

WITNESS REGISTRATION

Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission

December 5, 2014, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife Salem Headquarters

EXHIBIT H

PUBLIC HEARING ON: EXHIBIT H: Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program Property Acquisitions

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SALEM AUDUBON SOCIETY
Stewardship Birding Education

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5 Dec 2014

Chair Levy, Director Melcher, Commissioners and staff...

I am Ray Temple, Vice President of the Salem Audubon Society. We appreciate the opportunity to speak to you today.

The Salem Audubon Society is a chapter of the National Audubon Society, with about 350 dues-paying members in Marion and Polk Counties. We are the home chapter for another 1100 National Audubon members. Our mission is to connect people with nature, which we do through educational outreach, field trips, and advocacy for birds and their habitats.

Salem Audubon supports conveyance of Hayden Island to the Department and its subsequent management under a conservation easement. Ownership and management of Hayden Island and its riparian habitats is consistent with ODFW's mission of protection and enhancement for present and future generations, consistent with the Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program that is helping with the purchase, and wholly in line with Salem Audubon's priorities.

Hayden Island sits in the north - south migration corridor of the Willamette Valley, and is located very near the Minto - Brown Island complex managed by the City of Salem. Salem Audubon has documented 151 species of birds using Minto -Brown Island Park, with about 100 staying to breed there. Another 300 acres purchased with Willamette Wildlife Mitigation funds will be managed under a conservation agreement and a management plan in which Salem Audubon has participated. Hayden Island is less diverse than Minto-Brown Island but it presents a nearly intact riparian bottom land forest, a habitat type that is declining throughout the Valley, and which complements these already protected lands just downstream.

Recent reports such as the State of the Birds report and the National Audubon Society's assessment of risk due to climate change paint pictures of widespread population declines and increasing risk. Placing this property in public ownership with conservation management by the Department makes ecological sense. We should not let the opportunity slip by.

Exhibit #1 - Public Testimony

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF ODFW HAYDEN ISLAND ACQUISITION

Stephanie Hallock on behalf of friends and family of Gail Achterman

Friday, December 5, 2014

Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission

Before Gail Achterman's untimely death from pancreatic cancer in 2012, she asked family and friends to continue her work protecting and enhancing natural areas in the Willamette Valley. Gail believed that the way to "save what we treasure" is to connect people with the water and land and teach the importance of conservation and preservation in the face of continued growth.

To help fulfill Gail's vision, we have been working with the Trust for Public Land to acquire Hayden Island in Polk County from a willing seller. Together we raised over \$3 million dollars in public and private funds to purchase and preserve this unique 270-acre parcel of flood plain forest near Salem where Gail grew up. Our hope is that the island will be owned and maintained by the Department of Fish and Wildlife as a natural area in Gail's name.

The seller of the property has a permit to mine gravel on the island, so successful acquisition by the Trust for Public Land and transfer of ownership to the Department of Fish and Wildlife is essential to restore and enhance this unique habitat for fish and wildlife and for boaters and paddlers to enjoy as Gail envisioned.

Gail's family and friends would like to thank the staff at ODFW for their support and assistance throughout the project. After almost three years of work to fulfill Gail's dying request, we are thrilled to be so close to putting this special place on the Willamette in public ownership for all Oregonians. We submit our testimony today in support of action by the Fish and Wildlife Commission to approve acquisition of Hayden Island.

I would be happy to answer any questions.



Gail Louise Achterman

Aug. 01, 1949 - Jan. 28, 2012

Gail Achterman, one of Oregon's foremost experts in natural resources, environmental law and policy and transportation, died on Jan. 28, 2012, of pancreatic cancer. She was 62 years old. At the time of her death, she had recently retired as director of the Institute for Natural Resources at Oregon State University and as Chair of the Oregon Transportation Commission.

Gail was born in Portland on Aug. 1, 1949, to Walter and Patricia Achterman. She graduated from South Salem High and received her A.B. degree in economics with honors from Stanford University, where she was a three-sport athlete—basketball, track and swimming. Long after she graduated, the Stanford Athletic Department awarded a letter jacket to Gail and many other women in recognition of the role they played in women's athletics.

Gail went on to earn both her law degree and master's degree in Natural Resource Policy and Management from the University of Michigan. She began her career working in Washington D.C. for the Solicitor for the U.S. Department of the Interior. In 1978, she returned to her beloved Oregon and joined the law firm that became Steel Rives LLP. As an associate and then a partner at Steel Rives, she specialized in natural resource and environmental law, with a focus on public land law, natural resource acquisition, development and permitting. In 1980, she married Chuck McGinnis.

From 1987 to 1991, Gail worked as assistant to the governor of Oregon for natural resources. In 2000, she became the executive director of Deschutes Resources Conservancy in Bend. In 2003, she became director of the Institute for Natural Resources at Oregon State University. After leaving INR in 2011, she started her legacy project, Willamette Strategies, with the goal of promoting a shared understanding and vision of our relationship to the Willamette Valley.

Gail's community service was vast and included: president of the Oregon Women's Forum, the Board of Directors and executive committee of the Portland Metro Chamber of Commerce and the Board of Governors of the City Club of Portland. She was a senior fellow in the American Leadership Forum.

One of Gail's proudest achievements was participating in drafting the legislation that created the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area in 1981. Gail received numerous awards, including the Richard Neuberger Award from the Oregon Environmental Council.

Gail and Chuck were life partners in every way. He encouraged and supported her extraordinary career. They shared outdoor adventures at the Snow Shoe Club, in the Northwest and the western United States. Gail and Chuck spent wonderful weekends filled with recreation and relaxation at their cabin sanctuary at Wapinitia on Mt. Hood, often with good friends.

Gail will be remembered for her passion for and knowledge of the natural world, her lifelong commitment to her community and to Oregon, for mentoring and creating opportunities for many young people and for her brilliant mind. She loved to be outdoors, especially rowing on the Willamette River, backpacking, skiing, hiking and fishing. She was deeply loved and will be greatly missed by her family and many friends.

Gail is survived by her husband, Charles McGinnis; stepsons, Daniel (Gat) and Ryan; and grandson, Elliott; siblings, Chris (Ginny), Peg and Tom (Parry); nieces and nephews, Sean (and son Nathan), Daniel (Rebecca), Mandy, Peter (Sarah), Michael (Amy) and Sarah Mattox (Jason and their children Kevin and Clara).

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions to the Japanese Garden Society of Portland, Hoyt Arboretum Friends, the Deschutes River Conservancy, the Oregon State University Foundation for the Institute for Natural Resources or the Gail Achterman Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation.

Her memorial service will be held at the First Presbyterian Church of Portland on Thursday, Feb. 9, 2012, at 3 p.m., followed by a reception at the Multnomah Athletic Club.

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF ODFW HAYDEN ISLAND ACQUISITION

The Trust for Public Land
Friday, December 5, 2014
Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission

The Trust for Public Land exists to conserve land for people to enjoy as parks, gardens, and other natural places, ensuring livable communities for generations to come. We are honored to partner with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife on the proposed acquisition of Hayden Island.

To accomplish our land for people mission, The Trust for Public Land advances two national initiatives. The first is called Parks for People, where we work in cities and suburbs across America to ensure that everyone, in particular every child, enjoys close-to-home access to a park, playground, garden, or natural area. The second initiative is called Our Land and Water, through which we conserve natural places, including those that safeguard clean drinking water and preserve the natural beauty of coasts and waterways.

Hayden Island epitomizes our work under this second initiative. It's a special place, a wild stretch of river in the heart of the Willamette Valley. Located just a few river miles upstream from the state capital, it preserves the fish and wildlife values, and the wild character, of the historic Willamette River. Maintained in its natural state, in ODFW's ownership, the property will continue to provide critically important habitat for endangered salmon and will contribute to basin-wide river restoration goals. It will also provide opportunities to restore and improve floodplain function and off-channel fish habitat. The Trust for Public Lands look forward to partnering with ODFW staff on designing and implementing such restoration and enhancement activities, drawing in part on funds we have raised from private donors in partnership with the friends and family of Gail Achterman.

We would like to acknowledge the many partners in the project, who include the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, the Bonneville Power Administration, the Oregon Department of Transportation, the Meyer Memorial Trust, and the property's owner, Oldcastle Materials. Most of all, we wish to thank ODFW's leadership and staff, who have worked tirelessly to support our goal of protecting Hayden Island and creating a memorial to Gail Achterman there.

We ask the Commission to support this exciting project by approving ODFW's proposed acquisition. I am happy to answer any questions the Commission might have.