

From: [Joyce King](#)
To: [Lippre, Suzanne](#)
Subject: Public comment for 5-2
Date: Friday, April 26, 2019 1:15:35 PM

Thank you for the agenda, Suzanne
Please forward the following to the Planning Commission.

Dear Planning Commissioners

Thank you for the opportunity to comment at your last meeting.

It was heartening to hear that you have been considering the need for zoning in forest lands that can enhance ecosystem function and wildlife habitat, - in particular the idea of a new conservation zoning category that places competitive value on retaining late seral forest ecosystems and wildlife corridors.

We're in need of ways to counter the pervasive choice of short term profits vs the long term health of the natural resources that produce them – the few remaining examples of systems that developed and maintained maximum productivity for millennia.

In the process of establishing zoning requirements in general, I continue to worry that:

Highest and best use of land is usually defined as maximum development and profitability rather than maximum sustainability of public trust resources. Zoning rules seem to be the maximum possible protections which are then subject to constant weakening according to interpretation, variances, owner management/compliance, enforcement, mistakes, accidents, crime, etc

Protection levels for natural resources, though sometimes slowed or slightly increased, continually trend downward. How much more upzoning vs downzoning do we get? And how often is noncompliance with zoning requirements rewarded with eventual rezoning to permit less protective use?

Mitigations may not work. How well do they succeed over the long term? Who can afford to monitor and enforce them?

In my own small scale experience with damage to forests and wildlife habitat from residential use:

I'm engaged in battling the logarithmic growth of English Ivy in several local forest properties. It outcompetes native plants, can climb over 100' weakening and killing trees, eliminates food and breeding sites for native wildlife, and provides cover and access to pillaging rats. It pops up from seeds dropped by birds, and spreads via underground and above ground runners, which can grow several feet per year, enjoys shade, and loves our climate.

I have seen similar damage from pampas grass and scotch broom which can rapidly colonize clearings transforming formerly diverse forest communities into big barren monocultures.

My neighbors and I have clearings in a once great spruce-redwood-fir-hemlock-cedar forest in McKinleyville- not only for homes, second homes, and the required parking, defensible space, emergency turnarounds, and leach fields, but also for horses, goats, even a soccer practice field. The resident bears, mountain lions, fishers, Olympic giant salamanders, birds, etc have been deprived of territory, preyed on by our pets, and aggressively harassed by us for foraging or preying on what belongs to us. Sometimes they get into our trash and garages and eat or expose themselves to bad things.

We are good people with good intentions. But we need help seeing the big picture and reining

ourselves in.

Thanks again.

Joyce King, McKinleyville 707-267-5409

On Fri, Apr 26, 2019 at 11:54 AM Lippre, Suzanne <SLippre@co.humboldt.ca.us> wrote:

Please see attached.

Suzanne Lippre

Sr. Office Assistant

Planning and Building Department

County of Humboldt

3015 H Street

Eureka, CA 95501

Phone: (707)268-3728