

Verbal testimony Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee 2-8-2018

Good morning Chairman Clem and committee members,

I support HB 4029. For several years there has been an aggressive push to negate the state waterway rules to allow a bridge over the Deschutes River. The reason for the bridge ban was in the past there were numerous requests for bridges and dams. The people who worked on getting the SSW adopted did so because they wanted the river protected from the impacts of increased use.

Since BPRD's request to amend those rules there have been numerous public processes. Sept.9 2015 BPRD requests to amend OAR, Oct.28, 2015 State Parks holds a public hearing to allow a bridge, Feb. 2016 State Parks commission declines opening SSW rules, Dec.2 2016 State Parks holds public meeting about SSW, Dec. 2016-May 2017 State Parks starts Upper Deschutes Advisory Group looking at SSW rules, public neighborhood meetings held Feb. 2017, May 2017 final report out, May 10 State Parks director declines to open rules. The State Park commission said no, the State Park director said no to opening the rules. How many processes do we need to go through at state expense when the answer is no.

The area in question is outside Bend's Urban Growth Boundary and isn't even in BPRD's district. Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife opposes any bridges in this area. It is proposed on US Forest Service land.

In Bend ODFW and USFS biologists have documented serious wildlife displacement by heavily used trails. Current research shows that humans have a significant negative impact on a variety of wildlife, big and small. HB 4029 would protect an area that is wildlife dense with a deer migration route and home to numerous other animals as shown by our photos. It provides critical wildlife. It is a unique area close to Bend which should continue to be protected.

This is not a NIMBY issue or a local issue. It is a state issue. Do you want to infringe on 50 years of Federal Wild and Scenic rules and 30 years of State Scenic Waterway rules? Or do you want to strengthen those rules because a local agency wants a particular local project?

I'm not against trails I use them for walking and biking but there has to be a balance. There are alternative paths for this trail. I don't believe we are all entitled to go wherever we want without regard for our impacts on the needs of wildlife and the environment.

Please support HB 4029.

Thank you,

Judy Clinton

Bend, Oregon