GLOSSARY OF TERMS

1% flood: The flood event that meets or exceeds the 1% statistical chance, or annual exceedance probability (AEP) as defined by the National Flood Insurance Program. The 1% flood is often referred to as a "100-year flood," which can be misleading since it implies a strict recurrence interval

Beneficial uses (BUs): describes a person's right to enjoy the benefits of a public resource. Beneficial uses include Fish and Aquatic Life, Fishing, Water Supply, and Water Contact Recreation.

Biodiversity: the variety of life in a particular habitat or ecosystem. Areas with high biodiversity contain more species, and the abundance of individuals of those species is more even across species, than those with low biodiversity.

BIPOC: Black, Indigenous, People of Color. The term centers the experiences of Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color and demonstrates solidarity between diverse communities.

Bottomland hardwood forest: in this region, typically refers to forest-shrub habitats along rivers and larger streams, usually in floodplains. Comprised primarily of flood-adapted plant species such as cottonwood, willow, Oregon ash, and in some cases, Oregon White Oak (*Quercus garryana*) or red alder (*Alnus rubra*).

Brownfield: Oregon Department of Environmental Quality defines a brownfield as a vacant or underused property where actual or perceived environmental contamination complicates its expansion or reuse.

Canopy cover: see Tree canopy.

Climate resilience: the capacity of the natural environment and human communities to prevent, withstand, respond to, and recover from a disruption due to climate change.

Coarse filter: a higher-level look at the ecology of a place.

Connectivity: see habitat connectivity.

Distribution equity: equal distribution of resources among the people in consideration of their needs. For example, inequitable distribution of urban greenspace results in BIPOC communities with fewer natural amenities.

Ecological succession: the process of species and structural changes over time in an ecological community. For example, a burned area typically first regenerates low-structure plants, then young trees start to come in, and so on up until a mature forest is present.

Ecosystem engineer: an organism that directly or indirectly modulates the availability of resources to other species, by causing physical state changes in biotic or abiotic materials. In so doing they modify, maintain and create habitats. For example, beaver (*Castor canadensis*) create wetlands that support hundreds of other species; woodpeckers create tree cavities (holes) that many other species require for their life histories.

Eminent Domain: the act of a government or its agent to expropriate private property for public use, with payment of compensation. Metro does not use Eminent Domain in its natural area acquisition processes – instead it acquires natural areas solely through willing sellers.

Endemic species: a plant or animal species that belongs exclusively to an area or is confined to a particular place. For example, Oregon white oak trees (*Quercus garryana*) are endemic to the Pacific Northwest.

Environmental burden: an area where environmental conditions generally caused by human activities poses a risk to human health outcomes, livelihood, and quality of life conditions. These can compound with other systemic barriers to create intersectional disadvantages for affected communities. The prevalence of these burdens amongst BIPOC communities leads to environmental injustices. For example, freeways have historically been built in close proximity to low income and minority neighborhoods, therefore people living in such areas are more prone to asthma and other health issues.

Equity focal areas: A designation approved by Metro council which delineates census tracts where the representation of people of color or people with limited English proficiency is greater than the regional average, or people with low income, i.e., incomes equal to or less than 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. Additionally, the density (persons per acre) of one or more of these populations must be double the regional average.

Essential Fish Habitat: also called Designated Fish Habitat, this is a formal designation consisting of the waters and substrate necessary for certain fish species to spawn, breed, feed or grow to maturity. The Department of State Lands maintains Oregon's official essential fish habitat map using scientific data from Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Extant: a species that is still present in a given area – one that has not been extirpated.

Extinction: the termination of a species. The moment of extinction is generally considered to be the death of the last individual of the species, although the capacity to breed and recover may have been lost before this point.

Extirpated: a species once present in an area that has become locally extinct.

Flagship species: a charismatic species that has been identified to help raise awareness about the urgent need for action and funding around conservation issues. These organisms are usually among the most threatened or endangered species, and they are used to show the environmental damage that's happening in the geographic region where they live.

Gentrification: a process of change in a historically disinvested neighborhood by means of real estate investment and an influx of higher-income residents, resulting in displacement and demographic change in terms of income level, racial make-up of residents. In essence, housing prices escalate, forcing lower-income residents to move to areas they can better afford, often to the detriment of things such as access to transit.

Guild of species: in ecological terms, this is a group of species that uses the same kinds of resources in comparable ways, in the same area. For example, bark-foraging birds are a guild of species.

Habitat: habitat is the natural home or environment of a plant, animal, or other organism.

Habitat connectivity: the degree to which a landscape facilitates or impedes animal movement and other ecological processes, such as seed dispersal.

Habitat patch: a discrete habitat area used by a wildlife species for breeding or obtaining other resources.

Habitat permeability: the extent to which organisms are able to move freely through a landscape. More permeable areas support higher levels of habitat connectivity.

Habitat structure: the three-dimensional nature of habitat – for example, forests with trees of different heights and sizes, a good shrub and herbaceous understory have high habitat structure. Low structure habitat typically consists of grasses, forbs and low-stature shrubs.

Habitat type: plant and animal communities as the characterizing elements of the biotic environment, together with abiotic factors (soil, climate, water availability and quality, and others), operating together at a particular scale. The term 'habitat type' is often used synonymously with 'ecosystem'. Examples include oak woodlands, riparian (streamside) forests, or grasslands.

Headwaters: the source of a stream or river. Headwaters are located at the furthest point from where the water body empties or merges with another.

Headwater areas: headwaters and the contributing lands around them.

Heat island: see Urban heat island.

ITEK: Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge, typically used to describe Native American methods of sustainably managing a landscape for both people and nature.

Keystone species: a species on which other species in an ecosystem largely depend, such that if it were removed the ecosystem would change drastically. For example, wetlands would be greatly reduced if beaver were removed from the landscape.

Land cover: the physical material at the surface of the earth. Land covers include grass, asphalt, trees, buildings, bare ground, water, etc.

Marginalized communities: groups and communities that experience discrimination and exclusion because of unequal power relationships across economic, political, social and cultural dimensions.

Matrix: in ecology, the matrix is the landscape surrounding the habitat of interest. Frequently can be considered the non-habitat areas in connectivity modeling. The term is also used to indicate habitats that are unattractive or unsuitable to the wildlife species of interest, for example in terms of habitat connectivity.

Mosaic: in landscape ecology, a spatial pattern comprised of multiple habitat or microhabitat types in close proximity that in some cases may provide more functional habitat diversity than a single type of homogeneous cover.

Opportunistic (a.k.a. "adventive"): describes organisms that have evolved in another geography and been transported, usually via human beings, whether intentionally or not, that can become dominant in an otherwise native ecosystem. This term is less loaded than terms like "exotic" or "invasive."

Patch: see Habitat patch.

Periurban: development or land use located in an area immediately adjacent to a city, urban area or suburb; periurban areas still retain some rural characteristics compared to the other three categories.

Prairie: a low-structure grass and forb-based habitat, often containing many endemic species. For Metro's purposes, prairie is defined as grasslands with less than 5% cover of trees or shrubs.

Process equity: inclusive, open and fair access by all stakeholders to decision processes that impact community and operational outcomes.

Redlining or redlined neighborhoods: in the 1930s, surveyors with the federal Home Owners' Loan Corporation drew red lines around BIPOC and Jewish communities and deemed them "hazardous" for lending. Although these exclusionary practices have been banned for over 50 years, the practice effectively continues today, with significantly lower loan approval rates and worse terms for BIPOC compared to white community members. Redlining practices also included unfair and abusive loan terms for borrowers, outright deception, and penalties for prepaying loans. Its legacy remains in today's wealth gap, where the typical white family's net worth is nearly 10 times that of the typical Black family in the United States.

Refinement Plan: defines the actual Target Area boundary within which Metro will seek to protect lands through willing sellers, and the conservation objectives to be achieved with Bond investment. Refinement Plans, not Target Area Ecological Assessments, are the official basis for land protection and restoration decisions in each Target Area and across the region.

Riparian: habitat adjacent to water resources, such as streams or lakes. "Riparian" forests are forests found in close proximity to streams or other waterbodies.

Rural Reserves: lands designated to remain in rural condition for the foreseeable future under the Portland metropolitan region's formal land use designation. See also Urban Reserves.

Savanna: a mixed woodland-grassland/forb ecosystem characterized by the trees being sufficiently widely spaced so that the canopy does not close. For example, an oak savanna typically includes low-structure habitat plus large, widely spaced oak trees (approximately 5-30% canopy cover)

Species guild: see Guild of species.

Succession: see Ecological succession.

Superfund site: Congress established the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) in 1980 in recognition of the fact that certain contaminated sites were so large or severe as to require special status and rules for clean-up.

Surrogate species: subsets of species which are "representative" of multiple species or aspects of the environment. These include umbrella, focal, keystone, indicator, and flagship species. Surrogate species were used by the Regional Habitat Connectivity Work Group to model habitat connectivity in the greater Portland-Vancouver region.

Target area: an area of interest or "study area" within which Metro may acquire lands in the future from willing sellers under the 2019 Bond.

Tending: this term is used to describe Indigenous land resource management. In contrast with the acquisitive "harvesting" of agriculture and the passive "gathering" of Neolithic peoples, tending implies a reciprocal relationship of drawing sustenance from food and medicine plants, and at the same stewardship for their continued sustainable maintenance of their ecosystems.

Tree canopy: the layer of tree leaves, branches, and stems on a tree that overhang from the tree trunk. An area with high canopy cover has a lot of trees shading the ground.

Upland: habitat that is not associated with streams, wetlands or other water resources.

Urban growth boundary (UGB): urban jurisdictional boundary designed to concentrate dense urban development and its associated impacts in order to preserve farms, forests and habitat beyond its limits. The greater Portland urban region established the first UGB in the US in 1979.

Urban heat island: areas in cities that are warmer than surrounding areas, typically due to loss of natural habitat and increases in impervious surfaces such as streets and buildings. This effect increases energy costs, air pollution levels, and heat-related illness and mortality. The strongest urban heat islands tend to be in less affluent communities, where tree cover is typically lower than average.

Urban Reserves: lands formally designated as suitable for accommodating urban development over the 50 years after their designation in the greater Portland area.

Urban Target Area: the Urban Growth Boundary bounds the Urban Target Area; this assessment also touches on Urban Reserve areas in anticipation of future growth.

Woodland: a type of habitat with fewer trees or lower tree canopy cover (30-60%) than a forest, but more tree or canopy cover compared to a savanna.

Working lands: the rangelands, farms and forestlands typically used to support agriculture-based livelihoods. Their value extends beyond a dollar amount. Working lands are also recognized as homes to wildlife, areas that protect open space, and landscapes that provide local people with a sense of place.

Xeric: characterized by, relating to, or requiring only a small amount of moisture.