
From: Delight Stone <delight@curryarchitecture.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2018 6:19 PM
To: HAGNR Exhibits
Cc: Clifford Curry; Delight Stone
Subject: TESTIMONY ON HB 4029

Dear Chairman Clem, Vice-Chairs McLain and Sprenger, and members of the Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources:

Oregonians have a long history of treasuring the wild, understanding that our wild rivers and lands are something special and that Oregonians have a unique privilege. In the 1970s the Oregon Scenic Waterways program recognized that wild rivers and their surrounds needed special protection as Oregon urbanized. The Oregon Scenic Waterways Program, established in 1970, protects Oregonians and the Deschutes River.

Bend Parks and Recreation District (BPRD), a public agency and taxing authority, is not comfortable with the program and has tactically worked to misinform and work around this protection.

Oregon State Parks has gone through two comprehensive public processes in the last three years. Citizens, local and statewide, by majority, came to the conclusion to maintain, if not strengthen, river protections. Since BPRD does not like the conclusion they are continuing to

explore avenues which will let them build a bridge.

The existing Haul Trail Road is a viable alternative for BPRD to achieve its trail objective that does not impact sensitive wildlife zones. It does not require bridge construction.

We have 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:

We have enough trails in the Deschutes National Forest that you could use them 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. This is the trail BPRD wants to extend and put a bridge.

Over the past five years there has been 15-20% annual growth in recreational use in the Deschutes National Forest. Wildlife space is being impacted. One study found that recreationists felt that it was reasonable to get within 59 meters of pronghorn deer. The average flight distance needs to be 150 meters. Wildlife needs space and needs protection from human intrusion.

Please support House Bill 4029 which aims to protect wild and scenic stretches of the Deschutes River.

Thank you,

Clifford Curry and Delight Stone

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