



PORT OF PORTLAND

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MEMORANDUM from MID Planning and Development

Date: June 1, 2010
To: WHI Community Working Group
From: Greg Theisen
Port of Portland
Re: WHI and Government Island Mitigation

Government Island Complex Acreage and Aviation Secondary Exclusion Zone

This memo addresses the capacity of Government Island to serve as a mitigation site for potential development impacts associated with future marine facilities on West Hayden Island. The memo is accompanied by an aerial photo of Government Island ownership and vegetation conditions. Also attached is a table (Table 3) listing selected Port of Portland mitigation sites.

The Government Island complex of Lemon, McGuire, and Government Island occupies about 2,225 acres. Of the 2,225 acres in the complex, the Port owns 1,830 acres that include Government Island and Lemon Island together. Another 225 acres at the east end of Government Island are owned by Metro. The remaining 170 acres are McGuire Island which is also Port-owned. The properties were acquired in 1969 by the Port's airport division. Mitigation for future WHI and PDX development is possible within the Government Island complex.

Extending from the tip of Lemon Island to roughly 0.7 miles east of I-5 on Government Island, the Secondary Exclusion Zone is an aviation overlay zone that requires that any proposed use go through a Wildlife Hazard Management review to assure that the proposed use is compatible with the PDX Wildlife Hazard Management Plan. This review looks at the proposed use to determine if it is likely to create more of a wildlife attractant problem at PDX, primarily for avian species of concern as shown in the attached Table 1. Of the 1,830 acres that the Port owns on Government and Lemon Islands, 490 acres are in the Secondary Exclusion Zone. Given the location, the majority of avian species associated with grasslands do not pose a significant threat to aviation safety. However large expanses of open natural areas are known to attract geese which are a species of concern. Any habitat modifications (wetland or upland) within the 10,000 FAA separation criteria would trigger review by the PDX Wildlife Program.

Table 1. PDX Risk Assessment Model (2004-2008 Data)

		PROBABILITY OF OCCURRENCE				
		Very High	High	Moderate	Low	Very Low
SEVERITY OF IMPACT	Very High		Mallard Great Blue Heron (↑)	Osprey Canada Goose		Green-winged Teal Northern Pintail Wood Duck [Bald Eagle] [Black-tailed Deer]
	High	Red-tailed Hawk		American Crow Gull spp.	Great-horned Owl Coyote	
	Moderate				Rock Pigeon (↓)	Peregrine Falcon
	Low		European Starling Barn Owl		Short-eared Owl	Killdeer Northern Harrier
	Very Low	American Kestrel	Swallow spp.			

[Bracketed species] indicate species that have not been struck at PDX, but are present in the area, and have a high enough severity potential to warrant inclusion in the model.

(↓) indicates a species that moved to a lower risk category from the previous year's model.

(↑) indicates a species that moved to a higher risk category

All other species are in the same risk category as the previous year's model.

References:

Model based on: Allan, J.R. "Birdstrike Assessment Model." Central Science Laboratory. 2003.
Strike Data for U.S. Airports used instead of U.K. data. This data came from: FAA National Wildlife Strike Database. "Wildlife Strikes to Civil Aircraft in the United States 1990-2002." Washington DC, June 2004.

The PDX Airport Futures planning process has designated up to 300 acres of Government Island as grassland mitigation for future PDX development. The 300-acres will mostly be taken from the area on Government Island east of I-205 and extending east to roughly Jewett Lake that is presently degraded grassland with mostly non-native herbs and forage grasses with small to large patches of non-native invasives, including blackberries. Some portion of the 300 acres is located within the Secondary Exclusion Zone.

Jewett Lake is an existing mitigation site on Government Island consisting of 267 wetland acres. The total area encompassed by the Jewett Lake mitigation site is 426 acres. Mitigation is possible within the Secondary Exclusion Zone (e.g. PDX Airport Futures), the WHI Community Working Group requested a summary of remaining acreage available for mitigation exclusive of Jewett Lake, PDX Airport Futures and the Secondary Exclusion Zone as a conservative, "worst case," scenario.

Table 2. Gov't Island Acreage Calculations

	Port Acreage	Port & Metro Acreage
All Island Acreage	1830	2225
Jewett Lake	(426)	(426)
Airport Futures*	(300)	(300)
Subtotal	1104	1499
Secondary Exclusion Zone	(490)	(490)
Total Remaining	614	1009

*A portion of this acreage is within the Secondary Exclusion Zone

Table 3. LIST OF PORT MITIGATION AND ENHANCEMENT SITES

SITE	Total Acreage (Approx.)	Wetland Acreage (Approx.)
SITES UNDER PERMIT REQUIREMENTS		
VANPORT	90.5	65
WEST HAYDEN ISLAND	3.5	2
SITES THAT HAVE MET PERMIT REQUIREMENTS		
RIVERGATE ENHANCEMENT	44	
BUFFALO	15.5	
ELROD	10	
JEWETT LAKE	426	267
PIC E-ZONE	4	
RAMSEY LAKES	16	16
RIVERBANK SITES - OLD	12.5	
T-5 POWERLINE	20	10.5
WEST WYE	2.5	2.5
RIVERBANK ENHANCEMENT SITES		
COLUMBIA SLOUGH REVEGETATION.	73.5	
TOTAL	644.5	363

Notes: Sites with no wetland acres provided had no required wetland acreage or are non-wetland

Acreages are rounded to nearest half acre

List does not include Randall mitigation site that is mitigation for wetland impacts at HIO



Government Island Ownership and Vegetation



Port of Portland

0 0.5 1
Miles

Approx. Acreage of Islands
 Lemon = 130
 Govt-Port = 1,700
 Govt-Metro = 225
 McGuire = 170
 Total Acreage = 2,225*
 *Up to 300 acres committed to Airport Futures

Blackberry
 Forested
 Grassland
 From 2006 Port NRInventory

Port Property
 Wetland
 Mitigation Boundary
 (Total: 426 acres ; Wetland: 267 acres)

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