

South Ridgeline Habitat Study Update
Churchill Area Neighbors
February 2007

The South Ridgeline Habitat Study (SRHS) is evaluating approximately 2,600 acres near the ridgeline of the South Hills to determine where important upland habitat (versus stream and wetland habitat) areas exist. The inventory phase of the SRHS involved collection of field data by wildlife scientists and botanists. Their work resulted in an inventory and maps of native plant communities, such as oak savanna, potential habitats for rare plants, such as the threatened wayside aster, and potential habitat for state-designated sensitive wildlife species, such as the red-legged frog. The next phase of the SRHS will include discussions with residents regarding what they feel is important about these areas and the future of wildlife habitats. Combining scientific inventory results and public values will form the basis for creating future alternatives and recommendations on possible conservation measures or conservation incentive programs for important south ridgeline habitats.

In order to learn more about important public values regarding wildlife habitat in this area, the City will be convening a series of meetings in neighborhoods throughout the study area. On March 8, a meeting will be held at the Kennedy Middle School cafeteria for those who live or own land within the boundaries of the Churchill Area Neighbors. The City will share important information about wildlife habitat in the immediate area and gather input on possible scenarios for conservation of natural areas along the South Ridgeline. This meeting will also give neighbors an opportunity to discuss the types of conservation measures that may be used to achieve conservation such as regulation, incentive programs and acquisition. **Your participation and your opinion are important. City staff wants to hear opinions from as many individuals as possible in your neighborhood so that the alternatives developed represent the full diversity of values present in the community.** While staff from the City will be in attendance, the meeting will be run by a professional facilitator with extensive experience on issues related to wildlife habitat and conservation. Please note that although there will be separate meetings with individuals in other neighborhoods of the study area, we ask that you only attend one meeting, in order to avoid double-counting of comments and to keep meeting sizes smaller. Please plan to join us on March 8 at 6:30 pm at Kennedy Middle School, 2200 Bailey Hill Rd. For more information on the project or the meeting, please contact Neil Bjorklund at 682-5507, neil.h.bjorklund@ci.eugene.or.us or Jason Dedrick at 682-5451, jason.p.dedrick@ci.eugene.or.us. Additional information on the project and on these community meetings is on the project website at www.EugeneNR.org.