

Faun Hosey
13515 NW Jackson Quarry Rd
Hillsboro, OR 97124
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Washington County Board of Commissioners
155 N. First Ave
Hillsboro, OR 97124

RE: Reserves designation near North Plains

Chair Brian & Commissioners,

I am one of dozens of Washington County residents who were shut out of the December 15th hearing on Reserves last month. I've submitted written testimony, but am concerned that it's not being heard.

I own a farm, near the western edge of Helvetia, which, I'm alarmed to see, is STILL shown as "undesignated" on the latest Metro map! The area is north of Hwy 26 and east of Jackson School Rd, in the area currently labeled 8F, or 8F-W.

The area outlines a flatland reaching up the drainages east of McKay Creek and includes the lower edges of bordering hills. It's 1600 acres of the prime, world-class, foundation farmland that you've heard about, and it connects to the UGB of North Plains.



My understanding is that North Plains does not want this land! It's not part of North Plains' Pre-Qualified Concept Plans, nor is it in Hillsboro's Aspirations. In addition, it seems clear that the county did not consider the Rural Reserves Factors in Oregon Administrative Rules when proposing this area to be Undesignated.



Other speakers will or have addressed the agricultural aspects.... I'll focus on the Natural Resources of the area.

Both the forests and the farmland in this area strongly meet the Rural Reserves Factors in OAR 660-027-0060 (3). The forests are a mix of native conifers and deciduous species including Oregon White Oak. Some of the forested land is on steep slopes; features include a waterfall and headwaters of streams; these are important features that provide a “sense of place” as well as “important fish, plant and wildlife habitat”. As further evidence, I have seen Roosevelt elk and Western Bluebirds that frequent the area, and I have found salmonid fry in my creek. Where my land borders Jackson Creek, I keep a wide riparian zone for the health of fish, birds and animals that use the creek. Near the creeks, the farmland is flooded regularly, making it recognizable as important for water quality, habitat, and flood hazard avoidance.



Every day I see bicycle riders, joggers and walkers on our roads, as a demonstration that this rural area “provides recreational opportunities”. On Saturdays, three of the four loops leaving an industrial location in Hillsboro, thread through our countryside. In addition, our roads are part of the “Vineyards and Scenic Route” for the Washington County Visitor’s Association.

I urge you to support the Rural Reserves designation here as the Undesignated label does not protect these Natural Resources.

If left Undesignated these 1600 acres would be easy targets for speculative buyers, the same as we’ve seen with farmland all around the edge of the UGB for the last several decades. If this were allowed to happen, farming, wildlife and recreational-use would all be at risk of destruction.

Urban settlements began growing in the Tualatin Valley only 150 years ago. I see that in just the last 50 years, 140,000 acres of farmland in Washington County have been lost. If we continue that pattern, it won’t be long before there is no more farmland here! Supporting farmland, watersheds & wildlife habitat is not just a position; it’s a responsibility -- recognition that destruction of these values can destroy our health -- once lost, it’s over! And protecting these values now will be your legacy for the next 50 years.



We all cherish clean air, clean water, healthy local food, wildlife and visual corridors. These values are the measure of success of our community! Our success is not measured by how fast we grow! Nor is success the almighty dollar; if we were to lose our environmental health, the dollar would be worthless. In fact, the quality of our urban environment relies upon, and also supports, the quality of our rural areas!

I ask your support for the Coalition map that was released last week by the Agricultural and Natural Resources communities. It is consistent with both the COO's recommendations and with regional public opinion as reported in the Davis Hibbits poll of last August. It shows Rural Reserves for the area in question, whereas other maps have simply copied the county proposal, and -- it's good for our health.

Thank you for your attention! I appreciate the complexity of the process we're undertaking, and I expect that your momentous and far-reaching policy decisions will, in the end, protect and sustain our most precious resources for future generations!

Most sincerely,

Faun Hosey

Embedded photos are:

- Map showing 8F-W, produced by Save Helvetia.org
- Photos from the 8F-W area:
 - Oregon White Oak
 - Elk
 - Western Bluebirds
 - Bicyclists

Attached:

- The Rural Reserves Factors detailed for 8F-W