

# Agenda Item Number 12.C.

## Ridgeline Open Space Vision

**Presenter:** Jeff Krueger, Senior Landscape Architect

**Action Recommended:** None. Information Only.

**Background:**

The ridgeline area is a twenty-mile corridor extending from Fern Ridge Reservoir to the Buford Recreation Area (Mount Pisgah) and marks the transition from the urbanized Eugene-Springfield metropolitan area to the rural landscape to the south. The area contains unique habitats, headwater streams, picturesque farm and forest lands, and recreational trails, and it forms a scenic backdrop that is visible from much of Eugene and the Spencer Creek Valley.

The open space vision has been developed to serve as a conceptual framework to guide future open space and recreation planning efforts for this area. Lane Council of Governments has coordinated this effort, working closely with a partnership that includes Lane County Parks, McKenzie River Trust, The Nature Conservancy, City of Eugene, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Long Tom Watershed Council, Willamalane Park and Recreation District, and the National Park Service. Over the past year, four public workshops and a targeted outreach effort have been used to help shape and refine the vision. This vision builds on LCOG's *Rivers to Ridges* Regional Parks and Open Space vision which was endorsed by the Eugene and Springfield City Councils, Willamalane Park and Recreation District Board, and the Lane County Board of Commissioners in 2003, all by unanimous consent.

The purpose of the *Ridgeline Area Open Space Vision and Action Plan* is to help coordinate partner efforts, provide management direction, and support funding efforts (grants and donations) by demonstrating how specific open space areas fit into the bigger picture. Implementation of the vision will be achieved through the combined efforts of the partnership, property owners, and the public. Implementation will rely on a non-regulatory approach and voluntary land owner participation. Because this is a vision document, it is not formally adopted and

does not commit the endorsing agencies to any action, but instead is a means of demonstrating widespread support for the regional open space vision and planning efforts.

To date, the following bodies have endorsed the *Ridgeline Area Open Space Vision and Action Plan*:

- League of Women Voters
- Lane County Audubon Society
- Eugene Bicycle Coalition
- Lane County Parks Advisory Committee
- Lane County Mountain Bike Association
- Eugene Tree Foundation
- Native Plant Society of Oregon – Emerald Chapter
- Willamalane Park & Recreation District Board
- Eugene Planning Commission
- City of Springfield
- Lane County Board of Commissioners
- Eugene City Council (endorsement scheduled for February 25)

**ATTACHMENTS:** *Ridgeline Area Open Space Vision Map*, dated February 20, 2008. The vision document and additional background information is also available at [www.lcog.org/ridgeline](http://www.lcog.org/ridgeline).

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Contact Jeff Krueger, 682-4122, or [jkrueger@lcog.org](mailto:jkrueger@lcog.org)