

**From:** [Heather Richards](#)  
**To:** [Sarah Sullivan](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Baker Creek Wetlands  
**Date:** Thursday, April 18, 2019 9:22:43 AM  
**Importance:** High

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**From:** Jeff Towery  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 18, 2019 8:27 AM  
**To:** Heather Richards <Heather.Richards@mcminnvilleoregon.gov>  
**Cc:** GlenandKarenWestlund <glenandkarenwestlund@comcast.net>  
**Subject:** FW: Baker Creek Wetlands  
**Importance:** High

FYI, for the record.

Jeff

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**From:** Glen Westlund [<mailto:glenandkarenwestlund@comcast.net>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 18, 2019 6:59 AM  
**To:** Jeff Towery <[Jeff.Towery@mcminnvilleoregon.gov](mailto:Jeff.Towery@mcminnvilleoregon.gov)>  
**Subject:** Baker Creek Wetlands

I am unable to attend the Planning Commission meeting tonight but would like to give them some thoughts to consider. Please give this to them.

As a planner for the Forest Service I have been involved with the restoration of many wetlands across National Forest System lands. Most of the restorations have been completed in partnership with several other state, national and tribal agencies as part of a larger watershed level program. This shows you how important wetlands are in providing proper functioning ecosystems that extend

beyond the wetland itself to adjacent lands and in general to the economy of the watershed and state.

Storage of water during high flows is just one of their functions. The diversity of habitat provides unique niches for fish, birds, and other wildlife that can be the basis of local and regional economies. Even the City of Portland is spending millions of dollars to restore a wetland lost to a housing development years ago in order to provide a place to store flood water and improve water quality. Up and down the Willamette Valley there are wetland restoration projects happening at large and small scales. Even the City of McMinnville sees the need of having proper functioning wetlands with its partnership with the Yamhill Valley Watershed Council along with multiple private land owners in the city and county.

The loss of 12 acres may not seem like much but it is still important to downstream residences and businesses when the narrowing of stream channels pushes water quicker downstream and overwhelms the flood control developed to handle existing flows. Think of the future costs to the community if we lose then storage and also the off channel habit of interest to a growing number of urban residing families. People drive miles to view wildlife that are being lost to the city developed environments.

Please keep the wetlands intact. Twelve houses are not a large impact to the developer when looking ahead to the potential cost to the community when we have to respond to flooding and redesign of existing flood control. The loss of the habitat also impacts the livability of McMinnville. It is one of the values that draw people to the community.

Glen Westlund

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10