

Rural & Urban Reserves Fact Sheet

- Conservation and Farming Coalition Map
 - @ 15,600 acres of urban reserves
 - @ 5,800 acres of additional possible urban reserves
 - @ 270,000 acres of rural reserves
- Size of existing UGB: @ 260,000 acres
- The urban reserve acreage amount in the Coalition proposal is consistent with the population, employment, and acreage amounts in the recommendations of the Metro Chief Operating Officer. The COO - being conservative, as he stated - used the middle third of the population and employment forecast ranges, and concluded that the region would need between 15,700 to 29,100 acres of urban reserves.¹
- How to accommodate future population – 1,000,000 more people in the 7-county area, of which about 600,000 will locate in the tri-county area:
 - Portland, based on current zoning – no upzoning, no new light rail or street cars, etc... – can accommodate 140,000 new *households*. At even a conservative 2.0 persons/HH, that's half the projected population.
 - The July 2004 ECONorthwest *Report on Corridors*, prepared for Metro, shows the region currently has 41,907 gross acres of “Corridors,” of which 13,296 acres are zoned for single family and more than 5,400 acres are zoned either “rural,” “agriculture,” or “forest.”² To meet the Region 2040 requirements and market demands over the 20-year UGB period and the Reserves period, these corridors will be re-zoned to higher density and mixed uses.
 - COO's Report and Metro's Urban Growth Report demonstrate that under existing zoning, the region can accommodate most, if not all, projected growth.
 - It's cheaper: According to Metro's and other studies, providing infrastructure inside UGB for new growth is 2-3 times cheaper than accommodating that growth in new areas at the edge.
 - There are 15,000 acres of vacant, buildable land inside today's UGB. That's equivalent to 35 times the size of downtown Portland. And that's not counting underdeveloped lands, empty buildings, and decaying areas that could be redeveloped.³
 - In the last 10 years, 95% of all new residential development occurred inside the *original* 1979 UGB boundaries.⁴

¹ Metro, Chief Operating Officer, *Strategies for a Sustainable and Prosperous Region*, Sept. 2009, p. 27.

² ECONorthwest July 2004, p. 2-4

³ Metro, Chief Operating Officer, *Strategies for a Sustainable and Prosperous Region*, Sept. 2009, p.3

⁴ Id. 2

□ Farm Facts:⁵

- Agriculture is Oregon's #2 industry, and the Portland region forms its core. Farming is a \$5 billion industry in Oregon.
- Clackamas and Washington counties are in the top 5 agriculture-producing counties in the state.
- From 1940 (244,957 acres) to 2007 (127,984), WA County has lost 116,973 acres of farmland. This equates to a loss of 47.7 percent of all lands in farms.
- From 1974 (161,050 acres) to 2007 (closest date with data to adoption of SBs 100/101) the county has lost 33,066 acres. During that time period, the county lost 20.5% of its land in farms.
- During the last 20 data years(1987 to 2007) the county has lost 22,119 acres.
- Food processing, in which Multnomah County leads, was the *only manufacturing sector* in Oregon to show positive employment gain in 2008.
- Add in the goods and services farmers purchase from other businesses to grow food and fiber, and the value-added products that are produced, and agriculture is a \$10 billion industry, accounting for over 10% of the state's economy.
- Much of that is exported, bringing new dollars into the state, and into the region's economy. Agricultural products are # 1 in bulk and #2 in value of shipments out of the Port of Portland.
- Oregon agriculture has been increasing in value every year for over a decade, a claim that no other industry can make.
- Gross farm sales in the 3 counties: \$750,000, 000
 - Clackamas & Washington Counties are # 4 & 5 in county gross farm sales
 - The top nursery counties, in gross sales: #1 Clack, #3 Wash, and #4 Multnomah
 - Washington County is #3 in wine grapes
 - Cane berries (raspberries, blackberries, boysen and marion berries): #2 Clack, #3 Wash, #4 Multnomah.
 - Multnomah # 1 in state in food processing
- The Portland Farmers Market had record attendance in 2009. More than 620,000 people shopped at the five area markets. That's a 16 % increase from 2008. Those shoppers spent nearly \$6 million, a 9 % increase from 2008. ⁶
- Low-income residents purchased more than \$77,000 in food at the Portland Farmers markets through the state's food assistance program. That was 120 % more than in 2008.⁷

⁵ Unless otherwise stated, farm facts are from the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

⁶ *Oregonian*, January 9, 2010.

http://blog.oregonlive.com/pdxgreen/2010/01/portland_farmers_markets_recor.html

⁷ Id. 3

□ Conservation Facts:

- Metro just spent \$6 million to acquire almost 1200 acres in the Chehalem mountains because of its recognized regional significance.
- The area north of Council Creek should be protected because it meets the rural reserves criteria for *both* ag and NR reasons - it is Foundation farm land and is where three significant streams join - Council, Dairy, and McKay.
- Gales Creek is the most important salmonid spawning habitat in the Tualatin basin.
- Westside Economic Alliance's 2002 economic study, *Prospering in a Knowledge-based Economy*, identifies Quality of Life, including environmental amenities, as one of five key factors important to economic development in the 21st century.⁸
- Washington County Visitors Association recently identified four key attractions and built a strategic promotional campaign to attract visitors. Two of the four key attractions are outdoor activities (hiking, birding, paddling) and visiting wineries.
- The Rural Reserves are critical to the region's efforts to respond to climate change. By avoiding future urbanization near floodplains, on steep slopes, and other hazard areas the region will be in a position to better adapt to climate change.
- The natural landscape provides us with ecosystem services such as flood reduction, clean air and water, and sequestration of greenhouse gases. And that reduces the region's expenditures on concrete infrastructure.

⁸ "Quality of life will be a paramount issue in determining which places can establish, maintain, and continuously regenerate the concentration of human capital (people with knowledge) on which regional innovative capacity rests." (p. i)