Appendix A. Definitions

The terms below helped define the methodology used for the Local Wetlands Inventory and Riparian Corridor Assessments for the City's UGB Expansion Areas and may be referred to in this report.

1987 Manual

The primary source documents for wetland delineations within Oregon is the *Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual, Technical Report Y-87-1* (Environmental Laboratory 1987) and the *Interim Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Western Mountains, Valleys, and Coast Region*, which are recognized by both DSL and COE (Regional Supplement; U.S Army Corps, 2008).

These manuals are used by the Army Corps of Engineers ("Corps") and the Oregon Department of State Lands ("DSL") to document the location of wetlands within the State of Oregon. The 1987 manual, along with regional supplement, provide technical criteria, field indicators, and recommended procedures to be used in determining whether an area is a jurisdictional wetland. Undisturbed areas require three criteria for them to be classified as wetland. These criteria are hydric soils, a dominance of hydrophytic vegetation, and wetland hydrology.

Cowardin Wetland Classification

The classification of wetlands as defined by plants, soils and the frequency of flooding is described in *"Classification of wetlands and deepwater habitats of the United States."* (Cowardin, et. al. 1979) See also "Palustrine Wetlands".

Field Verify

To walk over and/or visually check an area to make a wetland determination and map wetlands. This may or may not include on-site access or the collection of sample plot data. (OAR 141-086)

Goal 5

Goal 5 (OAR 660, Division 23) is intended "to protect natural resources, and conserve scenic and historic areas and open spaces." (Land Conservation and Development Commission [LCDC], 1996)

Growing Season

The growing season has begun and is ongoing when either of the two following conditions is met:

1. Two or more non-evergreen vascular plant species growing in the wetland or surrounding areas exhibit one or more of a specific list of indicators of biological activity (such as leaf emergence; appearance of new growth; emergence or opening of flowers; etc.)
2. When soil temperature measured at a depth of 12 inches is 41 degrees F (5 degrees C) or higher.

Hydric Soils

"Soils which are ponded, flooded, or saturated for long enough during the growing season to develop anaerobic conditions." (USDA, SCS, 1985)

Periodic saturation of soils causes alternation of reduced and oxidized conditions which leads to the formation of redoximorphic features (gleying and mottling). Mineral hydric soils will be either gleyed or will have bright mottles and/or low matrix chroma. The redoximorphic feature known as gley is a result of greatly reduced soil conditions, which result in a characteristic grayish, bluish or greenish soil color. The term mottling is used to describe areas of contrasting color within a soil matrix. The soil matrix is the portion of the soil layer that has the predominant color. Soils that have brightly colored mottles and a low matrix chroma are indicative of a fluctuating water table.

Hydric soil indicators include: organic content of greater than 50% by volume, sulfidic material or “rotten egg” smell, and/or presence of redoximorphic features and dark soil matrix, as determined by the use of a Munsell Soil Color Chart. This chart establishes the chroma, value and hue of soils based on comparison with color chips. Mineral hydric soils usually have a matrix chroma of 2 or less in mottled soils, or a matrix chroma of 1 or less in unmottled soils.

Hydrogeomorphic (HGM) Wetland Classification

A method of assessing wetlands using the physical, chemical, and biological functions of wetlands. It is based on the relationship of geomorphic setting, water source, and hydrodynamics. (Brinson, 1993)

Hydrophytic Vegetation

"Plant life growing in water or on a substrate that is at least periodically deficient in oxygen as a result of excessive water content." (National Resource Council, 1995)

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in the *National List of Plant Species that Occur in Wetlands*, has established five basic groups of vegetation based on their frequency of occurrence in wetlands. These categories, referred to as the "wetland indicator status,” are

as follows: obligate wetland plants (OBL), facultative wetland (FACW), facultative (FAC), facultative upland (FACU), and obligate upland (UPL).

Local Wetlands Inventory (LWI)

An inventory of all wetlands greater than 0.5 acres in size within a local jurisdiction using the standards and procedures of OAR 141-86-110 through 141-86-240.

In 1989, the Oregon State legislature authorized DSL to develop a statewide wetlands inventory for planning and regulatory purposes. Accordingly, DSL established Local Wetlands Inventory (LWI) standards and guidelines under ORS 196.674. An approved LWI replaces the National Wetlands Inventory maps and is incorporated into the statewide wetlands inventory.

An LWI is conducted using color or color infrared aerial photographs taken within 5 years of the inventory initiation and at a minimum scale of 1 inch = 400 feet (1" = 400'). Wetlands are located using the on-site option where access to property is allowed or off- site where access is denied. Wetlands can be mapped off-site by using information such as topographic and National Wetlands Inventory maps, aerial photographs, and soils surveys.

The approximate location of wetlands is placed on a parcel-based map. The parcel- based map allows the property owner, the local jurisdiction, and DSL, to know which tax lots may contain wetlands.

The maps and documents produced for the LWI are intended for planning purposes only. Mapped wetland boundaries are accurate to within 25 feet; however, there may be unmapped wetlands that are subject to regulation. In all cases, actual field conditions determine wetland boundaries.

Palustrine Wetlands (e.g. PEM)

"All nontidal wetlands dominated by trees, shrubs, persistent emergents, emergent mosses or lichens and all such wetlands that occur in tidal areas where salinity is less than 0.5%. This includes areas traditionally called swamps, marshes, fens, as well as shallow, permanent or intermittent water bodies called ponds." (Cowardin et. al. 1979)

- **Palustrine Unconsolidated Bottom (PUB)**
  A wetland or deepwater habitat with at least 25% cover of particles smaller than stones, and a vegetative cover less than 30%.

- Palustrine Emergent Wetland (PEM)
  These wetlands have rooted herbaceous vegetation that stand erect above the water or ground surface.

- Palustrine Scrub-shrub Wetland (PSS)
  Wetlands dominated by shrubs and tree saplings that are less than 20 feet high.

- Palustrine Forested Wetland (PFO)
  Wetlands dominated by trees that are greater than 20 feet high.

Probable Wetland (PW)

An area noted during the course of LWI field work that appears to meet, or does meet, wetland criteria but is less than one half acre in size; or is small and of undetermined size, and is mapped as a point rather than a polygon on the LWI maps

Riparian Area

A "riparian area" is defined as the area adjacent to a river, lake, or stream, consisting of the area of transition from an aquatic ecosystem to a terrestrial ecosystem. A "riparian corridor" is a Goal 5 resource that includes the water areas, fish habitat, adjacent riparian areas, and wetlands within the riparian boundary.

Riverine System

"The riverine system includes all wetlands and deepwater habitats contained within a channel." (Cowardin, et. al. 1979)

Waters of the State

“All natural waterways, tidal and non-tidal bays, intermittent streams, constantly flowing streams, lakes, wetlands, that portion of the Pacific Ocean that is in the boundaries of this state, all other navigable and non-navigable bodies of water in this state and those portions of the ocean shore, as defined in ORS 390.605, where removal or fill activities are regulated under a state-assumed permit program as provided in 33 U.S.C. 1344(g) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended.” (ORS 141-085-0510-107)

Water Resource

"An intermittent or perennial stream, pond, river, lake including their adjacent wetlands." (PHS, 1998)

Wetland

"Those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas." (Federal Register, 1982).

Wetland Assessment

Determining the relative quality of a wetland by assessing its functions and conditions. The methodology generally used to determine the relative quality of wetlands for purposes of an LWI is the *Oregon Freshwater Wetland Assessment Methodology.* (Roth, et. al. 1996)

Wetland Function

"A characteristic action or behavior associated with a wetland that contributes to a larger ecological condition such as wildlife habitat, water quality and/or flood control." (Roth, et. al. 1996)

Wetland Hydrology

"Permanent or periodic inundation or prolonged soil saturation sufficient to create anaerobic conditions in the upper soil profile." (COE, 1987)

Wetland hydrology is related to duration of saturation, frequency of saturation, and critical depth of saturation. The Regional Supplement defines wetland hydrology as 14 or more consecutive days of flooding or ponding, or a water table 12 inches or less below the soil surface, during the growing season at a minimum frequency of 5 years in 10.

Wetlands Regulation

Wetlands in Oregon are regulated by the Department of State Lands (DSL) under the Removal-Fill Law (ORS 196.800-196.990) and by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) through Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Wetland Value

The value of a wetland is an estimate of the importance or worth of one or more of its functions to society. For example, a value can be determined by the revenue generated from the sale of fish that depend on the wetland, by the tourist dollars associated with the wetland, or by public support for protecting fish and wildlife. (USEPA, 2001)