

Hamre Jaime

From: Kevin Barnum <kevin@bendhuskies.org>
Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2018 11:32 AM
To: HAGNR Exhibits
Subject: Support of Legislative Concept 49

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Dear Representatives:

I'm am writing you today in support of **Legislative Concepts 49**, which is being considered by the Oregon State House of Representatives, which **would ban the building of a bridge** in the 1-mile section of the Deschutes River just south of Bend's Urban Growth Boundry. Bend Parks and Recreation District is continuing to lobby for a bridge to be built there, even though it is outside of Bend's Urban Growth Boundry, and in so, they are intervening into public land outside their boundaries.

As the founder on Bend Huskies, I speak on behalf of myself and our 125+ members that we believe that:

- 1) The proposed bridge would impact the river and riparian communities in that area, would increase foot and bike traffic on the GoodDog!/Rimrock/Meadow Camp section of the Deschutes River Trail, the **ONLY** section that is currently legal for off-leash dogs during the summer, May 15 - September 15. Increased use might result in the prohibition of off-leash dogs by the Forest Service, which this area has already seen a surplus of use since the Forest Service gave it an official trail name, Rimrock, and built a 40+ space parking lot; and
- 2) The proposed bridge is unnecessary, as there is already a walking/biking route on the west side of the river that connects the Deschutes River Trail in town to the Deschutes River Tail in the National Forest. Both the existing west side route and the proposed east-side route, by Bend Parks and Recreation District, require some travel along roads, hence no benefit of people avoiding roads.

In closing, we support Legislative Concept 49.

Thank you,

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