



Planning Commission

Agenda

Study Session

May 23, 2016

Noon

Lausmann Annex — Room 151-157
200 South Ivy Street, Medford, Oregon

Subject:

1. Environmental Element update regarding wetlands.

ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENT

WETLANDS

In the past, few standards regulated the planning, development, or preservation of wetlands in Oregon's urban areas. Further, variations from one locale to another across the state resulted in inconsistent policies for preservation or development. More recently, a renewed appreciation of wetlands has led to the development and enforcement of greater federal and state regulations to guide wetland planning in urban areas. There has been increased recognition of wetlands as:

- Important habitats necessary for the survival of many aquatic and terrestrial species
- Integral parts of the hydrologic system necessary for the maintenance of water supplies and water quality

FEDERAL AND STATE REGULATIONS

The principal federal law that regulates activities in wetlands is Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Section 404 restricts the discharge of wastes, including fill material, into the waters of the United States, which are broadly defined as coastal waters, rivers, streams, estuaries, and wetlands. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is responsible for administering Section 404. Wetlands are defined as "those areas that are inundated or saturated with surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions."¹

To be considered a jurisdictional wetland, or one regulated by Clean Water Act regulations, the wetland must contain wetland plants, hydric soils, and saturated or inundated substrate. Permits are required from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Oregon ~~Division~~ Department of State Lands (DSL) to fill or drain a jurisdictional wetland. If the activity cannot be justified, permits are not issued. If the activity is justified, the permits are likely to require compensatory mitigation, to replace the acreage and values of the wetland area lost.²



Planning efforts to satisfy federal and state wetland regulations are shifting to the local level. The Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) has established the responsibilities that cities and counties have regarding wetlands under Goal 5. To comply with the wetlands requirements of Goal 5, local governments must conduct a Local Wetland Inventory (LWI) and adopt a "safe harbor" or similar regulations ordinance that protects locally significant wetlands, and/or develop protections through an ESEE analysis process as described in the previous section.

¹ *Comprehensive Medford Area Drainage Master Plan*, September 1996.

² *West Eugene Wetlands Plan*, City of Eugene and Lane Council of Governments, December 1992.

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In 1995, the City of Medford completed its first “*Local Wetlands Inventory (LWI) and Oregon Fresh Water Wetland Assessment Method Analysis*,” which documented the presence, location and size of the wetlands in the UGB. The LWI and OFWAM analyses were updated and approved by DSL in 2002 (~~*Medford Local Wetland Inventory and Locally Significant Wetland Determinations, 2002 by Wetland Consulting*~~). See Figure 6 for a general vicinity map of Medford area wetlands. The official LWI maps are available in the Medford Planning Department. A qualitative assessment of the wetlands was conducted according to the Oregon Freshwater Wetland Assessment Method (OFWAM)³. DSL is required to be notified of all applications ~~to the City of Medford~~ for development activities, including applications for plan authorizations, development permits, or building permits, and of development proposals by the City of Medford, that may affect any wetlands, streams, or waterways identified and/or mapped in the *Local Wetlands Inventory*.

The 2002 LWI inventoried and mapped 134 wetland sites in the UGB, and mapped, but did not inventory the waterways. The waterways were inventoried, mapped, and assessed in a separate process. See the *Medford Riparian Inventory and Assessment Bear Creek Tributaries, 2002 by Wetland Consulting*. There was a total of 293 acres of wetlands inventoried, including created ponds ~~in addition to the~~ and natural wetlands. *Palustrine forested* and *scrub-shrub* wetland plant communities are common along stream corridors, typically confined to a narrow strip along steeply banked watercourses. Dominant tree species include black cottonwood, white alder, and Oregon ash. Understory shrubs include willow, choke cherry, wild rose, and snowberry. Himalayan blackberry vines, an invasive introduced species, often dominate understory areas, especially those that have been disturbed. The *palustrine emergent* wetlands are dominated by herbaceous plants such as cattails, rushes, sedges, and reed-canary grass in inundated areas, and teasel, tall fescue, buttercup, and velvet grass adjacent to the water.

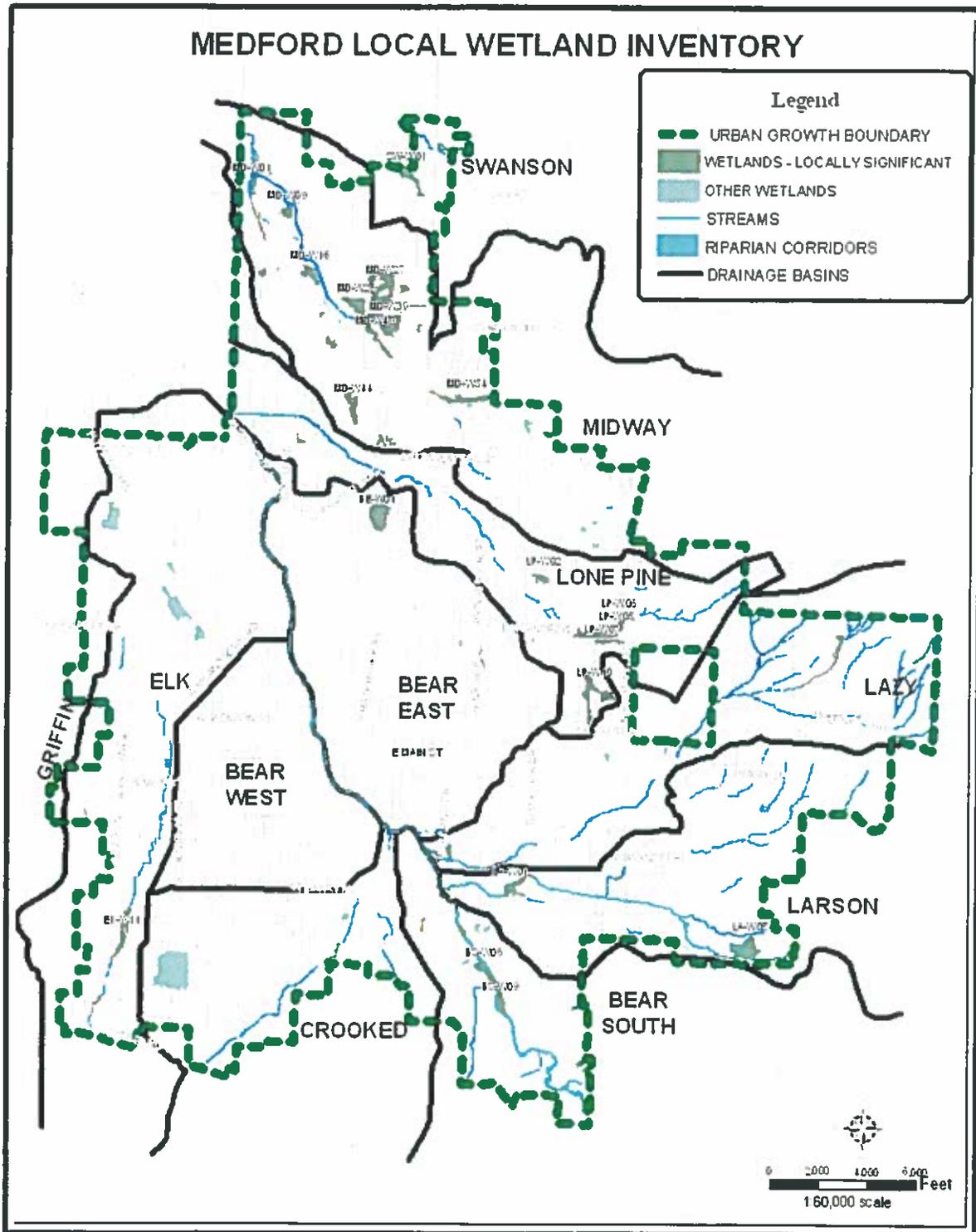
Vernal pools, which are rare rain-fed seasonal wetlands, have been found in the Agate Desert area north of the Medford UGB and in the northern portion of the UGB in and near the Airport in areas having Agate-Winslo soils. The hard pan underlying the soil restricts infiltration, causing prolonged inundation. An inventory and assessment of the vernal pools in the Agate Desert area was completed by DSL in 1997. Most historic vernal pools located within the Medford UGB have been severely altered or obliterated due to grading and vegetation alterations, although some may still be identified as wetlands.

Some threatened or endangered plant species are known to occur in conjunction with vernal pools in Jackson County, including Cooks (Agate Desert) lomatium and large-flowered wooly meadowfoam. Both are listed as Endangered Species by the state of Oregon and Candidate Species under the federal *Endangered Species Act*. Agate Desert lomatium (*loamtium cookii*), which is known to occur only in Jackson and Josephine Counties, has been identified on the grounds of the Rogue Valley International-Medford Airport, which is within the UGB.⁴ The RVCOG is managing a cooperative effort, the Agate Desert Vernal Pools Project, initiated to develop a wetland conservation plan for the Agate Desert vernal pool area. Jackson County, the City of Medford, the Nature Conservancy, DSL, ODFW, the U.S. Army Corps, and the U.S. EPA are among the participating agencies.

³Statewide methodology used in the *Local Wetlands Inventory* for assessing and determining the significance of the wetlands in Medford.

⁴*Draft Environmental Assessment, Rogue Valley International-Medford Airport, Proposed Improvements*, March 1999, David Evans and Associates, Inc.

Figure 6: Medford Area Wetlands



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The City of Medford owns property in the vicinity of the Water Reclamation Facility and Whetstone Creek, located outside the UGB near Antelope Road, that contains vernal pools and other wetlands. Some of this land is potentially suitable as mitigation sites for wetland impacts caused by City infrastructure projects.

Determination of Local Significance

The LWI/OFWAM is a “first layer” planning tool for identifying the most valuable wetlands in the Medford UGB. OFWAM assessments of the wetlands are used in making a determination of *significance* according to state standards (OAR 141-086-0350). In addition, other wetlands may be adopted by the City Council as *locally significant*. Using the OFWAM criteria, 45 of the inventoried wetlands in the Medford UGB were determined to be locally significant. —Nearly half are locally significant due to having a water quality function and being located within ~~one~~ a quarter mile of a “water-quality-limited stream”. Several significant wetlands have direct surface water connections to Bear Creek and Larson Creek, which are habitat for “indigenous anadromous salmonids”. See **Appendix C** for the inventory of locally significant wetlands.

Uses Conflicting with Wetland Protection

Occasionally, the protection of a locally significant wetland may conflict with other important community goals. After a sound ESEE analysis, the City Council may make a finding that a particular “conflicting use” is more important to the long-term needs of the citizens than preservation of the wetland area. The most common conflicting uses have been critical links in the City’s ~~arterial and collector~~ street system. In many cases, a street crossing can be accomplished without serious disruption of a wetland, such as along a riparian corridor. In other cases, fill and compensatory mitigation may be required if an alternative location is not available. The ESEE analysis will result in a determination that the identified conflicting use will be permitted, limited, or prohibited.

Wetland Mitigation

Under current federal and state laws, any wetland losses must be compensated through creation of new wetlands, restoration of former wetlands, and/or enhancement of existing wetlands. Mitigation efforts not only satisfy federal and state laws, but attempt to achieve a balance between competing land uses. The 1995 LWI recommended that “*an active land acquisition plan and schedule are required to acquire key locations for future wetlands mitigation. Without such a plan, many potential sites may be permanently lost.*” A *Wetlands Mitigation Concept Plan* prepared for the City of Medford in 1996, presented methods for mitigating wetland losses. The 2002 LWI identified some potential mitigation sites within the UGB.

One means to achieve wetland preservation objectives is through the establishment of a regional wetland mitigation bank. Freshwater mitigation banking is addressed in the *Oregon Mitigation Bank Act of 1987*. Often, wetland loss compensation is conducted on a piecemeal basis as individual development projects are completed. As a result, many newly created wetlands are small, isolated, and of marginal value as wildlife habitat, a primary intent of wetland mitigation. In some circumstances, development is slowed by a lack of suitable wetland mitigation sites. As noted in the LWI, the most appropriate mitigation sites in the Medford UGB are those that are made up of dewatered hydric soils over five acres in size. They are often located near existing drainageways, including one in the undeveloped Southeast Medford area near Larson Creek, a primary tributary of Bear Creek, that could serve several functions, including water quality control and open space connections, possibly through the designation of conservation areas and greenways. The Bear Creek corridor is also being evaluated to determine if suitable mitigation sites are located along the waterway.

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Refer to the *Wetlands Mitigation Concept Plan* for a more detailed description of the suggested wetland mitigation strategies.

WETLAND FUNCTIONS IN AN URBAN ENVIRONMENT

Wetlands in urban areas serve a variety of roles in achieving community needs and objectives, including the provision of educational and recreational opportunities. Locally significant wetlands are those that have been determined to serve one or more of the following functions: preservation/diversification of wildlife, maintenance of fish habitat, improvement of water quality, or hydrologic control.

The critical functions wetlands can provide within urban areas include, but are not limited to:

Stormwater Management

The use of open channels and wetlands in an integrated storm drainage system provides a better balance between stormwater conveyance and flood control needs, and environmental and community needs. The *Drainage Master Plan* recommends the development and implementation of a local wetlands management plan that incorporates flood control, water quality control, and principles of natural resource management. Such efforts, in the long term, will assist in reducing stormwater pollution, improving water quality, and creating pleasant urban open spaces and waterways.

Water Quality Improvements

Wetlands can contribute to the improvement of water quality. The vegetation in both natural and constructed wetlands functions as a biological filter in removing sediments, excessive nutrients, and other water pollutants from stormwater runoff resulting in cleaner surface water and improved aquatic habitat.

Improved Flood Control

Additional flood storage capacity can be gained by protecting existing wetlands, by creating new wetlands, and by widening and returning channels to their natural meandering patterns. Design conventions, such as widened channel bottoms, allow the resulting low flow channels to meander among wetlands, re-establishing the original stream bank habitat, and reducing the downstream impacts of stormwater runoff that originates in urban areas. Other flood storage improvements such as on-site detention ponds can provide multiple benefits, for example, provision of flood control, open space, and wildlife habitat.

Improved Plant and Animal Habitat

Greater protection of wildlife habitat is a priority of Goal 5, and wetland areas provide critical wildlife habitat. By protecting and restoring a variety of wetland types, and buffering them from the impacts of nearby development, diversity of habitats can be sustained and improved.

Recreation, Education, and Research

Trails, multi-use paths, and wildlife observation areas within a diverse system of wetlands and stream corridors can provide opportunities for public enjoyment of the natural environment. Wetland environments provide excellent opportunities for education and recreation, particularly if utilized by elementary and secondary schools. The completion of the Bear Creek Greenway from Ashland to Central Point and beyond is progressing, and encompasses many habitat types along Bear Creek, including wetlands. The Greenway is already used for educational purposes, combining classroom learning with field experience in environmental programs, such as those where students

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adopt creek sections, plant trees, and release salmon fry. The Bear Creek Watershed Education Partners, a committee of the Bear Creek Watershed Council, is currently overseeing such programs.

Corridors and Connections

By providing greenways and open space along existing waterways and wetlands, a connected system could be established throughout the UGB, and ultimately linking communities in the Bear Creek Valley. Greenways provide corridors for wildlife movement and species interchange, as well as connections for human use. One example is the riparian corridor and proposed multi-use path along Larson Creek, which would connect the Southeast area with the Bear Creek Greenway.

WETLAND PROTECTION ORDINANCE

As noted above, to comply with Goal 5 requirements for wetland protection, specific regulations must be adopted in the Medford Municipal Code Land-Development-Code. Medford's proposed ~~W~~wetland ~~P~~protection ~~ordinances~~ regulations would address locally significant wetlands and other identified wetlands that are not locally significant. could address other wetlands. In the case of some wetlands, a "safe harbor ~~ordinance~~ regulation" may be adopted, which ~~forbids~~ prohibits disturbance of the wetland, but does not include buffer areas. In other cases, after the ESEE (Energy, Social, Environmental, and Energy) analysis is completed, regulations ~~ordinances~~ that address allowing, prohibiting, or limiting ~~permitting, limiting, or allowing~~ conflicting uses would be adopted. These may include required buffers. When reviewing development permit or plan authorization applications for properties containing a Wetland Protection Area, the approving authority would consider how well the proposal satisfies the objectives of the ~~ordinance~~ regulations. The objectives of Medford's proposed ~~W~~wetland ~~P~~protection ~~Ordinance~~ regulations include:

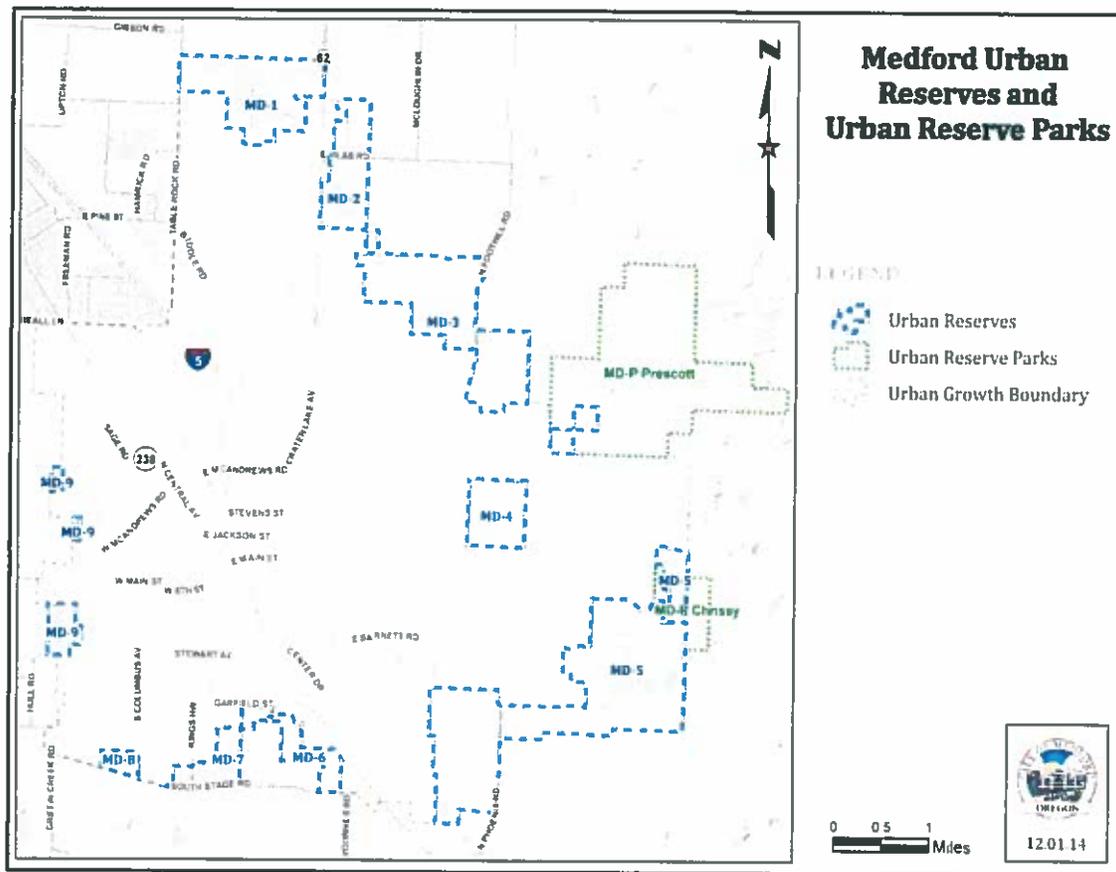
- To implement the goals and policies of the "Environmental Element" of the Medford *Comprehensive Plan* and achieve their purposes.
- To protect and restore Medford's wetland areas, thereby protecting and restoring the hydrologic, ecologic, and land conservation functions these areas provide for the community.
- To protect fish and wildlife habitat, enhance water quality, control erosion and sedimentation, preserve native vegetation, and reduce the effects of flooding.
- To protect and restore the natural beauty and distinctive character of Medford's wetlands as community assets.
- To enhance the value of properties near wetlands by utilizing the wetland as a visual amenity.
- To enhance coordination among local, state, and federal agencies regarding development activities near wetlands.
- To find a balance between our responsibility to the natural environment and development rights.

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URBAN RESERVE LOCAL WETLAND INVENTORY (2015)

In 2015, the City of Medford hired SWCA Environmental Consultants to conduct a Local Wetland Inventory (LWI) for the areas in the City's Urban Reserve (UR). This inventory was started to follow the external study area portion of the Urban Growth Boundary project and address Goal 5 requirements. The entire UR was studied to cover all possible areas considered for inclusion in the UGB. Each of the 11 UR areas is labeled with a "MD" number starting at 1 through 9 (See Figure 16). The study area encompassed roughly 6,400 acres including Prescott and Chrissy Parks within four identified drainage basins.

Figure 16: Study Area - Medford Urban Reserves and Urban Reserve Parks



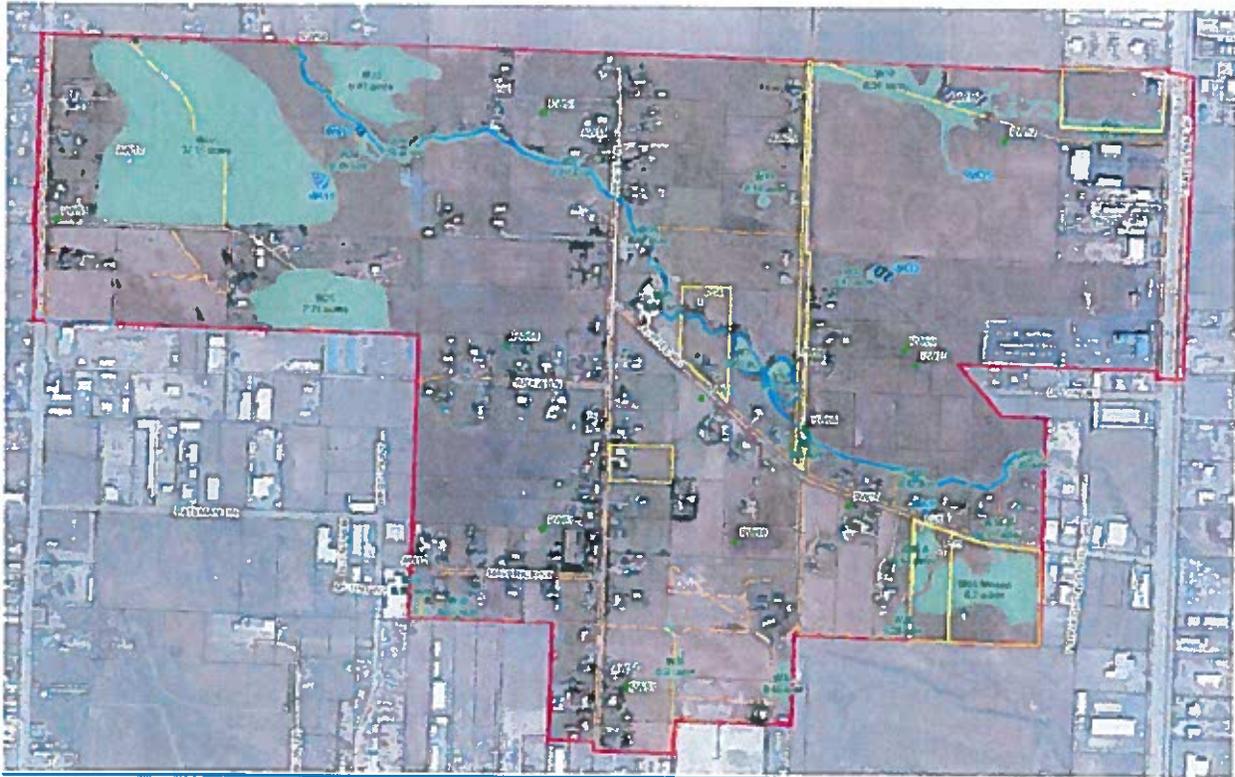
The consultants followed the approach outlined in the Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) using a combination of on-site and off-site inventory methods to identify the resources. Wetlands were evaluated using the Oregon Freshwater Wetland Assessment Methodology (OFWAM) and grouped into units. These results were in turn used to identify Locally Significant Wetlands (LSW) within the study area. The report identifies 82 wetlands (58 identified as locally significant) totaling 185 acres (not including rivers, streams, deepwater habitat, or artificially created waters). The list and maps of the 58 Locally Significant Wetlands are provided below for each applicable MD area. The remaining wetlands identified are dispersed throughout the MD locations and are subject to review by the applicable state and federal agencies.

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<u>MD-1</u>			
	<u>OFWAM</u>	<u>Unique</u>	<u>Size</u>
	<u>Grouping*</u>	<u>Identifier</u>	<u>(acres)</u>
1.	<u>MWC-1</u>	<u>W04-A</u>	<u>1.67</u>
2.	<u>MWC-1</u>	<u>W04-B</u>	<u>0.15</u>
3.	<u>MWC-1</u>	<u>W04-</u> <u>Mosaic</u>	<u>6.20</u>
4.	<u>MWC-2</u>	<u>W06</u>	<u>0.30</u>
5.	<u>MWC-3</u>	<u>W07</u>	<u>1.35</u>
6.	<u>MWC-2</u>	<u>W23</u>	<u>6.41</u>
7.	<u>MWC-2</u>	<u>W24</u>	<u>0.19</u>
8.	<u>MWC-8</u>	<u>W25</u>	<u>7.71</u>
9.	<u>MWC-2</u>	<u>W34</u>	<u>0.41</u>
10.	<u>MWC-2</u>	<u>W35</u>	<u>0.66</u>
11.	<u>MWC-1</u>	<u>W36</u>	<u>0.28</u>
12.	<u>MWC-3</u>	<u>W38</u>	<u>5.90</u>
13.	<u>MWC-7</u>	<u>W82</u>	<u>37.15</u>
14.	<u>MWC-2</u>	<u>W83</u>	<u>0.04</u>
15.	<u>MWC-2</u>	<u>W84</u>	<u>0.47</u>
16.	<u>MWC-2</u>	<u>W85</u>	<u>0.71</u>
17.	<u>MWC-2</u>	<u>W86</u>	<u>1.87</u>
18.	<u>MWC-2</u>	<u>W87</u>	<u>0.42</u>
19.	<u>MWC-2</u>	<u>W88</u>	<u>0.35</u>

DSL File Number

*OFWAM assessment code: MWC = Midway Creek Drainage



MD-1

ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENT

MD-2

	<u>OFWAM</u> <u>Grouping</u>	<u>Unique</u> <u>Identifier</u>	<u>Size</u> <u>(acres)</u>	<u>DSL File</u> <u>Number</u>
1.	<u>MWC-4</u>	<u>W08</u>	<u>1.76</u>	<u>None</u>
2.	<u>MWC-4</u>	<u>W09</u>	<u>11.52</u>	<u>WD2009-0470</u>
3.	<u>MWC-5</u>	<u>W10-A</u>	<u>3.06</u>	<u>WD2007-0106</u>
4.	<u>MWC-5</u>	<u>W10-D</u>	<u>0.60</u>	<u>WD2007-0106</u>
5.	<u>MWC-5</u>	<u>W10-E</u>	<u>0.61</u>	<u>WD2007-0106</u>
6.	<u>MWC-5</u>	<u>W10-F</u>	<u>3.80</u>	<u>WD2007-0106</u>
7.	<u>MWC-5</u>	<u>W10-G</u>	<u>1.84</u>	<u>WD2007-0106</u>
8.	<u>MWC-5</u>	<u>W22</u>	<u>1.49</u>	<u>None</u>
9.	<u>MWC-4</u>	<u>W39-A</u>	<u>3.61</u>	<u>WD2009-0470</u>
10.	<u>MWC-4</u>	<u>W39-B</u>	<u>0.97</u>	<u>None</u>
11.	<u>MWC-4</u>	<u>W40</u>	<u>0.29</u>	<u>WD2009-0470</u>
12.	<u>MWC-4</u>	<u>W41</u>	<u>1.80</u>	<u>None</u>
13.	<u>MWC-4</u>	<u>W42</u>	<u>0.58</u>	<u>None</u>
14.	<u>MWC-4</u>	<u>W43</u>	<u>0.63</u>	<u>None</u>

MD-3

	<u>OFWAM</u> <u>Grouping</u>	<u>Unique</u> <u>Identifier</u>	<u>Size</u> <u>(acres)</u>
1.	<u>MWC-6</u>	<u>W11</u>	<u>0.98</u>
2.	<u>MWC-6</u>	<u>W21</u>	<u>2.06</u>
3.	<u>MWC-6</u>	<u>W46</u>	<u>1.34</u>
4.	<u>MWC-6</u>	<u>W47</u>	<u>5.74</u>
5.	<u>MWC-6</u>	<u>W48</u>	<u>0.39</u>
6.	<u>MWC-6</u>	<u>W49</u>	<u>6.96</u>
7.	<u>MWC-6</u>	<u>W50</u>	<u>2.04</u>
8.	<u>MWC-6</u>	<u>W51</u>	<u>0.52</u>
9.	<u>MWC-6</u>	<u>W53</u>	<u>1.18</u>
10.	<u>MWC-6</u>	<u>W54</u>	<u>2.25</u>
11.	<u>MWC-6</u>	<u>W55</u>	<u>0.51</u>
12.	<u>MWC-6</u>	<u>W56</u>	<u>1.87</u>
13.	<u>MWC-6</u>	<u>W57</u>	<u>0.65</u>

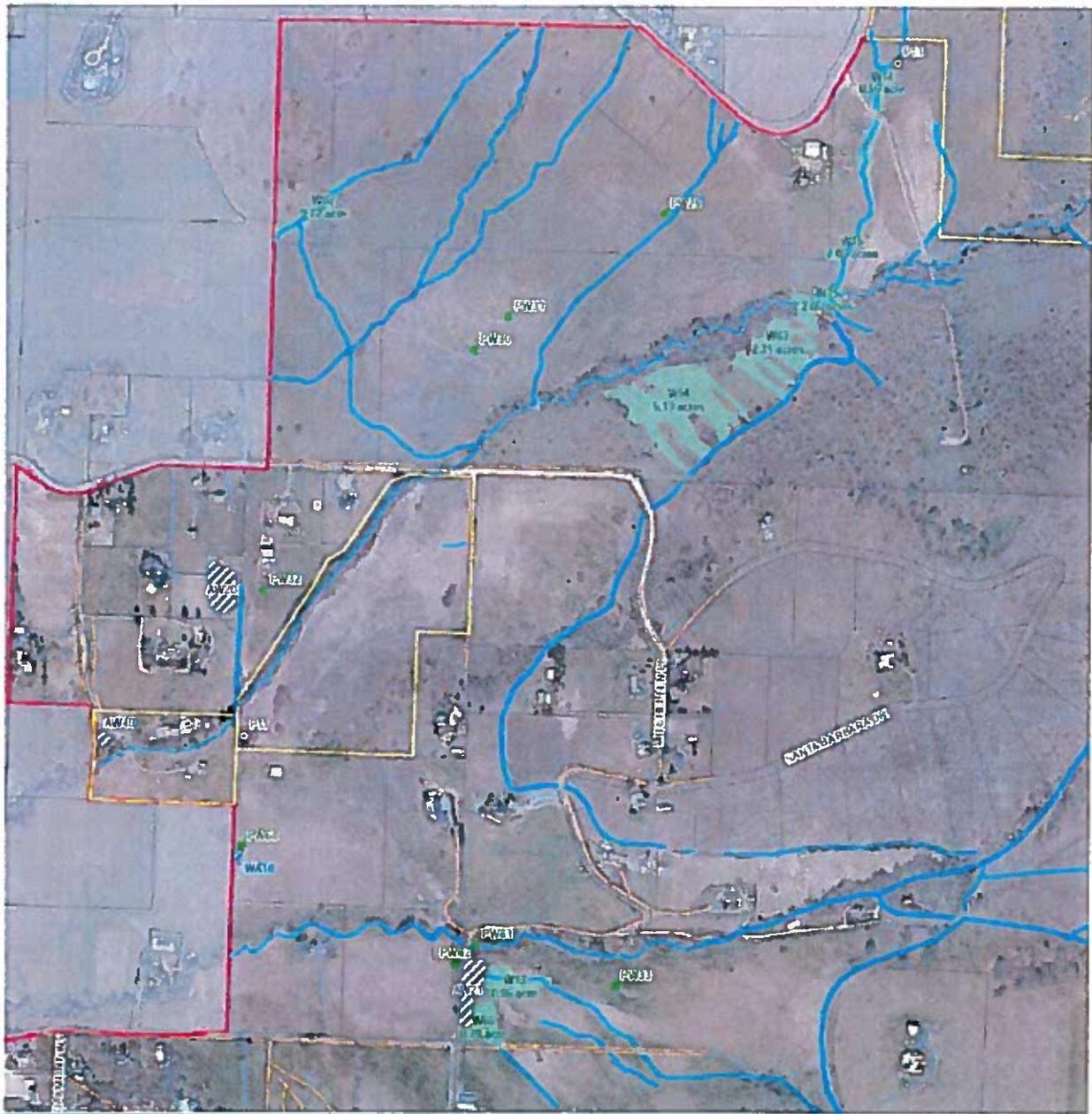


MD-3

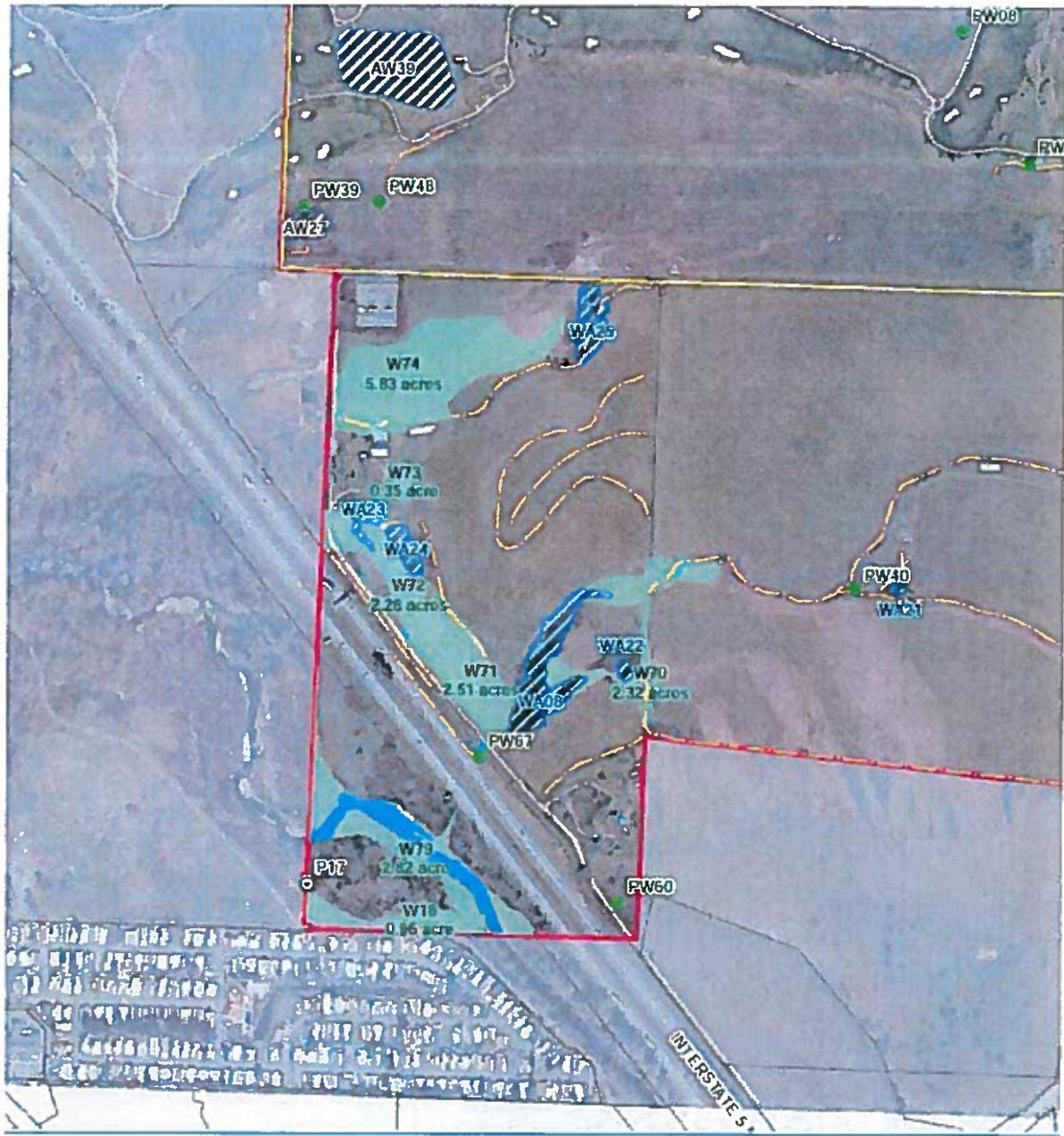
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	<u>MD-5</u>		
	<u>OFWAM</u>	<u>Unique</u>	<u>Size</u>
	<u>Grouping*</u>	<u>Identifier</u>	<u>(acres)</u>
1.	<u>BCS-2</u>	<u>W13</u>	<u>0.96</u>
2.	<u>LSC-1</u>	<u>W14</u>	<u>0.59</u>
3.	<u>LSC-2</u>	<u>W15</u>	<u>2.05</u>
4.	<u>BCS-5</u>	<u>W18</u>	<u>0.96</u>
5.	<u>BCS-2</u>	<u>W66</u>	<u>0.79</u>
6.	<u>BCS-4</u>	<u>W70</u>	<u>2.32</u>
7.	<u>BCS-4</u>	<u>W71</u>	<u>2.51</u>
8.	<u>BCS-4</u>	<u>W72</u>	<u>2.28</u>
9.	<u>BCS-4</u>	<u>W74</u>	<u>5.83</u>
10.	<u>BCS-5</u>	<u>W79</u>	<u>2.82</u>

*OFWAM assessment codes: BCS= Bear Creek South Drainage, LSC = Larson Creek Drainage



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<u>MD-6</u>			
	<u>OFWAM</u>	<u>Unique</u>	<u>Size</u>
	<u>Grouping</u>	<u>Identifier</u>	<u>(acres)</u>
1.	<u>BCS-7</u>	<u>W19-A</u>	<u>6.75</u>
2.	<u>BCS-7</u>	<u>W19-B</u>	<u>0.49</u>



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WETLAND REGULATIONS

The Urban Reserve was established by adoption of the Regional Plan in 2012. The City plans to expand into portions of these areas as part of an Urban Growth Boundary amendment process. Existing agreements with the County and other elements of the City's Comprehensive Plan identify how development will occur in these locations.

Standards are needed to address how the goals of the wetland regulations above are being met. Wetlands (either significant or not) have been identified in almost all of the study areas. The City seeks to protect and manage these wetlands over time as land is developed in the County and annexed to the City.

As noted above, the State outlines two paths for regulating wetlands, the safe harbor and standard (ESEE analysis) approaches. The Urban Reserve is proposed to urbanize over time creating an opportunity to protect these resources or limit their impact as development occurs. A combination of these approaches will be used to regulate the wetlands in the UR. The adoption of the Local Wetland Inventory (LWI) and regulations to protect locally significant wetlands are an important step in meeting State requirements as a new Urban Growth Boundary is established.

The 2015 Urban Reserve Local Wetlands Inventory report and appendices are adopted by reference.

The Conclusions and Goals, Policies, and Implementation Measures for the Natural Resources - Wetlands section are listed below in conjunction with those for the Water Quality and Wildlife Habitat sections.

**NATURAL RESOURCES
WATER QUALITY, WETLANDS, AND WILDLIFE HABITAT
CONCLUSIONS**

1. While the groundwater beneath the valley floor is not the domestic water source for the Medford planning area, it is a regionally important natural resource primarily due to its use as a domestic water source for individual wells.
2. Bear Creek and its tributaries are critically important natural resources, yet suffer from poor water quality due to forest and agricultural practices and urban point and non-point discharges.
3. The poor water quality of Bear Creek and its tributaries is partially attributable to non-point pollution from diffuse sources, such as stormwater, agricultural runoff, and septic system seepage. Non-point pollution sources can significantly damage water quality, yet are more difficult to pinpoint and treat than conventional point sources of water pollution.
4. Natural resource cleanup programs involving local schools, clubs, and civic organizations, such as those sponsored by the Bear Creek Watershed Council, are excellent means to engage the public in environmental education. The presence of waterways such as Bear Creek and Larson Creek, and various wetlands in Medford provides a platform for such programs.
5. The City of Medford recognizes wetlands as valuable urban resources that can provide water quality maintenance, stormwater detention, wildlife habitat, and open space. Medford's 2002 *Medford Local Wetlands Inventory and Locally Significant Wetland Determinations* by Wetland Consulting identified and assessed most of the wetlands, in the Urban Growth Boundary. The 2002 *Medford Riparian Inventory and Assessment Bear Creek Tributaries* by Wetland Consulting inventoried and assessed the waterways that are tributary to Bear Creek. [The City of Medford hired SWCA Environmental to conduct a Local Wetland Inventory for the Urban Reserve in 2015. Locally significant wetlands were identified in five of the MD areas.](#)
6. Occasionally, the protection of a locally significant wetland (one that has been determined to have significant value according to state criteria) must be balanced against other important community goals. An exceptional "conflicting use" may be more important to the long-term needs of the citizens than preservation of the wetland area.
7. The Medford UGB has been evaluated for potential wetland mitigation sites. Wetland mitigation involves the restoration, enhancement, or creation of wetlands to compensate for permitted wetland losses elsewhere. Restoration and enhancement of existing wetlands is the wetland mitigation most likely to be successful in Medford due to its ecologic and climatic characteristics.
8. Although Bear Creek and the Bear Creek Greenway contain Medford's most valuable fish and wildlife habitat, fish and wildlife habitat exists elsewhere within the Urban Growth Boundary. As of June 8, 2005, portions of the following streams have been identified by ODFW as fish bearing streams, and should be protected per Statewide Planning Goal 5

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(OAR 660-023) through the imposition of Riparian Corridor Regulation. These streams, or portions thereof, include: Bear, Elk, Swanson, Lone Pine, Lazy, Larson, Gore, and Crooked Creeks.