



# Josephine County, Oregon

Board of Commissioners: Cheryl Walker, Keith O. Heck, Simon G. Hare

## **PARKS ADVISORY BOARD**

Doyle Nelson, Chair

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Association of Oregon Counties  
1201 Court St. NE Suite 300  
Salem, OR 97301-4110

Dear President Thompson,

The Josephine County Parks Advisory Board fully supports HB 2459, a legislative proposal that will allow the Oregon State Marine Board to increase fees for boat registration, titles, and other transactions. This legislation is needed to fund the agency to a level that will allow it to provide the same level of services as it now does for the next three biennium.

Failure to increase fees will result in fewer services to boaters, including payments to Josephine County for the enforcement of boating safety laws, education of the boating public, and the response to water emergencies. In addition, grants payments to Josephine County for boat ramps, restrooms, and parking lots will be curtailed.

The Josephine County Parks system includes public boat ramps, parking lots, and restrooms at eleven locations along the Rogue River. These facilities are used year around for fishing, rafting, and kayaking along this popular section of the Rogue. The parks receive no funding from Josephine County's general tax revenues, but rely on user fees and the grant funding from the Oregon Marine Board to maintain and operate these facilities. Without these funds, the parks may be forced to close some of the access points to the public.

In addition, the marine deputy has been a valuable presence on the river, especially for water emergencies. The loss of this asset would increase concerns about public safety on the Rogue.

We encourage the Association of Oregon Counties to put their full support behind the passage of this important piece of legislation.

Doyle Nelson  
Chair, Parks Advisory Board