

Re: SB 401 additions to Oregon's Scenic waterway system

Yes, it is true that some refer to themselves as "hobbiists" and not miners. In so doing they may very well be giving up their rights to the protections of mining law. To some fishermen they will refer to themselves by the same title however some are far more than that. Let's drop by one of the harbors and ask the salmon boat owners if they consider themselves "hobbiists". I have a greater respect than to use a broad brush stroke to classify any group. I'm a miner. I find it a bit, shall I say, pompous for any comment that is made about a generation of hard working men and women who mine or fish for a living as hobbiists. I have far too much tackle and rods so I guess that I've contributed to the health of the fishing supply business, and they deserve to make a profit. This is a land based on supply and demand. Since, I believe, this thread is about SB401 perhaps we can gain knowledge from one another. This bill is a far reaching bill that will eliminate ANY MOTORIZED EQUIPMENT within a 1/4 mile riparian area of 90% of the gold bearing waterways of SW Oregon. A great deal of placer mining takes place short distances outside of the water line far from fish, eggs and fry. However these processes require a motor and pump to perform that function. In my case that will pretty much allow me one option and not my preference. I seem to see that if this bill passes the use of a backhoe to excavate ancient streambeds outside of that 1/4 mile that are available on this claim may well be the only option to continue. That I'm sure will lead to many comments. Like I say....not my preference by a long shot. Oregon salmon boats did what they had to and ventured to open waters to "not lose their shorts" and, not to their liking, but they had every right to. Once again I will mention that I'm the caretaker of this small chunk of land and in so doing will never or have ever allowed trash or harm to come to it. The bill is supposedly to keep what is pretty and clean just that. If removing caretakers like myself who steps in to replace them? If I'm not here the road will still remain and I'm sure that no local law enforcement organization has either the manpower or ability to protect it on a 24 hour a day basis. For that matter I'm sure that the legislatures who may be voting on this bill to preserve the beauty of this area have any idea of performing that task. Self-serving, of course I am. Serving a purpose, I believe so. Please vote no on sb401.

Mark Bricker