



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Department of Fish and Wildlife

South Willamette Watershed District

Salem Field Office

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July 7, 2003

Gregory Parker
Department of Administrative Services
Facilities Division
1225 Ferry St. SE, U100
Salem, OR 97301-4281



Dear Mr. Parker:

Thank you for asking Holly Michael and I to tour the Mill Creek Correctional Facility lands to identify possible environmental issues to consider during the development planning of this property. I will try to summarize our discussion.

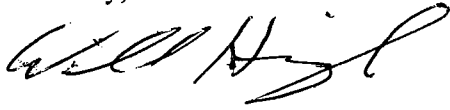
Our main concern in the development of this property is downstream water quality protection in the Little Pudding River. The Little Pudding River is home to resident cutthroat trout, lamprey, and other native non-game fish. Aquatic mammals, birds and amphibians also reside there. Development plans for this site or any adjacent developments should address water quality protection in the development design.

Wetland mitigation should focus on the best way to create a truly functional wetland, or enhance existing wetlands near the project. There appears to be little opportunity for on site wetland mitigation. I would suggest that opportunities for mitigating the loss of the wetlands in the project area be coordinated with neighboring developments such as the Police Standards and Training facility near Highway 22, and the ODOT mitigation proposals along Mill Creek. The property is situated in both the Little Pudding River and Mill Creek drainages. It would be more advantageous to combine the lost wetland acres into a larger and more functional wetland on nearby property than to divide the acres into their respective drainages. Possible mitigation sites are the Mill Creek flood plain, the seasonal ash wetlands north of Highway 22, or part of the Riverbend Sand and Gravel property across Cordon Rd.

It is our understanding that the white oaks on the adjacent hills are not currently in the project area. If project boundaries change, please consider the highest level of protection for the mature oak savanna on those hills, as they are remnants of one of the Willamette valley's most depleted habitats.

Thank you for including us in the project planning. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Will High". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "W".

Will High
Assistant District Wildlife Biologist/Salem