

# Johnson Creek Watershed Council



1900 SE Milport Rd, Suite B • Milwaukie, OR 97222  
ph: (503) 652-7477 • fx: (503) 652-7188  
info@jwcw.org • www.jwcw.org

Multnomah County Commissioners  
501 SE Hawthorne Blvd., Suite 600  
Portland, OR 97214

September 8, 2009

Dear Commissioners:

In anticipation of Commissioner Cogen delivering Multnomah County's urban and rural reserve recommendations to Core 4 and the Regional Steering Committee, the Johnson Creek Watershed Council would like to respectfully re-iterate its position that the entire Johnson Creek Watershed outside the Urban Growth Boundary (both Multnomah and Clackamas County portions) be designated a rural reserve. This position is consistent with what the Council requested in an April 14, 2009 letter to the Metro Reserves Steering Committee, which we e-mailed to you as well.

In making this request, we would highlight the regional ecological value of the upper Johnson Creek Watershed. For example, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife cites Upper Johnson Creek as an Endangered Species Act Recovery Plan priority area for actions to recover listed salmonids<sup>1</sup>. Other key features for upper Johnson Creek Watershed listed by ODFW include "OCS Species of Concern" and "Wildlife corridors/connectivity – Sandy River to East Buttes connection."

We would also point out the heavy burden that the Johnson Creek Watershed has shouldered in providing urban lands (6000 acres, or more than one-sixth of the entire watershed) over the last decade, and the ongoing challenges we face to marshal sufficient public, private and civic resources to ensure the environmental success of urbanization within the existing UGB (Springwater, Pleasant Valley, and Damascus).

We would like to thank you in advance for your serious consideration of our proposal.

Matt Clark  
Executive Director

Teresa Huntsinger  
Board Chair

Cc Jason Howard, JCWC Land Use Committee Chair, Russell Mantifel, JCWC Land Use Committee member

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<sup>1</sup> ODFW Prioritization of Metro Natural Landscape Features for Multnomah County