

Crook County turns attention to limiting destination resorts

By [Lauren Dake](#) / *The Bulletin*

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PRINEVILLE — A week after Crook County planning officials preliminarily approved a fourth destination resort, the County Court has set a timeline for addressing a measure to prevent more resorts from coming to the area.

A measure passed in May advised county officials to eradicate the destination resort map, which is necessary to create new resorts. On Wednesday, County Court officials said there will be two public hearings on the measure next month and a decision will follow shortly after.

Powell Butte rancher Mollie Eder, who wrote the anti-resort ballot measure, said people have been waiting anxiously for the county to take the next step.

“It gets frustrating; we felt hopeless that here we voted on something, and it didn’t seem like anything was happening,” she said. “I understand there was a process. ... And here it is four months later, but I’m pretty happy something is starting to happen.”

The Crook County Planning Commission is expected to give its written recommendation to the County Court by the end of this month.

“The measure passed in May, and we’ve had quite a bit of interest when something was going to happen. The general feeling was because Crossing Trails (resort) was coming in, we were dealing with that and were in back-to-back meetings and the Planning Commission didn’t have time to do this as well,” said Heidi Bauer, a Crook County land use attorney with the Planning Department

Removing the map requires a vote of the Crook County Court, so the effect of passing the ballot measure remains uncertain.

“Obviously the voters sent a message and to ignore it is not wise, but in theory they could decide not to process it,” Bauer said.

The Crossing Trails resort is expected to be appealed. The 580-acre resort would be located north of state Highway 126 and east of Southwest Parrish Lane. Any changes to the county’s destination map will not affect Crossing Trails, however, because the resort’s application was submitted before the ballot measure passed.

Remington Ranch, Brasada Ranch and Hidden Canyon are the area’s three other destination resorts that have been approved and are in various stages of development.

Combined, the three existing resorts cover 7,350 acres and could include 4,500 housing units.

The county can only amend its map every 36 months, so the measure would prevent resorts coming to the area for at least three years.

“I’m trying not to jump for joy yet, but I think the ballot measure is on its way to making Crook County a better place, finally,” Eder said.

Lauren Dake can be reached at 541-419-8074 or at ldake@bendbulletin.com.

