



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - January 27, 2017

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New Statewide Protections Established for Oregon's Historic Places

- Department of Land Conservation and Development Adopts Safeguards for 11,000+ Historic Properties -

PORTLAND, OR – For over two decades, Oregon has lacked statewide protections for its historic sites and structures. But thanks to the tireless efforts of Restore Oregon and their fellow preservation advocates on the Rules Advisory Committee (RAC), revised land use rules were adopted earlier today by Oregon's Department of Land Conservation and Development.

Originally adopted in 1974 and last revised in 1996, [Goal 5](#) is a broad land-use policy goal which addresses the zoning and conservation of more than a dozen statewide public resources, including wildlife habitats and historic places. Today's revisions to its rules will provide new protections for Oregon's historic resources including:

- **Mandatory demolition review for all 11,594 Oregon properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places.**
Until now, the vast majority of these properties could be demolished without public/government input following a 120 day waiting period.
- **The option of creating local historic districts with the consent of a simple majority of property owners.**
Communities may now create local historic districts or conservation districts with the support of a simple majority. A single individual property-owner will no longer be able to block creation of a historic district if its creation is supported by the majority of his/her neighbors.
- **Freedom to update historic resource inventories without obtaining owner consent.**
Because creating a list of local historic resources is not akin to imposing a designation on those resources, municipalities will now have freedom to document historic properties without pursuing consent from individual property owners.
- **Optional additional protections for new National Register properties/districts with input from the public.**
Property owners can now apply for additional protections for new National Register-listed properties and districts after engaging in a public process. This allows property owners to help customize design/preservation guidelines and regulations for their districts.

Peggy Moretti, Executive Director of Restore Oregon, explains: "These revised rules present a modest yet meaningful baseline of protection for our irreplaceable historic resources -- something which has been sorely lacking."

Adds Christine Curran, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer of the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), "The rules revision process offers the opportunity to clarify legislative intent and reset expectations around the public value of historic properties. We hope to see rules that emphasize clear standards and offer increased flexibility at the local level. These are important empowerment tools for local jurisdictions in their efforts to conserve the important places in their communities."

Preservationists and planners throughout Oregon applaud these new revisions. As Amanda Ferguson, a city planner with the City of Cottage Grove states, "This comprehensive review of the historic preservation section of Goal 5 has been long overdue. The revisions will give communities across the state much needed guidance on developing a historic preservation program, and will help ensure the preservation of our most important historic resources."

Goal 5 rule changes will provide protection for thousands of historic resources across Oregon which currently lack protection. Additionally, they will create clarity and consistency in implementation statewide, and will grant local communities flexibility in managing their historic resources.

About Restore Oregon: *Founded in 1977, Restore Oregon is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization which advocates for sound preservation policy and legislation. Our mission is to preserve, reuse and pass forward the historic places that create livable communities. Each year, we provide statewide educational programming and technical assistance, while working to save the sites and structures featured on our annual list of [Oregon's Most Endangered Places](#). We hold over 40 conservation easements on historic properties, thereby protecting them in perpetuity. Learn more at www.restoreoregon.org*