



NORTHWEST OUTWARD BOUND SCHOOL

May 5, 2023

Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Subcommittee on Capital Construction
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE, Room H-178, Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Senator Girod, Representative Holvey, and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to present written testimony in support of the “Northwest Outward Bound School” capital project under consideration in HB5030.

Northwest Outward Bound School (NWOBS) provides a unique and supportive environment for youth to develop their leadership skills and connection to self, others, and the natural world through challenge and discovery. Following years of isolation and disrupted academic and social education, **the well facilitated, educational opportunities that NWOBS can provide help youth rebuild teamwork, collaboration and communication skills**, all of which atrophied or didn’t develop sufficiently during a time of online public-school education. NWOBS has strong experience working across urban and rural communities and with students from a spectrum of social economic and cultural backgrounds.

Given these impacts, NWOBS is accelerating planned investments in infrastructure in order to **double the number of youth served** over the coming five years. This comprehensive project includes renovations for both base camps operating out of Central Oregon and North Central Washington, as well as a Challenge course that will serve the Portland Metro area.

The first portion of the project includes plans to purchase, renovate, and add workforce housing at the Odin Falls (Redmond, OR) basecamp to enable NWOBS to expand educational programming, stabilize employment, and enable greater community partnerships with school districts and aligned organizations in Central Oregon. This strategy not only offers financial sustainability, but also expands the NWOBS model to include a larger service area. **This Odin Falls project is estimated at \$2.4M. We are asking for \$600,000 from the State of Oregon from capital construction allocation with the remaining funds coming from private and foundational support.**



**NORTHWEST
OUTWARD BOUND SCHOOL**

Thank you for your consideration of our request. We understand that resources are limited but we do believe that investing in this project is an opportunity to support the mental health of young adults in Oregon at a pivotal time in their lives through the use of nature.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Heisterkamp". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Marc Heisterkamp
Executive Director



Odin Falls Base Camp

NWOBS has a unique opportunity to expand and deepen our programming in Central Oregon with updates to the Odin Falls Base Camp property.

Our current lease on the Odin Falls Base Camp expires at the end of 2023. Purchasing the property will allow for deeper planning of long-term programming for students, foster a re-engagement with the Central Oregon community, and increase the stability and strength of our organization through a longer operating season.



Improvements to the Odin Falls Base Camp property would enable several staff to live at the base camp year-round, improving our ability to develop local partnerships with schools during the September-May school year, and improving our ability to develop valuable relationships with neighbors, communities, and local youth development organizations.

Timeline

	2022			2023			2024		
Phase 1: Concept and Planning									
Phase 2: Development									
Phase 3: Design and Construction									

Our timeline allows for the needed community outreach and the necessary land-use approvals.

Phase 1: Concept and Planning – October 2022 – June 2023

Land Use Determination // Financing Options Research // Predesign for Construction & Renovations // Project Budget & Scope

Phase 2: Development – March 2023 – December 2023

Leadership and Board Gifts // Construction Documents

Phase 3: Design and Construction – June 2023 – March 2024

Public Phase // Land Purchase // Construction // Donor Recognition



The Odin Falls Base Camp property will be a tangible focus of commitment and excitement for our students and the communities we serve, for our donors and supporters, and for Northwest Outward Bound School as a whole.

The stability of owning the Odin Falls Base Camp property will also allow NW OBS to:

- Invest in new structure design and materials to mitigate fire risk
- Expand our programming options and capacity to serve more students
- Improve our ability to efficiently plan, budget, and finance for the future

Financial and Budget

Land Purchase	\$750,000
Maintenance	\$208,000
Renovation	\$525,000
Construction	\$900,000
Project Total	\$2,383,000

PHOTO: TAYLOR PETERS



Considerations

- Neighbors and land use: outreach meetings with neighbors on proposed usage
- Current land use constraints
- Fire risk mitigation: new structure design and materials will mitigate fire risk
- Financing: financing at 50% a possibility
- Timing: Odin Base Camp lease expires at end of 2023, so the time is now to proceed

Capital investments needed at the base camp include

- Purchase property
- Year-round housing for administrative staff
- Renovations and expansions of restroom facilities
- Address indoor air quality and HVAC issues

Strengthening Student Experiences, Community Relationships, and Staffing

Northwest Outward Bound School at Odin Falls has a rich history of serving students with character building and leadership development programming.

To assure that Odin Falls programs continue for future generations, we must build on our strengths and our assets by improving the experience of our students and enabling year-round programming, strengthening organizational stability and supporting our staff, and managing our expenses wisely.

