

Hamre Jaime

From: Gail Snyder <aussiegail@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2018 9:22 AM
To: HAGNR Exhibits
Subject: Vote YES on HB 4029

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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To: Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
Re: HB 4029

Greetings,
Please vote yes on HB 4029.

This matter has been presented as a NIMBY issue. That is an unfair characterization and quite frankly, offensive to those of us who do not live along the river and yet feel passionately about protecting it from uncontrolled and rampant additional use.

Nor is this a new issue that suddenly has come up and has not had time for public input. The ban on new bridges in the Upper Deschutes State Scenic Waterway was instituted thirty years ago, because even then there was fear of overwhelming this area with human traffic.

People who worked on getting the State Scenic Waterway designation in the 1980s have stated that the reason the ban was put in place was because of numerous requests for bridges from different parties. They wanted to protect the river from the impacts of increased use. That was thirty years ago. There is a great deal more use along the river now compared to then, and for much wildlife, this is a zero sum game.

I personally got engaged in the proposed bridge issue several years ago because I was concerned about impacts to wildlife, and I later participated in the OPRD outreach meetings. In the years that I have lived in Bend, I have learned about and witnessed first hand the impacts to the Deschutes River banks and riparian areas that increased use will have. **This is a case of build it and they will come.**

We have so many trails available to us in Central Oregon already. These "interesting facts" are from a [January 31, 2018, Deschutes Land Trust](#) presentation by USFS wildlife biologist, Brock McCormick.

Interesting facts from Brock's Presentation:

We have lots of trail options in Central Oregon and we love them!

- We have enough trails in the Deschutes National Forest that you could recreate every weekend from May-September and cover 38 miles per weekend and not see the same trail.
- A minimum of 15 people/hour or 240 people/day use the Deschutes River trail during the summer.

Over the past 5 years, there has been 15-20% annual growth in recreational use in the Deschutes National Forest.

Give wildlife space! One study found that recreationists felt that 59 meters was an acceptable distance from wildlife. However, 150 meters is the average flight distance of bison, mule deer and pronghorn.

I believe that it's time to restore and mitigate recreation impacts to the river and not to add even more impacts. If that means I can't go along a one-mile stretch of the river that is a remnant, relatively healthy stretch of river that provides scarce refuge for birds, mammals and other wildlife, that's just fine with me.

Thank you for your consideration.

Gail Snyder
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I have one share in corporate Earth, and I am nervous about the management.
E.B. White, writer (1899-1985)