

From: Shelley Finnigan
To: [SENR Exhibits](#)
Cc: [Sen Dembrow](#); [Sen Olsen](#); [Sen Linthicum](#); [Sen Prozanski](#); [Sen Roblan](#)
Subject: Support HB 2027-A.
Date: Tuesday, May 09, 2017 3:30:29 PM

To whom this may concern,

PLEASE SUPPORT HB 2027-A

- 1) We don't need more river trail, per se. There are probably more miles of trail on the Deschutes River from Tumalo to Sunriver than any comparable community in Oregon...by far.
- 2) What we need is more riparian habitat and wildlife areas to be given priority on the Deschutes as per LCDC requirements. Preserve the last mile of undeveloped, unimpacted river in Bend. Both bird and mammal usage will decline significantly with a bridge, especially wintering bald eagles, deer and elk, and year round herons, otters, beavers, coyotes and migrating deer. Bend could boast the largest urban wildlife preserve in the country for a town its size.
- 3) There is no gap in the [Deschutes](#) River Trail from Bend to Sunriver: The Haul Rd. Trail, formerly known as the ""Deschutes River Trail" for its whole length, fulfills that role. This has been a big selling point by Parks to get approval of a bridge here, i.e. the "need to complete the DRT."
- 4) There are only two neighborhoods that directly benefit from this bridge and one of them, Deschutes River Woods, has more opponents than proponents of a bridge. They fear trespassing, traffic and illegal parking. I was at the public meeting where they testified. The other, River Rim, has the editor of The Bulletin as its chief supporter and potential beneficiary. (It has been hammering away at proponents of the bridge and helping to organize opposition to HB 2027-A with four editorials.) All other users will have to drive and park just as they do now, only they will have a lot farther to walk to get to the USFS.
- 5) The west side of the proposed bridge is already suffering from overuse, with considerable areas of denuded vegetation. US Forest Service trail counts may exceed permissible levels if a bridge is added to the mix.
- 6) The leash-free dog area and narrow river trail will experience direct conflict with the addition of so many mountain bikers and pedestrians. There just isn't enough room for all of that usage and the experience will be either terminated or degraded for all users.
- 7) A bridge will generate high trail usage paralleling the river. The all important deer migration route that crosses the river here will be interrupted. Noise from the trail will interrupt wildlife behavioral routines and movements. The scent of dogs will displace some species.
- 8) A bridge will also generate heavy boat and inner tube traffic resulting in impacts downstream and hazards to inexperienced floaters in the rapids. This is prime spawning habitat for native trout whose fishery would also suffer. Otters, beavers, herons and waterfowl will be displaced and usage by wintering bald eagles will probably end.

9) In addition to wildlife, rare riparian vegetation and cultural resources in the area will be negatively impacted, as per expert testimony at public hearings.

10) This bill will strengthen and preserve State Scenic Waterway status as it now stands. Defeat will potentially open up not only the Deschutes but other Scenic Rivers like the Rogue to overuse from bridge crossings.

"I'm opposed to a bridge in the State Scenic Waterway and support HB 2027-A. We need more conservation in Bend, not more development."

Shelley Finnigan

Sent from my iPad