



TUALATIN RIVERKEEPERS®

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August 16, 2010

Clackamas County Planning Division
150 Beaver Creek Rd
Oregon City, OR 97045

RE: File No. Z0326-10-C
Conditional Use for proposed quarry at SW Tonquin Rd & Morgan Rd

Dear Planning Division,

Tualatin Riverkeepers requests that the Clackamas County Hearings Officer deny a conditional use permit for the proposed quarry at SW Tonquin Road and Morgan Road.

The proposed quarry abuts the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge. The Refuge performs the following purposes specifically allowed as “Primary Uses” under Clackamas County Zoning and Development Ordinance 309.03 sections D and E:

- Protect and restore a diversity of native habitats and associated populations of indigenous fish, wildlife, invertebrate, and plant species of the Tualatin River basin.
- Protect, restore, and develop a diversity of habitats for migratory birds such as neotropical songbirds, wading birds, and shorebirds with special emphasis on wintering waterfowl.
- Protect and restore floodplain type benefits associated with the Tualatin River including water quality, flood storage, and water recharge.
- Protect, restore, and develop habitats for and otherwise support recovery of federally listed endangered and threatened species and help prevent the listing of candidate species and species of management concern.

Both the proposed area and the adjacent Refuge property are identified as Regionally Significant Fish & Wildlife Habitat on Metro’s current Regionally Significant Fish & Wildlife Habitat Inventory Map. Washington County requires that,

“For any proposed use in a Significant Natural Resource Area, there shall be a finding that the proposed use will not seriously interfere with the preservation of fish and wildlife areas and habitat identified in the Washington County Comprehensive Plan, or how the interference can be mitigated.

Clackamas County Zoning Ordinance 1002.02 B requires that developments shall be planned, designed, constructed, and maintained to” avoid substantial probability of “...injury to wildlife and fish habitats...”

Likewise Clackamas County’s Zoning and Development Ordinance 1002 .06 has strict requirements for protecting wildlife habitat and wetland function:

A. Developments on land that is outside both the Metropolitan Service District Boundary and the Portland Metropolitan Urban Growth Boundary shall be designed to: (1/5/09)

1. Protect native plant species, aquatic habitats, and endangered or otherwise important wildlife species; and (3/24/05)

2. Minimize adverse wildlife impacts in sensitive habitat areas, such as deer and elk winter range below 3,000 feet in elevation, riparian areas, and wetlands. (3/24/05)

It is impossible to dig a 300 foot deep quarry in wetlands contiguous with a National Wildlife Refuge in a “Regionally Significant Fish & Wildlife Habitat” without injury to that habitat.

Tualatin Riverkeepers respectfully requests that you deny this conditional use because it impacts allowed uses on neighboring properties and would inflict significant injury on fish and wildlife habitat and wetland function.

Sincerely,



Brian Wegener
Watershed Watch Coordinator