



PUBLIC FORUM BEFORE THE EUGENE PLANNING COMMISSION

**Tuesday, April 22, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.
Eugene City Hall - Council Chamber
777 Pearl Street, Eugene, Oregon**

The Eugene Planning Commission will hold a public forum on **April 22, 2008 to gather public input on:**

South Ridgeline Habitat Study Task Group Conservation Proposal

The Eugene Planning Commission will hold a public forum, and subsequently recommend to the City Council, action on the Citizen Task Group proposal regarding strategies for conservation of habitat along the ridgeline of the South Hills. The proposal emphasizes acquisition only from willing sellers and the use of incentive-based approaches and other voluntary mechanisms. The basic components of the conservation proposal include:

- The group concluded that conservation of additional habitat is warranted, but that the direct and indirect costs of conservation (such as acquisition costs) must be carefully weighed and factored into decisions.
- The group established three primary criteria for determining conservation priorities: biodiversity, benefits to stormwater quality and quantity, and recreational values.
- The group recommended a three-tiered approach to conservation
 - Tier One (highest value level) – preserve habitats that contribute the most to biodiversity conservation. The Tier One proposal includes (a) an acquisition program to identify funds and pursue acquisition of the highest value habitats, (b) changes to regulations for new development to protect priority habitats, and (c) new incentive programs for conservation of priority habitats on private land.
 - Tier Two – Preserve habitats that have moderate-to-high biodiversity values and that enable trails and connectivity for recreational purposes. The Tier Two proposal includes (a) acquisition of high priority habitats as opportunities arise and as money is available, (b) changes to regulations for new development to protect priority habitats, and (c) new incentive programs for conservation of priority habitats on private land.
 - Tier Three – Provide opportunities for preservation of any existing habitat within the study area. The Tier Three proposal includes (a) acquisition of habitats that connect Tier 1 or Tier 2 habitats, (b) new incentive programs for conservation of priority habitats on private land.

The entire text of the Task Group's conservation proposal can be found on the web at:

http://www.eugenenr.org/task_group/SRHS_ConservationProposal_Summaryrev.pdf

Interactive maps showing the three conservation tiers areas can be found on the web by visiting the following page:

<http://www.eugenenr.org>

and clicking on the link "Look Up a Property," in the left hand column of links. That link will take you to the SRHS Map Information Portal page, where you can enter a property, and select the map information you want to view.

Additional Information and Staff Report

All relevant documents previously prepared, including the Task Group Conservation Proposal, are available for inspection at the Eugene Planning and Development Department, First Floor Reception, 99 West 10th Avenue, Eugene, Oregon 97401 between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. This information is also available on the project website at www.eugenenr.org. The staff report to the Planning Commission will be available by **3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 15, 2008**. For additional information, you may contact Neil Bjorklund, AIC Principal Planner, City of Eugene, at the above address, by telephone at 541-682-5507, or e-mail at: neil.h.bjorklund@ci.eugene.or.us.

How to Submit Comments

1. Send a written statement to the Planning Commission, c/o Neil Bjorklund, Planning Division, 99 West 10th Avenue, Eugene, Oregon 97401 or by e-mail: neil.h.bjorklund@ci.eugene.or.us. To be included in the Planning Commission's packet, your comment must be received by the Planning Division by **5pm on April 14, 2008**.
2. Submit a written statement after **April 14, 2008** but before the public forum closes. The Planning Commission will have less of an opportunity to read the written material prior to taking action.
3. Attend the public forum on **April 22, 2008** and make comments verbally. These comments will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. The Planning Commission may limit the time for each speaker to a few minutes, but follow-up discussion may be possible. You are encouraged to submit written comments if you have detailed comments you wish to make.

All comments received by the Planning Division will be forwarded to the Eugene City Council prior to a Council Work Session on this topic.

You may state your opinion to your neighborhood group. To contact the neighborhood group, call the Neighborhood Liaison Office at 682-5009 or visit the City website at: <http://www.eugene-or.gov/neighborhoods>.

The City of Eugene complies with state and federal laws and regulations relating to discrimination, including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). Individuals with disabilities requiring accommodations should contact Neil Bjorklund at 541-682-5507 at least 48 hours prior to the public forum.

For more information, contact Neil Bjorklund, Principal Planner at 541-682-5507 or e-mail at neil.h.bjorklund@ci.eugene.or.us.