

Ecola Creek Forest Reserve Management Plan

OPINION SURVEY SUMMARY

February 2, 2006

The City of Cannon Beach held a three week comment period for public input on the Ecola Creek Forest Reserve Management Plan in December 2005/January 2006. The comment forms were available at the City Hall and also online via a web-based survey linked to the City of Cannon Beach website. A total of 59 surveys were completed and the results are summarized below.

In addition, a public open house for the project was held on Wednesday, January 11, 2006 at the Cannon Beach City Council Chambers. Approximately 15 people attended the meeting and provided input in a question and answer session that was recorded on a flip chart. Those comments are included in a section at the end of this summary report.

1. First please tell us your zip code:

Zip Code	City, State	Number of Respondents
97110	Cannon Beach, OR	18
97201	Portland, OR	5
97145	Tolovana Park, OR	2
97102	Arch Cape, OR	2
97213	Portland, OR	2
45701	Athens, OH	1
97006	Beaverton, OR	1
97009	Boring, OR	1
97015	Clackamas, OR	1
97034	Lake Oswego, OR	1
22032	Fairfax, VA	1
97103	Astoria, OR	1
11231	Brooklyn, NY	1
97138	Seaside, OR	1
97146	Warrenton, OR	1
97212	Portland, OR	1
97214	Portland, OR	1
97215	Portland, OR	1
97217	Portland, OR	1
97218	Portland, OR	1
97229	Portland, OR	1
97255	Portland, OR	1
97221	Portland, OR	1
98632	Longview, WA	1
85255	Scottsdale, AZ	1
	Cannon Beach area	51%
	Portland area	38%
	Other areas	11%

2. Is Cannon Beach your (please check one):

- Primary Home: **25 (45%)**
- Secondary Home: 22 (39%)
- Place to Visit: 9 (16%)

3. How often do you visit the Ecola Creek Forest Reserve for the following uses? (Check one box per row)

	Frequently (daily/weekly)	Occasionally (once a month)	Seldom (once/twice a year)	Never	# of respondents
Hiking/Walking	3 (7%)	11 (28%)	15 (38%)	10 (25%)	39
Mountain Biking	1 (3%)	2 (6%)	3 (9%)	26 (81%)	32
Wildlife viewing/ photography	2 (4%)	10 (24%)	19 (45%)	11 (26%)	42
Hunting	0	0	0 (0%)	29 (100%)	29
Fishing	0	1 (3%)	3 (10%)	26 (87%)	30

Additional Comments:

- I want and plan to use it more.
- We'd like a map-is there one available?
- I have never been there. I would like to go at a time when someone familiar with the area is there.
- Never-unfortunately for me!
- I didn't know it was open for unescorted visits!

4. Are there other ways you use the ECFR? If so please list them here and tell us how often:

- We value keeping open space open and undeveloped.
- Had not realized it was open for these uses.
- While we contributed to it, we're not sure exactly where it is. If there was a map available (there might be one but we are not familiar with it), we'd use the reserve for hiking and birding (occasionally).
- I like to be able to look back at the forest from the beach and from town and not see clear cuts. I'd prefer to see old growth forest.
- Observational drawing (once a month).
- Short hikes with children.
- Reflecting on what a wonderful "saving" this was for the future of our area!
- To enjoy the plant species of a climax forest. To understand the ecology of this forest (the web of life, etc).
- I view it.
- On both 3 and 4 I believed that the lands were closed areas so both questions are meaningless to me.

- Teaching, guided walks-once or twice a year
- I would love to visit this place, but I've never been in town when a walk is planned to the site and I'm not really sure where the entrance to the site is! I would use it for hiking/walking and wildlife viewing if I knew how to get there! But none of the other uses.
- Walking to enjoy the peaceful forest.
- Showing tourists the area and view.
- Every time I visit CB I have a greater sense of peace of mind, just knowing the reserve has been protected.
- Birding- I guess this qualifies as wildlife viewing.

**5. How valuable is each of the following functions of the ECFR to you?
Assign a value to each, check one box per row.**

	Essential	Important	Inconsequential	# of respondents
Clean water	52 (93%)	4 (7%)	0	56
Fish habitat	42 (81%)	9 (17%)	1 (2%)	52
Wildlife habitat	40 (70%)	17 (30%)	0	57
Open space/natural preserve	30 (67%)	15 (33%)	0	45
Recreation	10 (17%)	44 (76%)	4 (7%)	58
Education	13 (24%)	41 (75%)	1 (1%)	55

Additional Comments:

- I defer to Doug Deur of the advisory committee on these, as he has a far superior knowledge of restoration and protection.

**6. Please rate the following priorities for protection and restoration actions.
(Check one box per row)**

	High	Medium	Low	Not a priority	# of respondents
Abandoning old logging roads	12 (24%)	20 (39%)	11 (22%)	8 (16%)	51
Surveying for Marbled Murrelets	14 (29%)	18 (38%)	11 (23%)	5 (10%)	48
Planting conifers along streams to enhance fish habitat by providing for large wood inputs to the streams	34 (64%)	14 (26%)	5 (9%)	0	53
Controlling non-native invasive species (Himalayan blackberries, English Ivy, etc)	35 (66%)	16 (30%)	2 (4%)	0	53
Thinning in hemlock plantations to speed the creation of large diameter trees.	20 (38%)	24 (45%)	8 (15%)	1 (2%)	53

Creating small openings in hemlock plantations to plant cedar and spruce for species diversity.	25 (46%)	20 (37%)	6 (11%)	3 (6%)	54
Creating snags for bird and small mammal habitat.	27 (53%)	15 (29%)	9 (18%)	0	51
Purchasing additional lands to increase the size of the reserve.	38 (70%)	8 (15%)	7 (13%)	1 (2%)	54

Additional Comments:

- This question isn't clear. We're in favor of keeping vehicles off logging roads but keeping them available for hiking only (abandoning old logging roads).
- There's not enough info. here but done with sensitivity to ecology it sounds reasonable (Thinning in hemlock plantations to speed the creation of large diameter trees).
- Probably a benefit (abandoning old logging roads).
- I know nothing about the area, but would like to learn. We support ECFR because we are sensitive to the ecology in general and also supportive.
- Unknown, for these roads may provide necessary access to control catastrophic fires, to move tree planting crews in/out etc. Please designate as "high" priority if roads are sliding and/or eroding or if the road isn't needed (abandoning old logging roads).
- I trust Doug Deur's ideas on these issues as well as item's #8 and #9.

7. Are there other protection/restoration priorities for ECFR not listed in question 6? If so, please list them here.

- I think the forest needs to be managed, thinning, remove diseased trees, leave wild life trees, no motorized machines, trails for horses, trails for walkers and runners, trails for bicycles.
- Our overall goals would be to protect biodiversity for its own sake. We'd strongly oppose hunting in ECFR because it should be safe for biodiversity to flourish there and safe for humans to walk, hike, and enjoy more of creation without fear of hunters trying to destroy animals and humans.
- Field trips for children where they plant several tree species and they return yearly to observe growth and/or survival due to planting technique, location and damage due to animals. Also teach them about non native, invasive plants and how to pull those plants out.
- Build and maintain trails for hiking (and possibly bikes and wheelchairs). As a hunter, this isn't an easy thing to say, but I encourage you to consider banning hunting in this reserve to increase populations of cougar, bear, deer, grouse and elk and to make non-hunters feel safer and welcome there.
- Preparing and maintaining walking trails with least possible impact to environment, signage (stay on trail) plus information about species.
- Controlled hiking trails
- Create primitive bridges across the creek that can be removed during winter floods.
- Provide accessible trails so Cannon Beach's retired and aging population can walk in the preserve-a trail that remains relatively safe yet unobtrusive.

- Avoid making the ECFR so known and accessible that the city has to worry about liability.
- All thinning should involve girdling or falling trees in decadal intervals in over stocked hemlock areas. NO commercial logging should be done. Below on #8 my support is predicated on only ecological forest use of all thinned trees for whether in stream alcove wood augmentation or left on the forest floor. If multiple entries are made on a 10-14 year cycle the forest would build a cumulative biomass of various stages of decayed wood and would prevent the “loading” of the forest floor with small DBH trees with short persistence time in the forest system.
- Develop various erosion control practices on disturbed area in the watershed, both within the ECFR and beyond boundaries-restrict access or redirect trails to less erosive routes, with emphasis on stream crossing which break the natural banks.
- Riparian wetland enhancement/restoration.
- When removing young hemlocks, let some remain fallen on the ground to encourage a natural process which adds to the nutrients of the soil through their decomposition.
- The biological survey may also suggest other priorities- e.g. amphibian populations.
- Foot bridge across West Fork Ecola

8. Some public land managers have adopted a strategy to thin dense young (less than 50 years old) stands of trees to speed development of old growth forests. How would you rate your level of support for adopting this strategy on portions of the ECFR, if done properly?

- High: **25 (46%)**
 - Medium: 19 (35%)
 - Low: 10 (18%)
 - None: 1 (2%)
- Total respondents: 55

Additional Comments:

- I would take the advice from scientists, not land managers.
- If done properly-the key
- Again, I would defer Doug Deur’s view.

9. In the course of restoration activities, the City may have the opportunity to extract some second growth logs to help offset costs of these activities. How would you rate your level of support, if done properly?

- High: 17 (30%)
 - Medium: **22 (39%)**
 - Low: 9 (16%)
 - None: 8 (14%)
- Total respondents: 56

Additional Comments:

- Based on scientific recommendations.
- Low-even if “done properly”
- As you said earlier, re-planting thinned and or clear-cut areas with spruce, hemlock and red cedar is a necessity if this is done.
- Don’t make the forest “too clean” in an effort to make money from logs.
- Only if Doug Deur really supports this idea.

10. Please consider the following recreational uses and rate them based on what you consider to be appropriate uses for the ECFR. (Check one box per row.)

	High	Medium	Low	Not a priority	# of respondents
Walking	54 (93%)	3 (5%)	0	1 (2%)	58
Wildlife Viewing/ Photography	49 (85%)	8 (14%)	0	1 (1%)	58
Mountain Biking	7 (12%)	11 (19%)	17 (29%)	23 (40%)	58
Hunting	3 (5%)	4 (7%)	13 (23%)	37 (65%)	57
Equestrian Use	4 (7%)	14 (24%)	12 (21%)	28 (48%)	58

Additional Comments:

- I suggest that only some trails in the reserve be designated as allowed for use by horses and bikes. I also suggest that at least one short “flattish” trail be paved so that baby strollers, wheelchairs and walkers can use the reserve too.

11. Please consider the following potential educational/recreational improvements and rate them based on your personal interest. (Check one box per row)

	High	Medium	Low	Not a Priority	# of respondents
New walking trails	27 (47%)	20 (35%)	8 (14%)	3 (5%)	58
Viewing benches	11 (19%)	28 (49%)	12 (21%)	6 (10%)	57
Interpretative signs	16 (28%)	26 (45%)	10 (17%)	6 (10%)	58
Off-site parking	8 (14%)	21 (37%)	16 (28%)	12 (21%)	57

Additional Comments:

- Limited to habitat information and appropriate behavior in the area (interpretative signs)
- Off-site parking needed at the entrance only.
- Please keep the ECFR as rustic as possible, thank you.
- On abandoned logging roads: a good idea so that people won’ create their own trails through fragile territory (New walking trails).

12. Is there anything else about ECFR that has not been covered in this survey that you would like to tell us?

- Trees are renewable, God is in charge, but he needs management help.
- Are there small boat opportunities (in or near the reserve area) which could be created? For wild life observation?
- One of the reasons to establish the reserve is to protect the quality of a potable water supply. Are the plans to build water tanks, dams and reservoirs, etc. in the reserve area? If so, future survey question could address this.
- See #4. We care about this parcel as a “forest reserve” and we are pleased that there is going to be a plan for managing this as an ecological resource. We do not support activities that are detrimental to the reserve (horse back riding. Removing older trees) and its habitat.
- I've been so busy in the last few years I've barely been able to walk on the beach let alone the preserve. I know nothing about forest management but some logging to thin the preserve seems common sensible and if that helps the ECFR coffers... that's a plus. I hope to slow down in the very near future to do nature walks and maybe even some fishing in the preserve.
- Contact a university that may want to assist or do natural science studies.
- Only that direction and “control” stay closely in hands of original people working on this.
- Create a guide to plants, mammals, amphibians, birds and fish life found in ECFR.
- Let this be an experiment in “letting” nature evolve without interference. “Human improvement” often means misuse and abuse.
- I would like to use ECFR for walking, hiking, peace solitude etc., but do not know how to access it.
- I will submit written comments regarding restoration actions as well as this survey.
- Purchase additional lands to protect watershed, views and habitat.
- Is there a map to the site? I would like to have one, if there is. Thanks! Thank you for asking for input.
- I love the area!
- I hope these will be opportunities for (and interest in) involvement by local school children And thank you for doing the survey!
- I think snags will be created naturally after thinning and the clear cutting of trees on adjoining private properties. Maintain old logging roads as trails.
- Thank you all for the fine work you've done thus far.
- My husband and I come to Cannon Beach for one week in October. I have been coming here since I was a child. My husband and I honeymooned here 50 years ago. It is my favorite place in the work and I am so happy people like you are trying to preserve the naturalness and magic of it.
- I would prefer to see thinned hemlock left on the ground, and only removed if necessary to help pay for the restoration. Restoration and preservation should be priorities rather than recreation.
- I do own 42 acres of forest land in Hillsboro, OR. O I am a master woodland manager with the state forest Department of Forestry. Also an active member of Washington County small woodlands. I am willing to serve on a committee connected to CB forest.

January 11, 2006 Open House Comments

The comments provided at the January open house mirror the feedback received through the opinion survey: participants prefer to see the ECFR managed carefully to restore/enhance forest health and that any recreational uses/improvements be largely limited to passive activities such as walking and wildlife viewing.

Forest Health:

- Protect it-don't log it (for money).
- Balance open space with recreational needs.
- Does understory have to be planted or does it occur naturally?
- Would seed sources be local genotype (for re-planting)?
- Look at funding sources like OWEB for restoration. Cost share money.
- Any thinning process should be delicate.
- Do you envision cutting for commercial value?
- Girdling/thinning without extracting the wood.
- Want to trust in the process that any thinning is being done with the right intent.
- Are these studies that show selective thinning is ecologically/economically sound?
- Restoration/re-seeding needs to be done carefully. Decisions driven by restoration NOT economics.

Recreation:

- Convert some of the old logging roads into trails. Could make a loop trail.
- Include facilities for the physically handicapped
- Consider access from the school property and year round use.
- Logging roads could help people experience Parcel #1.
- People can still enjoy it without spending money on trails.
- Biking on roads is fine but creating new bike trails could be a problem.
- Keep it as rustic as possible.
- 3 out of 4 of your Goals aren't really compatible with recreation.
- Fundraising was built around preservation and that's what people are expecting to see
- It's a small parcel - can't be all things top all people.
- Recreation exists up there already-don't shut that off.
- Management plan should be revisited periodically as problems emerge.

Other:

- Further land acquisition is a good idea
- Identify funding sources for restoration.