout Mountain Forestry) can claim to be objective when it comes to considering alternative approaches to stewardship of these forests.

Simply put, these kinds of biases just don't pass the "smell test". They reflect an insular approach that favors the status quo of extractive watershed management. Those of you who believe in the righteousness of "active forest management" (e.g. extensive thinning) need to understand and acknowledge the many adverse impacts to the watershed these practices entail. A substantial body of research has concluded that thinning dries out forests (and increases fire risk) by removing biomass and increasing air flow<sub>1</sub>. In addition, the canopy openings created by thinning are more likely to increase predation of imperiled birds<sup>2</sup>. Finally, thinning operations emit a substantial amount of carbon into the atmosphere, and reduce both forest carbon reserves and the rate of carbon sequestration<sub>3</sub>. All of these impacts are contrary to the fundamental purpose of the watershed: to provide a clean and abundant supply of drinking water.

The misguided thinking behind aggressive thinning in the watershed can perhaps best be understood by considering the 2010 environmental assessment for the "Marys Landscape Management Project (LMP)". This decade-long project resulted in widespread thinning (roughly 1300 acres) of the Siuslaw NF portion of the Corvallis Watershed, as shown on the map below. The project report largely dismisses the impacts of thinning on climate change and forest carbon, stating:

"There are some who believe that climate change is not occurring or that it is not human caused. This document is not intended to present arguments on any of these theories because they are well documented elsewhere...This analysis will not attempt to quantify carbon emission or sequestration...

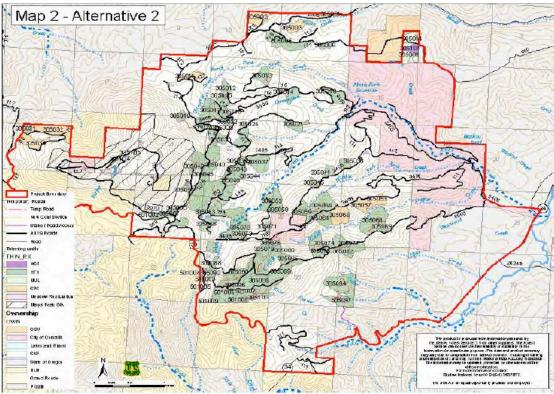
The Project does not fall within these main contributors of greenhouse gas emissions—it doesn't convert forested land into a developed condition and it doesn't deforest the land. Given the IPCC findings and the small-scale and limited impacts the Project would have on the forest, the incremental contribution to green house gases and climate change would be negligible"

¹see: https://grist.org/fix/opinion/forest-thinning-logging-makes-wildfires-worse/ and https://news.griffith.edu.au/2021/02/10/logging-and-thinning-of-forests-can-increase-fire-risk/ - a review of peer-reviewed studies found "... increased flammability observed in the data following logging being likely because removing the canopy increases sun and wind, which dries the forest out."

<sup>2</sup> According to an OSU marbled murrelet expert who reviewed Trout Mountain Forestry's plan for the planned 2022 Old Peak thinning.

<sup>3</sup> https://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/es402903u - the authors concluded," Implementation of intensified management strategies (thinning, clear-cut, and combined scenarios), do not result in net statewide reductions to carbon emissions over the next 90 years despite inclusion of all wood product and bioenergy substitutions. This is consistent with results from similar studies in other regions and contrary to other studies that do not account for the baseline sink or climate change"

The Siuslaw report also seems to echo common, industry-supported fallacies such as: "Rapidly growing forests are recognized as a means of carbon sequestration" and "Utilizing trees to create long-lived wood products sequesters carbon". While these statements are nominally true, they are substantially misleading. While younger forests "are recognized as a means of carbon sequestration", older forests play a much more critical role! The report ignores the fact that it typically takes many decades for the amount of carbon released by cutting trees to be recaptured by younger ones4. Also, studies have shown that only a small amount of the embodied carbon in processed lumber is stored in long-term products<sup>5</sup>. Amazingly, the report completely ignores the impact substantial thinning has on water quantity! It is as if the Siuslaw team forgot they were developing a plan for a WATERSHED.



This map shows the extensive thinning (in green) in the Siuslaw National Forest portion of the Corvallis Watershed over the past "decade. Approx. 1300 acres were thinned (source: Environmental Assessment - Marys Landscape Management Project)

The team leader for this decade-long project, Frank Davis, is clearly very proud of their "stewardship" of the Corvallis Watershed. In his "As I See It" (published in the Jan. 6th, 2023 Gazette Times), Mr. Davis provided a rosy assessment of the history of watershed (mis-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> https://forestpolicypub.com/2014/03/13/dr-law-role-of-forest-ecosystems-in-climate-change-mitigation/, Article by Dr. Beverly Law, "Full accounting shows that thinning increases carbon emissions to the atmosphere for at least many decades."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> https://phys.org/news/2021-04-curb-climate-easy-dont-big.html, Article by Dr. Beverly Law and Dr.William Moomaw, "We analyzed Oregon carbon emissions from wood that had been harvested over the past century and discovered that 65% of the original carbon returned to the atmosphere as CO<sub>2</sub>. Landfills retained 16%, while just 19% remained in wood products."

) management. He glossed over the 2,100 acres of past clearcuts in the watershed and 1300 acres of thinning that he oversaw (via the 2010 management plan) without any mention of the adverse impacts to water quality and quantity, or the enormous amounts of carbon released into the atmosphere. By providing an unbalanced view of the history of logging in the Corvallis Watershed, Mr. Davis has undermined his own credibility and objectivity on the Task Force. Those of us who observed Mr. McCall's work on the Elliott Advisory Committee have reason to be concerned about his role on the watershed plan task force, as well. He has proven himself a staunch supporter of the timber industry and OSU's timber-centric "research plan" for the Elliott. With his prior work as the City's watershed specialist and career in the Siuslaw NF, we can expect him to be an active proponent of extensive thinning in the Corvallis Watershed, and a strong ally of Trout Mountain Forestry.

The former public works director, Mr. Rogers, oversaw the "active forest management" approach that resulted in substantial amounts of the watershed being subject to timber harvests. He also played a key role in awarding the contract to Trout Mountain Forestry, despite a competitor's proposal ranking higher in the review process. The rapid push to confirm him as committee chair at the first task force meeting revealed that he still retains a great deal of influence within Corvallis Public Works. All of these factors ought to concern those who are seeking a more progressive approach to the stewardship of the watershed. In summary, lack of transparency and public notice in the planning process, coupled with substantial regressive biases and the omission of critical expertise will greatly diminish public trust of the Task Force and resulting stewardship plan. City leaders need to halt the planning process and address these basic shortcomings if they are to regain public trust. Sincerely.

Doug Pollock

### From Attachment H: emailed comments

Seishiro Hokazono seishifhs@vahoo.com 2/2/2023 23:27 Hello.

I once learned that Corvallis rely on Willamette river 100% during the summer season. Is that true? With rain in winter, we can rely on Rock Creek, but, I suppose the water level drops down during the summer time. In this regard, I would like to know if City of Corvallis is thinking of water scarcity in case of much lower water level in Willamette river. Is there possibility of creating a few wells around the Watershed area near Rock creek to provide extra water supply in the summer time? Can we create more beaver dam around the Mary's river to hold larger water around the ground? It would be wonderful to have multiple sources of water for Corvallis. Thank you,

**SEISH** 

Joni Halvorson jonihalvorson@gmail.com 2/3/2023 14:52

Ah! We have more park opportunity? To walk... and??? Woo hoo. Can you work with volunteers from OSU perhaps they can add a Forestry class if they don't already for Work Study. Trade units of class work for working with the City of Corvallis. Undergrads love this kind of opportunity to experience real life settings How is Benton County itself going to help fund, if at all? Have you checked with the Masters Gardeners program? Who knows if they'd have ideas about invasive species plants. Wildlife around? What classes at OSU filter into this? There are some field trip opportunities for High School Sophomores and Seniors interested in Forestry?

How about Fire-Science folks around the area? Partnering is a great way for invigorating idea development. Us regulars out here want to see birding trail AND an off leash doggie area with pooper-scoooper requirements. Or at least dog friendly trails and a fencing area for off leash Heck, I'll buy a bench for seating. Who can help fund a fence? I mean, those platforms never used for homeless tents might be repourposed for some trail standing platforms. Free now! Tell me you put those in storage..... if you say "bark bark no no" get that fence up. 4' will do. Horses? Have not a clue but they are messier than dogggos- non? Make it enjoyable with a preschool(?) and elementary school docent sponsored program. Get the buses and/or carpools ready I'm an educator and believe the persons running the show need to be excited about bringing groups together

Us elder seniors love to walk, if we are functional... so, hop to it and have a blast I'm not a Forestry related person at all but believe may 2-cents are worthy of a mention

Cheers, Joni Halvorson May you • be happy

Teresa McGuire teresacgm78@gmail.com 2/3/2023 15:36

RE: Meeting of 2/22/23

All watershed groups need to push for more regulation involving homeless camping and the degradation of streamsides. Given the fact that water is becoming more and more of a precious commodity we need to hold accountable those who are allowed to camp leaving behind garbage, feces and other biohazards.

While I certainly understand that this is the headwaters or the "upper" source of water for our community; we need to realize that ALL watershed groups need to push for what happens downstream.

It is beyond selfish to restrict access to water for one community and then NOT invest in the fight for water quality downstream. This is an issue that like it or not SHOULD involve discussion from the stewards of the Corvallis Forest.

Teresa McGuire

Luhui Whitebear the.island.fox@gmail.com 2/4/2023 7:44 Haku (hello).

I am writing to provide input on the Corvallis Forest Stewardship Plan. Have you all contacted the Grand Ronde and Siletz Tribes to see if they are interested in a co-management agreement? These types of efforts are gaining more momentum nationally to work in a government to government relationship with Tribal nations in land and water preservation and restoration efforts. Not only is this the right thing to do to honor the people whose lands we are on, it makes sense given the Tribes have extensive knowledge of land management in their respective areas since they have been doing it since time immemorial. I would love to see the City of Corvallis work towards these types of relationships. I'm happy to talk more with folk if that would be helpful. Thank you for your time, Luhui Whitebear

Link to info on the Coquille Tribe's co-management agreement right here in Oregon: https://www.dfw.state.or.us/news/2022/06\_June/061722b.asp

Berthe Leodra Palmrose isus66739@gmail.com 2/5/2023 17:55

To the Task Force.

I am a concerned citizen of Corvallis. I believe that forests of watersheds should be cared for with only the goals of keeping water clean and helping our climate. It is in the public's best interest to protect our drinking water and to keep any profit motives completely out of decision making. Logging is extremely damaging to the watershed and should be prevented. Thank you for considering, mine and the many other voices of Corvallis who care about long term health and safety of our local living.

-Berthe Palmrose 7555 NW Mountain View DR. Corvallis, Or. 97330

Tom Denison denisont@peak.org 2/5/2023 18:35

Clean water is an essential and increasingly scarce resource. Corvallis is fortunate to have the Rock Creek Watershed as a source of clean water. Mature forests create rain as fog and clouds condense on the enormous surface area of their needles. Compared to logged land or young forests, mature forests also have the capacity to even out the flow of water from the forests, moderating both floods and droughts. Soil erosion also results from timber harvest degrading the quality of water leaving the clear cut, and reducing the capacity for tree growth in the future.

Water quality and Stream health do not go hand in hand with tree harvest. logging in the watershed will reduce both volume and quality of water in the future. Oregon is already suffering from drought, and reduced water quality. Please don't damage the watershed's potential to provide clean cool water for generations to come, by logging for short term gain. Tom Denison

Jasper Pollock jasperpollock29@gmail.com 2/5/2023 19:52

I support clean water and carbon sequestration over logging the Corvallis watershed for profit and resource extraction. This is a section of forest that should be protected for public health, as well as for future generations.

Jasper Pollock

Martha Truninger martha.truninger@gmail.com 2/5/2023 20:16

I moved to Corvallis in 1981. Since moving here I have witnessed the degradation of the McDonald forest. My concern is the level of logging that has occurred during this time. I would propose that the task force manage the forest to improve water quality and Reduce or eliminate logging. The forest is a carbon sink. We need to stop logging and using the forest as a revenue stream.

Thank you Martha Truninger

Denis White capeblanco@peak.org 2/6/2023 13:16

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

This is a highly fraught action. The people making the plans are those whose employment and salaries are dependent on the approval of the current plan, if I understand the staffing correctly. So of course these folks will be in favor of a forest plan that pays them. I think the Mayor and City Council should direct the City Manager to provide non-suspect positions that will allow

these folks to make non-contaminated decisions. If not then remove them totally from any consideration, and replace them completely with a committee, as used to be available, to make judgments about the Rock Creek Watershed Forest Stewardship.

Denis White

Phil Lew phil.m.lew@gmail.com 2/7/2023 9:28

Conservation Not Ecosystem Fragmentation

Do we really know what the long term impacts of large scale industrial logging in Oregon will be on healthy diverse ecosystems? Can we apply the precautionary principles of conservation or will we gamble on continued loss of species and habitat until it is too late? Clean water and healthy forests don't mix well with logging. Time will tell that every tract of living forest preserved is a step against species extinction and climate disruption. It's time for Corvallis and area jurisdictions to think and act for the future instead of short term gain. Philip Lew, Corvallis

Carla Wise cwise18@comcast.net 2/7/2023 9:29

Dear City of Corvallis Public Works Task Force,

I am writing to urge the updated plan for the Rock Creek Watershed Forest Stewardship to focus exclusively on public goods such as clean drinking water, carbon storage, and ecological resiliency in the face of increasing climate instability. This Watershed is an irreplaceable resource and there should be no place in the plan where a profit motive overrides the protection of the watershed for the public good and benefit of all who it serves. It is extraordinarily irresponsible for the City of Corvallis to try to profit from this crucial ecosystem which protects our clean water, stores carbon, and helps stabilize and protect our local climate. I ask that the following guiding principle be removed from the updated plan: Corvallis Forest is a generator of revenue that is primarily used to offset the cost of forest management, and secondarily helps fund the City of Corvallis water utility system This principle is in direct conflict with the eight other principles, and therefore has no place in the plan. I also suggest an additional principle should be added acknowledging that climate change is increasing the frequency and severity of disasters in our city and region, and the watershed should be managed in accordance with the best available science to act as a carbon sink and habitat refuge for biodiversity.

Thank you for your consideration, Carla Wise, Ph.D. Corvallis, OR 97330

Deborah Carey boiester@gmail.com 2/7/2023 11:14

Hi all

I and my Corvallis colleagues prioritize clean drinking water and carbon storage over active forest management that generates revenue and aims to change stand composition through resource extraction. Let me know that these are your priorities as well. Climate change is an existing emergency for all life. Do something. Deb Carey.

Mark Van Steeter mvansteeter@yahoo.com 2/7/2023 20:11

Please prioritize water quality, carbon storage and undisturbed wildlife habitats over timber revenue. In other words: prioritize long term benefits over short term. Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely,

Mark M Van Steeter

Giana Bernardini bernardinigiana@gmail.com 2/11/2023 13:02 Dear esteemed Task Force members.

I wish to express my desire to see timber harvest removed from the guiding principles of Corvallis Watershed Forest management. While the projected message is that logging and clean water "go hand in hand", that is a verifiably false statement. The best that can happen is for logging's negative impact to be minimized. There is no way that any sane person would claim that road building, heavy equipment, tree removal, reforestation, and herbicide application can have anything but a deleterious effect on the forest's ability to provide the clean drinking water we all depend on.

I am not opposed to logging in general. I use wood products and recognize that they need to come from somewhere. But I also recognize that not all forests are of equal value. The Corvallis watershed forest has a "higher calling" than the average tree

farm in our region. This forest has no greater purpose than to regulate stream flow, filter water, and provide the myriad ecosystem services that only an intact forest can do. We need to protect this parcel of land as if our lives depended on it.I understand that to halt logging in the watershed would reduce city revenue. But money can come from other places. Clean water cannot.

Thank you, Giana Bernardini

Susan Klof jsklof@yahoo.com 2/11/2023 14:35

FYI regarding my comments for consideration as part of the plan review. I prioritize clean drinking water and carbon storage over active forest management that

I prioritize clean drinking water and carbon storage over active forest management that generates revenue and aims to change stand composition through resource extraction.

Andrew Chione amgchione@gmail.com 2/11/2023 22:39 Dear City Staff and Task Force,

I am writing to comment on the vision and guiding principles of the Corvallis Forest Stewardship Plan. The vision and guiding principles sound acceptable except for the final guiding principle in the list: "Corvallis Forest is a generator of revenue that is primarily used to offset the cost of forest management, and secondarily helps fund the City of Corvallis water utility system".

I do not agree with this principle and find it problematic. As an environmental restoration scientist and OSU graduate who has spent years studying and restoring Oregon's landscapes, I have seen first-hand how logging, and especially logging roads, impact water quality and quantity. Many city water treatment plants have issues with sediment from industrial timberland. The City of Corvallis is perhaps the only city in the state to have a significant amount of old growth forest present in the city watershed. Old growth forest provides much better water quality and water quantity throughout the year than logged areas. Corvallis is lucky to have a watershed in relatively good shape with excellent water quality. I strongly believe that the best action the city can take for water quality, habitat, and the citizens is to protect the forest and remove logging as a revenue stream. Using the removal of trees to provide revenue for city staff and water management operations creates a conflict of interest where risking water quality is incentivized. This becomes a bigger problem as the city harvests the available younger trees and is pressured to cut old, rare trees to create revenue.

Harvesting trees in the Corvallis watershed is an especially sensitive issue because much of the watershed is mature and old growth forest. Only a tiny fraction of mature and old growth forests

remain in the Oregon Coast Range. The idea that any type of logging in mature and old growth forests improves old growth habitat is a fallacy. The only types of logging that improve the ecosystems of our coastal rainforests are thinning anthropogenic timber plantations and restoring historic oak savannas.

Unfortunately, even the concept of restoring oak savannah is sometimes hijacked by cutting ancient conifers to "protect" vastly younger oak trees. As long as large, old conifers are worth money, there will be pressure to cut them, with the main motivator being money. Setting up the watershed management system to have trees pay for staff and services puts pressure on the city to regularly cut trees, even trees that are old and rare.

Corvallis is a very progressive community that values our many natural areas and high quality of life. It is time to bring the watershed management plan into the present to align with the progressive values of the majority of Corvallis citizens.

Andrew Chi-one

Sky Yeager shamanicsoultending@gmail.com 2/13/2023 15:54 Hello.

I am submitting public comment for consideration for the Rock Creek Watershed Forest Stewardship plan.

The watershed needs be managed for the maximum benefits to water quality, carbon storage and ecological resiliency without a profit motive. Eliminating for profit timber extraction from the watershed is the only way to remove the conflict of interest where city staff and forest managers are paid directly from ongoing logging revenue.

We must prioritize clean drinking water and carbon storage over active forest management that generates revenue and aims to change stand composition through resource extraction. In the simplest common sense terms, stop cutting the trees down - it's a watershed! Leave it alone and let nature continue to create clean water and air for us.

Thank you,

Sky Yeager

Corvallis, OR 97330

Nick AuYeung nick.auyeung@gmail.com 2/15/2023 19:51 Hi there,

I would love to see expanded recreation opportunities in the Corvallis forest. In most areas of the country, reservoirs are open for recreation. If dogs/horses are banned, there is limited danger to the water resource. There could be great trail connections created that link up with the existing North/East ridge trails and C2C which could potentially bypass Starker land. A parking lot right off of HWY 34 could also could alleviate traffic on Woods Creek Road and Mary's Peak Road. Trail work crews have been strengthening in town with dedicated teams building/maintaining trails in the McDonald forest as well as the C2C. Thanks for listening, Nick AuYeung

Corvallis resident

kelly burnett kellymarieburnett@gmail.com 2/16/2023 9:28 Dear Rock Creek Watershed Task Force,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the Corvallis Forest Stewardship Plan update at this early stage of the process.

We are writing as members of the Great Old Broads for Wilderness, a women-led national grassroots organization that engages and inspires activism to preserve and protect wilderness and wild lands. Our Willamette Valley chapter is over 300 members strong, based largely in the Corvallis area. Our members enjoy the benefits of the Corvallis forest and watershed for our drinking water, scenic backdrop, and recreational pursuits including hiking and nature study. Please consider the following thoughts, comments, and questions as you discuss the Plan's vision and guiding principles, as well as needed changes to the Plan's more specific elements.

We generally agree with the vision and principles set forth to guide the current forest stewardship plan. However, an updated plan needs to also be guided by a recognition of the important role forests play in capturing and storing carbon and mitigating the effects of climate change. We recommend you add a statement with this recognition to the guiding principles.

This is important in light of a growing field of research and findings that reveal the high capacity that Pacific Northwest forests have for storing and sequestering carbon and mitigating climate change. These are among the most carbon-rich forests in the world, holding more carbon per acre than tropical rainforests. A study by Oregon State University researchers has identified forests in the western United States that should be preserved for their potential to mitigate climate change through carbon sequestration, as well as to enhance biodiversity (Buotte et al 2019). In addition, the western Pacific Northwest forests are at lower risk of wildfire, and thus can provide significant carbon stores for climate mitigation. According to Dr. Beverly Law, professor of Forest Ecosystems and Society in the OSU College of Forestry, these forests are expected to have low vulnerability to fires, insects and drought in the future. The five-year study supported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture identified, and targeted for preservation, forests with high carbon sequestration potential, low vulnerability to drought, fire and beetles, and high biodiversity value. "Preserving temperate forests in the western United States that have medium to high potential carbon sequestration and low future climate vulnerability could account for about a third of the global mitigation potential previously identified for temperate and boreal forests". An even more recent analysis of data shows the priority preservation areas in Oregon for biodiversity, water, and carbon (Law et al, 2022), and lands surrounding Marys Peak stand out in their importance.

We also support adding a statement acknowledging the Indigenous people of the area and the ways that their traditional practices have historically been used to manage forests and other habitats in the Rock Creek watershed, and how their cultural and land management practices (such as use of managed fire) could contribute to the enhancement of biodiversity and native plant communities, as well as cultural uses, in the Corvallis forest.

Finally, we have concerns about basing management of the Corvallis forest on the following principle, currently included in the plan: "Corvallis Forest is a generator of revenue that is primarily used to offset the cost of forest management, and secondarily helps fund the City of Corvallis water utility system." This is an outdated, outmoded concept. Rather than being based on a revenue perspective, the overall long-term, non-consumptive values of the forest should be accounted for from an ecosystem services perspective. The ecosystem services (clean water,

clean air, carbon storage, fire resistance, biodiversity, etc.) generated over time are invaluable and vastly outweigh potential revenue gained during a given fiscal period. The costs of logging to these ecosystem services must be considered in setting harvest levels and prescriptions.

While the Forest Stewardship Plan's guiding principles are important for setting a framework for the Task Force, the details of the Plan are where the rubber hits the road. Elements of forest management that increase carbon storage should be considered in that plan, including leaving plenty of dead trees and downed wood to enhance carbon storage in the soil, purposefully allowing trees to grow as old as possible before harvest, selective logging that leaves enough canopy cover to provide climate refuge and a buffer to weather and climate changes, and employing beavers for stream and riparian health enhancement where possible.

Please keep us informed about future opportunities to review the plan updates and to provide public comment.

### Sincerely,

Members of the Willamette Valley Broadband leadership team
Carol Savonen, Philomath, carol.savonen@icloud.com<mailto:carol.savonen@icloud.com>
Maya Abels, Corvallis, maya.abels@gmail.com<mailto:maya.abels@gmail.com>
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#### References:

Buotte, Polly C., Beverly E. Law, William J. Ripple, Logan T. Berner. "Carbon sequestration and biodiversity co-benefits of preserving forests in the western USA." Ecological Applications, 2019; DOI:10.1002/eap.2039<a href="http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/eap.2039">http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/eap.2039</a>

Law Beverly E., Berner Logan T., Mildrexler David J., Bloemers Ralph O., Ripple William J. "Strategic reserves in Oregon's forestsfor biodiversity, water, and carbon to mitigate and adapt to climate change." Frontiers in Forests and Global Change, 2022.https://doi.org/10.3389/ffgc. 2022.1028401

Kelly M. Burnett, PhD Watershed and Fisheries Consultant, Corvallis, OR David Pilz 2347 NW 25th St. Corvallis, OR 97330

February 13, 2023

City Council City of Corvallis P.O. Box 1083 Corvallis, OR 97339

Re: Citizen Input for the Rock Creek Watershed Forest Stewardship Plan Update Task Force Meeting. Wednesday, February 22, 2023

Dear City Council Members,

I will not be able to attend the aforementioned meeting, but I do wish to submit my input.

I have been a Corvallis resident on and off for the most part of 40 years and I had a career that included Forest Science.

I believe that logging the Rock Creek Watershed for commercial profit is an entirely inappropriate goal for management of this unique watershed.

Commercial profit from logging should not be a goal or priority for this watershed at all. I am willing to pay equivalent higher taxes to support city functions in order to remove this monetary goal.

Global warming is the existential crisis of our time and capturing carbon in this public watershed should be the highest priority goal. Carbon sequestration is also compatible with managing for optimal water quality for city residents, as well as creation and improvement of late successional forest habitat and wildlife.

Any logging that might occur, should be focused exclusively on fire resiliency and/or enhancing old growth forest habitat quality.

In order to sustain water quality, no new roads should be built in the watershed and the ones that are there should be decommissioned whenever possible.

I join many Corvallis citizens in not wanting our public watershed managed for private profit, but rather for environmental and water quality goals.

Waved Pily David Pilz

Doug Heiken dh@oregonwild.org 2/17/2023 11:23

From: Doug Heiken <dh@oregonwild.org> Sent: Friday, February 17, 2023 11:16 AM

To: Gilbey, David < David. Gilbey@corvallisoregon.gov>

Cc: jim@alderspring.net

Subject: Rock Creek Watershed Forest Stewardship Plan Update - comments

#### David:

Here are a few thoughts on the vision and guiding principles for the Rock Creek Watershed Forest Stewardship Plan Update Task Force:

The reference to "professionally managed" contemplates foresters in charge, and most foresters are educated in an agricultural model, not an ecological model.

The reference to "a variety of different ages and types of forest" is not a sound ecological goal because foresters will use these words to tilt things toward younger trees and more logging. In reality, young forests are already over abundant and old forests are under-represented compared to the conditions that fish and wildlife evolved with. A potentially better goal is to restore conditions that are under-represented on the landscape. That would be doing something very different than we see too much of on private industrial lands that dominate the Coast Range.

The reference to "resilient to fire, invasive species, insects and disease;" is vague and anthropocentric. Resilience is in the eye of the beholder. Many species find their favored habitat in forests with lots of dead and dying trees. In fact, a forest with too few dead trees is not a healthy forest ecosystem. I would prefer wording such as "tolerant of mortality from a variety of natural processes including fire, insects, disease, wind, etc."

Sincerely,

/s/

Doug Heiken (he/him) Oregon Wild<a href="https://oregonwild.org/">https://oregonwild.org/</a> Eugene OR 97440

Jan Napack jan.napack@gmail.com 2/18/2023 2:53 PM Greetings!

Thank you for this opportunity to provide feedback on the Rock Creek Forest Management Program. I think the current guidelines as written are very well thought out and sustainable. Harvesting is a practical way to keep forests healthy and maximize carbon uptake. I trust that diversity and habitat will be maintained and managed at the same time. Sincerely,

Jan Napack Corvallis, OR 97333 Betsy Herbert, Ph.D. 2/17/23

To: Corvallis Forest Stewardship Plan Update Task Force

Corvallis Public Works

Re: Comments submitted for 2/22/23 Task Force Meeting

There are two critical issues that the task force must consider when updating the goals and vision for the city-owned 2,362 acre forest, in the Corvallis Forest Stewardship Plan update. First, the goals and vision must be brought into alignment with the longterm water supply strategy defined in the city's 2021 Water Supply Master Plan (WSMP). Second, the city's goals and vision for the city-owned property must address cumulative impacts of forest management within the entire Rock Creek Watershed serving as a municipal water supply, including the portion owned by the USFS.

1. Goals and vision must be in alignment with the longterm water supply strategy defined in the city's 2021 Water Supply Master Plan (WSMP). The WSMP defines a longterm water supply strategy that would eventually result in the city's entire forest landholdings being designated as a major drinking water catchment for Corvallis. The city is already actively pursuing that strategy, as spelled out in detail in "Chapter 5, Water Supply Strategy," WSMP.

A major focus of the city's longterm water supply strategy is to provide more water to meet future needs—from the Rock Creek Watershed where the city owns 2,352 acres. The Water Supply Master Plan concludes that the best way to increase the water supply is by moving existing water intakes to the main stem of Rock Creek just below its confluence with Griffith Creek.

"For the Rock Creek WTP, the existing three intakes will be decommissioned, and the City's existing six points of diversion (PODs) in the Rock Creek Watershed will be consolidated into a single 5-mgd, seismically resilient intake located downstream of the existing PODs. This will allow for full use of the City's water rights in the watershed." (WSMP, ES.5 Water Supply Strategy)

"To maximize the use of the City's existing water rights for the Rock Creek Watershed, the six PODs could be consolidated into one location on Rock Creek downstream of the confluence with Griffith Creek." (WSMP, 5.2.6.1 Rock Creek Watershed Water Rights)

How does changing the location of the city's water intakes impact the Corvallis Forest Stewardship Plan? Most of the water that supplies the existing intakes flows from US Forest Service land, compared to the city's adjacent forest land.

Once these intakes are moved to the main stem of Rock Creek, virtually all the water that supplies this new intake will flow through the city's forest lands. The entire city owned forest property will become a critical drinking water catchment area, where forest management would have to be designed to maximize protection of water quality and quantity, without the conflicting goal of managing for timber revenue. Source water protection is the most effective way to manage a watershed land that

supplies community drinking water, according to the Safe Drinking Water Act. A forest that is less disturbed by high potential risk activities like commercial logging is a forest that is better able to reduce water treatment costs.

Note that the 2013 Forest Stewardship Plan already adheres to the notion of source water protection, by assigning the small existing drinking water catchment areas on city lands as reserve areas—which require special protection...by prohibiting most commercial logging and road construction. Once the intakes are relocated, these same protections would need to apply to the newly enlarged catchment area.

The WSMP does not anticipate the current water intakes to be relocated within the next 20 years, due to permitting and other challenges. Nevertheless, the city is actively working toward that goal.

These more-protective forest management goals for Corvallis Forest Stewardship Plan must be put in place as soon as possible, because—from this point on—timber operations on city-owned forest lands would continue to threaten water quality for some 35 years, according to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (City of Corvallis PWS# 4100225; Source Water Assessment. DEQ).

2. The city's goals and vision for city-owned property must address cumulative impacts of forest management within the entire Rock Creek Watershed serving as a municipal water supply, including the portion owned by the USFS. At the January 25, 2023 meeting, CFSP Update Task Force member Davis stated that the USFS was completing a 10-year thinning operation in the Siuslaw Forest ownership of the Rock Creek watershed.

I have since learned that extensive areas of this thinning project have occurred within the water catchment areas that currently supply most of the water to the city from the Rock Creek Watershed. I understand that significant road construction has also occurred there. Please discuss the water quality issues inherent with this type of operation and how they will be addressed by the city as it plans its own forest management goals.

I request that the Task Force examine current water treatment problems at the Rock Creek Treatment Plant discussed in the WSMP.

"The Rock Creek WTP is typical of many WTPs where backwashes and other internal plant uses at WTPs can account for as much as 10 percent of total production. While average production efficiency is relatively consistent through the spring and summer months, it drops off noticeably in late fall and early winter. These months with the lowest production efficiencies coincide with the periods of higher raw water turbidities, which trigger additional backwashing that lowers production efficiencies. Production efficiency is lowest in the month of November when the first big rainfall events typically occur, flushing out the watershed, and raising turbidity." (WSMP, 7.3.2.1 Plant-wide Historical Performance)

- "Performance concerns were noted with the existing sedimentation basin configuration:
- Sludge cannot be removed during normal plant operations. The basin does not have the equipment needed for consistent, automated sludge removal.
- Sludge removal is typically limited to once per year during annual plant shutdowns in May or June.
- Lack of frequent sludge removal leads to sludge build-up in the basin, limiting the basin's useful depth and decreasing the effectiveness of settling. Sludge depths of eight feet have been noted when the basin is taken offline for sludge removal.
- Decreased settling effectiveness contributes to solids carryover to the filters. This results in increased filter backwashes and power consumption from the backwash and surface wash pumps operating more frequently during the winter. Historical settled water turbidity confirms that the existing basin configuration and operation has significant performance limitations. The monthly performance data shows poor settling performance during winter months with higher raw water turbidity." (WSMP, 7.3.2.5 Flocculation/Sedimentation Basin)

Note, there is no discussion anywhere in the WSMP of the causes of this turbidity in the raw water coming down from USFS managed land. There are no other potential contaminating sources identified in the entire watershed other than "managed forest land" in the DEQ's Source Water Assessment for the city of Corvallis.

WSMP estimates the cost of the new plant alone at \$19 million (Table 5.4, WSMP). Please investigate further to determine the relationship of this recent intensive forest management by USFS and the identified "performance issues" of frequent backwashing of the filters and sludge accumulation in sedimentation ponds. Cumulative impacts of forest operations throughout the water supply watershed must be considered when goals for forest management on city-owned lands are being formulated.

"As forestry operations are carried out over time and at various places in forested landscapes, the effects of these operations become 'cumulative', i.e. effects are added one to another. The most obvious cumulative effect of forestry practices on a local and landscape scale in the Pacific Northwest U.S.A. is the increasing patterns of patches of harvested forest that have accumulated since intensive forest cutting began in the 1950s in Oregon and Washington." (CUMULATIVE EFFECTS OF FORESTRY PRACTICES: AN EXAMPLE FRAMEWORK FOR EVALUATION FROM OREGON, U.S.A., Boyle, James R. et al., Biomass and Bioenergy; 13:415, pp. 223-245. 1997; College of Forestry, Oregon State University).

In summary, the city is actively pursuing a longterm water supply strategy defined in its 2021 WSMP that would eventually result in the city's entire forest holdings being designated as a major drinking water catchment for Corvallis. The Corvallis Forest

Stewardship Plan must change its vision and management goals with that same future envisioned. The city must also consider cumulative impacts of past and ongoing forest operations throughout the entire municipal water supply area of Rock Creek, when updating its vision and goals for the Corvallis Forest Stewardship Plan.

Yours truly, Betsy Herbert, Ph.D.

To: Corvallis Watershed Forest Stewardship Plan Task Force February 14, 2023 From: Jim Fairchild, Watershed Neighbor and former Advisory Commissioner: 1996-2006

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony for your February 22<sub>nd</sub> Task Force meeting. I request that your Task Force substitute a goal of increasing stored carbon as a guiding principle in place of the two unachieved points added in the 2013 CFSP revision. Guiding Principles, from 2007, page 54 of 119

The property is actively managed for multiple sustainable objectives including clean water, productive soils, forest product harvest and limited recreational opportunities and is:

- A "good neighbor" and integrated into the larger landscape and watershed;
- Comprised of a variety of different ages and types of forest to provide diversity of terrestrial and aquatic habitats;
- Resilient to fire, invasive species, insects and disease;
- Access controlled to minimize risk of fire, water contamination and invasive species introduction;
- Available for limited educational, recreational, and research opportunities;
- Dedicated to supporting high quality water production for the City of Corvallis;
- A generator of revenue that may offset the cost of management of the property, and secondarily to help fund the City of Corvallis water utility system.

Guiding Principles, from 2013 CFSP, page 35 of 62 (red denotes significant rewording)

- Conservation-based management practices demonstrate that water quality, stream health, wildlife habitat enhancement, and tree harvest can go hand in hand;
- Protecting the health and diversity of the forest and its ecosystems are top priorities;
- We are a "good neighbor" and integrated into the larger landscape, recognizing our connections to the greater watershed;
- Corvallis Forest is managed for a variety of different ages and types of forest to provide diversity of terrestrial and aquatic habitats;
- Corvallis Forest is resilient to fire, invasive species, insects and disease;
- Access is controlled to minimize risk of fire, water contamination, and invasive species introduction:
- Corvallis Forest is available for limited educational, recreational, and research opportunities;
- Corvallis Forest supports high quality water production for the City of Corvallis;
- Corvallis Forest is a generator of revenue that will primarily be used to offset the cost of forest management, and secondarily to help fund the City of Corvallis water utility system.

Analysis:

Added in the 2013 are two statements, highlighted in red, that have no relation to how the Corvallis Forest has been treated.

The first bullet point merely infers that a system of management practices will balance all of the listed goals, without citation, or a demonstration of success. Implementation of the CFSP since 2007, and the earlier 80-year clearcut harvest rotations as implemented by agreement with the Siuslaw National Forest have not achieved conservation goals, or consistent production or enhancement of quality water production here. The last 15 years of upstream active forest management by Siuslaw NF and Corvallis have been made possible by extensive road reconstructions and ongoing maintenance, heavy truck and equipment traffic, coinciding with increased water turbidity and sedimentation coming in at water diversions (see Water Master Plan). Additionally, some recent late summer flows at Griffith and South Fork intakes have been insufficient to supply ANY diverted water (MRWC pers. comm.).

The second supplants the purpose and need for the municipal watershed with laudable statements neither city nor federal forest managers have any demonstrated skill. Simply increasing spacing between the biggest healthiest trees (city), or variably spacing between the biggest and best (Central Coast Ranger District silviculturist, Feb 8, 2023) do not benefit westside Oregon forest ecosystems, any known terrestrial species of concern, or increase resistance to or resilience from wildfire. Apparently forest managers have forgotten that natural tree mortality is integral to every healthy forest.

If high quality water production remains the stated goal to which the municipal watershed is dedicated (and was its Congressionally stated purpose), forest management activities must abate, along with their accompanied invasives introduction program, and roads ecologically decommissioned wherever appropriate. Revenue secured from past active management must be dedicated to improving this ecosystem using validated recovery strategies, and funding for acquisition for lands upstream of all municipal water rights (including Stilson and Middle Fork Creeks), as well as acquisitions of lands upstream of a consolidated point of diversion near the mouth of Griffith Creek as adopted by the City Council, should be immediately pursued.

A century since establishment of the municipal watershed has passed, and we now know that PNW coastal forests can sequester tremendous amounts of atmospheric carbon if we simply let them grow. Besides capturing and storing carbon at no cost, one can most efficiently increase water infiltration, storage and release, improve habitats for every forest-associated imperiled terrestrial species known to occur in this watershed, reduce the need for the use of herbicides above water intakes, reduce the risk of wildfire which is here most often human caused, and still harvest more of the most important forest product of human existence—clean water. Jim Fairchild, Philomath, Oregon

February 22, 2023 Corvallis Public Works Department % The Rock Creek Watershed Forest Stewardship Plan Update Task Force 1245 NE 3rd Street Corvallis, OR 97330

Debra Higbee-Sudyka dwhigbes@gmail.com 2/21/2023 12:16 PM Dear Task Force.

The Oregon Chapter Sierra Club is submitting the attached testimony to the Rock Creek Watershed Forest Stewardship Plan Update Task Force . I would also like to give testimony, using the remote option, before the committee at tomorrow's meeting, February 22, 2023. Let me know what the call-in options are. Thank you for this opportunity, and let me know if you have any questions.

Debra Conservation Committee Chair Oregon Chapter Sierra Club

Dear Task Force,

On behalf of the Oregon Chapter Sierra Club, we appreciate the opportunity to give input regarding the Corvallis Forest Stewardship Plan vision and guiding principles. In the process of updating the Rock Creek Watershed Forest Stewardship Plan, we urge you to consider the following:

Preserve Late Successional Stands and Large Diameter Trees<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Late successional stands are trees 80 years and older. Large diameter trees are "greater than 53 cm (21 inches) in diameter." https://www.researchgate.net/lab/Beverly-Law-Lab

The Corvallis Forest has approximately 750 acres of forest that has never been logged. This condition is very rare in Northwest Oregon According to the 2006 Corvallis Forest Stewardship Plan (CSFP), this makes it one of the largest concentrations of non-federal late successional and large diameter trees in Oregon. For comparison, this is more than twice the amount of late successional stands in the OSU Research Forests.

The CFSP describes the uniqueness of the watershed's large block of mature habitat and trees: 1000+ acres of mature forest habitat on City of Corvallis land and the proximity and connectivity of the Corvallis Forest to the 8,800 acres of Forest Service lands (including 6,200 acres of older forests), create a large block of mature habitat, which include a high number of old-growth trees. This concentration of mature habitat and late successional trees is a valuable carbon sink. Forests, particularly older forests, store vast amounts of carbon and continue absorbing carbon as they age. Logging older trees releases most of that carbon back into the atmosphere. Even under the best-case scenario, newly planted seedlings do not restore the carbon released through logging for many decades or centuries — timescales that are irrelevant to avoiding the worst impacts of climate change. The best way to protect these carbon-storing giants is to leave them standing. The CFSP should protect ALL Late Successional Reserves in the Corvallis Forest. Mature forests are a key part of addressing the climate emergency, and they also protect wildlife and clean water. Older trees are naturally more fire resistant. They help limit the impacts of climate change by slowing soil erosion and moderating temperatures. In other words, we support the decision to not cut old growth trees, and urge Corvallis to establish standards to

maintain late successional and large diameter stands with buffers. The next revision of the Corvallis Forest Stewardship Plan must prioritize the protection of mature forests.

# Align Stewardship Plan with Water Master Plan

Corvallis PublicWorks needs to align the Forest Stewardship Plan with the city's new Water Master Plan which proposes to change the primary water intake point. The new intake point will collect water from nearly the entirety of the Corvallis Forest. According to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), forest management activities (such as thinning) adversely impact the quality of source-water supply for 35 years after harvesting activities. This makes it essential that the city's Water Master Plan and the revised watershed stewardship plan be fully integrated. The primary, overriding purpose of the Corvallis Watershed is to provide clean drinking water to our community. This goal must take precedence and priority over all other uses of the watershed. Fortunately, prioritizing water quality will simultaneously maximize forest carbon, air quality, and other climate and ecological benefits.

# Revise the Planning Process

The Oregon Chapter Sierra Club is deeply concerned about the lack of notification and public process that led to the appointment of the current Watershed Operational Advisory Committee and Rock Creek Watershed Forest Stewardship Plan Update Task Force members. The general public was not informed of the opportunity to serve on either committee and it is unclear what criteria and process were used to select committee members. Prominent watershed advocates and critics of the city's watershed management were not appointed to the committees or even notified of the opportunity to serve. Several committee members have had substantial prior involvement in the extractive history of watershed management. This includes the former public works manager and two men with substantial involvement in the management of the Siuslaw National Forest. The result is that there are no committee members with experience in ecological forestry practices to balance those who fervently believe in the value of "active forest management." The appointment of these committee members (and the former public works manager as the chair of both committees) gives a strong impression of bias in favor of traditional forest management practices. The lack of public notice and opportunity to apply to serve on the committees has undermined public trust in the process and may lead to skepticism about the resulting stewardship plan. Public trust can be reestablished by restarting the stewardship planning process. There is no apparent reason that both committees should be composed of the same people. Indeed, having the same committee members substantially limits the diversity of perspectives and expertise, while giving an impression of bias. Adequate public notice must be provided to Corvallis citizens, both about the planning process and the opportunity to serve on the committees. The public notice process is defined by state law, and is not met by simply posting information somewhere on the city's webpage. The process and criteria for selecting the committee members must be fair, objective, and clearly communicated beforehand. The public interest will best be served with a diverse group of committee members, including experts in ecological forestry, forest carbon, hydrology, and imperiled species. Traditional timber interests have long dominated the management of the watershed at the expense of water quality and ecological values.

It is time for change. Making these changes will entail a substantial reset of the planning process. For example, resetting the goals, to include a new "stewardship" definition with clean drinking water as the overarching goal. It will also mean including a forest hydrologist, terrestrial/forest ecologist or biologist, and tribal or traditional ecological consultants on the task force. It is

vital that clean water, carbon sequestration and wildlife habitat are prioritized above everything else. Timber revenue should not be part of the management or operational objectives of the watershed. To that end, the Task Force must know and make public how and where timber revenue has been spent since the beginning 2007 implementation of the CFSP.

We value this opportunity to give input into the Stewardship Plan Update. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Respectfully submitted, Debra Higbee-Sudyka she/her

Chair, Conservation Committee Oregon Chapter Sierra Club

Cell: 541-554-6979

ConservationCommittee@oregon.sierraclub.org

SierraClub.org/Oregon

# Omitted from meeting minutes, but discussed at 03/22/23 task force meeting:

From: Betsy Herbert, Ph.D. March 8, 2023

To: Rock Creek Watershed Forest Stewardship Plan Update Task Force

Re: Vision statement, Rock Creek Watershed Forest Stewardship Plan Update

The vision statement should describe characteristics of the Corvallis Forest that the community anticipates seeing in the future. The vision statement should extend ahead far enough to assess recovery of the forest from past management decisions. How long before ecosystem functions impaired by previous clearcutting operations are restored? How long will it take to assess the results of recent commercial thinning operations—ostensibly aimed at restructuring the previously clearcut forest to attain suitable habitat for marbled murrelet, spotted owl and other endangered species?

Current vision statement in the 2013 Corvallis Forest Stewardship Plan:

"The Corvallis Forest within the Rock Creek Watershed is a professionally managed, healthy ecosystem with a diverse forest and productive habitat for all species native to the watershed."

Critique of original vision statement:

This vision statement doesn't say how far ahead it's extending. It could be next week or the next century. It says nothing about drinking water or water quality. It says nothing about climate change. Why is professional management part of the vision statement? Who manages the forest should depend on who would best be capable of realizing the future vision. "Healthy" is a vague ambiguous term as is "diverse forest" which could be highly fragmented, and containing invasive species.

# A proposed vision statement:

100 years from now, the Corvallis Forest within the Rock Creek Watershed is a model municipal drinking water catchment, esteemed by Corvallis residents as a protected, late-successional forested landscape that provides safe, reliable quantities of drinking water with greatly reduced treatment costs, resilience to climate change impacts, diverse terrestrial and aquatic habitats for native species, and abundant carbon storage.

# **Guiding Principles:**

The current "guiding principles" should make it clear that water quality and supply are the primary management goals. It is historically clear that the Corvallis Forest was acquired by the city to supply public drinking water, and the stated purpose of the forest is the provision of public drinking water, which must be the top-priority guiding principle. The need to protect drinking water quality and quantity is even more pronounced since the city's 2022 Water Supply Master Plan makes clear the intent to move the city's water intakes to a location—in order to increase future water supply—directly downstream from the Corvallis Forest, making the entire forest a water catchment for drinking water in the next 20-30 years. How the forest is managed from now forward will have a significantly affect on water quality in 20-30 years, according to the DEQ.

I suggest making these changes to the guiding principles:

- 1. Replace the first and second-to-last guiding principles:
- Conservation-based management practices demonstrate that water quality, stream health, wildlife habitat enhancement, and tree harvest can go hand in hand;
- Corvallis Forest supports high quality water production for the City of Corvallis;

With these three guiding principles:

- The Corvallis Forest is managed for source water protection to preserve and enhance the ecosystem functions of the forest that naturally supply high quality municipal drinking water for the city of Corvallis;
- The Corvallis Forest is managed to preserve and enhance the ecosystem functions
  of the forest that regulate stream flows supplying reliable quantities of drinking
  water throughout the year\*;
- The Corvallis Forest is managed on behalf of the residents of Corvallis as a model of late seral forest preservation, providing a local, active and ethical response to the

global biodiversity crisis and the climate change crisis;

Rationale: I agree with task force members that the first principle can be eliminated, when it hasn't been established that tree harvesting is needed to achieve the vision. The added guiding principles clarify the primary purpose of the property is providing clean drinking water in reliable quantities, and serving as a model of old forest preservation to address the global climate change and biodiversity crises.

\*Note: There is a definite relationship between forest management and water quantity.

Perry, Timothy D.; Jones, Julia A. 2017. Summer streamflow deficits from regenerating Douglas-fir forest in the Pacific Northwest, USA. Ecohydrology. 10(2): 1-13. doi:https://doi.org/10.1002/eco.1790

Luce, C.H and Wemple, B. C. 2001. "Introduction to special issue on hydrologic and geomorphic effects of forest roads." Earth Surface Processes and Landforms 26: 111-113.

Segura, C., Bladon, K.D., Hatten, J.A., Jones, J.A., Hale, C., Ice, G.G., 2020. Long term effects of forest harvesting on summer low flow deficits in the Coast Range of Oregon.

https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jhydrol.2020.124749

- 2. Replace the second guiding principle:
- Protecting the health and diversity of the forest and its ecosystems are top priorities;

With this guiding principle:

• The Corvallis Forest is managed to preserve the ecosystem functions of the forest that provide stream water quality, reliable quantities, and temperatures in support of aquatic species and habitat;

Rationale: I agree that the word "healthy" and is ambiguous, leading to confusion rather than clarity. I also agree with task force member Nelson that stream habitats and aquatic species must be addressed specifically as a guiding principle.

- 3. Replace this guiding principle:
- Corvallis Forest is managed to be comprised of a variety of different ages and types of forest to provide diversity of terrestrial and aquatic habitats;

With this guiding principle:

 Corvallis Forest is managed to maintain the existing variety of different ages and types of forest that provide diversity of native terrestrial and aquatic habitats;

Rationale: Where is the demonstrated need to interfere in the natural forest regeneration process? Structural changes to cut-over forests to create better future habitat is an experimental technique with little evidence of success, while such timber operations may have more immediate detrimental impacts to other habitats.

Manning, T; Hagar, J; McComb, B. Thinning of young Douglas-fir forests decreases density of northern flying squirrels in the Oregon Cascades. Forest Ecology and Management 264 (2012) 115–124.

- 4. Replace this guiding principle:
- We are a "good neighbor" and integrated into the larger landscape, recognizing our connections to the greater watershed;

With these three guiding principles:

- The Corvallis Forest is managed as a "good neighbor" to residents living near and around the watershed:
- The Corvallis Forest is managed as an integral part of the larger Rock Creek Watershed, all of which embodies the valuable ecosystem functions that the inhabitants of the Corvallis region depend on;

Rationale: The Corvallis Forest does not exist as an island; it is a functional part of the larger Rock Creek Watershed, and managers must consider impacts of all management activities and all resources in the entire watershed when considering new management activities.

- 5. Delete the final guiding principle:
- Corvallis Forest is a generator of revenue that is primarily used to offset the cost of forest management, and secondarily helps fund the City of Corvallis water utility system.

Rationale: Generating timber revenue is a goal that is in direct conflict with the primary purpose of protecting water quality, a situation that creates a "policy paradox" (Deborah Stone, 1990).

My PhD research of public water utilities owning forestland supplying drinking water found that when forest management plans stated goals of both water quality protection and timber revenue—in practice, timber revenue became the primary goal.

If a watershed is to be managed for both timber production and drinking water, its management plan must address the inherent policy paradox created when two management goals potentially compete or conflict (Stone 1988, Cortner and Moote, 1998)— (Herbert 2004).

In one case in my study, the forest management plan

...stated that 'enhancement of revenues' from timber was secondary to protection of water quality. The potential conflicts between these goals were left unresolved. The plan did not discuss the potential impacts to water quality from timber management. It mentioned water quality only in passing, making it clear that timber production was the main objective. Politically, this ambiguity was advantageous to the city council. While stating its good intentions regarding water quality protection, it could simultaneously forge ahead with revenue-driven timber production (Herbert, 2004).

As several of my case studies demonstrate, cities became dependent on timber revenues to subsidize water user rates, to fund other city cost centers, and capital improvements (Herbert, 2004; Herbert, 2007).

Let this be a cautionary tale for Corvallis. Today, the city's approved 2022 Water Supply Master Plan estimates that hundreds of millions of dollars will be needed to build new water treatment plants, pipelines and move water intakes in the next 20 - 30 years. The city manager recently stated (Tipping point: "Corvallis city manager concerned about future," Gazette-Times, 03/2/23) that the city was facing financial difficulties. The city is under pressure to find additional revenue, and generating timber revenue is no doubt being considered. But more logging conflicts with the city's primary goal of providing reliable, high quality drinking water in the longterm.

# From CFSPUTF-05-24-23 agenda packet:

### Comments received outside of on-line survey:

From: Moira Dempsey

To: Corvallis Forest Stewardship Plan Update Task Force

Subject: Revenue discussion

Date: Sunday, April 23, 2023 11:21:15 AM

April 23, 2023

To: Members of the Corvallis Forest Stewardship Plan Update Task Force

RE: Discussion of revenue at the May 24 meeting.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on your work in revising the plan. I acknowledge and appreciate the time task force members must commit to this update. I am especially interested to hear your discussion of revenue at the May meeting. I respectfully ask that a complete accounting of revenues spent be presented to the public. Such an accounting must reveal past expenditures (as far back as records allow) as well as

current and future plans. The public will want to know the dollar value as well as the exact fund or account in which such revenue is deposited or for which it is earmarked for future spending. It is critical to reveal in detail if any logging revenue goes to salaries of those involved with the watershed thereby creating a conflict of interest in Forest planning. Has the revenue ever gone to the construction of a pipeline? How was revenue distributed when significant logging occurred? I am sure you agree that the public is not only interested but also deserves to know exactly how revenue is spent, especially as such revenue appears to be the driver for continued logging of the forest. Thank you in advance for supplying this critical information. Please include this letter to task force members in the materials for the May 24th meeting.

Sincerely, Moira Dempsey

From: Matt Trappe

To: Corvallis Forest Stewardship Plan Update Task Force Subject: Comments on the Corvallis Forest Stewardship Plan

Date: Friday, April 28, 2023 4:15:59 PM

### Comments on the Corvallis Forest Stewardship Plan

- 1. When comparing the Vegetation Cover map (Fig. 5) to the Reserve Area map (Fig. 6), I note that not all of the forest identified as Old Growth (O1, O2, O3) is in protected reserves. Every bit of old growth forest should be in protected reserves.
- 2. The Guiding Principles (p. 35) states "Corvallis Forest is a generator of revenue that will primarily be used to offset the cost of forest management, and secondarily to help fund the City of Corvallis water utility system."

We know this playbook: Pre-commercial harvest by definition is a money loser, so timber operators must make the books balance by harvesting profitable trees, aka larger trees. This is not acceptable, and not compatible with the Vision Statement nor the public's wishes. Where is the "No Action" alternative?

Secondarily, due to fungibility moneys generated to "fund the utility system" cannot be separated from moneys used to pay utility system managers salaries, therefore an inherent conflict of interest exists. Coupling funding for public services to timber harvest always ends up corrupting ecosystem management. There is always a need for just one more dollar, to cut down just one more tree... over and over again.

3. On page 48, the plan says "Legacy trees, some several centuries old, can be maintained, even in stands experiencing logging activities."

This sentence should be modified to read "Legacy trees, some several centuries old, will be maintained, even in stands experiencing logging activities"

4. On page 58, an interest is expressed in public involvement. This is laudable in theory, but the City falls short in practice. Stewardship task force meetings are poorly publicized (I learned only via word of mouth), and at meetings public input seems accepted only grudgingly. I suspect if more citizens were aware of plans to log in the Watershed there would be an outcry of objection. If you are truly interested in public involvement, why not announce logging plans and meeting schedules in the Gazette Times?

Matt Trappe, Ph.D. Forest Ecology, OSU Philomath

From: kim kittredge

To: Corvallis Forest Stewardship Plan Update Task Force

Date: Friday, April 28, 2023 11:34:37 AM

Attachments: taskforest.docx

Attention: Corvallis Forest Stewardship Plan Update Task Force/ Rock Creek Watershed Forest Stewardship Plan Update Task Force

According to the document prepared by Trout Mountain Forestry, "The Corvallis Forest Stewardship Plan shall be reviewed about every 10 years, and revised as needed." It has now been ten years, and we have certainly seen a lot of change in our environment in the past decade.

The report also states:

This Vision is further refined in a set of Guiding Principles:

- Corvallis Forest is resilient to fire, invasive species, insects and disease;
- Corvallis Forest is a generator of revenue that is primarily used to offset the cost of forest management, and secondarily helps fund the City of Corvallis water utility system.
- Protecting the health and diversity of the forest and its ecosystems are top priorities It seems one could offset the cost of forest management by leaving the forests alone, allowing LSR, mature trees and old growth to thrive.

It is disappointing to learn that, "Prior to 2006 there were verified sightings of adult winter steelhead (Oncorhynchus mykiss) spawning in the Rock Creek watershed..." And currently, surveys show no steelhead. It is also disappointing that the northern spotted owl (Strix occidentalis caurina) and marbled murrelet (Brachyramphus marmoratus) were thought to be present in the Corvallis Forest, but by 2008 these endangered species were no longer detected. Regarding the eleven species listed as sensitive species, it is also disappointing to read that "There are no legal management obligations associated with Sensitive Species."

As I said in the November, 2022 meeting, Corvallis can do better than this.

At one of the meetings I had attended, it was suggested that clubs, such as the Elks club and Kiwanis club, be notified, as an approach at getting public interest. This led me to realize one must be a club member to receive information about the city. It seems to me that there are more ways to encourage public participation. A once per year tour of the rock creek watershed is simply not enough; it would be great if monthly hikes in the area could be arranged, so the public can view the larger trees which are in the interest of Trout Mountain Timber. "While old-growth stands are often characterized by high levels of rot, snags and large down logs, old growth in the Corvallis Forest does not fit that description. Because trees grew in open conditions for centuries, they've retained healthy, full crowns, and large, stable root systems." That reads like a great place to hike, as well as an already well-managed forest system!

I do know that in general, the public is not aware that the City of Corvallis wants to log mature and old growth trees in its 'Corvallis Forest'. Partly because they are not made aware, partly because these trees are behind a locked gate, and partly because people have their individual lives to deal with; the public is not paid to review these records. In reviewing results for public participation, I see that a Corvallis Forest Public Tour Survey was conducted in 2022, asking the public how they would like their Corvallis Forest Managed. This survey shows the Corvallis citizens placed the highest ratings (approximately 34%) for clean drinking water, and the second highest rating, (approximately 32%) for healthy

habitat for fish and wildlife. The lowest ratings in this survey, (approximately 2%), were for maximizing revenue from timber harvest. (Pg 116 2022 Corvallis Forest Public Tour Survey). That speaks loudly. There is public input.

Trout Mountain Forestry also plans to "Conduct trial thinning in middle aged and old stands. Harvests since 2008 have included 130 acres for middle age stand enhancement. Trial thinning in old stands should be considered." I disagree. Trial thinning should NOT be considered in old stands. Once a large tree is cut, it cannot become old growth, more bio-diverse, more fire resistant.

Which brings the subject to the city of Corvallis. It has a university which has a department in forestry. Studies have been done for years looking at carbon sequestration, old growth forests' biodiversity, and yet, the city seems to turn away from the science it has learned. The Frontiers in Forests and Global Change journal states that "Old-growth forests (the most structurally advanced stage), generally have exceptional levels of biodiversity compared to logged forests, (the least structurally advanced)." (Volume 5 - 2022).

This article also states, "The loss of old-growth forests is coupled with changes to the global climate, reducing opportunities for natural climate solutions." And "...old-growth forests generally have received increased attention internationally as natural climate solutions..." We are all aware that climate changes are occurring, and that carbon-sinks and reservoirs are critical to keep active. Therefore, it is unwise to log the mature, (110 plus year old), trees. Page 31 of the Corvallis Forest Stewardship Plan shows areas with virgin, old growth trees, as well as mature trees, many of which are not in the reserve areas. The northwest corner of this map, as well as that on page 41, shows that there are carbon-sequestering trees which are not protected, as well as above Tributary B and between Tributary C and Tributary D. These areas should be in Reserve. The areas north and south of Griffith creek should also be put in reserve and not logged. A tributary off of Stilson creek also shows old growth on the east and west of the creek; the west side is in Reserve, and the east side is not. No mature trees or old growth trees should be logged.

It is unwise to continue logging larger diameter trees; let them grow and help us keep the carbon dioxide out of our atmosphere. Otherwise, the city, in wanting to log the mature and old trees, is not learning. Either that, or it has a great plan for encouraging the growth of poison oak.

Thank you, Kimberly Kittredge

From: west hills

To: Corvallis Forest Stewardship Plan Update Task Force

Subject: Logging in the Corvallis watershed Date: Saturday, April 22, 2023 3:50:30 PM

Trees should not be cut in the Rock Creek watershed. Period. Living plants, shrubs and trees absorb run off water while serving as natural barriers to soil erosion and degradation.

The root systems serve as primary filtration prior to water entering into water storage and treatment facilities. This watershed should not serve as a vehicle of revenue, and cannot excel as a pristine water source if logging is allowed. Corvallis resident Daniel Wood

From: BILL GELLATLY

To: Corvallis Forest Stewardship Plan Update Task Force

Cc: blakney1@comcast.net

Subject: Promised comments from 3/22/23 Watershed Task Force Meeting

Date: Thursday, March 23, 2023 11:23:32 AM

Attachments: Rock Creek Watershed Logging 2023.docx

Hello.

Please find my public comments from yesterday's meeting. I'd appreciate receiving acknowledgment that these materials have been received.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Gelidly

2923 NW 13th Place

Corvallis OR 97330

bgellatly@msn.com

(503) 867-6514

**INITIAL COMMENTS** 

I'm Bill Gellatly, a nine-year Corvallis resident and a retired engineer with family roots that date back to 1870. My family first settled on property east of the Rock Creek watershed on Gellatly Way, the original road to Alsea. I've hiked in the watershed as a part of the work to add indigenous names to the tributaries.

I am here to encourage continuing to establish the best practices for restorative and sustainable maintenance of the Rock Creek forests. High priority should continue to be given to plant diversity, optimal tree density and logging practices that result in good tree health and optimal carbon sequestration.

I am particularly asking that the understory be protected during any thinning operations. It is critical that logging or pruning should leave the soil able to absorb rainfall with a minimum of erosion and the maximum natural filtration of runoff. I would like to encourage continuation of snorkel studies of the storage reservoirs and creeks to assure that the fauna there is healthy and flourishing. If other protective monitoring methods become available, there should be parallel use of snorkel evaluation until the correlations are understood.

Moving to the best practices should include a gap analysis, a cost analysis, and an interval over which the full implementation will be complete. One approach would be to use all logging revenue to fund implementation of the project objectives. Taking this approach will mitigate concerns that the logging is being done as a source of revenue. Executed well, improvements to the watershed could be an example for logging in public and private forests throughout the state. Future generations will thank us for our stewardship.

# SECOND COMMENT

In the interests of clear language, I propose the following simplified wording for the Guiding Principle regarding finance:

"Any revenue generated from the Corvallis Forest will first be used for management of the forest, and second for the on-site water infrastructure."

Please note: This language also tightens and limits the secondary use of revenue, and is aimed at funding riparian aspects of the watershed. By referring to it as infrastructure, it could include maintenance of reservoir hardware, improvements to reduce downstream water temperatureand establish regular monitoring.

Respectfully submitted following the meeting on March 22, 2023

Bill Gellatly

2923 NW 13th Place

Corvallis OR 97330

bgellatly@msn.com

Re: Public comment for Corvallis Forest Stewardship Plan Update Task Force meeting May 24,

2023

From: Betsy Herbert, Ph.D.

Date: May 15, 2023

Dear CFSPU Task Force members:

First, I request that all public comments received by staff in response to the on-line survey issued by staff following the March 22, 2023 meeting be posted on the CFSPU Task Force website, clearly labeled and prominent on the website, so that the comments are easily accessible by the public, at least a week before the task force's vision and guiding principles are scheduled to go to city council for approval.

Second, I request that all written public comments received by staff during all past meetings also be clearly posted, in order of date received on the task force website. It is not good policy to bury public comments inside of agenda packets that are difficult to find and access. The public deserves to know how other residents of the community have responded in writing regarding the task force's work.

Third, I am submitting into the record the following article of interest to the task force before it finalizes its vision and guiding principles for the Corvallis Forest:

Law, Beverly E., Berner, Logan T., Mildrexler, David J., Bloemers, Ralph O, and Ripple, William J. 2022 Strategic reserves in Oregon's forests for biodiversity, water, carbon to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Frontiers in Forests and Global Change, December 22, 2022. [https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/ffgc.2022.1028401/full]

This article makes the case for protecting mature forests in Oregon to meet the "30 by 30" (protecting 30% of intact areas by 2030) and "50 by 50" (protecting 50% by 2050) requirements for averting the worst impacts of climate change. Figure 8 indicates that the Corvallis Forest and Rock Creek watershed are within the highest priority areas for preservation.

### Below are some excerpts:

"The IPCC AR6 (2022) states that "maintaining the resilience of biodiversity and ecosystem services at a global scale depends on effective and equitable conservation of approximately 30–50% of Earth's land, freshwater and ocean areas, including currently near-natural ecosystems. This acknowledges the multiple lines of evidence that maintaining ecological integrity of biodiversity is essential for addressing climate change effectively."

"Mitigation strategies need to explicitly protect existing old-growth forests, and allow mature secondary forests to regrow to their carbon capacity. For climate mitigation using natural climate solutions, effectiveness is based on the time that a unit of biomass carbon is resident in a forest ecosystem stock and thus kept out of the atmosphere (Körner, 2017; Mackey et al., 2020). Oregon's wet coastal forests have among the highest carbon residence times of any forests in the western USA (Berner et al., 2017). The large and old trees dominate forest carbon in temperate and tropical forests, and

can maintain large carbon stocks and accumulation for centuries (Luyssaert et al., 2008; Hudiburg et al., 2009)."

"Across the western U.S., federal forestlands are the dominant source of clean drinking water, and private forestlands are the most likely to experience land use change and impacts on water supplies (Liu et al., 2021). In western Oregon, where human population is concentrated and projected to continue growing rapidly, communities depend on drinking water from both private and federal forestlands. While there is concern about the impacts of wildfire on drinking water sources, forestlands tend to be adapted to these periodic disturbances and recover with minimal interventions. However, repeated harvesting, road networks and application of pesticides can expose aquatic systems to chronic stressors that continuously reduce water quantity and degrade water quality (e.g., soil erosion, sediment load, higher stream temperature) (Rieman et al., 2003; Karr et al., 2004)."

"Older forests in Oregon's watersheds exhibit greater water retention and improved late summer stream flows compared to managed plantations (Segura et al., 2020). Intact forests also tend to harbor more large and old trees, bolstering carbon stores and biodiversity services that large trees provide (Lutz et al., 2018; Plumtre et al., 2021). As warming increases, protecting the integrity of these intact forested watersheds would help sustain valuable ecosystem services, including a clean, reliable supply of water." "In Oregon's Coast Range, conversion of diverse conifer systems to Douglas-fir plantations has increased vulnerability to Swiss Needle Cast disease (Shaw et al., 2021), and climatic change may further exacerbate this vulnerability (Mildrexler et al., 2019). Moreover, young industrial plantations show a higher incidence of high severity fires, almost twice as many as on public lands (Levine et al., 2022)."

"Protecting clean drinking water sources from extractions (mining, logging) is cost effective and essential, as loss of forest cover or conversion to plantations has been shown to reduce water supplies by up to 50% as compared to mature forests (Segura et al., 2020). Logging is still occurring in Oregon watersheds that feed surface water and replenish groundwater sources of drinking water."

"Currently, there is little incentive to manage private forestlands for ecosystem resilience to climate change impacts, biodiversity or carbon storage, and industrial management has resulted in significant losses of habitat and biodiversity and carbon stocks, and degraded water systems.

Oregon's private forests laws have lagged behind those in California and Washington for decades, and recent changes adopted in 2022 focus primarily on changes for threatened and endangered fish species, not climate mitigation, terrestrial biodiversity or drinking water supplies. Land trusts have played a role in protecting Oregon's private forestlands, yet their coverage area is growing but not yet substantial. With significant funding, land trusts could play a greater and important role in securing high-priority private forest lands from development and harvest. Land trusts typically use conservation easements to protect key private lands from extractive management and

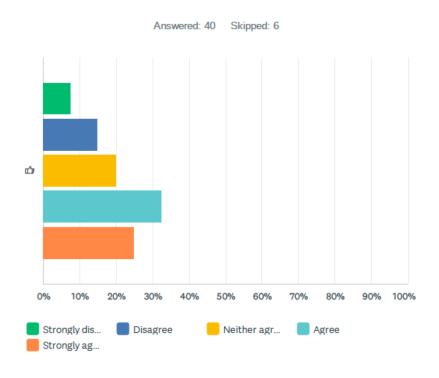
to protect certain values in perpetuity. This analysis provides a framework to spatially examine the value of private forestlands and prioritize efforts for the greatest climate mitigation and biodiversity protection benefits."

"Forestlands account for 78% (4.14 Mha) of the 5.3 Mha of surface drinking water source areas across Oregon, yet only 9% (0.37 Mha) of these forestlands are currently protected at GAP 1 or 2 levels (Table 5). This would increase to 27% by 2030 and 48% by 2050 if the high priority areas for carbon, biodiversity and resilience are protected (GAP 1 or 2). Most of the currently protected surface water source areas and the areas suitable for potential increases in protection are in the West Cascades, though protection of surface water sources areas would also increase notably in the Blue Mountains, Klamath Mountains, and Coast Range (Figure 8).

# From "Attachment B: Community Engagement Questionnaire results"

# Q1

Vision: The Corvallis Forest is professionally managed over the long term to achieve the desired outcomes described below in the guiding principles and policies. Please indicate your level of agreement with this vision.



STRONGL DISAGRE		DISAGREE	NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
	7.50% 3	15.00% 6	20.00%	32.50% 13	25.00% 10	40	3.52

# # DO YOU HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL INPUT FOR THE TASK FORCE ON THE VISION STATEMENT?

1 Some of these principles seem to be setting the city up to log the forests. Management should be for ecological health only.

5/2/2023 6:08 AM

- 2 Not specific enough to agree or disagree. 5/1/2023 12:40 PM
- 3 Forests take care of themselves if left alone. Donato and others have proven this. Keep the canopy wide.

4/28/2023 4:08 PM

- 4 More variety on committees and task forces and management committees, etc. Don't be heavy with foresters, loggers, engineers. You need to be way more transparent about what's going on. The only way I've learned about the current plan for Corvallis' watershed is through letters to the editor in the Gazette Times. Citizens should not have to be looking for this information; it should be coming to us every which way. No logging! Multiple stakeholders. "Managed" should be fully defined and should be determined by multiple stakeholders and not include logging. When I chose "Neither agree nor disagree," I really meant "I agree with part of this, but not all of it." Some of the statements had conflicting ideas / actions. Surveys are tricky. People who create surveys can guide people in certain ways that they may not want. Same with the composition of the Guiding Principles. Please be transparent and honest. Thank you. 4/26/2023 3:46 PM
- 5 I feel that the Vision Statement could be much stronger if it can stand on its own, instead of citing something further below. Summarizing the Guiding Principles would make it more eloquent/potent. If 11 guiding principles are too many to cite, then lumping them into core themes would be appropriate.

4/24/2023 4:01 PM

6 The current parts of the forest that have been actively managed are beautiful from what I've seen on public tours 4/23/2023 8:29 PM

7 Note that my input is either agree or strongly agree in all cases, although all thumbs to the right also turn blue.
4/23/2023 5:03 PM

- 8 This is not a vision statement. It has no aspirational message. 4/21/2023 10:52 AM
- 9 Professional management, yes. Timber-biased management, no. 4/21/2023 10:47 AM
- 10 Disagree. A Vision statement should stand alone so you don't have to read down the page to another long list and so far unwritten policies. Question: is the Vision meant to be limited to the life of the plan (e.g., 10 years) or "long term" whatever that is. The primary purpose the forest land was acquired was to serve as a source of water for Corvallis (and more recently Philomath?) so a vision statement should address that and all others being secondary. Here's my attempt: The Corvallis Forest is professionally managed over the long term to provide high quality water to the City of Corvallis while striving to maintain a healthy forest ecosystem and associated values. The Corvallis Forest is professionally managed over the long term to provide high quality water to the City of Corvallis while striving to maintain a healthy forest ecosystem and associated values. Note that I am not using the little thumbs as they all light up together.

4/20/2023 4:26 PM

11 "Professionals" if not expert in all realms, and not just Forestry (which is an unlicensed practice in Oregon), cannot achieve any balance of outcomes. Proof is evident in the last 15 years of management.

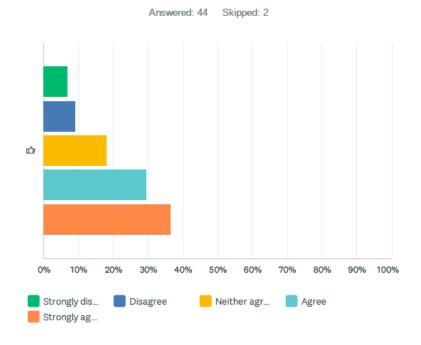
4/20/2023 2:54 PM

- 12 That is a weirdly empty vision. 4/20/2023 2:10 PM
- 13 Get rid of the word "below" 4/19/2023 12:07 PM
- 14 It was odd to ask this question first in this way. I disagree with aspects of the guiding principles outlined below. I'm not sure that you've deployed the concept of guiding principles appropriately, as it seems that the meaning and intent behind some of them would only be understood by a small group of people who developed them in the first place.

  4/18/2023 8:35 PM
- 15 It's not really a vision. 4/18/2023 6:59 PM
- 16 there should be less cutting of trees in the corvallis forest 4/18/2023 4:20 PM
- 17 No new taxes! 4/18/2023 2:20 PM
- 18 A vision by definition must be aspirational. Simply adding the words "over the long term" does nothing to define what is desired in the future. Reference Betsy Herbert's contribution. 4/18/2023 10:24 AM
- 19 Unable to answer no matter what I push my answer is recorded improperly 4/18/2023 9:20 AM
- 20 The professional manager must be carefully chosen, keeping in mind that while a manager may be professionally trained, it is possible that they may bring experience and biases that may not match the intent of spirit of the Community's principles and policies. 4/14/2023 1:45 PM

### Q2

Guiding Principle #1: To support this vision, the City has established eleven guiding principles. The guiding principles are based on an understanding that active management may occur in the Corvallis Forest and that when appropriate management practices are deployed, those activities will strive to preserve, support, and/or enhance water quality, stream function, wildlife habitat, and other desired outcomes from a fully functional forest system. Please indicate your level of agreement with this guiding principle.



	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
<b>Ġ</b>	6.82%	9.09% 4	18.18%	29.55% 13	36.36% 16	44	3.80
#	DO YOU HAV	DATE					

## DO YOU HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL INPUT FOR THE TASK FORCE ON THE VISION STATEMENT?

- 1 "Strive to support" while you log? No. 5/2/2023 6:08 AM
- 2 I think it is very important to protect the high quality water Corvallis gets from this area. Generally, what is good for wildlife habitat is good for people, and Corvallis residents like wildlife habitat, so it seems very appropriate to help wildlife habitat as we protect the water quality.

5/1/2023 3:56 PM

- 3 Again, language is too non-committal to agree or disagree. 5/1/2023 12:40 PM
- 4 This is vague. A fully functional forest system occurs naturally. 4/28/2023 4:08 PM
- 5 I do not have a disagreement with the general notion of active management. However, by stating "those activities will strive to....", it suggests that the primary motivation is not to preserve, support, or enhance water quality etc., but that those are desired side benefits to some other management goal. I see no reason there should be any management goal in the watershed other than preservation of water quality, carbon, and habitat. 4/28/2023 6:30 AM
- 6 "Other desired outcomes" should be fully defined. "Managed" should be fully defined and should be determined by multiple stakeholders and not include logging. 4/26/2023 3:46 PM

7 Vague and confusing. What does active management mean? What about when inappropriate management practices are deployed? 4/21/2023 10:52 AM

8 Include "carbon capture" as the first example in Guiding Principle #1 4/21/2023 10:47 AM

9 Disagree. The GP should stand along and not refer to any others. You can address these in text when you introduce the Vision/Guiding Principles. 4/20/2023 4:26 PM

10 Principle #1 could not possibly be also eleven guiding principles. Striving is not enough. What is a fully functional forest system? Are you talking about natural ecosystems, or extractive human utilitarianism as a basis of fully functional? 4/20/2023 2:54 PM

11 "Active management" should be replaced with "timber harvest". Non-foresters do not know what that term means. Be clear and transparent. Don't use euphemisms. 4/20/2023 2:10 PM

12 How can the first guiding principle be that there will be guiding principles? And if it is, how does that guiding principle not mention water supply, except via water quality? Otherwise I disagree because I think there should be public access for recreation.
4/18/2023 8:35 PM

13 there should be very limited cutting of trees and the forest should be left alone to foster a healthy forest 4/18/2023 4:20 PM

14 No new taxes! 4/18/2023 2:20 PM

15 Active managment opens the door for the cyclical logging of the Forest. Reliable science tells us that an intact forest (unmanaged and absolutley minimal interventions) is the surest path to pure drinking water.

4/18/2023 10:24 AM

16 Again. Survey won't respond correctly 4/18/2023 9:20 AM

17 Many park trails that are in the forests have many people letting their dogs (or bicycles and similar things) go free around or walking off trails (not just dogs, and not just a foot or so to look at a branch or plant or let others go/run past them), I suspect because no one is there to make sure they follow the rules in park/on trails. And then there's the creepy possibility of homeless illegal camping in the areas like in/near other cities.

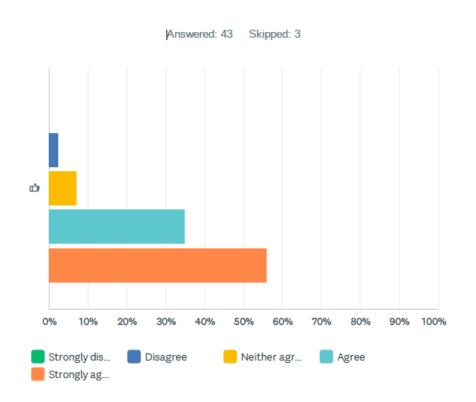
4/18/2023 4:24 AM

18 In this "understanding" it should be pointed out that the euphemism "active management" means "logging". Also, there are some "desired outcomes" that are not listed. Some things that are missing is the striving to preserve, support and/or enhance forest soil health (including carbon sequestration in the soil), as well as microbe and plant species diversity, especially in the old growth sections of the forest.

4/14/2023 1:45 PM

Q3
Guiding Principle #2: The Corvallis Forest will be managed to support source water protection for high quality water production for the City of Corvallis.

Please indicate your level of agreement with this guiding principle.



	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
C)	0.00% 0	2.33% 1	6.98% 3	34.88% 15	55.81% 24	43	4.44

## # DO YOU HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL INPUT FOR THE TASK FORCE ABOUT GUIDING PRINCIPLE #2?

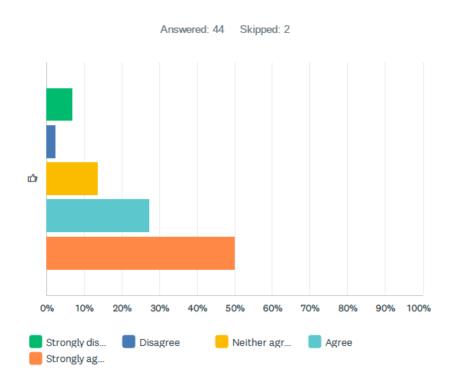
- 1 It makes me happy to live in a place like Corvallis with this good Marys Peak water source, instead of a place like Tennessee or West Virginia with toxic water due to mining and industry.. 5/1/2023 3:56 PM
- 2 Better. 5/1/2023 12:40 PM
- 3 Logging near streams and tributaries contributes to heating the streams as well as land dessication.
- 4/28/2023 4:08 PM
- 4 "Managed" should be fully defined and should be determined by multiple stakeholders and not

include logging. Yes, I like that this guiding principle, number two, focuses on source water protection. Let's not forget about the wildlife and the living trees. Let's focus on their protection as well.

4/26/2023 3:46 PM

- 5 There is some redundancy with the "enhance water quality" bit above. If water quality is the top purpose of the forest, I would move this principle to #1 and consolidate water quality text 4/24/2023 4:01 PM
- 6 water protection is vitally important 4/23/2023 8:29 PM
- 7 Should be first priority; should also include reliable quantity of water production 4/21/2023 10:52 AM
- 8 Stipulate management that does not include broadcast herbicide usage. 4/21/2023 10:47 AM
- 9 Need to clarify what you mean by source water protection. The primary source of the water is from adjacent US Forest Service lands so does this imply a connection to USFS lands? 4/20/2023 4:26 PM
- 10 Active management would also have to include removal of roads, which is costly, but ecologically beneficial. 4/20/2023 2:54 PM
- 11 It is a shame that Corvallis doesn't clearly delineate between the Corvallis forest lands above the water intakes, and the Corvallis forest properties adjacent to them. It should be clear to the public that management will be notably different because of the water intakes. 4/20/2023 2:52 PM
- 12 We don't get a significant amount of our water from the Rock Creek watershed. What does prioritizing source water protection save us in treatment costs, with the understanding that this source is most valuable as a backup source of supply for Willamette River contamination? 4/18/2023 8:35 PM
- 13 water for drinking 4/18/2023 6:59 PM
- 14 No new taxes! 4/18/2023 2:20 PM
- 15 This is frustrating 4/18/2023 9:20 AM
- 16 As long as the trash (from typical trash throwers to homeless) isn't always in that water and dirt/plants around it, because then the chemicals from it would effect the forest and air. 4/18/2023 4:24 AM

Guiding Principle #3: The Corvallis Forest will be managed in a way that considers and promotes the climate benefits of forests (such as carbon storage) in context with other values and public benefits. Please indicate your level of agreement with this guiding principle.



	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
ů	6.82% 3	2.27% 1	13.64% 6	27.27% 12	50.00% 22	44	4.11

## # DO YOU HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL INPUT FOR THE TASK FORCE ABOUT GUIDING PRINCIPLE #3?

- 1 "In context with other values and benefits" is vague and leaves the forest open to exploitation. I agree with managing for climate benefit. 5/2/2023 6:08 AM
- 2 Corvallis people don't want it getting any hotter in the summer than it already is, so slowing down Extreme Climate as much as possible is smart. 5/1/2023 3:56 PM
- 3 It is encouraged to keep the elderly trees growing, as they store much more carbon than young

stands. 4/28/2023 4:08 PM

4 The watershed represents an amazing resource for the City to maintain a carbon bank, and to stand behind our various climate commitments. 4/28/2023 6:30 AM

5 "Managed" should be fully defined and should be determined by multiple stakeholders and not include logging. Nothing should be more important than climate benefit, water quality and wildlife habitat. We do not need to consider "other values and public benefits." We are getting enough by having the beautiful forest filtrate the water and hold down erosion. It is time to stop being human centric.

4/26/2023 3:46 PM

6 There has been way too much focus on carbon storage in public feedback from a limited group of individuals. Other ecosystem services should be highlighted and elevated. 4/24/2023 4:01 PM

7 We are facing an existential climate crisis. This should be the highest priority next to clean water.

4/21/2023 10:47 AM

8 Agree but serious thought needs to be made to identify the benefits and not just some feel good statements. Agree 4/20/2023 4:26 PM

9 If you remove the "...in context with..." there would be an actual guiding principle here. 4/20/2023 2:54 PM

10 You mention resiliency to climate change in GP #8, which seems sufficient regarding this important topic without specifically calling out management for "promoting climate benefits of forests", especially when it is qualified with "in context with other values and benefits". Feels like there is an escape-hatch built into the principle if needed (if concerned citizens don't interpret "climate benefits of forests" the same way the manager/consultant does). If you want to go there, maybe specify the climate benefits of forests being considered and promoted, no "such as": carbon storage. Others?

4/20/2023 2:52 PM

11 This sounds to me like climate change will be considered as long as it doesn't conflict with any other goals. If climate change isn't the priority, fine. But it's odd to put it as the 3rd principle without also ensuring the forest is managed for carbon storage.

4/20/2023 2:10 PM

12 Carbon storage benefits would be maximized by cutting the timber, putting it to use in construction in place of concrete, and then growing more trees that grow quickly. But that would create poor ecological outcomes.
4/18/2023 8:35 PM

13 Limit all cutting of trees 4/18/2023 4:20 PM

14 No new taxes 4/18/2023 2:20 PM

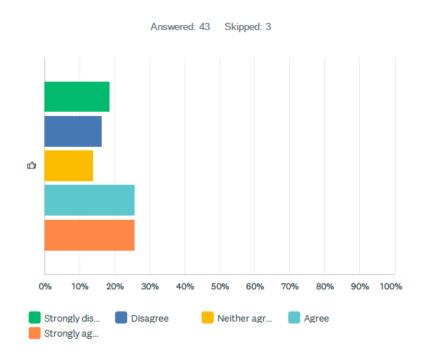
15 Put a period after carbon storage). "In context...) opens the door for competing interests that can harm the forest 4/18/2023 10:24 AM

16 As long as that doesn't include "renting" parts of it out for party-like events or actually "storing" the gases in the ground.
4/18/2023 4:24 AM

17 I am concerned about the qualifying language "in context with other values and public benefits". By putting those undefined qualifiers in the sentence, it nullifies the initial statement of considering and promoting the climate benefits. If the sentence would end after the end of the parentheses, I would agree with it.
4/14/2023 1:45 PM

## Q5

Guiding Principle #4: The Corvallis Forest will be managed in consideration of the numerous tradeoffs that occur with balancing multiple resource objectives. Please indicate your level of agreement with this guiding principle.



	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
ı 🗘	18.60%	16.28%	13.95%	25.58%	25.58%	//3	3.23

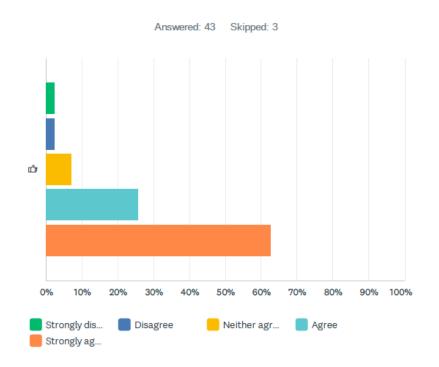
## # DO YOU HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL INPUT FOR THE TASK FORCE ABOUT GUIDING PRINCIPLE #4?

1 Some of these principles seem to be gearing up for logging. The Corvallis forest should be managed for ecological health only. 5/2/2023 6:08 AM

2 Depends on the tradeoffs. 5/1/2023 6:21 PM

- 3 Be specific. 5/1/2023 12:40 PM
- 4 "numerous tradeoffs..." seems a bit of a compromise. There should be no trade offs. 4/28/2023 4:08 PM
- 5 This applies fine to the national forest lands that surround the Corvallis Forest, but not to the watershed. There really should be no competing objectives -- this is a source of water for the city, and only light management to maintain clean water supply should be considered. 4/28/2023 6:30 AM
- 6 No! "Managed" should be fully defined and should be determined by multiple stakeholders and not include logging. We do not need to have multiple resource objectives. Please see guiding principle number two. This is the objective. Corvallis is so lucky to have this watershed and now some want to kill the goose that laid the golden egg. What are we thinking! Please research Corbett Oregon and the debacle logging caused on their water supply. No logging, no other public uses. 4/26/2023 3:46 PM
- 7 Depends of course on what those are. In general, yes, reasonable. 4/25/2023 9:31 AM
- 8 I'd rather not see herbicides used but acknowledge that there is a time and place for them 4/23/2023 8:29 PM
- 9 Sounds like a way to prioritize commercial timber harvesting over other values 4/21/2023 10:52 AM
- 10 This is a meaningless principle. What matters is the balances persued. 4/21/2023 10:47 AM
- 11 I get it but this is too vague. How would this guide the City to deal withs the issue of tradeoffs? 4/20/2023 4:26 PM
- 12 THis is a weak-kneed principle that undermines every other principle. 4/20/2023 2:54 PM
- 13 Reads as a bit of a "carte blanche", in principle, without any detail behind it. 4/20/2023 2:52 PM
- 14 Considering tradeoffs is critically important to balancing the values on the forest. Not all values can be maximized at all times.
  4/19/2023 12:07 PM
- 15 This is a non-principle, as it does nothing to guide management of the forest. 4/18/2023 8:35 PM
- 16 No new taxes! 4/18/2023 2:20 PM
- 17 Once again, the wording "numerous tradeoffs" opens the door for road building and cyclical logging both which have a negative impact on the health of the forest 4/18/2023 10:24 AM
- 18 This does not sound so much like a guiding principle as a way to weasel out of pursuing the previously defined principles of high quality water production and climate benefits. 4/14/2023 1:45 PM

# Q6 Guiding Principle #5: The Corvallis Forest will be managed to prioritize protection of ecosystem functions, diversity of terrestrial and aquatic habitats. Please indicate your level of agreement with this guiding principle.



	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
<b>C</b>	2.33% 1	2.33% 1	6.98% 3	25.58% 11	62.79% 27	43	4.44

## # DO YOU HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL INPUT FOR THE TASK FORCE ABOUT GUIDING PRINCIPLE #5?

- 1 Yes, this is most important. 5/2/2023 6:08 AM
- 2 What is good for wildlife habitat is usually good for people's drinking water. Corvallis people tend to want to help wildlife habitat, so this Goal seems smart. 5/1/2023 3:56 PM
- 3 It should, however surveys have shown that we've already lost two endangered species here. What went wrong? 4/28/2023 4:08 PM
- 4 The primary piece here is the protection of ecosystem function. Terrestrial and aquatic habitats

will be protected as a by product. 4/28/2023 6:30 AM

5 "Managed" should be fully defined and should be determined by multiple stakeholders and not include logging. This principle is not flushed out. What is the definition of "ecosystem functions?" I want to make sure we're all on the same page. For me this means no logging, focus on clean water, habitat for wildlife and terrestrial life. Let's be smart on this. 4/26/2023 3:46 PM

6 Diversity of habitats that are natural to that environment, yes. 4/25/2023 9:31 AM

7 Absolutely agree 4/23/2023 8:29 PM

8 This is a vague and confusing statement. Which ecoystem functions? Diversity of terrestrial 4/21/2023 10:52 AM and aquatic habitats could mean habitats for non-native species

9 Again, it's not the principle itself that matters, but HOW it is applied. 4/21/2023 10:47 AM

10 Agree but "ecosystem functions" probably does not mean much to the average person. I would add "diversity of terrestrial and aquatic plant and animal habitats" 4/20/2023 4:26 PM

11 THere will be a net cost to managing for this, is Corvallis ready to prioritize this principle as so stated?

4/20/2023 2:54 PM

12 This sentence is grammatically incorrect. You need more words in there or different punctuation. 4/20/2023 2:10 PM

13 Protection of ecosystem function is somewhat subjective and could drive all decisions if not property defined.
4/19/2023 12:07 PM

14 No new taxes 4/18/2023 2:20 PM

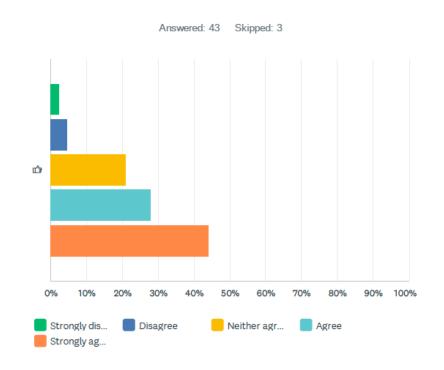
15 Replace the word managed with the word protected 4/18/2023 10:24 AM

16 If only some other places/parks had more funds and/or programs (or maybe volunteers) to be able to restore and stabilize their area while also letting some people walk on a trail or view points in it that have barriers that would be protecting it more from abuse than what most have(open flat cement/dirt/board trail no rails or fence-like on the sides of trail/s) I'm surprised some don't have Warning signs at beginning that they may slip on dirt or trip/get cut from grass/plants lol.

4/18/2023 4:24 AM

17 Remove the phrase "prioritize protection of" and replace it with "protect". This is because the concept of prioritization indicates there are competing interests which could be justified as being higher priority than the ecosystem functions (like balancing a budget, for example.) 4/14/2023 1:45 PM

## Q7 Guiding Principle #6: The Corvallis Forest will be a "good neighbor" by recognizing and managing for integration into the larger landscape, and its connections to the greater watershed. Please indicate your level of agreement with this guiding principle.



	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
œ	2.33% 1	4.65% 2	20.93% 9	27.91% 12	44.19% 19	43	4.07

## # DO YOU HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL INPUT FOR THE TASK FORCE ABOUT GUIDING PRINCIPLE #6?

- 1 I don't know what the neighbor's landscape goals are. 5/1/2023 1:52 PM
- 2 Good neighbors often leave things alone. No noise, no destruction, no problems. 4/28/2023 4:08 PM
- 3 I agree that the Corvallis Forest should consider context when management decisions are made. However, I do not believe that the Forest needs to integrate its practices into those of the neighboring federal lands -- those lands really do have to manage multiple objectives, whereas the City Forest can be focused on its primary goal. 4/28/2023 6:30 AM
- 4 This guiding principle is too vague. "Good neighbor" means different things to different people. Once more, please fully define "managing." What is meant by "integration into the larger landscape?" It's hard to indicate a level of agreement with the guiding principle this vague. I want to make sure we're all on the same page. For me this means no logging, focus on clean

water, habitat for wildlife and terrestrial life. Let's be smart on this. 4/26/2023 3:46 PM

5 Poor wording, vague. The Corvallis Forest is managed as a "good neighbor" to residents living near and around the watershed; The Corvallis Forest is managed as an integral part of the larger Rock Creek Watershed, all of which embodies the valuable ecosystem functions that the inhabitants of the Corvallis region depend on; The Corvallis Forest does not exist as an island; it is a functional part of the larger Rock Creek Watershed, and managers must consider impacts of all management activities and all resources in the entire watershed when considering new management activities.

4/21/2023 10:52 AM

6 Of course! 4/21/2023 10:47 AM

7 Strongly Agree! As indicated before, the water is mostly coming from adjacent USFS lands. Keep in touch with them. 4/20/2023 4:26 PM

8 YOu have no adjacent landowners on your Task Force, and the most likely representative, Diana Blakeney, has not actively sought perspectives from neighboring landowners, managers, or those affected landowners downstream along Rock Creek and Greasy Creek. 4/20/2023 2:54 PM

9 Full watershed protections, from coast range to the Willamette 4/18/2023 9:26 PM

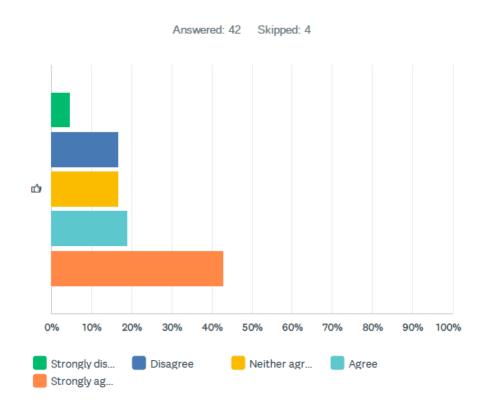
10 What does this mean? It's another non-principle. Good neighbor is even in quotes. 4/18/2023 8:35 PM

11 No new taxes 4/18/2023 2:20 PM

12 Take out managing (again) to read by recognizing the importance of intergration... 4/18/2023 10:24 AM

13 If only humans could actually be a "good neighbor" and not blast excessive light pollution and noise pollution on areas like the forests and the things(not including humans lol) that actually usually are able to live in them. Last year I likely only saw an increase of certain mammals and birds I hadn't seen for years likely because of those pollutions and construction near edges/middle of habitats and trespassing/going in protected areas 4/18/2023 4:24 AM

Guiding Principle #7: The Corvallis Forest will be managed to be comprised of a variety of different habitat and age structures and compositions to provide diversity of terrestrial and aquatic habitats. Please indicate your level of agreement with this guiding principle.



	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
ů	4.76% 2	16.67% 7	16.67% 7	19.05% 8	42.86% 18	42	3.79

## # DO YOU HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL INPUT FOR THE TASK FORCE ABOUT GUIDING PRINCIPLE #7?

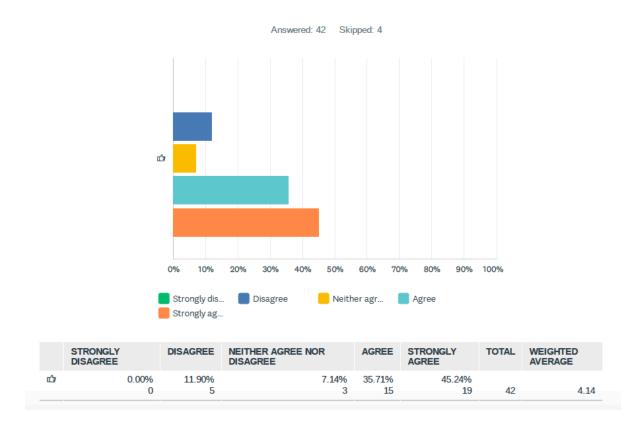
- 1 This sounds like "we will cut on a rotating basis." Do not cut down the forest. 5/2/2023 6:08 AM
- 2 What is good for wildlife habitat is usually good for people's drinking water. Corvallis people tend to want to help wildlife habitat, so this Goal seems smart. A variety of habitats is likely needed.

5/1/2023 3:56 PM

3 I don't think mature or old growth forest areas should be cut to create younger forest stands. 5/1/2023 1:52 PM

- 4 We do not need more young stands. We need older trees, larger canopy and less understory. 4/28/2023 4:08 PM
- 5 I am concerned that this will lead to the removal of standing older forest in the name of, for example, early successional habitat. The Forest does not need to manage for that objective. 4/28/2023 6:30 AM
- 6 Yes, true forests are a variety of ages, habitats, structures, compositions. Although, it is my understanding that the CFSP has inconsistencies when it comes to this principle: The CFSP touts the habitat snags it created in the watershed including in these areas about to be logged. These snags take years to decay and become wildlife habitat features. Now just as these snags are starting to provide valuable wildlife habitat many that aren't flagged for retention will be at risk of removal "at the loggers discretion" so that they can more easily access targeted trees for removal. Their plan essentially creates habitat just to destroy it as soon as it becomes occupied in the middle of nesting season. This makes no ecological or fiscal sense. Again, define "manage." Let's walk the talk. No logging, no removing of snags or nurse logs. Let's stop being human centric and remember that many other creatures need this land. 7 The forest already comprises a varity of different habitat and age structures. There is no justification to do more logging just to conduct experiments with no guaranteed outcome. 4/21/2023 10:52 AM
- 8 Depends. There is a paucity of old growth, carbon-sink forests on the landscape already. 4/21/2023 10:47 AM
- 9 I would combine with GP #6. Kind of redundant. 4/20/2023 4:26 PM
- 10 III-defined "age structures", and does not recognized the context, quality, extent and scale of habitat requirements that the area has the capability of providing. 4/20/2023 2:54 PM
- 11 There is no information described in this principle itself to indicate why this would be desirable. The watershed is surrounded by private forestland, so on what scale is variety in age structure desired?
  4/18/2023 8:35 PM
- 12 Leave the forest alone and limit logging 4/18/2023 4:20 PM
- 13 No new taxes 4/18/2023 2:20 PM
- 14 Those that fit the native areas obviously otherwise it would be like a farm or large garden (lol) or those giant lifeless timber farms 4/18/2023 4:24 AM
- 15 While it is desirable for the Forest to have a variety of habitats, age structures and compositions for diversity, it seems the height of hubris to imagine that a human manager, no matter how well intentioned, could manage this better than the forest itself.
  4/14/2023 1:45 PM

Guiding Principle #8: The Corvallis Forest will be managed for resiliency to fire, invasive species, insects, disease, and climate change. Please indicate your level of agreement with this guiding principle.



### # DO YOU HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL INPUT FOR THE TASK FORCE ABOUT GUIDING PRINCIPLE #8?

- 1 I live towards the upper end of 29th in Timberhill. I worry constantly about another fire since the big one in Sept 2014. I hope there is some way to patrol the forest for homeless encampments dry weather where fire is a huge risk to a large portion of Corvallis homes. 5/1/2023 6:21 PM
- 2 Seems logical. 5/1/2023 3:56 PM
- 3 Review studies regarding climate change and carbon storage in older stands, presented by Bev Law et al. 4/28/2023 4:08 PM
- 4 I agree with this principle, but the implementation is critical. Too often misguided management in forests can occur in the name of anticipatory protection, but the remedy causes more harm than the potential threat. 4/28/2023 6:30 AM

5 My fear with this guiding principle is, once again, what is meant by "managed." There are different theories about forests and fire. Some of them are put forth by logging companies and forester's that support unhealthy logging. These theories are not always correct and are designed to confuse people and leave room for trees and underbrush to be removed that have nothing to do with resiliency to fire and everything to do with making money. Let's be smart about this. Our water is money. Let's keep it clean. Nature is helping us, why are we thinking of making a mess of things? This principle is not clear. What is meant by "managed for... insects...? Forests have insects! Insects are important! If we mean insects that are invasive or such, then we look at that with multiple stakeholders. 4/26/2023 3:46 PM

6 Don't try to justify commercial logging to increase fire resiliency, because the opposite is true. 4/21/2023 10:52 AM

7 Put carbon capture first, then fire resilience, then the rest. 4/21/2023 10:47 AM

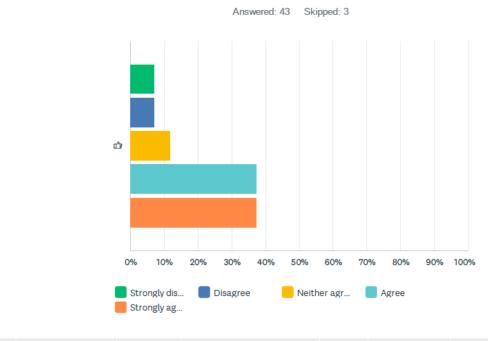
8 Agree but would clarify management for resiliency to undesirable levels of injurious/harmful/destructive insects. So we will always have to live with various species of bark beetles that love to eat dead/dying trees but we don't want them to get too abundant. 4/20/2023 4:26 PM

9 We don't know yet how to effectively do any of these things, and a water supply source is a lousy place to experiment. 4/20/2023 2:54 PM

- 10 This works well with the principle regarding tradeoffs. 4/19/2023 12:07 PM
- 11 Thinning and fire suppression is a false science 4/18/2023 9:26 PM
- 12 take out invasive species and limit logging 4/18/2023 4:20 PM
- 13 No new taxes 4/18/2023 2:20 PM
- 14 Hmmm can't literally control the weather yet so much of fire part would mean... what cutting all of it down like most are told to in their yards/property, or to put that toxic fire retardant(usually only dropped on active uncontrolled fires) on the trees/area? Or to remove all of certain native trees/bushes (like douglas firs)only because they are drying up/dying faster now? Even plastic trees can catch on fire, another reason 9/10 animals don't prefer to live in/near them. 4/18/2023 4:24 AM
- 15 I am suspicious that the sentiment behind this "management" intention is the assumption that logging would be the answer, and I do not agree that this would be correct. It sounds like trying to make an argument that logging would produce resiliency, which is the opposite of the undisturbed forest's own health management. It seems like a disingenuous argument in favor of logging.

4/14/2023 1:45 PM

# Q10 Guiding Principle #9: The City will control access to the Corvallis Forest to minimize the risk of fire, water contamination, and the introduction of invasive species. Please indicate your level of agreement with this guiding principle.



	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
ı 🖒	6.98% 3	6.98% 3	11.63% 5	37.21% 16	37.21% 16	43	3.91

## # DO YOU HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL INPUT FOR THE TASK FORCE ABOUT GUIDING PRINCIPLE #9?

- 1 Both fire and water need to be rigidly protected as trying to recover from damage is monumental and life threatening. 5/1/2023 6:21 PM
- 2 Seems smart. Otherwise you're going to get people dumping garbage and toxic liquids and polluting our drinking water. Also, back east lots of noxious weeds are spread by people's boots. Seems smart to reduce hikers/dogs/etc. People have lots of other areas to hike. 5/1/2023 3:56 PM
- 3 It would be nice to have access during the summer season for the public to see these forests, with regulations. 4/28/2023 4:08 PM
- 4 Yes, control access, minimize access. Keep people out! Don't just let the city be the determiner, that is way too closed loop. We need multiple stakeholders with many different

views to be in on this decision. This forest is owned by the city of Corvallis, which means its citizens, not the staff of the city.

4/26/2023 3:46 PM

5 I believe a small number of people should be allowed in at one time, for low-impact walking, nature study, photography, etc. Trained and in strict agreement, in how to maintain these values.

4/25/2023 9:31 AM

6 Agree but keep in mind that any logging operation introduces vehicles and equipment that may be contaminated with invasive plant seeds. Is that something to consider from a risk standpoint? GP #6 comes into play as public access to USFS lands could be a source from water contamination, etc.

4/20/2023 4:26 PM

7 The largest wildfire in the watershed happened under permitted access (USFS), also water contamination (sediment, pesticides, dislodged slash), as well as the introduction of most invasive species. Access control has utterly failed, except in its service to limit public scrutiny.

4/20/2023 2:54 PM

8 I am not sure what this would look like in practice. I support responsible people having access for recreation (e.g. hiking) to the extent possible without seriously compromising other goals 4/19/2023 6:20 AM

9 Public access would be valuable and beneficial. If the City can destroy the Marys-Willamette confluence with homeless camps, why should they be prioritizing restricting access to a watershed miles removed from the city to prevent the very fires and contamination they're enabling within low income areas of Corvallis as the owner of Pioneer Park and the BMX Park? 4/18/2023 8:35 PM

10 No new taxes 4/18/2023 2:20 PM

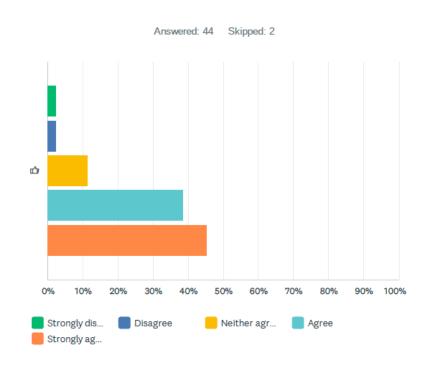
11 The current managment practices fail to protect the forest from your own interventions that damage the ecosystem 4/18/2023 10:24 AM

12 I want to say 'well at least show images of the area' but that would/could attract different kinds of interest, I guess close up pictures of progress in small areas (like a before and after picture of a plant or water area) would be better than far/wide picture of an area that may show an edge or outside road or building most would know of or see. Words are 1 thing (like in a report) words and matching pictures (or maybe short videos) are another.

4/18/2023 4:24 AM

13 Would the city also limit access to open spaces, parks and greenways for these same reasons? Would the birds be prevented from flying over the forest because they might drop invasive seeds? Would lightning not be allowed to strike? This controlled access feels like the city not wanting the public to see what nefarious deeds it may be up to in the forest. 4/14/2023 1:45 PM

Q11
Guiding Principle #10: The Corvallis Forest will be available for approved educational, recreational, and research opportunities. Please indicate your level of agreement with this guiding principle.



	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
ů	2.27% 1	2.27% 1	11.36% 5	38.64% 17	45.45% 20	44	4.23

## # DO YOU HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL INPUT FOR THE TASK FORCE ABOUT GUIDING PRINCIPLE #10?

- 1 Listen to the research and results provided by OSU scientists etc. 4/28/2023 4:08 PM
- 2 No! This is not the place for education or research, and certainly not recreation! There are other places for these activities. This is a place to keep the forest intact for wildlife, plants, and clean water. Period. 4/26/2023 3:46 PM
- 3 Who approves? On what basis? 4/21/2023 10:52 AM
- 4 Agree. I would suggest that that consideration be given to identifying and advertising research needs. The advantage of the unique situation with OSU. 4/20/2023 4:26 PM
- 5 These uses can be an important way to inform the community about what is going on in the forest.

4/19/2023 12:07 PM

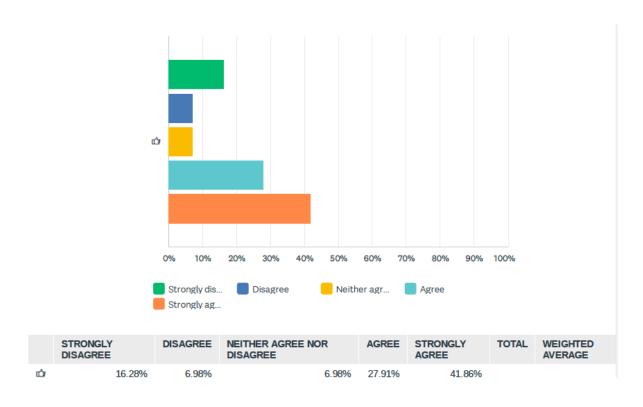
6 not for recreational use 4/18/2023 6:59 PM

7 No new taxes 4/18/2023 2:20 PM

- 8 Approve more recreation access, like hiking & bicycling. 4/18/2023 11:35 AM
- 9 Might have been 1 of the places I missed going to back when I could go on school/group field 4/18/2023 4:24 AM trips.
- 10 Remove the word "approved" and do not restrict access, except to treatment plant facilities. 4/14/2023 1:45 PM

## Q12

Guiding Principle #11: If any revenue is generated from the Corvallis Forest, it will primarily be used to offset the cost of management of the forest, and secondarily be used to help fund the City of Corvallis water utility system. Please indicate your level of agreement with this guiding principle.



### # DO YOU HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL INPUT FOR THE TASK FORCE ABOUT GUIDING PRINCIPLE #11?

1 I do not trust city officials to not see the forest as a wallet. The forest should not be used to generate funds for the city. 5/2/2023 6:08 AM

2 Some public employees have salaries which seem a bit too high for their jobs; perhaps reallocate financial resources to help with costs.
4/28/2023 4:08 PM

3 Again, the implementation is key here. The trees in the forest should not bear the burden of supporting the water system, nor should the City be tempted to make poor management decisions to generate revenue for our water system.

4/28/2023 6:30 AM

4 Please define "primarily be used." This is offering a big loophole! We don't need loopholes with our watershed. If we stop throwing around the word "management of the forest," we will not need as much money for management. If we don't have people in this forest for education, recreation, research, there will be less to manage and less money needed. The populace pay now for the water utility system. Also, please research other cities in Oregon who have had their watershed destroyed by logging. You will find out then why it is actually cost-saving to stop messing around with this forest. Do not use our forest -- that keeps water clean, provides animals homes, provides plants homes, and stores carbon -- as a cash cow! If you think about it, the forest is already providing revenue by cleaning our water for us and keeping it healthy. This is invaluable! I feel like this guiding principle is a loaded question. I'd like it if you asked if we want any revenue to be generated. The answer is, "No." 4/26/2023 3:46 PM

5 All this means is that once the costs of forest management are paid, the rest can be used to help fund the city of Corvallis water utility system, which, according to the 2022 Water Supply Master Plan, will require hundreds of millions of dollars in improvements in the next 20 years. No commercial logging should be allowed on the Corvallis Forest, because research shows that when revenue-generation is stated as a secondary goal, it becomes the primary goal overshadowing all of the other goals. 4/21/2023 10:52 AM

6 Profits from forest management should be put into a reserve fund for future watershed management crises.

4/21/2023 10:47 AM

7 Strongly agree, however the plan should make clear that the water utility system is funded through other city resources. 4/20/2023 4:26 PM

8 THere is no stated limitation of revenue use, beyond primary and secondary. Instead, the primary and ONLY use of revenue should be for the improvement of the Corvallis Forest towards drinking water quality improvement.

4/20/2023 2:54 PM

9 Slippery slope to incentivizing revenue generating activities 4/18/2023 9:26 PM

10 no logging 4/18/2023 4:20 PM

11 No new taxes 4/18/2023 2:20 PM

12 The City of Corvallis ought to remove revenue from the planning for protection of this valuable forest.

4/18/2023 10:24 AM

13 It is likely that any revenue generated by forest "management" (ie logging) would contribute to the City's greenhouse gas emissions. Therefore, any revenue should be directed only to expenditures which would reduce the city's greenhouse gas emissions. As proposed, there would be an incentive to incur costs to manage the forest, in a negative feedback loop leading

to more management and more revenue. 4/14/2023 1:45 PM

## Q13

## Is there anything else you'd like to share about the Vision and Guiding Principles?

Answered: 19 Skipped: 27

### # RESPONSES

1 I was pleased to read about these guidelines as forest damage is a concern I have. We are fortunate to have this natural resource but it will not last without strategic planning and forward thinking management. I also want forest animals to have priority in owning where they live so that humans don't destroy their environment.

5/1/2023 6:25 PM

2 Don't log the forest anymore. Leave it alone for wildlife to thrive, and the habitat to go back to its natural state. It's a healthy forest then without human intervention. 5/1/2023 6:09 PM

3 There's plenty of other areas people can hike and explore, so it makes sense to reduce risk to this area by reducing access. Also, it is so nice to live on the west coast, where people generally care about and protect their water supply, as compared to some other states that have to spend a lot of money cleaning up their drinking water, and it still has lots of pollutants in it and tastes bad. We need to keep the Marys Peak Watershed Forest healthy, as it's money in the bank for the future and we can spend less on water purification.

5/1/2023 4:05 PM

4 No 5/1/2023 1:53 PM

5 They seem vague and, given past experiences, hypocritical. We need to keep the mature and old growth trees alive; they serve humanity better that way. 4/28/2023 4:09 PM

6 As a professor at OSU interested in both the Corvallis Forest and natural resource management in a changing climate, I am disappointed that it took a chance random encounter with a friend to hear about this open comment period - and barely in time. I appreciate the format of this survey, but I believe more time for public input would be wise. What efforts have been made to reach out to the OSU community, for example? Was there any effort to reach out at community events, for example the Farmer's market? Was the Corvallis Environmental Center engaged? I certainly could have missed something, of course, but my sense is that this is flying under the radar.

4/28/2023 6:38 AM

7 Please read all of my comments. They are more important than the ratings. The ratings were narrow and many of the Principles had conflicting statements More variety on committees and task forces and management committees, etc. Don't be heavy with foresters, loggers, engineers. You need to be way more transparent about what's going on. The only way I've learned about the current plan for Corvallis' watershed is through letters to the editor in the Gazette Times. Citizens should not have to be looking for this information; it should be coming to us every which way. No logging! Multiple stakeholders. "Managed" should be fully defined and should be determined by multiple stakeholders and not include logging. When I chose "Neither agree nor disagree," I really meant "I agree with part of this, but not all of it." Some of the statements had conflicting ideas / actions. Surveys are tricky. People who create surveys can guide people in certain ways that they may not want. Same with the composition of the

Guiding Principles. Please be transparent and honest. Let's think outside of a human-centric box. Let's research watersheds hurt or destroyed by logging. Let's be far-sighted. Let's keep the Corvallis Forest pristine. After all, it's the only one we have. Thank you for asking! 4/26/2023 3:53 PM

8 I accept that actively managing the forest using best practices in order to ensure water supply to a growing city is the primary goal. However, that goal should be inclusive of climate-friendly forest management and carbon-friendly harvesting. It would be great if a "forest carbon specialist" (senior planner?) could be on the team if not already. Would be a welcome addition to the plan if the results / returns on these practices can be verified and measured. 4/26/2023 2:12 PM

- 9 They seem well thought out. This was a very good survey as well. 4/23/2023 8:30 PM
- 10 Balancing among the principles will be critical in regard to recognizing trade-offs. Also, colloboration and coordination across ownerships would seem to be quite important, particularly with regard to the Siuslaw National Forest. 4/23/2023 5:08 PM
- 11 Needs more work to be meaningful and on the right track. 4/21/2023 10:57 AM
- 12 The Vision language is all very vague. What matters is how the Vision is actually applied. Carbon capture must be the highest priority. Clean water will follow naturally. Also, you must do a better job of keeping the citizenry of Corvallis involved in on-going management decisions. That includes citizen tours of management activity plans and results. 4/21/2023 10:51 AM
- 13 As mentioned earlier in one of my comments, it would useful to state somewhere that this effort is for X period of time OR there you add an adaptive management element which might be useful anyway. What happens when we have another bad blowdown event or ice storm that kind of wrecks parts of the plan.
  4/20/2023 4:30 PM
- 14 This is a hodge-podge of unranked and conflicting directions proposed by managers and advisors that detracts from the sole purpose of municipal watershed ownership--providing a reliable supply of quality drinking water.
  4/20/2023 2:56 PM
- 15 I support the overall goal of eco-friendly sustainable forests that support wildlife diversity, while simultaneously being as accessible as possible for responsible recreation such as hiking 4/19/2023 6:22 AM
- 16 Couldn't get survey to work 4/18/2023 9:21 AM
- 17 Please keep foremost in mind the importance of keeping timber, especially old growth, in the ground.

4/18/2023 9:15 AM

- 18 The wording of almost each principle made me want to know more detail of them. 4/18/2023 4:27 AM
- 19 If the city wants to use its forest to generate income from logging, that should just be stated upfront, and not hidden behind green-washed "guiding principles". 4/14/2023 1:48 PM

## What is your Zip code?

Answered: 45

Skipped: 1

# RESPONSES DATE

1 97333 5/2/2023 7:52 PM

2 97333 5/2/2023 6:09 AM

3 97330 5/1/2023 6:25 PM

4 97333 5/1/2023 6:09 PM

5 97330 5/1/2023 4:05 PM

6 97330 5/1/2023 1:53 PM

7 97370 5/1/2023 12:40 PM

8 97339 4/28/2023 4:09 PM

9 97333 4/28/2023 6:38 AM

10 97330 4/26/2023 3:53 PM

11 97333-1773 4/26/2023 2:12 PM

12 97330 4/25/2023 9:32 AM

13 97330 4/24/2023 4:02 PM

14 97330 4/23/2023 8:30 PM

15 97330 4/23/2023 5:08 PM

16 97330 4/21/2023 10:20 PM

17 97330 4/21/2023 10:57 AM

18 97330 4/21/2023 10:51 AM

19 97330 4/20/2023 4:30 PM

20 97370 4/20/2023 3:58 PM

21 97331 4/20/2023 2:58 PM

22 97370 4/20/2023 2:56 PM

23 97370 4/20/2023 2:10 PM

24 97321 4/20/2023 1:33 PM

25 97333 4/20/2023 6:18 AM

26 97330 4/19/2023 12:07 PM

27 97330 4/19/2023 6:22 AM

28 97333 4/18/2023 9:29 PM

29 97333 4/18/2023 9:26 PM 30 97333 4/18/2023 8:36 PM

31 97330 4/18/2023 8:35 PM

32 97330 4/18/2023 6:59 PM

33 97330 4/18/2023 4:20 PM

34 97333 4/18/2023 2:20 PM

35 97333 4/18/2023 12:52 PM

36 97330 4/18/2023 12:48 PM

37 97330 4/18/2023 12:43 PM

38 97330 4/18/2023 11:36 AM

39 97370 4/18/2023 10:24 AM

40 97333 4/18/2023 9:50 AM

41 97330 4/18/2023 9:21 AM

42 97330 4/18/2023 9:15 AM

43 97330 4/18/2023 4:27 AM

44 97333 4/17/2023 3:35 PM

45 97330 4/14/2023 1:48 PM

## If you'd like to hear from the project managers as the Forest Stewardship Plan moves along, please enter your email address here.

Answered: 10 Skipped: 36

# RESPONSES DATE

- 1 jnitson@gmail.com 5/2/2023 6:09 AM
- 2 anne@amadams.com 5/1/2023 6:25 PM
- 3 robert.kennedy@oregonstate.edu 4/28/2023 6:38 AM
- 4 jan.napack@gmail.com 4/26/2023 2:12 PM
- 5 betsyherbert4trees@gmail.com 4/21/2023 10:57 AM
- 6 cbruce47@gmail.com 4/20/2023 4:30 PM
- 7 Alicerutheldridge@gmail.com 4/18/2023 9:29 PM
- 8 wershos@peak.org 4/18/2023 12:48 PM
- 9 Astumbo55@gmail.com 4/18/2023 9:21 AM
- 10 already on the list 4/14/2023 1:48 PM