

Meeting minutes



Metro

600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736

CITY OF
GRESHAM

Meeting: Gabbert Butte Master Plan – Natural Resources Charrette 1
Date/time: Tuesday, June 22, 2017
Place: Metro 501
Purpose: Discuss Gabbert Butte natural resources, fill in the gaps in knowledge about sensitive habitat

Attendees

Micah Meskel, Phil Nosler, Whitney Bailey, Laura Guderyan, Jim Labbe, Susan Barnes, Mike Wallace, Tina Osterink, Torrey Lindbo, Kate Holleran, Peter Guillozet, Chris Hagel, Elaine Stewart, Jonathan Soll, Ellen Wyoming Deloy, Olena Turula, Maureen Raad, Mike O'Brien

Topics

- Primary threats are loss of connectivity to development and climate change
- References: Lori Hennings white paper on connectivity and patch size and recreation impacts on natural areas, Elaine and Robert's Spurlock principles on integrating access in Habitat, ORBIC,
- Review state data-base for species of concern
- Oregon Conservation Strategy (upland/riparian forest) important reference for top priority species and habitats
- Amphibians are generally more sensitive to climate change (note Oregon slender salamander on site) They benefit from down wood for temperature regulation
- Laura has conducted extensive surveys of terrestrial amphibians, birds and flying squirrels, Gresham is currently consolidating data
- Botanical surveys, restoration of 8 acre former holly farm
- 10 year biodiversity survey program (is this a Gresham program?)
- Metro/Gresham should coordinate data exchange,
- Lots of subsurface flow on the butte
- History of logging, largely successional deciduous forest, lack of evergreen seed source and evergreen recruitment – some cedar is coming up through maples. Metro is planting understory evergreens.
- Significant deer browse (this is an ODFW deer de-emphasis zone)
- Forest management plan should address conifer release

Group activity results:

- South facing slope seems to be good for habitat and salamanders – looks to be more moist – avoid new trails on that slope
- Headwaters and streams are priority for protection, often include boggy areas and provide habitat for salamanders
- Is there really a need for an additional trail along Butler Rd?
- Focus on maintaining large habitat patches
- Trails along property edges if possible to keep habitat intact
- Create trail connections without crossing streams
- Avoid duplicate N-S trails already a network of E-W trails
- If we have new N-S trail can we abandon existing roadway?
- Priorities should be climate change refugia
- Equestrian use on gravel roads only – no horses on steep slopes
- Oregon Slender salamander: protect from direct mortality, conserve land to expand populations
- There is red-legged frog movement between Towle and Gabbert Buttes
- Metro and City need to coordinate rules
- Parking is a big issue – where to develop parking area
- Create snags and interior habitat
- Headwaters and wetlands are important
- Remove invasive
- Protect breeding sites
- Headwaters, refugia, boot brushes, Oregon Slender Salamander,
- No Dogs or horses

Next steps:

- Reconvene group to review alternatives once they are developed.