

FROM: Cherry Amabisca
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DATE: September 23, 2009

TO: Reserves Steering Committee

RE: Wildlife Corridor spanning Multnomah and Washington Counties

In 2006, the Forest Park Neighborhood Association mapped the locations where elk had been sighted in their area's wildlife corridor. This year, SaveHelvetia continued the work they did and mapped the locations of our elk herds on the Washington County side of our interconnected wildlife corridor.

Because elk are not endangered or threatened, their habitat is not included on the Natural Features map. Yet, the existence of large herds (homeowners have reported up to 82 at one time) within 15 minutes of downtown Portland is a unique occurrence treasured by many residents. One Portland resident, Shauna Pettit-Brown, commented about the elk and other wildlife so close to urban areas in her letter of June 29 to SaveHelvetia, "I am always amazed at the opportunities that I get to see wildlife so close to such a cosmopolitan city as Portland. It is truly a priceless asset that once made vulnerable, will be lost and unrecoverable."

You can read the entire story of our elk herds in the material we will be submitting to Metro - it is also on-line through the Washington County Reserves website.

I support Metro COO's recommendation that the agricultural land and natural features north of Highway 26 be protected from urban reserves. Furthermore, in order to offer the best protection for the interconnected wildlife corridor that spans Multnomah and Washington counties, the areas north of Highway 26 should be designated Rural Reserves.

Thank you,

Cherry Amabisca