

From: Samantha Barsky
To: [SENR Exhibits](#)
Subject: Written Testimony for the South UGB Segment in Bend
Date: Wednesday, May 10, 2017 10:30:48 AM

Dear Oregon Legislature:

Please do not prohibit the development of the proposed bridge connecting the Deschutes River Trail from the eastside of the Deschutes River to the westside of the river in south Bend.

I fully support the implementation of the bridge and South UGB Segment proposal because:

- I would be able to walk or drive the 2 miles from my home to the bridge to access the trails on the westside of the river without having to drive a vehicle 6 miles to the closest trailhead at Rimrock.
- Having bridge access would alleviate use and congestion at current trail access sites on the westside of the river at Rimrock, Meadow, and Phil's Trailheads.
- The bridge would allow the other 8,400 eastside river residents an access alternative to the trails west of the river without having to drive a vehicle 6-7 miles through a sometimes congested area of Bend to trailheads west of the river.
- Having a trail access alternative for 8,400 eastside river residents will aid in reducing vehicular traffic on Brookwood Rd, Reed Market Rd, Reed Market Rd/Bond St roundabout, Century Dr, Washington Dr, NW Mount Washington Dr, and Skyliners Rd—all of which are currently needed to access the westside trails by eastside river residents. The outcome of reducing vehicular traffic pressure on these roads will cut emissions and noise, improve air quality, driving experience and drive time for residents on the westside of the river.

In every respect, I support the location of the proposed bridge and trail (Option 3 and 3C) recommended by the Citizen Advisory Committee since these locations appear to have the least amount of impact to adjacent residents compared to the alternate locations that were evaluated by the CAC. Growth in Bend is undeniable and the need for alternate access to trails is a direct correlation. For many residents of Bend, myself included, one of the most valued recreation opportunities is the westside trail system on USFS lands. These nationally known trails are exceptional and an asset to the community and it's economy. Having the bridge to access these trails will not only be valued by southeast Bend residents, but will minimize impacts to other access points and Bend residential areas by helping disperse overall trail use throughout the system.

Thank you for accepting my written testimony.

Sincerely,
Samantha Barsky
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