

7. Public Involvement

It is a goal of the City of Corvallis to create opportunities to inform and engage the Corvallis community on stewardship, research, and other activities occurring on the City of Corvallis forest, thereby fostering community knowledge of local ecological values and stewardship practices, and obtaining the community's input on policy decisions. The Watershed Management Advisory Commission accomplishes this goal through a variety of public outreach and engagement activities as outlined below.

One objective of the Watershed Management Advisory Commission is to increase awareness and engagement of the Corvallis community and neighbors to the City of Corvallis forest regarding the ecology of the property, forest management, and the CFSP. The following activities will encourage the public to discover how the City is managing the Corvallis Forest to improve ecosystem structure and function, wildlife and fish habitat while protecting water quality and generating revenue to fund these activities.

- **Forest Activities Report:** An annual compilation of information, reports, and evaluations of management activities completed during the past fiscal year. The report also includes management activities and public involvement opportunities for the upcoming fiscal year.
- **Annual Tour:** An annual tour of the Corvallis Forest is open to interested members of the public. Tours focus on general watershed and management activity implementation. Commission members attend to hear first-hand input that tour attendees have to offer.
- **Public Meetings:** Public meetings are held to present issues, as directed by the Commission. All regular WMAC meetings are public meetings. Examples of issues appropriate for public meetings are: adoption of annual operational plans, and changes to CFSP policies.
- **Volunteer Work Day:** In the future, if staff resources become available, the watershed staff will work with forestry consultants and the Watershed Management Advisory Commission to prioritize activities for “Volunteer on the Forest Day” one day work sessions. These can focus on weed eradication, trail work, monitoring, etc. These one-day activities can serve as a portal to engage school and environmental groups on property activity.

Tours, public meetings, and workdays are advertised on the City of Corvallis website, The City newsletter, newspapers, flyers and the email distribution list. The Commission will evaluate the success of these programs based on public comment and evaluations of events.

The Watershed Management Advisory Commission

The Watershed Management Advisory Commission (WMAC) is the body dedicated to take public comment on watershed activities. The Meetings of the Commission are open to the public and opportunities are provided for public comment. The Commission is advisory in nature and generally meets monthly to review operation plans, evaluate the

progress in plan implementation and discuss program successes and problems, and suggest possible adjustments to be made. Commission meetings are noticed in the *Gazette Times* and on the City website.

Future Outreach

The capacity to create a relationships with local schools, universities, and other education institutions to provide research, educational and volunteer opportunities on the City of Corvallis forest exists, but has been limited by funding and staff resources to coordinate research, and organize field trips. As resources become available, the Commission and City staff will pursue these relationships and look for opportunities to promote the Corvallis Forest as an ecologically interesting and convenient place to conduct natural resource based research and education.