

Josephine County Board of Commissioners

Simon G. Hare, Chair Cherryl Walker, Vice Chair Keith Heck, Commissioner

January 24, 2013

To: Senators, Legislators & AOC

Regarding: Senate Bill 331, distribution of Recreational Vehicle License Revenues

Dear Madams and Sirs;

The purpose of this letter is to show our support for the Oregon Parks Association (OPA), and to call on you to add your voice in supporting Senate Bill 331.

The Oregon Parks Association, the oldest parks association in Oregon, is proposing a 50/50 split with Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD). Counties provide 49% of Oregon's parks and recreational camping opportunities; however we only receive 35% of the funding from this dedicated source. In 2015, that percentage will revert back to 30%.

During these dramatic economic down times, county parks are facing an overwhelming backlog of maintenance. The reason this backlog exists is strictly based on a lack of funding. Combined, we have an alarming deferred maintenance crisis of around \$80 million.

Ballot Measure 76 dedicated Lottery funding has allowed OPRD to finance state parks operations, maintenance and acquisition in perpetuity. Counties do not receive BM 76 funds for operations and maintenance. OPRD has eliminated 76% of their maintenance backlog since 1999. It is incumbent upon the decision makers to provide a level playing field and to assist counties during the obvious financial crunch. The financial crisis is staggering in Josephine County, and a great deal of our economic health depends on tourist dollars.

As you may know, Josephine County is located in one of the most beautiful settings in Oregon. The Rogue River is the sixth (6th) busiest waterway in Oregon and Josephine County Parks have 80% of public access to the Rogue River for fishing, boating, floating, swimming and other activities that entice visitors to enjoy this special place. It is also a known fact that a healthy park system is an economic benefit to any community. Our Indian Mary boat ramp was awarded a National Award this past year by a vote of the combined 50 states Marine Boards. Josephine County Parks received an award from the Oregon State Marine Board for Outstanding Boating Facilities Maintenance for the years 2009-2011.

Because of the loss of O&C monies, Josephine County Parks do not receive any money from the general fund, making them dependent on fees and grants. In fact, since the 1980's the Parks Program has gone from having 27 FTEs to 5.8FTEs, with a growing population and older parks infrastructures to maintain. Should we attain our goal of a 50-50 split with OPRD, which is not only fair but is long overdue, our Parks Program will see an increase in revenue of \$115,000. That is clearly significant and desperately needed.

COURTHOUSE

500 N.W. Sixth Street, Dept. 6, Grants Pass, Oregon 97526


Phone: (541) 474-5221 Fax: (541) 474-5105

Thank you for your consideration of this highly emergent situation. It is our sincere hope that all of you support counties in their quest to help keep our county parks beautiful and our communities viable through maintaining the valuable gems of our beautiful state, our county parks.

Board of County Commissioners



Simon G. Hare, Chair



Cherryl Walker, Vice Chair



K. O. Heck, Commissioner

Rogue Valley Trip Expenditures, Salmon and Steelhead **RESIDENT** anglers.

Angler Estimate	Summer		Spring		Totals:	% of Total
	Steelhead	Fall Chinook	Winter Steelhead	Chinook		
Total Per Trip	\$ 56.90	\$ 75.20	\$ 56.90	\$ 60.50	\$ 249.50	100%
Lodging	\$ 8.10	\$ 12.20	\$ 5.70	\$ 2.60	\$ 28.60	11.5%
Transportation	\$ 10.60	\$ 14.60	\$ 12.70	\$ 11.40	\$ 49.30	19.8%
Food-Grocery	\$ 10.70	\$ 12.60	\$ 7.80	\$ 10.30	\$ 41.40	16.6%
Food-Restaurant	\$ 6.20	\$ 5.60	\$ 6.60	\$ 4.40	\$ 22.80	9.1%
Guides-Charter	\$ 5.60	\$ 12.90	\$ 12.40	\$ 8.40	\$ 39.30	15.8%
Fishing Supplies	\$ 10.50	\$ 11.00	\$ 7.80	\$ 12.60	\$ 41.90	16.8%
Boating Supplies	\$ 3.40	\$ 3.30	\$ 0.90	\$ 4.60	\$ 12.20	4.9%
Other	\$ 1.80	\$ 3.00	\$ 3.00	\$ 6.20	\$ 14.00	5.6%

Rogue Valley Trip Expenditures, Salmon and Steelhead **NON-RESIDENT** anglers.

Angler Estimate	Summer		Spring		Totals:	% of Total
	Steelhead	Fall Chinook	Winter Steelhead	Chinook		
Total Per Trip	\$ 206.00	\$ 184.40	\$ 165.10	\$ 211.90	\$ 767.40	100%
Lodging	\$ 42.20	\$ 43.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 43.60	\$ 153.80	20.0%
Transportation	\$ 26.90	\$ 21.10	\$ 23.20	\$ 33.30	\$ 104.50	13.6%
Food-Grocery	\$ 24.80	\$ 32.90	\$ 31.90	\$ 28.50	\$ 118.10	15.4%
Food-Restaurant	\$ 32.10	\$ 27.40	\$ 23.20	\$ 37.00	\$ 119.70	15.6%
Guides-Charter	\$ 44.60	\$ 26.80	\$ 28.40	\$ 36.60	\$ 136.40	17.8%
Fishing Supplies	\$ 10.70	\$ 12.50	\$ 12.50	\$ 19.40	\$ 55.10	7.2%
Boating Supplies	\$ 2.30	\$ 6.40	\$ 1.10	\$ 0.80	\$ 10.60	1.4%
Other	\$ 22.40	\$ 11.30	\$ 19.80	\$ 11.80	\$ 65.30	8.5%

TOTAL Angler Expenditures by Business	Residents Expenditures per Year	Non-Resident Expenditures per Year	Total Expenditures per Year 1992-93	% of Total
Lodging	\$ 1,219,000.00	\$ 1,340,000.00	\$ 2,559,000.00	14.8%
Transportation	\$ 2,098,800.00	\$ 911,200.00	\$ 3,010,000.00	17.4%
Food-Grocery	\$ 1,759,600.00	\$ 1,031,800.00	\$ 2,791,400.00	16.2%
Food-Restaurants	\$ 964,600.00	\$ 1,045,200.00	\$ 2,009,800.00	11.6%
Guides-Charter	\$ 1,674,800.00	\$ 1,192,600.00	\$ 2,867,400.00	16.6%
Fishing Supplies	\$ 1,780,800.00	\$ 482,400.00	\$ 2,263,200.00	13.1%
Boating Supplies	\$ 519,400.00	\$ 93,800.00	\$ 613,200.00	3.5%
Other	\$ 593,600.00	\$ 569,500.00	\$ 1,163,100.00	6.7%
Totals:	\$ 10,610,600.00	\$ 6,666,500.00	\$ 17,277,100.00	100.0%

1. Total direct RESIDENT Rogue Valley angler expenditures @ **\$10,600,000.00**.
2. Total direct Non-Resident Rogue Valley angler expenditures @ **\$6,700,000.00**
3. Combined total angler Direct expenditures @ **\$17,300,000.00**

DARRYLL OLSEN

PACIFIC NORTHWEST PROJECT

1992 - 1993

Take OVER

Salmon and Steelhead Anglers will bring smiles to the faces of local businesses.

In addition to the production contributions to ocean sport and commercial fisheries, the wild and hatchery fish stocks of the Rogue River system support an array of inland sport fisheries along the length of the Rogue River. Broadly speaking, Rogue Basin origin salmon and steelhead have economic values related to recreational uses as well as other economic values not tied directly to fishing. The money spent at businesses that provide "support" services to anglers is significant. For example, anglers buy gasoline, sun block, groceries, beer and hats.

Anglers spend a lot of money in the Rogue Valley during the Chinook and Steelhead seasons. In fact a study from 10 years ago pegs those expenditures at well over \$17,300,000.00. See the following page for the details. Given the increased popularity of the Rogue's fall fisheries and changes due to inflation, that \$17M from 1993 is closer to \$22M today. That's a lot of economic impact. Money is spent on transportation, lodging, food (grocery), food (restaurants), guides, fishing equipment and supplies, and boating supplies and equipment. This \$17.3M is direct spending and does not take into account the "Multiplier Process" on income and employment in the general economy.

Anglers come in two flavors; resident and nonresident. A resident angler spends an average of \$56.90 per trip for Summer Steelhead and \$72.50 for Fall Chinook, while nonresidents spend \$206.00 per trip for Summer Steelhead and \$184.40 for Fall Chinook. An average trip is considered to be two days.

This information was taken from a survey of over 3,500 individuals who fished in Josephine, Jackson and Douglas counties and excluded money spent on licenses and tags.

1. Total direct RESIDENT Rogue Valley angler expenditures @ **\$10,600,000.00.**
2. Total direct Non-Resident Rogue Valley angler expenditures @ **\$6,700,000.00**
3. Combined total angler Direct expenditures @ **\$17,300,000.00**