

Hamre Jaime

From: sarah cuddy <sarah.a.cuddy@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 12:21 PM
To: HAGNR Exhibits
Subject: HB 4029 support

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Dear members of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee:

I urge you to support House Bill 4029, which would better protect the Deschutes River. As a life-long central Oregonian, I have been recreating and viewing wildlife on the Deschutes River for decades. I have lived in Bend for the past 9 years and find the stretch of the upper Deschutes to have incredible scenic value filled with wildlife. The Deschutes River is currently designated as both a State Scenic Waterway and a Federal Wild and Scenic River. Proposed developments including a potential bridge would require weakening of those river and public land protections. I am very concerned about any weakening of public land protections and the precedent it would set.

The existing administrative rule - OAR 736-040-0073 - was put in place more than 20 years ago, and the legislature should uphold the intent by adopting HB 4029 and ensuring this stretch of river can be protected for many more years.

Bend's increasing population growth and recreation demand has serious repercussions on wildlife and habitat. A bridge on this stretch of the upper Deschutes River would be detrimental to habitat in the river corridor that is home to spotted frogs, bald eagles, golden eagles, elk, cougar, mule deer, owls, beaver, otters and more. Increased disturbance in the river corridor would be harmful to these animals and their habitat. Bend has some of the best access to recreation on our public lands in the state of Oregon. There are already ample opportunities for residents and visitors to access our public lands without compromising our wildlife and environmental protections.

Please vote in favor of HB 4029.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sarah Cuddy
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