HB2027

Allowing a footbridge across the Deschutes River in Central Oregon within the designated Wild and Scenic River corridor has a potentially huge impact on all 20 rivers identified in Oregon's State Scenic Waterways Management Plan. Allowing a change on the Deschutes River has the potential to set in motion a flood of requests from communities surrounding the remaining 19 rivers for accommodation of their pet projects.

The request to change the plan for the sole purpose of easing human crossing of the Deschutes is an anathema to the intent of the Wild and Scenic Waterways Program. More Oregonians are affected by this request from the Bend Park and Recreation District than what has been identified. All Oregonian's voices need to be heard, not just those who live in the vicinity of the proposed project. I trust the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department has the wisdom to initiate a planning process to identify and disclose the potential impacts (including unintended impacts) of this proposal and develop/implement a public information and comment period across Oregon before making any changes to the management plan.

I support Representatives Gene Whisnant and Dave Clem for sponsoring this bill and, especially, Oregonians who in the early 1970's had the foresight to develop/implement our State Scenic Waterways Management Act & subsequent management protection plan for future generations.

Gladys I. Biglor

Sen Dist 27

House Dist 53