

Hamre Jaime

From: mike_taylor@instantiations.com
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To: HAGNR Exhibits
Subject: Submitted Testimony-Additional Comments-HB4029

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Please consider this additional testimony to that I previously submitted:

I urge you to vote in favor of HB4029 to ban the proposed new pedestrian bridge on the Deschutes River north of the Bend city limits.

Why?

- First, please realize that this is a state-wide issue, not simply a local issue. Bend Parks proposes a project that will set a precedent weakening protections for Oregon's scarce Wild and Scenic waterways across the entire state. It potentially affects both national and state lands...it is clearly a state-wide, regional issue.
- Bend Park's proposed bridge is outside their district boundaries, outside Bend's city limits and the urban growth boundary. Bend Parks should not be allowed to treat the Upper Deschutes region (where I live) as a park for the City of Bend.
- Bend residents' opinions on whether or not to build a park outside of any jurisdiction related to them should be considered irrelevant. Bend residents have more than adequate access to the Deschutes Trail system already via existing bridges and trails.
- This is not simply a NIMBY issue as has been suggested by some. I live west of La Pine, the bridge isn't in my backyard...but the Deschutes itself is nearby and our community highly values the federal and state protections that have been in place for decades. We do not want to see the existing protections weakened
- For decades the Upper Deschutes has been managed almost exclusively for irrigation purposes. This has severely damaged the riverine and aquatic habitat and wildlife species that depend on the river for their existence. An unnecessary bridge with its construction impacts and long-term increased foot traffic will further degrade habitat and negatively affect native and endangered species.

Please stop this precedent setting land grab by Bend Parks by voting to approve HB4029!

Thank you for your consideration,
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