
From: Ed <edkula@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2018 10:59 AM
To: HAGNR Exhibits
Subject: House Bill 4029

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I am a resident of Bend, in the Southwest part of Bend. And while I understand the thinking behind a bridge proposal, I believe it is detrimental overall to our area.

I urge your support for House Bill 4029, which would better protect the Deschutes River. The Deschutes is currently designated as both a State Scenic Waterway and a Federal Wild and Scenic River. The permission to create a bridge would require weakening of those river and public land protections. I am opposed to the weakening of public land protections and the precedent it would set. I also believe that there are alternatives to the bridge.

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.

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.

Oregon State Parks has already undergone two public processes that included stakeholder groups in the past three years, open houses, and public meetings to discuss this issue. It has been thoroughly vetted locally. Each time the conclusion was to maintain current river protections.

Please support the passage of HB 4029.

Thank you for your consideration,
Eddie Kula
19765 Baneberry
Bend, Oregon 97702

Sent from my iPad