



October 26, 2023

Multnomah County Board of Commissioners

Re. Approval for Burlington Creek Forest Plan

Chair Vega Pederson and Commissioners,

My name is Tara Wilkinson. I'm Co-Director of The Intertwine Alliance, the Portland metro region's nature coalition. We're about 80 nonprofit, government and public partners advocating for investment in and equitable access to parks, trails and greenspace.

I'm here today to join our voices with those requesting that you approve the North Tualatin Access Master Plan. It's been a long and careful process; Metro has done an exceptional and thoughtful job of balancing restoration/conservation efforts with creating a much-desired place to enjoy nature close to home. There are many, many community members and organizations who have been engaged with this plan and who want to see it passed.

It's been said — but just want to reiterate the important context that — of the four North Tualatin Mountains sites currently protected by Metro, only a portion of one, the Burlington Creek Forest, is being proposed for formal access development and creation of a nature park at this time. The remaining sites will be primarily managed for habitat protection and enhancement, and restoration efforts will continue at all four units.

The new hiking, biking and equestrian trails — all family-friendly, providing recreation on the north side of town — the community has been asking for this for a long time.

So, please give approval to Metro's application for a project that will provide innumerable benefits to families on Portland's north side while continuing to protect wildlife in the city.

Thank you for your time.

