Washington Family Ranch Youth Camp Expansion

Legislation would allow Washington Family Ranch to expand its youth camp in Wasco and Jefferson County.

- Oregon Land Use Law doesn't allow expansion of the current youth camp.
- The legislation would allow for an additional 1,500 overnight beds and up to four additional campsites on no more than a 100 acre foot print for each individual camp.
- A total of 4,000 acres of the 62,000 acre ranch would be designated as the expansion area. The campsites would only occur within the expansion area.
- The expansion would utilize existing infrastructure when possible and would minimize duplication of some facilities and services.
- Access to expanded camp facilities would utilize existing access roads where possible.
- Legislation would require Young Life to file a site plan with the impacted county. As with all county site plan submittals, the camp expansion would require a public process.

Washington Family Ranch is owned and operated by Young Life, a non-profit organization. The youth ranch is located near Antelope, Oregon in both Wasco and Jefferson counties. The current camp facilities are situated in Wasco County and the expansion area lies primarily in Jefferson County.

The ranch includes two camps: Canyon, a high school camp, opened in 1999, and Creekside, a middle school camp, opened in 2011. The ranch hosts thousands of children every summer from all over the United States. The ranch also hosts family camps, camps for individuals with disabilities and single mothers with children. When the youth camps are not in session they rent out their facilities to other groups and government entities.

The Dennis Washington Family donated the "Big Muddy Ranch," to Young Life in the late 1990's. The Big Muddy Ranch was once the home of thousands of followers of Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh. During the Bhagwan's brief ownership, over a hundred million dollars had been invested in infrastructure, and both commercial and residential development. The commune housed up to 5,000 people on a year round basis with a peak visitor population of up to 15,000. The Washington family acquired the Rajneeshee commune once it fell into bankruptcy.







