



EUGENE WATER & ELECTRIC BOARD

ECOLOGICAL INVENTORY REPORT

Final – February 2021

INTRODUCTION

At the request of the Eugene Water and Electric Board (EWEB), DOWL has prepared this report documenting and evaluating the natural features on a 10-acre, undeveloped, parcel of land in south Eugene that was acquired by EWEB in the 1950s for future water storage. The site occupies a block bounded by East 40th Avenue to the north, Hilyard Street to the east, East 43rd Avenue to the south, and Ferry Street to the west (Figure 1, Vicinity Map).

The open space provided by the East 40th Avenue site is popular with nearby residents and EWEB is seeking to minimize impacts to the natural features of the site while providing necessary infrastructure improvements (Photo 1, Ridgetop Informal Trail).

The purpose of this report is to provide EWEB with a detailed description of the site so that ecological values can be factored into final tank siting decisions.

BACKGROUND

EWEB is Oregon's largest customer-owned utility. EWEB provides water and electricity to the Eugene community, as well as parts of east Springfield and the McKenzie River valley. As a public utility EWEB is chartered by the City of Eugene to serve the interests of its citizens by providing reliable, affordable water and electricity for its customers.

The EWEB water distribution system currently includes four base level water storage tanks that provide storage for the entire distribution system. The existing tanks are Hayden Bridge (15 million gallons (MG) constructed in 2001); College Hill (15 MG constructed in 1939); Hawkins Hill (20 MG constructed in 1961); and Santa Clara (20 MG constructed in 1974).

Three of the tanks have significant structural issues and are expected to fail during an earthquake event. Hydraulic issues exist which result in inefficient filling and draining cycles, affecting water quality. In addition, due to a leaking roof and potential water quality issues, the Oregon Health Authority Drinking Water Services requires EWEB to repair or decommission College Hill by the end of 2023.

FIGURE 1: VICINITY MAP



PHOTO 1: RIDGETOP INFORMAL TRAIL



Through the 2015 Water Master Plan effort and subsequent structural evaluations, it has been determined that replacing the large base level tanks with multiple smaller, distributed tanks would provide resilient and redundant facilities, enhance operations, and improve water quality.

As part of their 10-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), EWEB intends to construct one new 7.5 MG tank with the potential for a second tank in the future, on the East 40th Avenue site. In addition to the new tank or tanks, the CIP also includes construction of a new 36-inch diameter water transmission main between West Amazon Street and the intersection of East 40th Avenue and Patterson Street. The transmission main work is being timed to coincide with planned City of Eugene street projects.

ASSESSMENT METHODS

Desktop Review of Published Materials

Prior to the on-site natural resources inventory, DOWL Environmental Specialists conducted a desktop review of published materials related to the site. Reviewed published materials included:

- East 40th Avenue Arborist Report (Cameron McCarthy, 2020)
- Historical aerial photos
- Current aerial photos of the City
- US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) (USFWS 2020)
- Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) Threatened and Endangered Plant Species List (ODA, 2020)
- Willamette Valley Oak and Prairie Cooperative (WVOPC) Strategic Action Plan (WVOPC, 2020)
- Wildlife-Habitat Relationships in Oregon and Washington (O'Neil and Johnson, 2001)
- Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) Oregon Conservation Strategy (ODFW, 2016)

Information Solicited from Neighbors and Others

To augment the information that would be collected during the on-site investigation, DOWL solicited, via email, information regarding plant and animal observations from neighbors and other individuals and organizations with knowledge of the site. On October 13, 2020 EWEB emailed 48 neighbors requesting information that they would be willing to share with DOWL regarding their knowledge of the site's natural features. In addition, DOWL contacted Dr. Bart Johnson a Landscape Architecture and Ecology professor at the University of Oregon who has conducted research with students at the site for the past 20 years.

Field Investigation

On October 8th and 9th, 2020 DOWL Environmental Specialists visited the site to map the vegetation and characterize and evaluate the existing on-site ecological conditions, including wildlife species, wildlife habitat and plant communities. The DOWL team conducted a series of meander surveys to gain an understanding of the entire parcel. During the surveys the team noted plant species present, physical/structural characteristics of the vegetation, evidence of disturbance, relative health of the trees and understory vegetation, and the locations of individual habitats and associated plant communities.

Conducting a series of site visits throughout an entire year would have resulted in a more complete inventory of species that occupy or use the site. However, a fairly robust list of likely species for a small site can be developed based on habitats that are present. A particular set of habitats will support a fairly predictable set of species. While butterflies and spring wildflowers could not be inventoried during the fall site visit, their presence is documented in the species lists provided by neighbors and local experts familiar with the site.

Using the information collected during the meander surveys, a topographic map, the results of the tree survey that was included with the Arborist Report (Cameron McCarthy 2020), and GIS, DOWL developed a map of plant communities present on the site.

ASSESSMENT RESULTS

Desktop Review

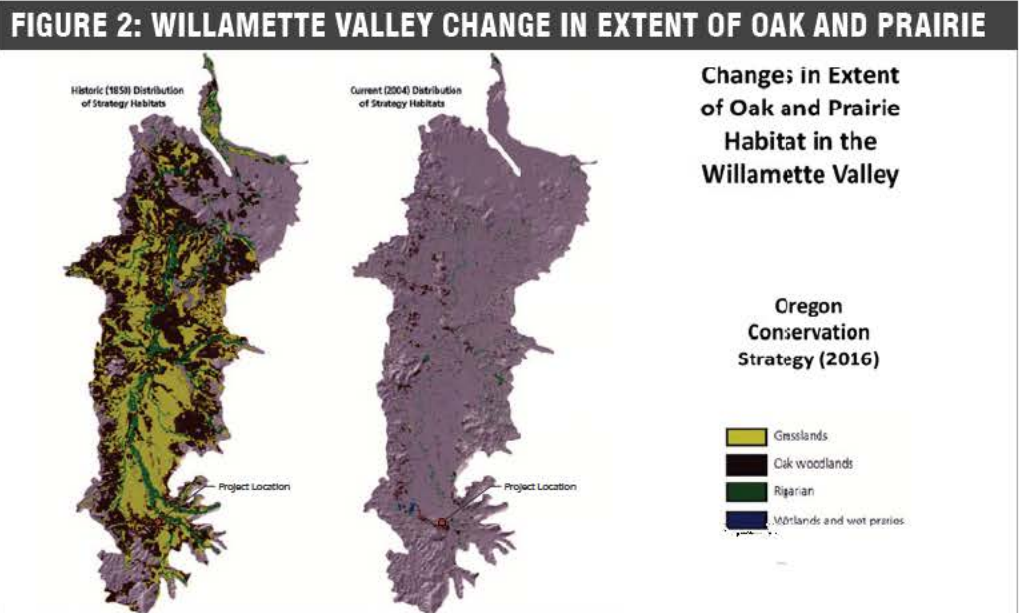
Historic Vegetation

According to multiple sources and as reported in the 2020 Willamette Valley Oak and Prairie Cooperative Strategic Action Plan (WVOPC 2020), prior to Euro-American settlement in the mid-1800s, large expanses of grassland and oak-dominated habitats covered the floor of the Willamette Valley, forming a complex mosaic of upland and wet prairie, oak savanna, and oak woodland mixed with broad bands of riparian forest lining major rivers. In general, open prairie occupied a central position within the valley bottom surrounded by bands of savanna and woodland, transitioning to conifer forest on the valley fringes and on some north facing hillslopes. Based on information derived from the General Land Office (GLO) survey notes from the 1850s, it is estimated that 61 percent (1,461,469 acres) of the valley floor was occupied by oak or prairie habitat at the time.

Early naturalists and settlers to the Willamette Valley described wide expanses of prairie interspersed with oak savanna and oak woodland, which Native Americans maintained by setting low intensity fires. The native inhabitants of the valley influenced the vegetation over thousands of years by initiating frequent fires to burn off brushy vegetation in order to improve conditions for hunting, gathering, and possibly travel. During this period, a diverse community of animals and plants evolved that could withstand or even depend upon regular fire including fire-resistant oak.

After settlers moved into the valley in the mid-1800s and began suppressing fires, many of the oak and prairie dominated landscapes were gradually overtaken by conifers and other woody vegetation or converted to farms and cities.

The extent of oak and prairie habitat is greatly diminished in the valley and now covers less than 10% of its historic range (Figure 2, Willamette Valley Change in Extent of Oak and Prairie; Figure 3 Eugene Change in Extent of Oak and Prairie Habitat). What remains is generally found in highly fragmented patches and in most cases is significantly impacted by invasive species and colonizing woody vegetation.



Arborist Report

The Arborist Report prepared for the site in 2019 and 2020 by Cameron McCarthy Landscape Architecture & Planning (Appendix A) described two distinct woodlands on the site—one dominated by Douglas fir and the other dominated by oak. The report included a detailed tree inventory map that identified individual trees by species and size. In addition, the report included recommendations for maintaining or improving the health of the woodlands as well as recommendations for minimizing impacts to trees during proposed site development activities.

State and Federal Threatened and Endangered Species

The State of Oregon and the federal government maintain separate lists of Threatened and Endangered (T&E) species. These are species that are at some degree of risk of becoming extinct.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) maintains a list of native wildlife species in Oregon that have been determined to be either “threatened” or “endangered” according to criteria set forth by rule (OAR 635-100-0105). State threatened and endangered plant listings are handled through the Oregon Department of Agriculture, and most State invertebrate listings are handled through the USFWS and the Oregon Biodiversity Information Center.

Under federal law the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) share responsibility for implementing the federal Endangered Species Act of 1973. In general, USFWS has oversight for terrestrial and freshwater species and NOAA for marine and anadromous species. In addition to information about species already listed, the USFWS-Oregon Field Office maintains lists of candidate species and Species of Concern.

The USFWS Information, Planning, and Consultation (IPaC) system generates lists of species and other resources such as critical habitat (collectively referred to as trust resources), under the USFWS jurisdiction that are known or expected to be on or near a project area. The list may also include trust resources that occur outside the project area but that could potentially be directly or indirectly impacted by activities in the project area. According to the USFWS, determining the likelihood and extent of effects a property may have on trust resources typically requires gathering additional site-specific and project-specific information such as vegetation/species surveys.

The IPaC report (Appendix B) for the East 40th Avenue site identified three threatened or endangered birds, one fish, one insect and four plant species that could potentially occupy the site. Species identified by the USFWS IPaC system for the East 40th Avenue site, along with their federal and state listing status are listed in Table 1.

FIGURE 3: EUGENE CHANGE IN EXTENT OF OAK AND PRAIRIE HABITAT

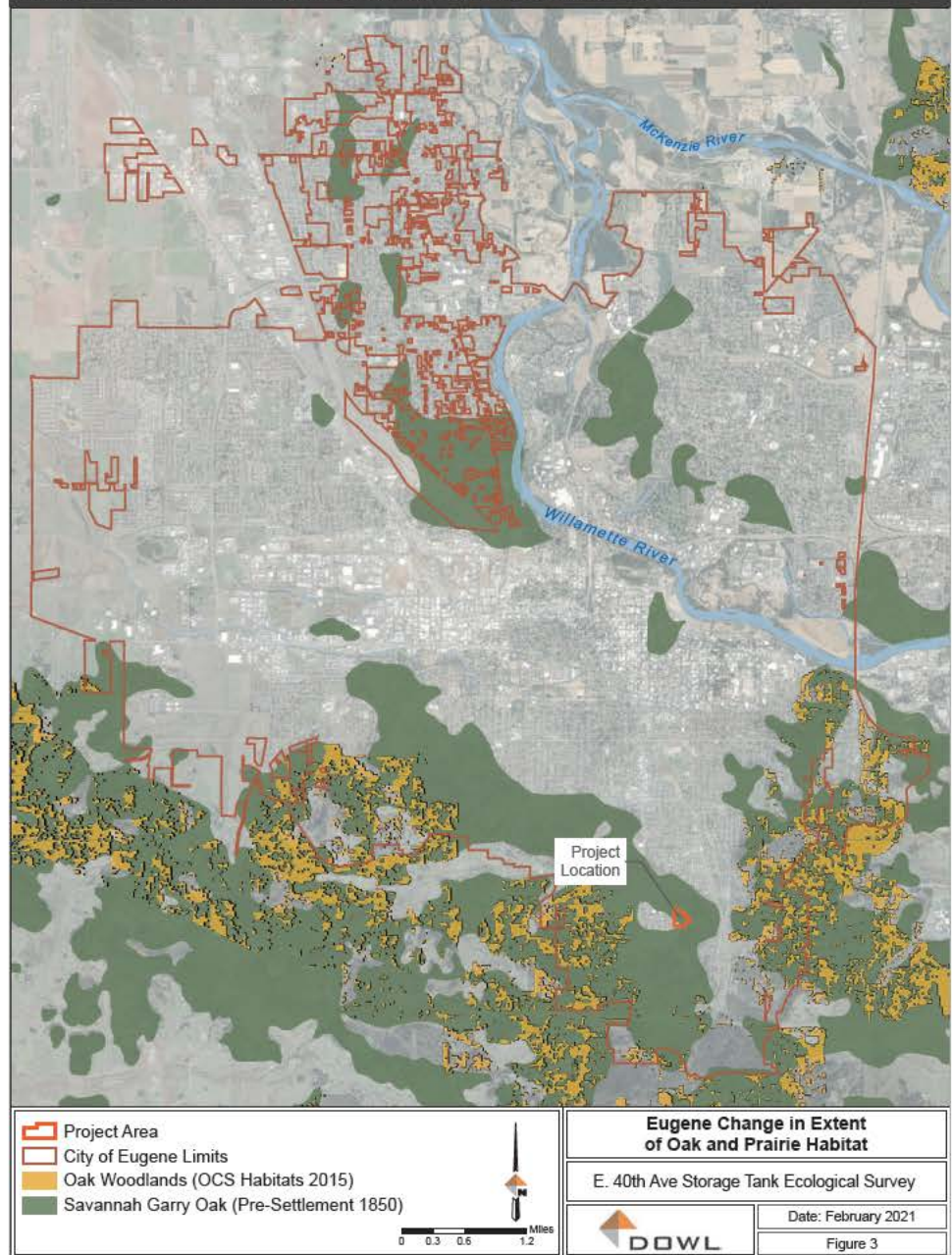


Table 1. Listed Species Identified by USFWS as Potentially Occurring Near East 40th Avenue Site

Species	Listing Status		Habitat
	Federal	Oregon	
BIRDS			
Marbled murrelet <i>Brachyramphus marmoratus</i>	Threatened	Threatened	Old-growth Douglas fir forest
Northern spotted owl <i>Strix occidentalis caurina</i>	Threatened	Threatened	Old-growth Douglas fir forest
Yellow-billed cuckoo <i>Coccyzus americanus</i>	Threatened	Not Listed	Riparian deciduous forests
FISH			
Bull trout <i>Salvelinus confluentus</i>	Threatened	Not Listed	Cold water streams
INSECTS			
Fender's Blue Butterfly <i>Icaricia icarioides fenderi</i>	Endangered	Endangered	Habitats that support perennial Lupine species
PLANTS			
Bradshaw's Desert-parsley <i>Lomatium bradshawii</i>	Endangered	Endangered	Wet prairie
Kincaid's Lupine <i>Lupinus sulphureus ssp. kincaidii</i>	Threatened	Threatened	Upland prairie remnants
Nelson's Checker-mallow <i>Sidalcea nelsoniana</i>	Threatened	Threatened	Wet prairies and stream sides
Willamette Daisy <i>Erigeron decumbens</i>	Endangered	Endangered	Wet prairie grasslands and drier upland prairie sites

Input from Neighbors and Others Familiar with Site

In response to the solicitation for information about the site from local experts and from neighbors DOWL and EWEB received responses from three community members with extensive professional Pacific northwest ecological experience and knowledge, and six neighbors. A summary of the comments received are presented below. Direct transcripts of the full comments received, as well as all species lists provided by the commenters are presented in Appendix C.

Neighbors

Neighbors reported that the site supports many different species of birds and butterflies, as well as deer, racoons, and wild turkeys. One neighbor noted that during the 1960's quail, pheasants, skinks, snakes, and tree frogs were common; and that deer, racoons and wild turkeys are a more recent addition. That same neighbor noted that there are fewer species of wildflowers now than in the 1960's and 1970's.

Concerns expressed by neighbors regarding tank construction on the site included the loss of the existing Douglas fir forest; the potential for decreased safety and property values; the potential for tank construction and operation to have a negative effect on the current ecosystem; and a concern that the timing of the natural resources site investigation during the fall likely resulted in many species common on the site not being accounted for.

Professional Ecologists

The following professionals provided input regarding the site: Jeff Krueger; Dr Bart Johnson; and Ed Alverson. Jeff Krueger works closely with the Willamette Valley Oak and Prairie Cooperative, managing the development of a valley-wide strategic action plan to protect and enhance oak and prairie habitats.

Dr. Bart Johnson is a Landscape Architecture and Ecology professor at the University of Oregon who has conducted research with students at the site for the past 20 years. Ed Alverson is a local naturalist who works as the Natural Areas Coordinator for the Lane County Parks Division. Each of the professional ecologists:

- Emphasized the regional significance of the oak habitat, and the importance of preserving and managing it.
- Noted that the Oregon Conservation Strategy identifies prairie, savanna, and oak woodlands as conservation priorities in the Willamette Valley.
- Stated that conifer encroachment is threatening the oak habitat, and strongly recommended that Douglas-fir at the site be thinned to follow best management practices for reducing fire hazard, and improving habitat value for native wildlife.

Jeff Krueger explained that the Willamette Valley Oak and Prairie Cooperative Strategic Plan notes the rapid decline and degradation of these once common oak and prairie habitats across the valley and calls for identification and conservation of remnant oak and prairie habitats where they exist and for the management of these properties in a way that preserves and enhances the oak and prairie vegetation over the long-term. Mr. Krueger encouraged EWEB to support the valley-wide efforts to protect this valuable and rapidly declining habitat type locally, including East 40th Avenue site, and the at-risk wildlife species it supports (e.g., native pollinators, Western bluebirds, white-breasted nuthatch, etc.).

Dr. Bart Johnson provided a plant species list generated by his students over the years and noted that the site contains a large proportion of native species, including three native bunchgrasses that are valued as cornerstones of local upland native prairies and Oregon white oak savannas. He also noted that the City of Eugene has made the acquisition and restoration of prairie and oak habitats one of its top conservation, recreation and educational priorities, and strongly urged EWEB to work with the city to strengthen the habitat and civic value of the neighborhood through prairie and oak habitat restoration.

Ed Alverson pointed out that the presence of ponderosa pine and California black oak in addition to the Oregon white oak is unique to the Willamette Valley and recommended that efforts be taken to preserve these species, in addition to the Oregon white oak. Mr. Alverson noted that while the East 40th Avenue site is a relatively small parcel, it is worth considering the value of small sites to conservation goals, as part of a diverse strategy and a complement to large protected tracts; and that for oak-associated birds, the habitat on the EWEB parcel is part of a larger habitat block that includes remnant oak stands located on nearby residential lots.

Mr. Alverson also noted the presence on the site of one individual of spurge laurel, a very problematic non-native species that can be extremely invasive in oak woodlands and recommended that given its potential for being an invader it would be good to prioritize inventory and removal of this species in a management plan.

Local Conservation Groups Input

This report will be shared with the public as well as local conservation organizations.

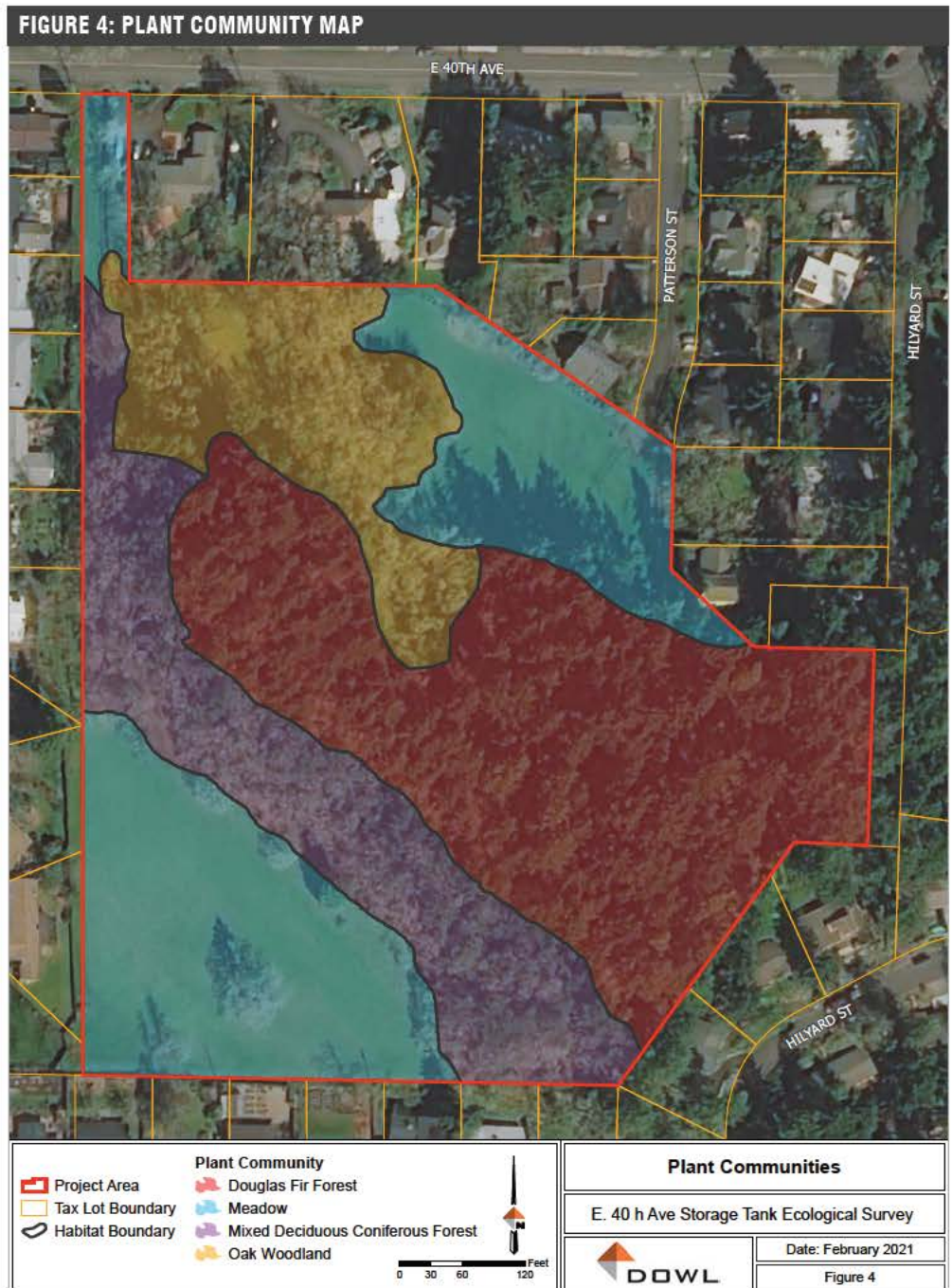
ON-SITE OBSERVATIONS

The project site is bordered on all sides by residential development. The nearest surrounding streets are East 40th Avenue to the north, Hilyard Street to the east, East 43rd Avenue on the south, and Ferry Street on the west. The site is characterized by a steep sided topographic ridge that is oriented northwest to southeast across the site. The middle of the ridgetop includes a slight topographic depression, with comparatively higher ground to the northwest and southeast of the depression. The northeast and southwest corners of the site are relatively flat.

On-site vegetation is characterized by regularly mown meadows in the northeast and southwest corners; mature Douglas fir forest on the top of the ridge; mixed evergreen and deciduous forest on the south facing slope of the ridge; and oak woodland/oak savanna occupying the topographically lowest portion of the ridge, extending down the north side of the ridge and extending beyond the northern boundary of the site.

Based on the conditions observed on the site, the trust resources identified in the IPaC report and presented in Table 1 would not be expected to occur on the site. None of these species or their primary habitats (old-growth forest, remnant prairie, wet prairie, cold water streams, or riparian forests) were identified during the site investigation or were reported as having been observed by neighbors or others contacted about the site.

While the regularly mown areas on the east and west sides of the site could potentially be enhanced/restored to support dry prairie habitat conditions, based on the presence of only a few prairie species and the predominance of non-native grasses and forbs these areas would not be considered dry prairie habitat. Historic disturbance and regular mowing have effectively removed any native prairie habitat that may have existed on the site in the past. However, based on the observed conditions the potential to reestablish dry prairie habitat on this site does exist.



Wildlife-Habitat Types

Several classification systems for describing habitats and vegetation types exist, and for this project DOWL employed the classification system described in Oregon and Washington Wildlife Species and Their Habitats (O'Neil and Johnson 2001). The O'Neil and Johnson system used a cluster analysis procedure that considered 541 native breeding species and 119 Pacific Northwest vegetation, land use, and marine groupings to identify 32 wildlife-habitat types.

DOWL identified the following three wildlife-habitat types recognized under the O'Neil and Johnson classification system on the East 40th Avenue site:

- **Westside grassland** occupying the northeast and southwest corners of the site
- **Westside lowland conifer-deciduous forest** on the top of the ridge, and on the south facing slope of the ridge; and
- **Westside oak and Douglas-fir forest** occupies the lowest portion of the ridge and extends down the north side of the ridge and continues beyond the north edge of the site.

Within the three wildlife-habitat types DOWL identified the following four distinct plant communities (Figure 4, Plant Community Map).

1. Douglas Fir Forest

This plant community is located on the top of the ridge that dominates the site and is characterized by a mostly closed single-layer tree canopy. This plant community supports relatively few native shrubs and little understory herbaceous vegetation. The overstory is dominated by large even-aged Douglas fir, with a few smaller Douglas firs, occasional big-leaf maple, Himalayan blackberry, trailing blackberry, occasional snowberry, Oregon grape, ornamental cherry, and English ivy in the understory. The eastern third of this plant community is composed almost completely of large Douglas firs. The central and western portions of this area support a somewhat more mixed assemblage of trees including big-leaf maple, and California black oak.

On the western slope of the ridge a more-recently disturbed area is characterized by small trees including Douglas fir saplings, ornamental cherry, Oregon ash, cultivated pear saplings, English ivy, and Himalayan blackberry.

The conifer-dominated plant community is expanding to the north and northwest into the oak-dominated plant community.

PHOTO 2: INTERIOR OF DOUGLAS FIR FOREST



PHOTO 3: ENGLISH IVY



PHOTO 4: DOUGLAS FIR FOREST CANOPY



While it does contain large trees, the Douglas fir forest present on the E. 40th Avenue site is not considered to be old-growth or late successional forest. Old-growth and late successional are interchangeable terms used to describe forests that have existed for many years, usually 200 years at least, and that have over time developed a complex structure. Late successional or old growth forests typically include very large diameter living trees, some with broken tops; living trees with large bark pockets and obvious signs of decay, and a high percentage of standing dead trees (snags) with large cavities or that are mostly hollow. These forests often include a sub canopy that includes smaller shade-tolerant trees, and a well-developed herbaceous understory. According to the Oregon Conservation Strategy, late successional mixed conifer forests are defined by plant species composition, overstory tree age and size, and the forest structure. They include characteristics such as a multi-layered tree canopy, shade-tolerant tree species growing in the understory, large-diameter trees, and a high volume of dead wood, such as snags and logs. Late Successional Conifer Forests are older forests (hundreds of years old), generally occurring below 3,500 feet, but sometimes occurring up to 4,000 feet. Western hemlock is almost always co-dominant and usually dominates the understory. The understory typically supports shrub and forb species, such as vine maple, salal, sword fern, Cascade Oregon grape, western rhododendron, huckleberries, twinflower, vanilla leaf, and oxalis. In the absence of disturbance, Douglas-fir forests eventually will convert to western hemlock .

The conifer forest on the East 40th Avenue site contains some large Douglas fir trees but does not contain very large diameter trees, or more than just a few trees with broken tops, or any large trees with obvious signs of decay. The relatively low percentage of standing dead trees, the lack of an understory layer of smaller shade -tolerant trees, and the very minimal herbaceous understory are features that do not support characterizing the site as late successional/old-growth forest.

2. Mixed Deciduous Coniferous Dry Forest

The mixed deciduous coniferous dry forest occupies the southern edge of the ridgetop and extends down the southern slope of the ridge. This plant community is characterized by a relatively closed, multi-layered tree canopy. The overstory is dominated by Pacific madrone, big-leaf maple, Oregon white oak, California black oak, and ponderosa pine of varying heights; the understory includes Oregon ash seedlings, smaller Pacific madrones, small cherry trees, snowberry, honeysuckle,

PHOTO 5: INTERIOR OF MIXED FOREST



PHOTO 6: SOUTHERN EDGE OF MIXED FOREST (NOTE PONDEROSA PINE)



PHOTO 7: LARGE OREGON WHITE OAK IN OAK WOODLAND



PHOTO 8: OAK WOODLAND



and Oregon grape. The outer southern edges of this plant community also support Oregon white oaks. The presence of ponderosa pine in this forest is somewhat notable as this native pine is becoming less common in the Willamette Valley and is recognized by ecologists as a species that should be promoted and managed for when possible.

3. Oak Woodland

The central portion of the ridgetop and the northern slope of the ridge extending to the northwest corner of the site support an oak-dominated plant community. The oak dominated habitat ranges from oak woodland characterized by mature, relatively widely-spaced Oregon white oaks and a sparse shrub understory and grasses beneath; to oak woodland dominated by somewhat more-closely spaced Oregon white oaks and California black oaks with a more dense shrub understory, to a few areas of very widely-spaced oaks with a grass-dominated understory. The areas of very widely spaced oaks could be classified as oak savanna or as a continuation of the oak woodland; however, both oak woodland and oak savanna are recognized as threatened Willamette Valley habitats prioritized for protection and restoration.

The edges of the oak dominated plant communities adjacent to the Douglas fir forest are being overtopped and outcompeted by rapidly encroaching Douglas fir trees. In addition, the understory of the oak habitat contains poison oak and English ivy, both of which are threats to the survival of the native species.

4. Meadow

The northeast and southwest corners of the site support a regularly mown meadow. The meadows are characterized by grasses and weedy forbs including fescue, bluegrass, dandelion, and Queen Anne's lace. Local naturalists report that these areas support three native bunchgrass species that are considered cornerstone species of native Willamette Valley upland prairies, as well as wildflowers including camas, western buttercup, and fawn lily. While these native plant species do not dominate the meadows, their presence suggests these area could be managed in such a way as to reestablish a native prairie habitat that could support additional native plants as well as insects including butterflies and other native pollinator species.

PHOTO 9: OAK SAVANNA



PHOTO 10: SOUTHWEST MEADOW



PHOTO 11: NORTHEAST MEADOW



Table 2. Wildlife-Habitat Types Identified on East 40th Avenue Site

Wildlife-Habitat Type (O'Neil and Johnson 2001)	Location	Plant Community Name	Structure	Current Habitat Condition
		Dominant Species		
Westside Grassland	Northeast and southwest corners of site	Meadow	Closed (>70% cover) single-layer canopy	Low. Mostly non-native species, regularly disturbed (mowing)
		Fescue, bluegrass, dandelion, Queen-Anne's lace		
Westside Lowland Conifer-Deciduous Forest	Ridgetop	Mature Douglas fir forest	Closed canopy (>70% cover); single-layer tree canopy; large mostly even-aged trees with high canopy, few lower branches, and furrowed bark.	Moderate. Little shrub or herbaceous understory; few snags; little downed wood; low understory plant species diversity; little disturbance
		Douglas fir, salal, low Oregon grape, sword fern		
Westside Lowland Conifer-Deciduous Forest	South facing slope of the ridge	Mixed coniferous deciduous forest	Closed canopy (>70% canopy closure); multi-layer canopy (trees, shrubs, herbs)	Moderate. little disturbance;
		Big-leaf maple, Pacific madrone, Oregon white oak, California black oak; Ponderosa pine; snowberry, western hazel		
Westside Oak and Douglas-Fir Forest	At lowest elevation on the ridgetop, extending down north side of ridge, continuing off-site to the north	Oak woodland	Open (<70% closure) canopy;	Moderate to High; relatively few invasive species; healthy oaks but conifers are advancing and shading the oaks
		Oregon white oak, California black oak, cherry		

Observed Wildlife

DOWL observed the following wildlife species during the October 2020 site investigation: white-breasted nuthatch, red breasted sapsucker, northern flicker, scrub jay, pileated woodpecker, hairy or downy woodpecker, Steller’s jay, American crow, black-capped chickadee, ruby-crowned kinglet, western gray squirrel, and black-tailed deer. The white-breasted nuthatch and western gray squirrel are recognized by the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife as Sensitive species and are identified in the Oregon Conservation Strategy as a high priority for conservation and recovery efforts in the Willamette Valley ecoregion. Both the white-breasted nuthatch and the western gray squirrel are oak woodland-dependent species.

Table 3. Wildlife Observed on East 40th Avenue Site

Wildlife Species	State Status	Typical Habitat	Oregon Conservation Strategy Status
White-Breasted Nuthatch	Sensitive	Occupies oak forests and woodlands	High priority for conservation & recovery efforts in the Willamette Valley ecoregion
Northern Flicker	N/A	Occupies open forests and forest edges adjacent to open country, typically avoid dense forests. It is a common resident throughout Oregon.	N/A
Red Breasted Sapsucker	N/A	Occupies moist coniferous coastal forest and mixed deciduous-coniferous coastal forest west of the Cascade crest. Nest cavities are typically in large snags or live trees with decayed interiors. It is a fairly common breeder in the northern part of the state from the coast to the Cascades and south to the southern Cascades	N/A
Scrub Jay	N/A	Occupies deciduous, scrubby, open or semi-open terrain with thick brush, neighborhoods, gardens, farms, often near oaks.	N/A
Pileated Woodpecker	N/A	Prefers mature forests and younger forests with large snags and logs, requiring large diameter snags for nesting and foraging.	N/A
Hairy or Downy Woodpecker	N/A	Found mostly at low to moderate elevations in deciduous and mixed deciduous-coniferous forests throughout much of the state, and less often in coniferous forests.	N/A
Steller’s Jay	N/A	A common resident in mesic and dry conifer and mixed conifer-hardwood forests from valley floors to near timberline. Nests in trees or shrubs and often places the nest near the trunk and within 10-16 feet from the ground.	N/A

Wildlife Species	State Status	Typical Habitat	Oregon Conservation Strategy Status
American Crow	N/A	Very common resident west of the Cascades in interior valleys, urban areas, and along the coast and is a fairly common resident throughout the Coast Range lowlands and in the west cascade foothills.	N/A
Black-Capped Chickadee	N/A	Resides at low to moderate elevations in western Oregon from the Willamette Valley and coastal counties to Douglas County, in mixed and deciduous woods; willow thickets, groves, shade trees.	N/A
Ruby Crowned Kinglet	N/A	Breeds in high elevation forests, primarily east of the Cascade crest, where it is common in summer, and in the Blue, Willowa, and locally in the Warner mountains. It is frequently found late in spring in areas where they do not breed and is found throughout Oregon in winter.	N/A
Western Gray Squirrel	Sensitive	Occupies forests where there are maples, tanoak, madrone, Douglas-fir, white fir, and pines. They prefer older oak trees with large limbs and continuous canopy cover to facilitate movement.	High priority for conservation & recovery efforts in the Willamette Valley ecoregion
Black-Tailed Deer	N/A	Typically found in brushy areas at the edges of forests and chaparral thickets, not in dense forests; recently disturbed habitats such as clear cuts or burns, with their characteristic grasses, forbs, and shrubs.	N/A

Regional Significance of On-Site Wildlife-Habitat Types

As described above, the East 40th Avenue site supports Douglas fir forest, mixed deciduous coniferous forest, oak woodland, and meadow. The Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife’s Oregon Conservation Strategy (OCS), a blueprint for conservation in Oregon, identifies oak woodland as a Strategy Habitat that is important for the continued existence of some of Oregon’s species of greatest conservation need.

The OCS also identifies Late Successional Coniferous Forest as a strategy Habitat but based on the age of the trees (most likely less than 150 years old), the single or at most two canopy layers, and the relative lack of snags and the lack of very large diameter trees, the on-site Douglas fir forest would not be considered a late successional coniferous forest recognized by the OCS.

The goals of the OCS are to maintain healthy fish and wildlife populations by maintaining and restoring functioning habitats, preventing declines of at-risk species, and reversing declines in these resources where possible. The OCS identifies 11 Strategy Habitats, including Oak woodlands, that provide important benefits to Strategy Species, which are defined as having small or declining populations, are at-risk, and/or are of management concern. The OCS lists oak and grassland dependent species as high priority for conservation and recovery efforts in the Willamette Valley ecoregion.

According to the OCS, oak woodlands have been impacted by conversion to other land uses, invasive species, and vegetation changes due to fire suppression. As a result of conifer plantings and changes in fire frequency and intensity after European settlement, Douglas-fir now dominates in many areas of the Willamette Valley foothills. Oak habitats are being converted to agriculture, residential, and other uses in the Willamette Valley, the Coast Range foothills, and the coastal hills in southern Oregon.

Because much of the remaining oak woodlands are in private ownership and maintenance of these habitats requires active management, cooperative incentive-based approaches are crucial to conservation. Loss of oaks, particularly large-diameter, open-structured trees valuable to wildlife, is of particular concern because oak trees have a slow growth rate, slowing restoration success. In addition, reproduction and recruitment of younger trees are poor in many areas.

In addition to OCS the Willamette Valley Oak and Prairie Cooperative which includes representatives from organizations including ODFW, the City of Eugene, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service recognizes the importance and relative rarity of oak woodlands and has developed a strategy for protecting and restoring these habitats in the Willamette Valley.

Species and Habitats of Special Concern & Applicable Environmental Regulations

USFWS IPaC did not identify federally listed threatened or endangered species that would be expected to occupy the site; and no species or habitat for federally or state listed threatened or endangered species were observed.

The site does support nesting habitat for birds protected under the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), administered by the United States Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS). Under the MBTA it is illegal to pursue, possess, injure or kill migratory birds. Most wild birds, with the exception of European starlings, house sparrows, and rock doves, that will be encountered in Oregon are protected under the MBTA. In western Oregon, vegetation clearing in areas that could support nesting birds covered under the MBTA is typically prohibited between March 1 and July 31 to avoid destroying active bird nests and harming nesting migratory birds. EWEB is committed to timing tree removal and other activity that could disturb nesting migratory birds, to avoid nesting season.

On-site Habitat Functions and Values

Brief descriptions of the habitat value provided by each plant community are presented below. Possible habitat enhancement or restoration approaches for each plant community are listed in Table 4. Once the locations for the new water storage tanks are determined, more detailed approaches to restoring and enhancing the remaining habitats can be developed.

Mature Coniferous Forest

Due to the single overstory canopy layer, relatively closed canopy and relatively low diversity of understory species, the mature Douglas-fir forest provides moderate habitat value.

Mixed Deciduous Dry Forest on South-facing Slope

Due to the multiple canopy layers present and the diversity of species including broadleaved evergreen, broad-leaved deciduous, and evergreen conifer trees. Species include including California black oak and Ponderosa pine, and several native understory shrub species, the mixed deciduous forest on the south facing slope provides moderate to high habitat value.

Oak Woodland

Due to the relatively wide spacing of the trees, and the open and relatively weed-free understory, the oak woodland on the northwest side of the property provides moderate to high habitat value. This area also offers good opportunities for habitat restoration/enhancement due to its relatively healthy condition.

Meadow

Due to the predominance of non-native herbs and grasses and regular mowing, the meadow community provides relatively low habitat value. However, due to the presence of well-drained soils and some native dry prairie species, this area offers opportunities for prairie establishment/enhancement.

Table 4. Possible Restoration/Enhancement Approaches

Wildlife-Habitat Type (O'Neil and Johnson 2001)	Possible Restoration/Enhancement Approaches	Resulting Habitat Condition
		New Habitat Features
Westside lowland conifer-deciduous forest (Mature Douglas-fir forest)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create canopy openings. • Thin to protect oak woodland from shading and to reduce fire risk. • Plant shade intolerant trees, shrubs and herbs in the new openings. • Create snags. • Leave downed wood. • Control invasive species. 	Moderate to High
		<p>Additional canopy strata: understory trees, shrubs, herbs.</p> <p>Increased species diversity (shade-intolerant trees, shrubs, herbs).</p> <p>New structural habitat.</p> <p>New ground-level habitat for amphibians, insects, fungi.</p>
Westside lowland conifer-deciduous forest (Mixed coniferous deciduous forest)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create canopy openings. • Plant shade intolerant trees shrubs and herbs in the new openings. Protect Ponderosa pine and California black oak; manage habitat to promote these species. • Control invasive species. 	High
		<p>Increased species diversity. Preservation and maintenance of relatively uncommon Willamette Valley habitat containing ponderosa pine and California black oak.</p> <p>Diversified structural habitat.</p> <p>New ground-level habitat for amphibians, insects, fungi.</p>
Westside oak and Douglas-fir forest (Oak woodland)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Control invasive species. • Maintain open understory—continue mowing. • Remove encroaching Douglas firs and other woody invaders. 	High
		<p>Relatively healthy oak woodland community is maintained.</p>
Westside grassland (Meadow)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant oaks and native understory shrubs. • Plant native upland prairie species. • Limit mowing. 	Moderate to High.
		<p>New oak savannah habitat (relatively uncommon plant community) established.</p> <p>Increased species diversity.</p> <p>New structural habitat .</p> <p>New upland prairie habitat established.</p> <p>Increased pollinator habitat.</p>

SUMMARY/CONCLUSIONS

Several habitats exist on the site; unlike many undeveloped urban sites, the site is dominated mostly by native plants. No threatened or endangered species are known to occupy the site however the white-breasted nuthatch and the western gray squirrel which are both recognized as Sensitive by ODFW were observed on site in October 2020, and the site provides nesting habitat for birds protected under the Migratory Bird Protection Act.

Despite the large size of some of the individual trees in the Douglas fir forest on top of ridge in the middle of the site, this forested community does not provide particularly high habitat value when compared with the adjacent on-site oak woodland. Oak woodlands were once common in the Willamette Valley but are now relatively rare, and have been identified by state and local resource protection agencies as priority habitats for protection and restoration. Each habitat identified on the site could benefit from enhancement or restoration efforts.

NEXT STEPS

Once the location of the water storage tanks is confirmed, DOWL will identify and quantify the potential impacts to onsite natural resources and work with EWEB to identify impact avoidance, minimization, and mitigation/restoration opportunities.

Potential mitigation/restoration strategies could include

- Enhancing the oak habitat by removing ivy and poison oak and removing conifers that are currently shading the edges of the oak woodland
- Creating openings in the remaining Douglas forest canopy to create conditions that would favor additional light-tolerant plant species to establish
- Repurposing felled trees as installed snags to provide additional structural habitat in the currently snag-deficient forest
- Enhancing the meadow area to provide pollinator habitat, and potentially recreate an oak savanna habitat.

REFERENCES

Johnson, David H, and T. O'Neil. 2001. *Wildlife-Habitat Relationships in Oregon and Washington*.

Oregon Department of Agriculture. 2020. *Threatened and Endangered Plant Species List*.

Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife. 2016. *Oregon Conservation Strategy*.

US Fish & Wildlife Service. 2020. *Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC)*.

Willamette Valley Oak and Prairie Cooperative. 2020. *Willamette Valley Oak and Prairie Cooperative Strategic Action Plan*.



APPENDIX A - ARBORIST REPORT



Aug 26, 2019
UPDATE: Sep 09, 2020

City of Eugene
Eugene, Oregon

RE: EWEB 40th Ave, Arborist Report

Introduction:

This report was prepared for a future development of an EWEB owned parcel of land, Map 18031720, Tax Lot 01000. The property is located in the Southeast neighborhood of Eugene. It is nestled within and surrounded by a residential neighborhood. The site can be best accessed at the end of Patterson Street, off of 40th Ave.

Tree Felling Criteria for this project are presented below. Tree diameters in the reports are the diameter at 4.5 feet above grade (DBH) and for trees larger than 6-inches in DBH within private property and 2-inch in DBH within the public right of way. Tree diameters for multi-stemmed trees are the sum of the 3 largest stems at 4.5 feet above grade. Limbs counted are identified before the DBH measurement in parentheses. For example, a double stemmed tree that has a total DBH of 10-inches would be noted as (2) 10". A triple stemmed 10" DBH tree would be noted as (3) 10". Please see the Tree Inventory Plan, Diagram A, for the Tree's corresponding identification number and Tables A-F (UPDATE) with additional notes pertaining to each individual tree. Tree species, diameter size, and health/condition are identified in those attached tables.

The study for this report evaluated the health of trees within the private property.

Observations:

A variety of trees are present on site. Most of the trees are either natives or naturalized species. Tree species on the site include the following trees: Western Service Berry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*), Pacific Madrone (*Arbutus menziesii*), Single Seed Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Oregon Ash (*Fraxinus latifolia*), Ponderosa Pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), Cherry (*Prunus sp.*), Douglas Fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), Pear (*Pyrus sp.*), Oregon White Oak (*Quercus garryana*), and California Black Oak (*Quercus kelloggii*).

UPDATE: Species also include Bigleaf Maple (*Acer macrophyllum*).

The site is currently an undeveloped natural area comprised of woodlands along the ridgeline and meadows on the northeast and southwest corners of the property. It appears some maintenance and care has been given to the site. Few noxious species were seen. Evidence suggests that occasional mowing occurs which helps keep the noxious species that were seen at bay. Walkers frequent the pedestrian trails winding along the ridgeline in the middle of the woodland. There are two distinct woodlands on the site: a Douglas fir woodland and an Oak woodland. Overlap of the two occurs. Both types of forests are very indicative of this area in the Pacific Northwest and this site has both. Prior to European settlement, the Oak woodland was the predominant type of woodland in the Willamette Valley. Since then, without the historic burning of the Willamette Valley, a natural succession to Douglas Fir woodlands has prevailed.



Douglas Fir Woodland



Oak Woodland

The Douglas fir woodland is a healthy mix of young trees and old trees, dead trees, and openings. While predominately Douglas fir, a few different species were also seen. There are several areas in the forest where trees are thick and compete for light, nutrients, soil, and water. Very thin canopies with vegetation only at the tops are the result of this. Thinning of the forest in several locations would benefit some of the younger trees and could help to create a stronger forest. Trees to consider thinning would be those with damaged tops, those with multiple tops, those that are competing heavily with their neighbors for space/sunlight, those with disease or pest, those physically resting on others, and those with any sort of health defect that renders them of less value than another.



Co-dominant leaders



Open understory: bramble



Canopies: some opening & some overcrowding

UPDATE: The relatively open understory of the Douglas fir woodland is teeming with *Toxicodendron diversilobum* (Poison Oak), *Hedera helix* (English Ivy) and blackberry species, in addition to the usual innocuous natives. In addition to Poison Oak and English Ivy, Wisteria and Honeysuckle vines were also noted as climbing several of the trees. English Ivy in particular causes bark damage when allowed to climb unchecked, and removal is difficult without causing more harm to the tree. There were several cases of extreme ivy infestation. This noxious species should be brought under control to avoid spread and damage to the woodland over time.

The Oak woodland has some open canopy spaces with the help of maintenance and storm damage. Without maintenance, the Douglas fir woodland could and would take over. Some thinning has occurred either by restoration efforts or due to storm damage. Opening up the canopy and allowing for more horizontal growth can benefit an Oak woodland. Most of the dieback on the Oaks is due to the Douglas firs outcompeting the Oaks for available sunlight, nutrients, and space. To help strengthen the Oak woodland, it is recommended to remove the Douglas firs that are outcompeting the oaks, meaning, any Douglas Fir that is within 10 ft of an Oak’s canopy, should be removed if it is deemed a priority to keep the Oaks. The understory under the Oaks has been maintained as well, more so than within the Douglas fir forest.



Oak woodland with grass understory

The majority of the oaks had skeletonized leaves which is indicative of pests. As the trees are more mature, the trees did not seem to be significantly affected by the pest damage. In addition, the majority of the Oaks had galls caused by oak apple gall wasps. Galls usually occur on leaves and stems, but also may occur on flowers, fruits, twigs, branches, trunks, and roots. Gall-making insects are generally not considered pests as they do not damage the oak tree host but may cause earlier defoliation. Although there are some insecticides registered for use against gall-making insects, their use is generally unwarranted, and not recommended here. Furthermore, pesticides may kill beneficial insects that help control gall-making insects and could damage the health of the woodland’s ecosystem.



Oakleaf Galls



Insects



Skeletonized leaves

The understory is thin, with a mix of native understory and noxious species, comprised of *Rubus ursinus*, the native blackberry and *Rubus armeniacus*, Himalayan blackberry. In addition and much to my dismay, a healthy amount of *Toxicodendron diversilobum*, Poison Oak is scattered around. Mowing has helped keep the understory controlled, but there are still areas of thick poison oak which made it difficult to take some tree measurements. Honeysuckle vines were also seen climbing on at least a dozen of the Oaks. Noxious species with the ability to do tree damage include *Hedera helix*, English Ivy. For a forest of this size, little ivy was seen but it's location was tracked and can be seen more precisely within the individual tree data tables. Without proper maintenance, English Ivy has the ability to take over and can damage the full woodland of trees. Currently, it has a scattered existence throughout the woodland.



Possible Nest in Oak



Inosculation



English Ivy beginning to climb



Poison Oak vines climbing trunk



English Ivy climbing trunk



Fir outcompeting Oaks

With a couple of exceptions, the trees themselves are only in decent health. It's typical of these trees to have uneven, high arching, narrow, and thin canopies. This type of canopy forms as such in response to the sunlight condition available for growth. With limited space, trees can only get so wide. On the contrary to only decent individual tree health, the health of the woodland is good. Together, the trees form a very large mature canopy. Deadwood on the trees is what would be typical for a forest as opposed to the safety and maintenance requirements of an urban environment. Dead snags are throughout which provide good habitat.

The trees at the edge of the woodland are quite possibly the most important. They provide support and protection to the interior stand of trees. They provide wind cover for the tall, spindly, less structurally sound trees that could bend or blow over in storms. If a portion of the site is cut for development, the new edge of the woodland would be subject to failures of individual trees as they are not adapted to be perimeter trees. Significant limbs could fail as their existing windbreak would be missing. As with many things biological, the impacts could be immediate or delayed for years. Frequently, tree decline due to construction is on a delayed time table. As with all trees, adequate health and safety monitoring of the trees is the only way to reduce risk. To mitigate the impacts of the inner woodland becoming a perimeter tree, it is recommended to plant new trees along the perimeter.

Natural Areas:

This site is a natural area surrounded by a neighborhood that is home to many bird species. Many bird nests and woodpecker homes were seen.

Erosion considerations:

This site is on slopes greater than 10 percent along the south side of the ridgeline. Development is being considered with this in mind. Soils should be evaluated to determine if soils are more prone to erosion. Tree removal in these areas could have implications on surface runoff. Erosion control measures will be required to prevent erosion. The design team, the Contractor, and the City will need to work together to ensure proper erosion control measures are put into place immediately following the removal of any of the trees along these slopes.

Recommendations:

Care shall be taken during construction around existing trees to remain. The location of significant roots can be determined during the planning phase and creative designs can be implemented to accommodate the expansion of these major roots. The goal to reduce impacts to the soil and root system can be achieved through various methods. Fencing will reduce impacts to the soil and root systems during construction. Excavation options to reduce root damage to the trees being preserved include hydraulic or air spading, horizontal boring, and hand digging for soil removal without cutting or damaging roots of 1-1/2-inches or larger. Horizontal boring at a depth of at least 24-inches is optimal. A thick layer of mulch should be applied to the zone of protection to feed the tree and keep moisture levels intact during the construction period.

Cut and Fill in and around existing tree roots can affect the overall health of the tree. While cut is most intrusive, as it directly eliminates an energy (food and water) source, fill can also impact feeder roots in trees. Trees are better equipped to adapt to fill than cut. If fill is required, it is recommended to keep fill materials at least 10-ft from the base of the tree and to infill either by hand or with use of heavy equipment where only the bucket enters the protected area, and the weight of the machinery stays

outside the tree protection area to avoid soil compaction. No more than 30% of the tree's root zone should be impacted with cut or fill for optimal health of the tree.

Tree protection measures and construction access accommodations shall be fine-tuned after the site design has been refined. Coordination between the arborist, planners/designers, and the contractor is critical to protecting the trees to remain to the greatest extent practicable. Respect for the designated protection zone is critical to ensure the long-term health of the tree. All too often I'll see the designated protection zone impacted for 'just a day' or 'just one time'. Impact using heavy equipment can severely impact the soils and can be all it takes to kill the tree 5 to 10 years down the road.

Living limbs shall be pruned for construction late in the dormant season or very early in spring before leaves form. Growth is maximized during these seasonal times and wounds will have the ability to close at a faster rate, meaning there will be less available time for pathogens to get established which cause more harm to the tree. Flowering trees should be pruned after blooming. Routine maintenance pruning of dead or dying branches can be done at any time.

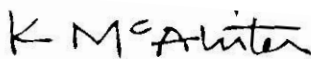
Tree removal is recommended if more than 30% of their critical root zones will be impacted to accommodate construction. The design team will identify trees to be removed.

To mitigate tree removal, the landscape plan should replace trees per jurisdictional requirement to restore the urban forest. Strategic planting of new trees could help windproof the remaining stand of trees.

Assumptions and Limiting Conditions:

- The data given in this report reflects an opinion of the conditions present on-site at the time of inspection. The inspection was limited to visual examination only without excavation, probing, or coring. There is no warranty or guarantee, expressed or implied, that problems or deficiencies of the trees on the property may not arise in the future.
- Care has been taken to obtain all information from reliable sources. The consultant can neither guarantee nor be responsible for the accuracy and completeness of the information provided by others.
- Consultant shall not be required to give testimony or to attend court by reason of any report unless subsequent contractual arrangements are made, including payment of additional fees.
- Missing pages or alteration of any report invalidates entire report.
- Possession of a report does not imply a right of publication without the written consent of the consultant.
- Neither all nor any part of the contents of this report, nor a copy thereof, shall be conveyed to the public through advertising, public relations, news, sales or other media, or for a larger database without the expressed written consent of the consultant.

Regards,

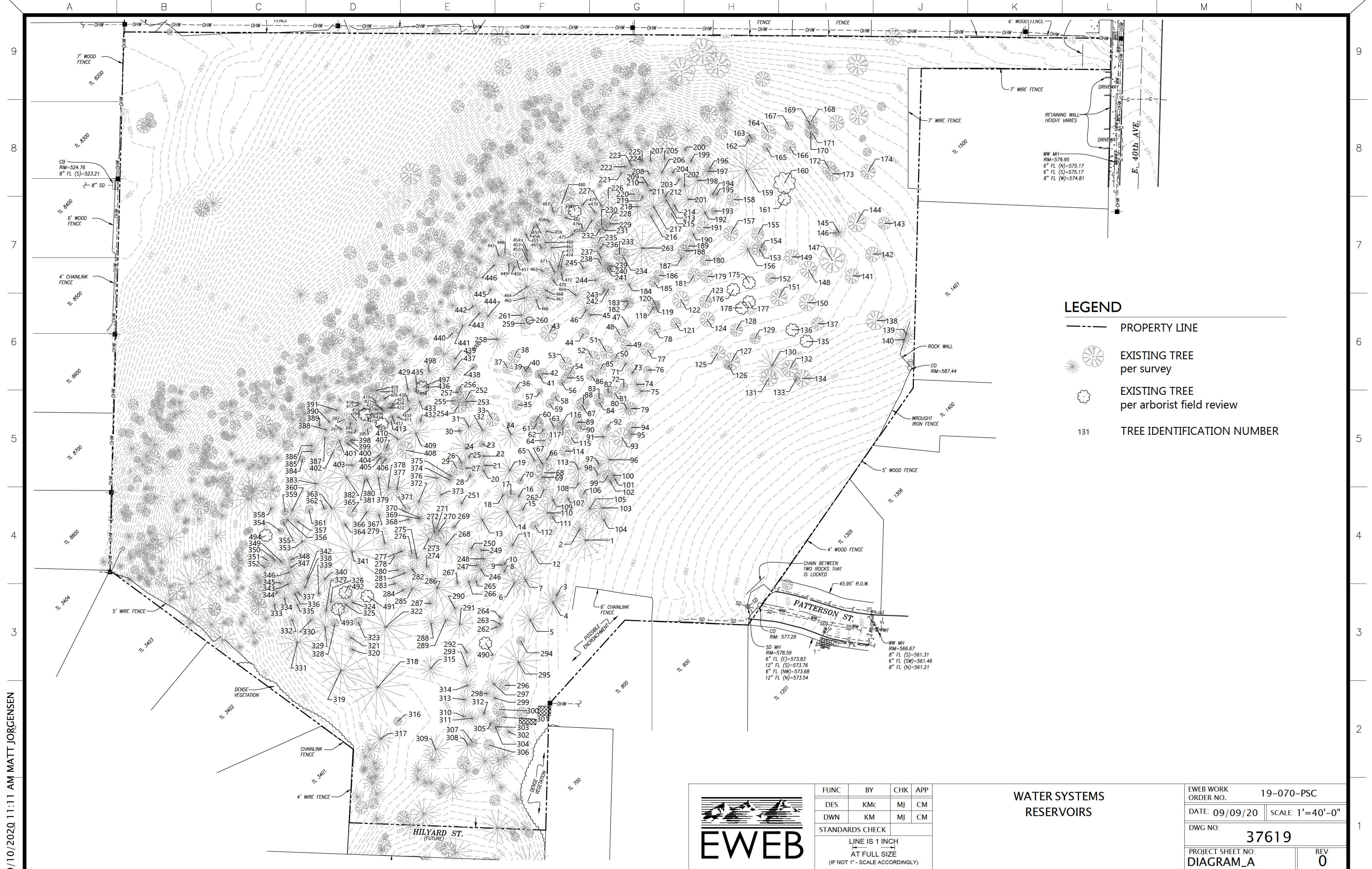


Kristena McAlister
ISA Certified Arborist, PN 7734A

UPDATE:



Matthew Jorgensen
ISA Certified Arborist, PN-8810A



LEGEND

- PROPERTY LINE
- EXISTING TREE per survey
- EXISTING TREE per arborist field review
- 131 TREE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER

9/10/2020 11:11 AM MATT JORGENSEN

	FUNC	BY	CHK	APP
	DES	KMc	MJ	CM
	DWN	KM	MJ	CM
STANDARDS CHECK				
LINE IS 1 INCH AT FULL SIZE (IF NOT 1" - SCALE ACCORDINGLY)				

WATER SYSTEMS RESERVOIRS

EWEB WORK ORDER NO.	19-070-PSC
DATE: 09/09/20	SCALE: 1"=40'-0"
DWG NO:	37619
PROJECT SHEET NO:	REV 0
DIAGRAM_A	

9/10/2020 11:20 AM MATT JORGENSEN

Plan ID	Genus & Species	Common Name	DBH (in)	CANOPY (ft)	Health/Condition*	Arborist Notes	Ivy on trunk	Thin/sparse canopy	Co-dominant Leader	Surface Roots	% Deadwood	Suckers
179	Quercus garryana	Oregon White Oak	14	35	3	upright form, competing for sunlight, galls, skeletonized leaves					10%	
180	Quercus garryana	Oregon White Oak	11	15	1	upright form, fungal decay, no limbs left on trunk, tree in decline					10%	
181	Quercus garryana	Oregon White Oak	14	32	3	galls, skeletonized leaves, high canopy with bark damage with exposed wood					5%	
182	Quercus garryana	Oregon White Oak	(2) 18	25	1	tree in decline, 2 snags present, exfoliating bark, tree is outcompeted by Douglas Fir					50%	
183	Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas Fir	18	35	2	Poison oak around base of tree & vining up trunk, thin foliage, bleeding sap at injury with exposed wood					25%	
184	Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas Fir	26	40	2	poison oak cines on trunk, high canopy, conk 10-ft up trunk on the uphill side of tree					10%	
185	Quercus garryana	Oregon White Oak	12	20	2	galls, skeletonized leaves, flimsy, bark damage with exposed wood, decay on deadwood, uneven canopy, growing as one canopy with Tree 186					5%	
186	Quercus garryana	Oregon White Oak	13	20	2	galls, skeletonized leaves, uneven canopy, bark damage with exposed wood, growing as one canopy with Tree 185					10%	
187	Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas Fir	26	40	3	adventitious shoots off trunk					15%	
188	Quercus garryana	Oregon White Oak	(2) 20	N/A	0	snag remains, no foliage present					100%	
189	Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas Fir	18	40	2	poison oak vines up trunk of tree, bleeding sap at bark injury without exposed wood, dead branches hanging,					10%	
190	Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas Fir	17	40	2	high canopy with dead limbs down low, blackberry understory					10%	
191	Quercus kelloggii	California Black Oak	16	40	2	deadwood with decay and fungus, twisting form, poison oak bines at base					30%	
192	Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas Fir	26	35	2	thick ivy 30-ft up tree trunk, bleeding sap, bark damage	✓				10%	
193	Prunus avium	Mazzard Cherry	8	30	2	poor form, woodpecker activity	✓				10%	
194	Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas Fir	8	15	1	significant lean uphill on neighboring Douglas fir, dead top, poor structural integrity					15%	
195	Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas Fir	10	15	2	uneven, one-sided canopy, shelf fungus at base to 20-ft in height, honeysuckle vines				✓	10%	
196	Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas Fir	24	30	3	uneven, one sided canopy growing together as one canopy with tree 197					5%	
197	Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas Fir	18	30	3	uneven, one sided canopy growing together as one canopy with tree 196					10%	
198	Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas Fir	36	45	2	prolific conk growth on trunk of tree, bark damage from leaning tree 194, poison oak vines					15%	
199	Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas Fir	14	25	2	uneven canopy, adventitious shoots off trunk, n central leader					10%	
200	Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas Fir	10	40	2	even canopy with sparse thin foliage, poison oak climbing					15%	
201	Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas Fir	18	35	2	poison oak vines on trunk, thin canopy	✓				20%	
202	Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas Fir	12	25	2	poison oak vines, thin, high canopy, uneven sparse canopy		✓			5%	
203	Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas Fir	9	25	2	thin, uneven canopy, poison oak vines climbing		✓			5%	
204	Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas Fir	10	25	1	conks on trunk, uneven thing canopy, poison oak vines		✓			15%	
205	Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas Fir	18	30	2	poison oak climbing, conks, broken central leader with new growth, adventitious shoots off trunk, possible nest		✓			15%	
206	Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas Fir	28	35	2	honey suckle and poison oak vines on trunk, small cavity at base of tree		✓			15%	
207	Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas Fir	20	35	2	uneven canopy, broken central leader		✓			15%	
208	Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas Fir	18	30	2	honey suckle and poison oak on trunk, uneven canopy, adventitious shoots off trunk		✓			10%	
209	Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas Fir	20	30	2	honey suckle and poison oak on trunk, uneven canopy, adventitious shoots off trunk		✓			10%	
210	Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas Fir	14	25	2	uneven canopy, thin at top, blackberries and poison oak understory		✓			20%	
211	Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas Fir	16	25	2	poison oak on trunk, sparse foliage		✓			10%	
212	Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas Fir	16	25	2	conks, poison oak climbing, uneven thin canopy		✓			15%	
213	Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas Fir	16	30	2	adventitious shoots off trunk, bark damage, poison oak vines					10%	
214	Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas Fir	17	30	2	poison oak vines, decay on trunk, fungus, uneven canopy					10%	
215	Quercus garryana	Oregon White Oak	11	25	2	poor form, uneven canopy, lanky in form, decay, tree is being outcompeted by Douglas firs					15%	
216	Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas Fir	14	30	2	uneven canopy, conks on trunk		✓			10%	
217	Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas Fir	28	50	2	uneven canopy, two top		✓			20%	
218	Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas Fir	26	40	2	curbed trunk, some browning foliage, fungus on trunk, poison oak, uneven					15%	



FUNC	BY	CHK	APP
DES	KMc	MJ	CM
DWN	KM	MJ	CM
STANDARDS CHECK			
LINE IS 1 INCH AT FULL SIZE (IF NOT 1" - SCALE ACCORDINGLY)			

**WATER SYSTEMS
RESERVOIRS**

EWEB WORK ORDER NO.	19-070-PSC	
DATE: 09/09/20	SCALE: 1"=40'-0"	
DWG NO:	37619	
PROJECT SHEET NO:	TABLE_C	REV 0

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Plan ID	Genus & Species	Common Name	DBH (in)	CANOPY (ft)																
468	Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas Fir	18	25	2.0	old broken central leader, crooked trunk	X													15
469	Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas Fir	20	35	2.0	broken limb down low	X													15-20
470	Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas Fir	12	25	1.5	poison oak, one sided	X	X												20
471	Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas Fir	17	25	2.0	poison oak, one sided, crowded		X												15-20
472	Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas Fir	13	25	2.0	poison oak, one sided, crowded		X												20
473	Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas Fir	21	30	2.0	watersprouts, crowded		X												15
474	Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas Fir	11	15	1.5	broken central leader, one sided, watersprouts, crowded		X												15
475	NOT PRESENT																			
476	Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas Fir	20	30	2.0	poison oak		X												30
477	Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas Fir	18	30	2.0	poison oak, watersprouts, one sided														25
478	Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas Fir	16	30	2.0	one sided, high canopy, bark injury high on trunk (falling tree?)														10
479	Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas Fir	21	40	2.0	one sided, big madrone leaning on trunk, conk, decay		X	X											10
480	Quercus kelloggii	California Black Oak	23	50	2.5	competition for light with firs, crowded, leaning						X								5
481	Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas Fir	12	25	1.5	one sided, broken top, watersprouts		X												20
482	Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas Fir	17	35	2.0	high canopy		X												15
483	NOT USED																			
484	NOT USED																			
485	NOT USED																			
486	NOT USED																			
487	NOT USED																			
488	NOT USED																			
489	NOT USED																			
490	Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas Fir	40	40	2.0	blackberry, poison oak, dead central leader, heavy insect presence, gunstocking, insect/wildlife presence on snag, exposed wood, sap dripping dense canopy	X													20
491	Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas Fir	8	20	1.0	poison oak, blackberry, dead leader, one sided	X	X												20
492	Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas Fir	18	15	1.0	poison oak, bark damage, fungal conk, decay, sap dripping, watersprouts, leader dead	X	X												15
493	Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas Fir	9	20	1.0	blackberry, poison oak, dead leader with codominant new leaders	X		X											15
494	Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas Fir	13	25	2.0	broken central leader, old suckers at base, 9" deep cavity		X												20
495	Quercus kelloggii	California Black Oak	17	35	2.0	watersprouts, major lean south, reaching for light, compartmentalized bark damage, damage at base, cavities, blackberry, poison oak		X												15
496	Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas Fir	8	25	1.5	blackberry, poison oak, dead top, one sided			X											25
497	Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas Fir	12	15	2.0	one sided, watersprouts		X												10
498	Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas Fir	17	25	2.0	high canopy		X	X											15
499	Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas Fir	9	20	1.0	multiple bark injuries, bleeding sap, broken central leader, watersprouts, one sided	X													

*Condition		
5 =	excellent	perfect form, little to no deadwood, all limbs have good attachments, no sign of decay
4 =	very good	good form, multi-leader, but with good attachment, 10% or less large deadwood
3 =	good	unbalanced or incomplete crown, tight limb angles, 15-20% larger deadwood
2 =	poor	Evidence of some decay, 20-30% larger deadwood, history of being topped
1 =	very poor	Structurally unsound, extensive decay, dieback, poor form, unbalanced or greatly reduced crown.

9/10/2020 11:24 AM MATT JORGENSEN

	FUNC	BY	CHK	APP	WATER SYSTEMS RESERVOIRS	EWEB WORK ORDER NO. 19-070-PSC	
	DES	KMc	MJ	CM		DATE: 09/09/20	SCALE: 1"=40'-0"
	DWN	KM	MJ	CM		DWG NO: 37619	
	STANDARDS CHECK					PROJECT SHEET NO: TABLE_F	
LINE IS 1 INCH AT FULL SIZE (IF NOT 1" - SCALE ACCORDINGLY)							



APPENDIX B - IPAC REPORT





United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Oregon Fish And Wildlife Office

2600 Southeast 98th Avenue, Suite 100

Portland, OR 97266-1398

Phone: (503) 231-6179 Fax: (503) 231-6195

<https://www.fws.gov/oregonfwo/articles.cfm?id=149489416>

In Reply Refer To:

February 03, 2021

Consultation Code: 01EOFW00-2021-SLI-0206

Event Code: 01EOFW00-2021-E-00407

Project Name: E 40th Ave tank

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the ECOS-IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the ECOS-IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 *et seq.*), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat.

A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a Federal agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at:

<http://www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/pdf/TOC-GLOS.PDF>

Please be aware that bald and golden eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668 *et seq.*), and projects affecting these species may require development of an eagle conservation plan (http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/eagle_guidance.html). Additionally, wind energy projects should follow the wind energy guidelines (<http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/>) for minimizing impacts to migratory birds and bats.

Guidance for minimizing impacts to migratory birds for projects including communications towers (e.g., cellular, digital television, radio, and emergency broadcast) can be found at:

<http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/Hazards/towers/towers.htm>;

<http://www.towerkill.com>; and

[http://](http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/Hazards/towers/comtow.html)

www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/Hazards/towers/comtow.html.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to investigate opportunities for incorporating conservation of threatened and endangered species into project planning processes as a means of complying with the Act. If you have questions regarding your responsibilities under the Act, please contact the Endangered Species Division at the Service's Oregon Fish and Wildlife Office at (503) 231-6179. For information regarding listed marine and anadromous species under the jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries Service, please see their website (http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/habitat/habitat_conservation_in_the_nw/habitat_conservation_in_the_nw.html).

Please include the Consultation Tracking Number in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List
-

Official Species List

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

Oregon Fish And Wildlife Office

2600 Southeast 98th Avenue, Suite 100

Portland, OR 97266-1398

(503) 231-6179

Project Summary

Consultation Code: 01EOFW00-2021-SLI-0206

Event Code: 01EOFW00-2021-E-00407

Project Name: E 40th Ave tank

Project Type: WATER SUPPLY / DELIVERY

Project Description: water tank construction

Project Location:

Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@44.0100168,-123.08344807263985,14z>



Counties: Lane County, Oregon

Endangered Species Act Species

There is a total of 9 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries¹, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

-
1. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

Birds

NAME	STATUS
Marbled Murrelet <i>Brachyramphus marmoratus</i> Population: U.S.A. (CA, OR, WA) There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4467	Threatened
Northern Spotted Owl <i>Strix occidentalis caurina</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1123	Threatened
Yellow-billed Cuckoo <i>Coccyzus americanus</i> Population: Western U.S. DPS There is proposed critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3911	Threatened

Fishes

NAME	STATUS
Bull Trout <i>Salvelinus confluentus</i> Population: U.S.A., conterminous, lower 48 states There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8212	Threatened

Insects

NAME	STATUS
Fender's Blue Butterfly <i>Icaricia icarioides fenderi</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6659	Endangered

Flowering Plants

NAME	STATUS
Bradshaw's Desert-parsley <i>Lomatium bradshawii</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5743	Endangered
Kincaid's Lupine <i>Lupinus sulphureus ssp. kincaidii</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3747	Threatened
Nelson's Checker-mallow <i>Sidalcea nelsoniana</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7340	Threatened
Willamette Daisy <i>Erigeron decumbens</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6270	Endangered

Critical habitats

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.



APPENDIX C - COMMENTS FROM NEIGHBORS AND LOCAL NATURALISTS



Patrick Keller

From: Jeff Krueger [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2020 5:24 PM
To: Laura.Farthing@EWEB.ORG; Lizzie Zemke; Jennifer.Connors@EWEB.ORG
Subject: [EXT] Elliot Hill Vegetation Management

WARNING: External Sender - use caution when clicking links and opening attachments.

Hello all. I am a landscape architect and ecologist and live in south Eugene about a half mile from Elliot Hill. I have often enjoyed visiting this fantastic natural site in the heart of the city. I understand you're determining future management priorities on this property and I wanted to weigh in.

In a professional capacity, I have been working closely with the Willamette Valley Oak and Prairie Cooperative (<https://willamettepartnership.org/wvopc/>) for a number of years, managing the development of a valley-wide Strategic Action Plan to protect and enhance this rapidly declining habitat type. This plan notes the rapid decline and degradation of these once common habitats across the valley and calls for identification and conservation of remnant oak and prairie habitats where they exist (Elliot Hill) and for the management of these properties in a way that preserves and enhances the oak and prairie vegetation over the long-term. In particular, the plan calls for reduced conifer encroachment, which shade and eventually kill the oaks, and for controlling invasive vegetation such as non-native trees (e.g., cherry and hawthorn) and shrubs (e.g., blackberry and Scotch broom).

I would encourage EWEB to support our valley-wide efforts to protect this valuable and rapidly declining habitat type locally, including Elliot Hill, and the at-risk wildlife species it supports (e.g., native pollinators, Western bluebirds, white-breasted nuthatch, etc.).

Thank you for your careful consideration of this issue and for all the EWEB does for our community.

Best, Jeff Krueger ([REDACTED])

Patrick Keller

From: Bart Johnson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, November 27, 2020 7:44 PM
To: Lizzie Zemke
Cc: Laura Farthing
Subject: Re: [EXT] Re: forested site on E. 40th in south Eugene
Attachments: MNRS_Elliott_Tugman[1].jpg; Elliot Hill plant list 2001.xlsx

Lizzie and Laura,

Thanks for the reminder and apologies for not being able to respond sooner.

I went back to my class files, located our plant species list from spring 2001 and formatted for your use (attached). This data was collected from a set of randomly-located 1 m² plots, and thus not intended to be a complete species list. You'll see that the site contains a large proportion of native species, including three native bunchgrasses that are valued as cornerstones of our upland native prairies and Oregon white oak savannas, and uncommon in natural areas inside Eugene city limits. There are also some beautiful prairie and oak-pine savanna wildflowers including camas, western buttercup, fawn lily and native onions. I've done less observations of animals at the site but have seen both Western gray squirrel, one of 20 mammals listed as strategy species in Oregon, and White-breasted (Slender-billed) Nuthatch, one of 58 birds listed as Oregon strategy species, both of which depend on Oregon white oak habitats. Both are officially listed as sensitive species in Oregon.

I've been conducting class projects at Elliot (EWEB) Hill for nearly 25 years now. The main reason is that it is a key remnant of our Willamette Valley oak savanna, which has been identified as one of the most important strategy habitats for conservation in the State of Oregon (<https://www.oregonconservationstrategy.org/>). Our savanna and prairie grasslands were the dominant ecosystems of the Willamette Valley floor and foothills prior to Euro-American settlement (circa 1840) and are listed as among the most imperiled ecosystems on North America, have suffered approximately 95% loss since that time. Elliot Hill was singled out in the Eugene Metro Natural Resource Study (circa 2000) as part of the Elliot Hill/Tugman Park oak complex. Both these two natural areas and much of the intervening neighborhoods are the core of a neighborhood with substantial remnant savanna oaks still persisting in residential yards.

One of the key threats to remaining oak habitats in Oregon is invasion from Douglas-fir, which represents an important but still common forest type in the Pacific Northwest. This is exactly the situation at Elliot Hill. I've watched as Douglas-fir have continued to overtop and suppress the oaks at Elliot Hill, killing many in the process. Ponderosa pine, another important savanna species is also sensitive to Douglas-fir invasion and suffering at Elliot Hill as a consequence. Given that oak savanna and prairie are high-priority Oregon strategy habitats, my hope has long been that EWEB or the city would manage the site to restore oak savanna and woodland. This doesn't necessarily mean I would advocate that all Douglas-fir should be removed from the site. There are a few large, Douglas-fir on the site and, having a minor Douglas-fir component to oak savanna and woodland can also benefit some native species such as the western gray squirrel. There are also areas on the eastern edge of the site that have completely converted to Douglas-fir and thus pose less of a current threat to the oaks than the areas where oak and ponderosa pine are still alive. However, as a fire ecologist I would also strongly recommend that Douglas-fir at the site be thinned to follow best management practices for reducing fire hazard, which generally means at least 10' of space between tree crowns to reduce the threat of a crown fire. Such thinning would also allow the Douglas-fir to retain their lower branches and deeper canopies, improving habitat value for native wildlife.

In summary, Elliot Hill is a remnant of our once extensive prairie and oak savanna ecosystems. These ecosystems are top conservation priorities in the state of Oregon and the nation. They also provide high recreational and aesthetic values, as evidenced by the open oak woodland on the north of the site. The City of Eugene has made the acquisition

and restoration of prairie and oak habitats one of its top conservation, recreation and educational priorities. I strongly urge EWEB to work with the city to strengthen the habitat and civic value of the Elliot Hill-Tugman Park neighborhood through prairie and oak habitat restoration.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. If there is anywhere else I should submit these comments to have them entered into the public record, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Bart Johnson

--

Bart R. Johnson, Ph.D. MLA
Professor
Department of Landscape Architecture
University of Oregon
[REDACTED]

From: Lizzie Zemke <lzemke@dowl.com>
Date: Friday, November 27, 2020 at 3:38 PM
To: Bart Johnson [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: [EXT] Re: forested site on E. 40th in south Eugene

Hi Bart

I am getting close to having a draft report for EWEB about their site on east 40th Ave. I spent a long and enjoyable day in October walking through the site and noting plant communities etc. and have what I think is a good description and assessment of the conditions out there. It would be really helpful at this point for me to see a plants and animals lists for the site—I saw a white-breasted nuthatch, a sapsucker and several other bird species while I was out there but because I was there for only a day I am sure there are many regular visitors that I missed.

Also it would be helpful to hear your thoughts on the relative habitat value provided by the different plant communities on the site and your thoughts, if you have any, on potential restoration and enhancement approaches for whatever habitat remains once the water tanks are constructed.

I know you said you were busy until after December 1st, so I am wondering if you would have time sometime next week to talk with me about the site? I will submit a draft to EWEB with a few gaps that still need to be filled on Monday. One of those yet-to-be-filled gaps will be for input that I receive from you and from some local environmental organizations. Thanks!

-Lizzie

Lizzie Zemke, PWS, CERP
Environmental Specialist

DOWL

(425) 869-2670 | office
(425) 947-8523 | direct

From: Bart Johnson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, November 6, 2020 6:42 PM
To: Lizzie Zemke <lzemke@dowl.com>
Subject: [EXT] Re: forested site on E. 40th in south Eugene

WARNING: External Sender - use caution when clicking links and opening attachments.

Lizzie, I'd be happy to speak with you or provide commentary. What are your timelines? I've got a lot of tight deadlines until early December but if this is a critical time for you lets talk soon.

bart

From: Lizzie Zemke <lzemke@dowl.com>
Date: Friday, November 6, 2020 at 1:56 PM
To: Bart Johnson [REDACTED]
Subject: forested site on E. 40th in south Eugene

Hi Mr. Johnson

I am working with Laura Farthing at EWEB on a project to locate a new water tank on a forested EWEB-owned site in Eugene that I understand you and your students are familiar with. Neighbors of the site are understandably very interested in preserving as much of the forest as possible and my job is to prepare a report and map that describes and evaluates the on-site habitat, identify wildlife species that use the site, and help EWEB site the tank in the least environmentally-damaging location possible.

I have visited the site and am in the process of developing a map of the plant communities I observed. I observed a number of bird species during my site visit and neighbors have shared their wildlife observations with me as well. I am wondering if you might have additional information about the site that you would be willing to share with me either via email or a phone call.

Any information you might be able provide would be much appreciated! Thanks!

Lizzie Zemke, PWS, CERP
Environmental Specialist

DOWL

(425) 869-2670 | office
(425) 947-8523 | direct
8410 154th Avenue NE Ste 120
Redmond, WA 98052

www.dowl.com

Patrick Keller

From: Edward Alverson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2020 3:38 PM
To: ALVERSON Edward R; Bart Johnson; Laura.Farthing@EWEB.ORG; Lizzie Zemke; Jennifer.Connors@EWEB.ORG
Subject: [EXT] Re: Elliot Hill comments to EWEB due
Attachments: EWEB Elliot Hill 2013 crop.jpg; EWEB Elliot Hill 1990 crop.jpg; EWEB Elliot Hill 1960 crop.jpg

WARNING: External Sender - use caution when clicking links and opening attachments.

Laura and Lizzie – I hope it is not too late to follow up on this topic. I was able to get out to the site last weekend, so now I have a better handle on the site characteristics and context. The Elliot Hill parcel includes upland prairie, oak savanna, oak and mixed oak-conifer woodland/forest, and conifer forest. All of these habitats are of value but it is the prairie, savanna, and oak woodland this is particularly important to highlight, given that these habitat types were formerly very extensive in the Willamette Valley but have experienced extreme reduction in extent (90% to 99%) due to agriculture, urbanization, and fire suppression. Indeed, the Elliot Hill property is a remnant of a formerly extensive mosaic of prairie and savanna that was found in that part of Eugene, indications of which are evidenced by native oaks persisting in people's yards and other developed properties. The condition of the landscape is well documented from the original government land surveys in the 1850's (I can provide more site-specific detail on the 1850's surveys if that would be helpful.

I've also attached aerial photos from 1960, 1990, and 2013 to provide some perspective on the very substantial change that has impacted the oak habitat on the parcel in recent years as conifers have taken over areas that previously were oak-dominated. This photo sequence speaks to the need for active management of oak habitats to sustain their continued existence as conifers expand their territory in the face of fire exclusion.

If you haven't already seen it, the Oregon Conservation Strategy (<https://oregonconservationstrategy.org>) is a good starting point as it identified prairie and savanna (under "Grasslands") and oak woodlands as conservation priorities in the Willamette Valley. The presence of ponderosa pine and California black oak is also significant; these species are often associated with Oregon white oak in Lane County but are absent (black oak) or very scattered (ponderosa pine) elsewhere in the Willamette Valley.

If you go to the Compass mapping tool and zoom in to the Elliot Hill site you will see that the property is located within the West Eugene Conservation Opportunity Area. Further detail on conservation priorities for Willamette Valley prairie and oak habitats can be found in the Willamette Valley Oak-Prairie Cooperative Strategic Action Plan, which was completed earlier this year:
<https://willamettepartnership.org/wvopc/>

While Elliot Hill is a relatively small parcel, it is worth considering the value of small sites to conservation goals, as part of a diverse strategy and a complement to large protected tracts. And, in some cases (such as for oak-associated birds) the habitat on the EWEB parcel may be part of a larger habitat block that includes remnant oak stands located on nearby residential lots. A recent journal article published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences highlights the value of small habitat remnants for conservation, and specifically references the Willamette Valley as a case in point:
<https://www.pnas.org/content/pnas/116/3/909.full.pdf>

Also I might mention that if habitat conservation is not be the primary purpose for EWEB owning this property, figuring out how to incorporate multiple objectives is an important challenge. This is actually true for many sites in the Willamette Valley where multiple objectives need to be accommodated. This can take a bit of extra effort, but given how much of the historic prairie and oak habitat in the Willamette

Valley has been lost in the past 170 years, it is important. I'd be happy to provide further information or feedback on the site if that would be helpful. Getting a more complete handle on species that are present on the property would be really useful thing for developing and implementing a management plan. For example, when I visited the property last weekend I observed several very problematic non-native species, including ivy, shining geranium, and spurge laurel. Ivy is pretty easy to remove, and shining geranium is very difficult once established. I only saw one plant of spurge laurel, which can be extremely invasive in oak woodlands. Given its potential for being an invader it would be good to prioritize inventory and removal of this species in a management plan.

Feel free to follow up with me if I can be of any further assistance.

Ed Alverson

[EXTERNAL ⚠]

The closest to a formal point of contact for the EWEB report and recommendations are Laura and Lizzie.

Laura Farthing <Laura.Farthing@EWEB.ORG>

Lizzie Zemke <lzemke@dowl.com>

Jennifer Connors <Jennifer.Connors@EWEB.ORG>

Of them, Laura is the lead contact from what I can tell and is the one completing the draft report.

The other route is one she gave below. I'm going to take my submitted comments and also submit them through one of the links provided:

“As discussed, here is the link that includes the instructions to contact EWEB's board. There are options to email your commissioner directly, to contact the board directly, and if you scroll down to the information about the upcoming board meeting there is a link to a form for providing public comment. <http://www.eweb.org/about-us/board-of-commissioners>”

Best, Bart

Patrick Keller

From: stephen anderson [REDACTED] >
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2020 7:39 PM
To: Lizzie Zemke
Subject: Re: [EXT] Ecological Study

Lizzie,

Here is the list....we have lived here for 21 years, and can attest that nearly all of the wildlife listed are regular residents of these woods...not just passing through. We find it strange that the sequence of the tanks is exactly backwards, if they truly wish to protect habitat. Obviously, one day, all three tanks will need to be completed, but there is no good reason to locate the first tank right in the stand of old growth trees that will devastate much of the crucial habitat for animals that live here now. It would not seem unreasonable to ask for a reversal of the tank sequence in light of this fact. We are willing to bet it didn't even cross the minds of the engineers to think outside their initial plan, which did not take into account the present timber grove....except for the fact that it is in the way. Please keep us apprised of your progress, call if you have any questions.

Stephen Anderson
[REDACTED]
Eugene, OR 97405

[REDACTED]

Birds and animals of EWEB Hilyard

Varied Thrush
Robin
Hairy Woodpecker
Downy Woodpecker
Pileated Woodpecker
Towhee
Chickadees
Barred Owl
Western Screech Owls
Stellar's Jay
Yellow-rumped warbler
Bush Tit
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Allen's Hummingbird
Western Flicker
Cedar Waxwing
Evening Grosbeak
Sharp-shinned Hawk
Oregon Junco
Pygmy Nuthatch
Red-breasted Sapsucker
Grey Squirrel
Raccoon

Opossum
Black-tailed Deer
White-crowned Sparrow
Vaux's Swift
Violet-green Swallow
Scrub Jay
Lesser Goldfinch
Song Sparrow
Chestnut-backed Chickadee
Common Bush-tit
Rio Grand Turkey
Great Horned Owl
Cooper's Hawk

On Wed, Oct 14, 2020 at 1:25 PM Lizzie Zemke <lzemke@dowl.com> wrote:

Hello Mr. Anderson

Thanks for getting back to me. Please do forward your bird and animal sightings list to me. We would like as much additional information about the site as we can get!

-Lizzie

Lizzie Zemke, PWS, CERP
Environmental Specialist

DOWL

(425) 869-2670 | office
(425) 947-8523 | direct

From: stephen anderson [REDACTED] >
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2020 4:37 PM
To: Lizzie Zemke <lzemke@dowl.com>
Subject: [EXT] Ecological Study

WARNING: External Sender - use caution when clicking links and opening attachments.

I have a list of the birds and animals we regularly see in these EWEB woods. Several of our neighbors compared what we know and see. Please contact me, if I'm this is where my list should be forwarded. Also, given the tank locations already laid out, a pertinent question comes to mind: given the devastating impact of the present location of tank number one on the present habitat used by many of the denizens on our list, why wouldn't it be possible to reverse the tank numbers, which would leave intact for many more years the habitat that birds such as our Pileated Woodpeckers depend upon. I'm guessing it's a question that the engineers never even considered, but for those of us living here it would make a world of difference in the coming decades. It's a question that deserves an answer. Also, I find it curious

that the wildlife/ecological survey is being done this late in the year, when many of our birds have already begun their migrations, and aren't here to be considered.

Stephen Anderson



Patrick Keller

From: Carol Anne Anderson [REDACTED] >
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2020 4:46 PM
To: Lizzie Zemke
Subject: [EXT] EWEB Response regarding Flora and Fauna

WARNING: External Sender - use caution when clicking links and opening attachments.

Thank you for your interest in obtaining information from those of us who reside adjacent to or near the E 40th EWEB property in Eugene.

Though my family has lived here for 45 years, I know little about the wildlife except that it is to be enjoyed. I have few comments.

Regarding plant life. Our family has enjoyed the many trees and a lovely display of buttercups in the springtime. There also are some low-growing lilies at that time. In late summer the family enjoyed picking blackberries until the poison oak overwhelmed us. I would suggest that keeping the ground below the trees or dead trees cleaned would be smart for maintenance and fire prevention.

Regarding animals. There are entirely too many raccoons and plenty of squirrels. A neighbor has put up some sort of bat home (for lack of the proper name) which is not appreciated. The birds are nice. Most specifically, we have enjoyed the flickers which visit our garden annually. We always assumed it was the same pair who visited. But this year when smoke was so thick from fires, we noticed a flock of thirty or more stop by en route out of the area. A wonder to see.

We worry about vagrants for our property safety and appeal. There are teens who like to hang out in the warm months. Some have had little campfires and there.

Thank you for listening. I'm sure many of my neighbors are much more informed and educated in this area. Good luck.

Carol Anderson

Patrick Keller

From: David de Lorenzo [REDACTED] >
Sent: Saturday, October 17, 2020 5:34 PM
To: Lizzie Zemke
Cc: Martha Dickey
Subject: [EXT] Fauna and Flora Information re: EWEB Project
Attachments: Species Observed at 4260 Hilyard Street.docx

WARNING: External Sender - use caution when clicking links and opening attachments.

Hi Lizzie,

My wife, Martha, and I live on property that abuts the EWEB property on which they intend to build water storage tanks.

I understand that you are requesting information about wildlife that lives in this vicinity. I am writing to provide you with a list of the fauna and flora that **we have observed at our home** since we moved here in September 2016. That list is attached with this email.

We are quite concerned about the impact this project will have on the species listed on the attached. This area is a comprehensive ecosystem that supports these species and the major changes being planned to the area will have a rippling effect on that entire system.

Let me know if you have any questions.

cheers,

David

+++++++

David de Lorenzo & Martha Dickey

[REDACTED]
Eugene, OR 97405
[REDACTED]

+++++++

Please send your input to me by Monday, Oct. 26 at the email address below.

Additionally, if you are aware of anyone else who might have specific natural resource or wildlife use information to share about the site, please feel free to forward this message and my contact information to them. Thank you for your help, I hope to hear back from you soon!

Lizzie Zemke, PWS, CERP
DOWL Environmental Specialist
lzemke@dowl.com

Patrick Keller

From: Mary Ann Hanson [REDACTED] >
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2020 2:51 PM
To: Lizzie Zemke
Subject: [EXT] EWEB Water Storage Improvement Project historical information on site flora and fauna

WARNING: External Sender - use caution when clicking links and opening attachments.

Hello,

I am one of EWEB's neighbors living at the foot of Elliott Hill. My parents bought this house about 1963 and lived here until their deaths a few years ago. I was a teenager when we moved here from another part of the Eugene area and lived in the family home until I married and moved away. My husband and I returned in 1993 to help my aging parents. We still live here. So I have a fairly long history with what we always called "The Hill." As a young person I loved nature and everything about it, so I collected insects, flowers, etc.

I remember how different The Hill was in 1963. There were quail, pheasants, skinks, snakes and tree frogs. I don't remember deer, raccoons, or wild turkeys being present, but surely they were here in smaller numbers. There was an occasional opossum and possibly a skunk - the odor was distinctive!

I do miss the butterflies - I only counted six or seven species this year. That is related to your work though, as many host plants are gone. The wild flowers were legion at first. There were many fewer houses then, of course. Here is a brief list of those I remember:

Achillea millefolium
Aquilegia formosa
Berberis (repens?)
Camassia quamash (blue but one white flowered plant) Claytonia lanceolata (pink)
Corallorhiza striata Dichelostemma congestum Dodecatheon dentatum (I remember they were pink though) Erythronium oregonum Fritillaria lanceolata Goodyera oblongifolia Iris tenax
Lupinus bicolor Plantago lanceolata Prunella vulgaris Ranunculus sp.
Rosa (two forms)
Saxifraga sp.
Sidalcea sp.
Tellima grandiflora
Trillium ovatum
Viola sempervirens?

Cornus nuttallii
Ribes sanguineum

Mary Ann Hanson [REDACTED]

Patrick Keller

From: stephen anderson [REDACTED] >
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2020 4:37 PM
To: Lizzie Zemke
Subject: [EXT] Ecological Study

WARNING: External Sender - use caution when clicking links and opening attachments.

I have a list of the birds and animals we regularly see in these EWEB woods. Several of our neighbors compared what we know and see. Please contact me, if I'm this is where my list should be forwarded. Also, given the tank locations already laid out, a pertinent question comes to mind: given the devastating impact of the present location of tank number one on the present habitat used by many of the denizens on our list, why wouldn't it be possible to reverse the tank numbers, which would leave intact for many more years the habitat that birds such as our Pileated Woodpeckers depend upon. I'm guessing it's a question that the engineers never even considered, but for those of us living here it would make a world of difference in the coming decades. It's a question that deserves an answer. Also, I find it curious that the wildlife/ecological survey is being done this late in the year, when many of our birds have already begun their migrations, and aren't here to be considered.

Stephen Anderson

[REDACTED]

Patrick Keller

From: Carol Anne Anderson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, October 20, 2020 3:52 PM
To: Lizzie Zemke
Subject: Re: [EXT] EWEB Response regarding Flora and Fauna

Thank you for your kind follow up.

Of course I neglected to mention the obvious deer and the horrible rats.

Cheers. Have fun.

On Tue, Oct 20, 2020 at 1:56 PM Lizzie Zemke <lzemke@dowl.com> wrote:

Hello Ms. Anderson

Thanks so much for letting us know your thoughts on the E 40th Ave site. I saw several flickers out there myself when I visited a week or so ago, but the sight of 30 must have been impressive! We will keep you informed as the project progresses.

-Lizzie

Lizzie Zemke, CERP
Environmental Specialist

DOWL

(425) 869-2670 | office
(425) 947-8523 | direct

From: Carol Anne Anderson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2020 4:46 PM
To: Lizzie Zemke <lzemke@dowl.com>
Subject: [EXT] EWEB Response regarding Flora and Fauna

WARNING: External Sender - use caution when clicking links and opening attachments.

Thank you for your interest in obtaining information from those of us who reside adjacent to or near the E 40th EWEB property in Eugene.

Though my family has lived here for 45 years, I know little about the wildlife except that it is to be enjoyed. I have few comments.

Regarding plant life. Our family has enjoyed the many trees and a lovely display of buttercups in the springtime. There also are some low-growing lilies at that time. In late summer the family enjoyed picking blackberries until the poison oak overwhelmed us. I would suggest that keeping the ground below the trees or dead trees cleaned would be smart for maintenance and fire prevention.

Regarding animals. There are entirely too many raccoons and plenty of squirrels. A neighbor has put up some sort of bat home (for lack of the proper name) which is not appreciated. The birds are nice. Most specifically, we have enjoyed the flickers which visit our garden annually. We always assumed it was the same pair who visited. But this year when smoke was so thick from fires, we noticed a flock of thirty or more stop by en route out of the area. A wonder to see.

We worry about vagrants for our property safety and appeal. There are teens who like to hang out in the warm months. Some have had little campfires and there.

Thank you for listening. I'm sure many of my neighbors are much more informed and educated in this area. Good luck.

Carol Anderson

Patrick Keller

From: Laura Farthing <Laura.Farthing@EWEB.ORG>
Sent: Sunday, October 18, 2020 4:31 PM
To: Lizzie Zemke
Cc: Jennifer Connors
Subject: [EXT] Fwd: Reminder: E. 40th Ecological Study

WARNING: External Sender - use caution when clicking links and opening attachments.

See below.

Thanks,

Laura

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jackie Mikalonis [REDACTED]
Date: October 18, 2020 at 2:53:02 PM PDT
To: Water Storage <water.storage@EWEB.ORG>
Subject: Re: Reminder: E. 40th Ecological Study

Caution: This email originated from outside of the organization

Lizzie,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback. As an adjacent property owner I may have information useful to the study. Please let me know what and how the data should be organized. Thank you.

Jackie Mikalonis
[REDACTED]
Eugene

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 17, 2020, at 1:23 PM, Eugene Water & Electric Board
<water.storage@eweb.org> wrote:

