

**From:** [Deborah Goodall](#)  
**To:** [PUBLICCOMMENT \\* OPRD](#)  
**Cc:** [steve@bendparksandrec.org](mailto:steve@bendparksandrec.org)  
**Subject:** Deschutes River Trail Project  
**Date:** Friday, November 20, 2015 2:08:57 PM

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Mr. Havel,

My husband and I live in the River Rim neighborhood in Bend. All options of the proposed Deschutes River Trail Project would direct trail users to the Elk Meadow path that runs directly behind our home. As frequent users of the meadow trail, the Deschutes River Trail that starts at the COID Canal Intake and of the Good Dog Park in the Deschutes National Forest off Cascades Highway, **we want to voice our strong support for the proposed trail** that would link to the south section of the Deschutes River Trail, to include the pedestrian bridge over the river, parking off of Buck Canyon Road and, yes, even the River Rim Elk Meadow trails. We and other residents in southwest Bend would use it to access the beauty of the river and the surrounding forests without having to get into a vehicle and driving somewhere to do so. While the trail will increase pedestrian, bike and vehicle traffic that goes by our home, we still feel the investment in these recreational features will enhance our community, our neighborhood and our property value.

We appreciate the reason behind the scenic waterway designation that currently prohibits the construction of the bridge. However, we are asking that the state rethink this restriction given the proposal is for a pedestrian bridge only. Bend is growing and we need to expand options for access to the along the river. We are always surprised at how few people walk, jog or bike the Deschutes River Trail from the COID Canal Intake off of Snowbrush down to the pedestrian bridge closer to the Old Mill District. Linking that to the southern segment makes good, healthy sense for those of us who love and are good stewards of our beautiful natural resources.

Thank you for your consideration!

Thomas and Deborah Goodall  
19455 Sugar Mill Loop  
Bend, OR 97702  
541-408-9814

**From:** [Scott Reich](#)  
**To:** [PUBLICCOMMENT \\* OPRD](#); [HAVEL Chris \\* OPRD](#)  
**Cc:** [Busey Jen \\* OPRD](#); [Don@bendparksandrec.org](#); [jpallen@fs.fed.us](#)  
**Subject:** Support for OAR Amendment  
**Date:** Friday, November 20, 2015 1:37:48 PM  
**Attachments:** [Support for OAR Amendment.pdf](#)

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Good afternoon,

Attached to this email and also included in the body of this email are my comments in support of Bend Park and Recreation District's proposal to amend Oregon Administrative Rule 736-040-0073 pertaining to State Scenic Waterways. Thank you for your consideration of their proposal and my comments.

I am writing to express my support for the amendments to Oregon Administrative Rule 736-040-0073 pertaining to State Scenic Waterways that were recently proposed by the Bend Park and Recreation District (BPRD). BPRD's request to remove outright prohibitions on bridges over the relevant section of the Deschutes River would allow for a full consideration of their proposal to place a pedestrian and bicycle bridge over the river. My support for these amendments is based on:

1. The amendments are consistent with the Oregon Scenic Waterway Program's goals;
2. There are very limited negative impacts to the amendments; and
3. It would open the door for the connection of the entire 30-mile length of the Deschutes River Trail.

As a homeowner in the immediate vicinity of this section of the river, I consider this proposal to have a positive impact on the community at large and on the neighborhoods that would be most impacted.

One of the goals of the Scenic Waterways Program includes the protection and enhancement of recreation along scenic waterways. Allowing a pedestrian and bicycle bridge along the relevant section of the Deschutes River would certainly enhance the recreational opportunities along the river but would do so in a way that limits impact to the river, its aesthetics, and fish and wildlife in the area. Currently, this beautiful section of river has very limited access, particularly along the east bank.

Additionally, a bridge crossing along the proposed section of river would improve non-vehicular access to the river and accompanying trails. The benefits of this non-vehicular access are substantial for the current and future state of the Deschutes River. By facilitating less vehicular traffic to and from existing trailheads, the local contributions to water, air and soil pollution would be reduced. Another important aspect of a bridge that should not be overlooked is the access it would allow for a generation of Oregonians who are not yet of driving age. Younger populations have ever-decreasing interactions with the natural world and this is an opportunity to provide them with more opportunities to interact with and gain appreciation for natural landscapes.

While I highlighted the recreational benefits of a bridge above, it is equally important to acknowledge the other goals of the Scenic Waterway Program that are intended to protect the river and private property rights. It does not appear that this

amendment and the related bridge proposal would interfere with any of those goals. As can be seen in many rivers throughout the state and more specifically along the Deschutes River, pedestrian and bicycle bridges do not interfere with the health of rivers and nearby neighborhoods but instead demonstrate a balance between recreational and conservation needs. Additionally, BPRD has a long track record of balancing the various needs of the environment and of an increasingly populated community, resulting in projects that are tastefully incorporated into the landscape.

While some of the residents who attended the public meeting on October 28, 2015 were in opposition to this amendment, I encourage you to consider the broad support for this type of proposal which is evidenced through formal voting processes and strategic outdoor plans going back several decades. This proposal is also consistent with the principles of the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP).

Some of the objections were from residents in the immediate vicinity of this proposal who already have access to this section of river due to the proximity of their homes. While the objections from these residents are important to consider, the Scenic Waterway Program is not intended for the exclusive benefit of specific neighborhoods but rather for all Oregon residents. It has long been a vision of many in Bend and Deschutes County to have a fully connected Deschutes River Trail between Tumalo and Sunriver, via Bend. Many neighborhoods have looked beyond minor inconveniences in order to achieve a goal that benefits the entire community. It is also important to acknowledge that BPRD has convened a Citizens Advisory Committee to take into careful consideration the needs of the neighborhoods near the proposed bridge in addition to the health of the river and the broader community. Parking on neighborhood streets is a primary concern for many who have objected to the amendment but BPRD's proposal includes a trailhead parking lot that is expected to accommodate vehicle parking needs.

The proposed amendments to Oregon Administrative Rule 736-040-0073 are not just about the need for river and trail access at a single location. The proposed bridge would complete the 30-mile long Deschutes River Trail that provides for great pedestrian and bicycle access to the Deschutes River. Part of the value of this plan is that it provides phenomenal access to the river but does so in a way that does not overrun the river with the number of visitors that vehicle access would allow. In many ways, this proposal fits the mission of the Scenic Waterway Program perfectly. It allows Oregonians to enjoy the beauty of the Deschutes River while protecting the river from overuse and habitat degradation.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of BPRD's proposal. If you would like to discuss this further or if I can be of any assistance to the review process, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,  
Scott Reich

**From:** [Paul Meyers](#)  
**To:** [PUBLICCOMMENT \\* OPRD](#)  
**Subject:** Attn Chris Havel - Deschutes River Bridge  
**Date:** Friday, November 20, 2015 1:22:57 PM

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Please count us as Riverrim residents who are very much in favor of the proposed bridge over the Deschutes river, somewhere near Bend's south urban growth boundary. The benefits of the proposed extension of the Bend river Trail far out weigh any minor concerns regarding parking in or near our neighborhood. We would be very supportive of any rule changes required to allow PEDESTRIAN bridges in that stretch of the river. Thank You.

Paul Meyers  
60875 Garrison Dr.  
Bend, Or. 97702

**From:** [Jim Oberlander](#)  
**To:** [PUBLICCOMMENT \\* OPRD](#)  
**Subject:** Deschutes River Bridges  
**Date:** Friday, November 20, 2015 11:29:09 AM

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I support the proposed Glen Vista Road and the Buck Canyon Road pedestrian bridges over the Deschutes River connecting the river trail. These crossings will enhance both public safety (river/trail rescue) and public access options. Both approaches will need road improvements (or separate bike path) and coordination with adjacent property owners. These approach improvements should connect to OB Reilly Road and Brookwood Boulevard, respectively.

Please add me to your email distribution list about this topic.

Thank you for your consideration.

~ jim oberlander  
2426 NW Lolo Drive, Bend

**From:** [Joe Hussion](#)  
**To:** [PUBLICCOMMENT \\* OPRD](#)  
**Subject:** Desiccates River Trail, South UGB Section  
**Date:** Friday, November 20, 2015 11:07:47 AM

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I live in the River Rim development in southwest Bend. I am writing to give my full support to the completion of the Deschutes River Trail and the proposed bridge and section of trail through the River Rim area. I think this is a great opportunity and resource for the entire city of Bend.

Thank you,

Joe Hussion  
60834 Falcon Pointe Lane  
Bend, OR 97702

**From:** [Carol Hussion](#)  
**To:** [PUBLICCOMMENT \\* OPRD](#)  
**Subject:** Riverrim foot bridge  
**Date:** Friday, November 20, 2015 11:04:59 AM

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I urge you to consider allowing the proposed footbridge over the Deschutes River near Riverrim in Bend. What a great opportunity for us to be able to cross over to the east side without driving!

Carol Hussion  
541-6417-9542

**From:** [Marcus Ainsworth](#)  
**To:** [PUBLICCOMMENT \\* OPRD](#)  
**Subject:** bridge making  
**Date:** Friday, November 20, 2015 11:03:59 AM

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Not sure if this email is even necessary, but I live in River Rim and am all for a new bridge over the Deschutes.

Marcus Ainsworth  
19525 Fishhawk Loop  
Bend, 97702

**From:** [Dave Carlson](#)  
**To:** [PUBLICCOMMENT \\* OPRD](#)  
**Subject:** Deschutes River Bridge  
**Date:** Friday, November 20, 2015 10:45:56 AM

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Hi,

Please accept this as my personal testimony regarding the City of Bend's proposal to place a pedestrian/bike bridge over the Deschutes River near the southern limits of the Urban Growth Boundary (UNG). I live in River Rim which is on the east side of the river and borders on the southern edge of the UBG.

I strongly support this project to add a bridge to cross the river. Although retired and a senior citizen, I walk and ride a bike for exercise. The only way I can access the west side trails when biking is to drive about 8 miles. Biking on the roads is just too risky for me. If walking, I'd have to walk an additional 2 miles north to access the closest footbridge to cross the river and then another 2 miles south to start accessing the trails on the west side. That would make for a very long hike/walk. My only viable option to access the trails on the west side is to drive which unnecessarily adds to more traffic, parking and associated problems.

I strongly believe the State of Oregon and the City of Bend should support more pedestrian/bike paths including removing access roadblocks such as a lack of pedestrian/bike bridges to cross rivers. This bridge is needed, will enhance recreation & exercise opportunities, will reduce fossil fuel consumption & carbon emissions, and just makes good sense!

Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Dave Carlson  
60832 Scotts Bluff Place  
Bend, OR. 97702

**From:** [SC](#)  
**To:** [PUBLICCOMMENT \\* OPRD](#)  
**Subject:** Trail comment  
**Date:** Friday, November 20, 2015 10:21:55 AM

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I am excited about the future Deschutes River Trail extension with bridge. I am not excited over possibility of trail users parking in River Rim neighborhood. Thank you for working toward creating parking spaces on Buck Canyon.

Sincerely,  
S. Gradek

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Peter Wheary](#)  
**To:** [PUBLICCOMMENT \\* OPRD](#)  
**Subject:** South UGB Segment  
**Date:** Friday, November 20, 2015 9:56:47 AM

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Mr. Havel,

Just want to add my 2 cents that I'm 100% behind whatever needs to be done to speed up the process of getting this bridge approved and built. My family really appreciates all the hard work going into this and hope we get a chance to use it before the kids are off to college!

Thank you,  
Peter Wheary  
541-499-9070

**Peter Wheary**  
President

**GreenLoop IT Solutions**

AZ: 480.968.5006 | OR: 541.749.1105 | [GreenLoopSolutions.com](http://GreenLoopSolutions.com)

This email is confidential--is it meant for you? If not, delete it!

**From:** [Lawrence Waters](#)  
**To:** [PUBLICCOMMENT \\* OPRD](#)  
**Subject:** Deschutes River Extension, Bridge over the Dechutes  
**Date:** Friday, November 20, 2015 9:55:14 AM

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To Chris Havel.

Hi Chris,  
I'm a resident of River Rim, where the extended Deschutes River Trail would likely go through.

I just wanted to say I support the project, including the bridge - with one caveat. Since River Rim is a private subdivision (we pay for the maintenance of sidewalks, streets and all open spaces) with limited/restricted parking I (and many of our residents) would either lower our support or not support this project if no parking was provided (outside of the subdivision). Few of us here in RRim want to have a big increase in non-resident parking within our subdivision - that wasn't set up for lots of street parking (narrow streets) and in fact, have CC&R's that prohibit parking on the street for more than a day or so.

If the parking can be resolved I believe this project will further enhance the wonderful outdoor options Bend is famous for. Hopefully it can continue to move forward and parking can be installed off the end of Buck Canyon Road.

Thanks!  
Larry Waters  
19150 Pond Meadow Ave  
Bend, OR 97702  
[lwwaters@gmail.com](mailto:lwwaters@gmail.com)  
425-772-5656

**From:** [Bruce Ronning](#)  
**To:** [Chris Havel](#)  
**Subject:** OAR 736-040-0073 hearing record  
**Date:** Thursday, November 19, 2015 3:22:02 PM  
**Attachments:** [OAR bridge comments, 11-19-15.pdf](#)

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Chris,

Please find attached my written comments to be included in the OAR 736-040-0073 hearing record. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

-Bruce Ronning

**From:** [scjones8402@gmail.com](mailto:scjones8402@gmail.com)  
**To:** [PUBLICCOMMENT \\* OPRD](#)  
**Subject:** Upper Deschutes River Rule Change  
**Date:** Monday, November 16, 2015 7:51:09 PM

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I am writing you to lend my support to the proposed rule change related to OAR 736-040-0073 as it pertains to the blanket prohibition against any new river crossings and any new bridges. I am not sure how this section of the Deschutes River, as well as a portion the Metolius River, got included in this prohibition without other rivers being included, but I would like to see this changed. I am not in favor of putting this restriction on the other rivers, I am in favor of having the Oregon Parks Commission amending the current Rule that applies to the Upper Deschutes River.

Thank You for your time.

Steven Jones  
Bend, Oregon

From: [Michael George](#)  
To: [PUBLICCOMMENT - OPRD](#)  
Subject: Public Hearing 10/28/15 Comment  
Date: Monday, November 16, 2015 1:36:51 PM  
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

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**Oregon Parks and Recreation Department**

Public hearing on proposal to amend Oregon Administrative Rule 736-040-0073

799 SW Columbia Street, Bend, OR

6-8 p.m., October 28, 2015

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This is a good idea for the community. I hope it gets done and I look forward to using the new trail and river crossing.

Michael George  
61534 SW Longview St  
Bend, OR 97702

**From:** [JM Fife](#)  
**To:** [PUBLICCOMMENT \\* OPRD](#)  
**Subject:** Footbridge  
**Date:** Thursday, November 05, 2015 9:10:26 PM

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I am writing to comment on the amendment to the Scenic Waterways Act. I support the amendment. Connecting the Deschutes River Trail in the location specified in the amendment will improve recreation opportunities in Bend for everyone with very few negative consequences. It will also enable an epic mountain bike ride from Sunriver to Tumalo along very scenic areas and through Bend without inconvenient and dangerous detours such as those that must currently be made in order to complete the route.

Mike Fife  
1157 NW Constellation Dr.  
Bend, OR 97701  
541.788.3543

**From:** [Dackert, Jed J](#)  
**To:** [PUBLICCOMMENT \\* OPRD](#)  
**Subject:** ATTN: Deschutes Rulemaking  
**Date:** Thursday, November 05, 2015 3:08:57 PM

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Please approve the Deschutes River Trail pedestrian/bicycle bridge. This is no longer a 'wild' river section, there are many houses nearby and overlooking the river. It will decrease the total number of cars driving and parking near the river as south/east side residents will be less likely to drive to the north/west side.

Regards,

Edward J. Dackert  
60979Woods Valley Pl  
Bend, OR 97702

**From:** [David Wortman](#)  
**To:** [PUBLICCOMMENT \\* OPRD](#)  
**Subject:** ATTN: Deschutes Rulemaking  
**Date:** Thursday, November 05, 2015 2:20:04 PM

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I would like to comment on the proposed footbridge across the Deschutes in SW Bend. This bridge is a very good idea. I live nearby in River Canyon subdivision. To bike ride on Forest Service trails, I need to drive 6 to 10 miles to a trailhead on the other side of the river. This bridge would allow me and many others to take a short bike ride to the bridge and on to the Forest Service trails. This will reduce car traffic congestion in Bend and reduce carbon emissions.

David Wortman  
61008 Snowbrush Dr.  
Bend, OR 97702

**From:** [Mark Buckley](#)  
**To:** [PUBLICCOMMENT \\* OPRD](#)  
**Subject:** ATTN: Deschutes Rulemaking  
**Date:** Thursday, November 05, 2015 1:55:44 PM

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I am a Bend resident and I am in favor of a footbridge across the Deschutes to connect the river trail between Bend and Sunriver. I live in NW Bend, but a major reason we did not want to live in SW Bend was because of the lack of trail access. The single trail will make an entire region of the city more attractive and enjoyable.

Greater trail access from town to the outer trails will reduce the need to drive to reach long trails. So between reduced driving by SW residents to reach the trails, and general Bend residents seeking longer trails, traffic and congestion should be noticeably reduced.

While I use trails, I'm also a kayaker. I paddle the section from Meadowcamp down frequently during the summer. I do not expect that a footbridge would lessen the quality of my experience at all. There is already a trail across the lower section of the Meadowcamp kayak run, and it's kind of nice to have people watching and appreciating you paddle. Furthermore, the trail isn't in a place with no signs of development; homes and irrigation infrastructure are already visible.

I am strongly in favor of the bridge to connect the trail sections. It's a complementary good that will make several other public and private resources more valuable.

I know there is also discussion of a bridge eventually across the river north of town closer to Tumalo State Park. I also kayak that section, but would still strongly welcome a bridge to allow additional trail connectivity to the north.

Mark Buckley  
612 NW Powell Butte Loop  
Bend, OR 97703

**From:** [Steve Jorgensen](#)  
**To:** [HAVEL Chris \\* OPRD](#)  
**Subject:** FW: In Favor of South UGB Segment  
**Date:** Monday, November 02, 2015 8:19:49 AM

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[More...](#)

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**From:** CBaker [mailto:cindidoo@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 01, 2015 4:39 PM  
**To:** Steve Jorgensen  
**Subject:** In Favor of South UGB Segment

Hi,

I just read in the paper that reception at the latest meeting regarding this trail segment was not overly positive, so I wanted to put in my 2 cents of being HUGELY in favor of this trail extension and the foot bridge proposed near Buck Canyon. I live in SW Bend, and often access the trail systems from the Conklin side, which is a bit of a drive. We also use the DRT from the canal trails near River Rim for going into the Old Mill and downtown on bicycles. We are trying to walk and use bicycles whenever possible, so this extension would be very convenient, frequently used, and greatly appreciated by us.

Thank you,

Cindi Baker  
19830 Nugget Ave  
Bend, OR 97702

**From:** [Steve Jorgensen](#)  
**To:** [HAVEL Chris \\* OPRD](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Bridge over Deschutes River SE->SW access...  
**Date:** Monday, November 02, 2015 8:19:38 AM

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Hi Chris, for what it's worth, some comments that came to me after the 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Steve Jorgensen, Park and Trail Planner**

Direct: (541) 706-6153 / Office: (541) 389-7275 / Fax: (541) 330-1019  
Bend Park & Recreation District Office, 799 SW Columbia St., Bend, OR 97702  
[www.bendparksandrec.org](http://www.bendparksandrec.org)



81 parks • 65 miles of trail • 770 different recreation programs

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**From:** Jeff [mailto:[jloveski@gmail.com](mailto:jloveski@gmail.com)]  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 01, 2015 6:33 PM  
**To:** Steve Jorgensen  
**Subject:** Bridge over Deschutes River SE->SW access...

Hi Steve,

I just wanted to voice my opinion on this bridge project (the south UGB section), which for some reason I was not aware of, and I was hoping that if you are not the right person to relay this too, and/or if there is some sort of public forum where I should post this info instead, that you will please let me know so I can do so.

Here are my thoughts.

- 1) I think the bridge would be a great asset to the community as a whole.
- 2) It would provide for greater access of the west side river trail system.
- 3) It would increase usage of the trail system, and if over-use becomes a problem, we could limit cycling on it to weekdays, or alternating weekends or something. We could also add a secondary "bike" trails system up and away from the river a bit, while giving priority to hikers along the river.
- 4) It would reduce traffic congestion by reducing the amount of people driving all the way around to the trail head on the west side from the south east side, thus reducing road wear and tear, pollution and of course CO2 emissions as well. All very good things.
- 5) It would help improve quality of life for those residing on the SE side, as well as have the potential to increase the general health of the population.
- 6) It would help get more individuals engaged in the river trail asset, thus would have more people supporting it's recreative benefit and thus aid in the protection/funding thereof.
- 7) It would increase property values on the SE side.
- 8) Some state that the Bridge would over-crowd the trail system (See # 3 above). Over-

crowding is a rather subjective term, and although it would definitely increase trail usage, particularly on weekends, more trails could be built to reduce the burden on the nearest river trail segment. Although it is a bummer when ones favorite trail becomes more heavily used, ultimately greater usage of the trail systems is what we strive for, to keep people here in Bend connected to a healthy life-style and to nature in all her grandeur. Not to mention when the trail availability cuts down on auto road traffic, pollution, congestion, etc.

All in all, I think that the addition of a walk/cycle bridge connecting the SE side of Bend with the West side River trail would be an excellent addition to the Bend community, and would further enhance Bend's stature as a recreation and fitness town extraordinaire!

Again, please let me know if there is a place that would be better for me to post this info.

Thanks Steve,  
Have a Great, Day,

Jeff Pokorny  
2335 NW High Lakes Loop  
Bend, OR 97703

**From:** [Tiffany Hovet](#)  
**To:** [PUBLICCOMMENT \\* OPRD](#)  
**Subject:** Deschutes rulemaking  
**Date:** Saturday, October 31, 2015 2:47:35 PM

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Good afternoon,

I am writing in regards to the Bend Parks and Recreation District's request to amend the prohibition on constructing a bridge over a state scenic waterway.

I am in favor of the amendment to allow this bridge to be constructed.

It would be an advantage to anyone who lives in our area and make it easier to enjoy all the resources Bend has to offer. I reside in the River Canyon Estates development on the east side of the river. My husband and I regularly make the drive to the west side to enjoy the trails on the west side of the river, but we would have many more opportunities to enjoy recreation opportunities on the west side if such a bridge was constructed.

Thank you,  
Tiffany Sanders  
541-604-2826

**From:** [Jim Sanders](#)  
**To:** [PUBLICCOMMENT \\* OPRD](#)  
**Subject:** Deschutes rulemaking  
**Date:** Saturday, October 31, 2015 1:05:55 PM

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Good afternoon,

I am writing in regards to the Bend Parks and Recreation District's request to amend the prohibition on constructing a bridge over a state scenic waterway.

I am in favor of the amendment to allow this bridge to be constructed.

I reside in the River Canyon Estates development on the east side of the river. My wife and I regularly make the drive to the west side to enjoy the trails on the west side of the river, but we would have many more opportunities to enjoy recreation opportunities on the west side if such a bridge was constructed. It would be a boon to everyone who lives in our area, and further out on the east side to more easily take advantage of the amazing natural resources on the west side of the river without the need to drive so far out of the way.

Thank you!  
Jim Sanders  
[jsanders@gmail.com](mailto:jsanders@gmail.com)  
541-604-2001

**From:** [Steve Jorgensen](#)  
**To:** [HAVEL Chris \\* OPRD](#)  
**Subject:** FW: South UGB Trail Project  
**Date:** Friday, October 30, 2015 11:59:32 PM

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**From:** Rusty Orr [rustytree@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 30, 2015 7:19 PM  
**To:** Steve Jorgensen  
**Subject:** South UGB Trail Project

I am writing this e-mail to express my overwhelming support to add a pedestrian bridge in the south west corner of Bend. As an avid biker and hiker the opportunity to access the Deschutes National Forest and trails without having to drive around and across the river would be a huge advantage to those of us who are trying to drive less and enjoy the outdoors more.

Sincerely,  
Russell Orr

**From:** [Michael Skeels](#)  
**To:** [OPRD.publiccomment@state.or.us](mailto:OPRD.publiccomment@state.or.us)  
**Cc:** [don@bendparksandrec.org](mailto:don@bendparksandrec.org)  
**Subject:** Deschutes Rule making 725  
**Date:** Thursday, October 29, 2015 1:19:24 PM

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TO: Oregon Parks and Recreation Dept.

RE: Deschutes Rule Making 725 Proposed amendment to OAR 736-040-0073

To whom it may concern,

I am Michael A. Skeels, I live at 18602 Riverwoods Drive Bend , Or 97702. PH 541 382 4897. My property is the last developed lot on the east side of the Deschutes River in Deschutes River Woods Subdivision, at River MP174.4 . I want to be on record that I am fully in support of the proposed plan amendment to allow Foot and bicycle bridges and a river trail on the east side of the river, and would be in full support of putting the first bridge at the intake to the Arnold Irrigation canal directly in front of my home. I feel that this would greatly enhance the recreation possibilities for residents on the east side of the river, reduce traffic congestion on Century drive, and all of the roundabouts on the city's west side.it would increase public safety and efficiency of emergency response. Many times rafters or kayakers get into trouble and mistakenly go over Lava Island Falls and responding agency's end up on the wrong side of the river to facilitate rescue. The bridge would facilitate faster and more efficient access for rescue incidents in this area, and also allow for individual safety to residents as they could flee on foot to safety on the opposite side of the river in the event of wild fire cutting off exit from the East. This amendment would be of great benefit to the residents and citizens of the City of Bend, Deschutes County and the state of Oregon.

Sincerely,

*Michael A Skeels*  
[michaelskeels@q.com](mailto:michaelskeels@q.com)  
541 480 1331



This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.  
[www.avast.com](http://www.avast.com)

**From:** [davidnwelton@gmail.com](mailto:davidnwelton@gmail.com) on behalf of [David Welton](#)  
**To:** [HAVEL Chris \\* OPRD](#)  
**Subject:** Deschutes foot bridge  
**Date:** Thursday, October 29, 2015 12:12:18 PM

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Hello,

I read in the Bend Bulletin that you are still accepting comments on a proposed foot bridge over the Deschutes in the southern portion of Bend. I'm a resident in Bend, although not in that area.

I wanted to express my support for it:

It will lead to less driving for the purposes of doing healthy activities like running and cycling. Favoring walking and cycling over driving is beneficial for people's health, as well as city traffic, and the air we all breath.

Allowing and improving access to outdoor activities should be a goal in Bend, as it's part of the reason many of us live here.

It's just a foot bridge, in an area where people live, with houses and roads; it's not a pristine wilderness. If it's done tastefully, I don't think a bridge will detract from the area at all.

Thank you,

--

David N. Welton

<http://www.welton.it/davidw/>

<http://www.dedasys.com/>

**From:** [Leslie](#)  
**To:** [PUBLICCOMMENT \\* OPRD](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed amendment for Upper Deschutes State Scenic Waterway  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 28, 2015 9:17:13 PM

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We live on the edge of southwest RiverRim, adjacent to open areas owned by Bend Park and Recreation and private individuals. We do not have any objections to the proposed amendment. However, we are concerned that if a bicycle/pedestrian bridge is constructed and the river trail is extended, we will be adversely impacted unless adequate parking areas are provided. Parking is extremely limited in our neighborhood and, if people begin parking on Goldenwood Court in order to access the trail, emergency vehicles will not be able to get through to our homes.

Russel and Leslie Hopper  
19411 Goldenwood Court  
Bend, OR 97702

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Walincoln@aol.com](mailto:Walincoln@aol.com)  
**To:** [PUBLICCOMMENT \\* OPRD](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed ammendment to Adminsitrative rule 736-040-0073  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 28, 2015 6:56:34 PM

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We are residents of Sunrise Village and are in favor of the proposed amendment to this Oregon Administrative rule that would allow Bend Parks and Recreation to construct a bridge for pedestrians/bicycles across the Deschutes River between mile markers 171 and 174.4 to allow the District to continue work to complete the river trail.

Ann and Bill Lincoln  
61135 River Bluff Trail  
Bend, Oregon 97702  
541-633-7983

**From:** [Brian Cunninghame](#)  
**To:** [HAVEL Chris \\* OPRD](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Proposed rule change for the Upper Deschutes State Scenic Waterway  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 27, 2015 12:33:58 PM

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Chris;

The Warm Springs Tribe would not oppose a rule change in order to allow the consideration of a bicycle/pedestrian crossing bridge in the Upper Deschutes State Scenic Waterway.

Brian

On 10/22/2015 10:02 AM, HAVEL Chris \* OPRD wrote:

My apologies for not reaching out to you sooner, but please see the attached pair of news releases. To sum up:

The Bend Park and Recreation District has asked us to change a rule specific to the Upper Deschutes State Scenic Waterway. Right now, the rule prevents them from applying to construct a bicycle-pedestrian trail bridge over the river in the area between river miles 171 and 174.6. They want the rule changed so they can apply for a crossing.

If we change the rule, they would then need to apply for a specific crossing. Their application would then be reviewed to see if it meets scenic waterway standards. Since scenic waterways exist to protect the view from the river, even if they apply, there's no guarantee we would approve their application. The rule change, if it goes forward, just gives them an **opportunity** to apply. There's a hearing to take public comment on the proposed rule change on October 28, 2015, 6-8 pm at 799 SW Columbia Street, Bend, OR 97702.

The deadline for all public comment is 5 p.m. October 30. If you'd like more time, we can certainly extend the comment period, but I won't bother if you don't need the time. Regardless, if you'd like more info, send me a note or give me a call.

Thanks.



*Nature*  
**HISTORY**  
*Discovery*

<!--[if !vml]--><!--[endif]-->Chris Havel  
Associate Director, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department  
503-986-0722 + [oregonstateparks.org](http://oregonstateparks.org) + [oregon.gov/OPRD](http://oregon.gov/OPRD)

**From:** [Woody Keen](#)  
**To:** [PUBLICCOMMENT \\* OPRD](#)  
**Subject:** State Scenic designation for Upper Deschutes  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 27, 2015 9:02:33 AM

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I fully support the allowing of 2 bridges on and across the Deschutes River as discussed in the letter we received. Such will provide for better recreational access without taking away from the wild and scenic designation.

Woody Keen  
PO Box 9727  
Bend OR 97708

Trail Wisdom LLC  
Woody Keen - Principal  
828-553-9169  
Member, Professional Trailbuilders Association



**From:** [Nick Lelack](#)  
**To:** [PUBLICCOMMENT \\* OPRD](#)  
**Cc:** [Don Horton](#)  
**Subject:** Upper Deschutes State Scenic Waterway Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, October 26, 2015 10:09:43 AM

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Oregon Parks and Recreation Dept.:

>

> Please accept this email to express my strong support to amend OAR  
> 736-040-0073 pertaining to State Scenic Waterways to allow a new  
> bicycle/pedestrian footbridge to cross the Deschutes River either within  
> the River Community Area designation located inside the Bend UGB or outside  
> of the UGB within the Scenic River Area.

>

> This bridge will fill a critical gap in the Deschutes River Trail system  
> which extends approximately 33 miles between the communities of Tumalo and  
> Sunriver, which is of significant regional benefit, and provides  
> non-vehicular access for Bend residents to reach USFS recreational lands  
> and trails that are located on the west side of the Deschutes River.

>

> I live in the RiverRim neighborhood with my family in close proximity to  
> the area that would benefit by this rule change. My family uses the  
> Deschutes River Trail almost every day of the year, has done so for the  
> past decade, and will do so for decades into the future.

>

> Specifically, my wife, older son, and myself walk and run this section of  
> the trail regularly. My younger son rides his bicycles with his team (Bend  
> Endurance Academy) and by himself on the west side of the river frequently.  
> However, his only access is either to ride or for us to drive him over 4-6  
> miles each way (10-12 miles round-trip) - north to the Bill Healy Bridge  
> and back south along the west side of the river to access the trail  
> network. He cannot ride across the South Canyon Bridge through Mount  
> Bachelor Village due to trail restrictions pertaining to cycling. This  
> trail extension and bridge will save significant time and vehicle miles  
> traveled for our family, as well as provide outstanding immediate access to  
> existing trails for our family and neighborhood.

>

> In addition, Bend-area voters in the BPRD boundaries supported increasing  
> taxes to pay for this and other parks and trail projects.

>

> Finally, the bridge will have minimal, if any, impacts on the river, wildlife habitat, scenic beauty, etc. -  
> and any minimal impacts will be more than offset by the reduction in VMT and/or expansion of  
> recreational opportunities for our neighborhood, the city, and regional residents and visitors.

I have a conflict on Wednesday, Oct. 28 and am unable to attend and provide my comments in person.  
I am available if you have any questions or comments.

Thank you for your consideration.

Nick Lelack  
19548 Fishhawk Loop  
Bend, OR 97702  
nlelack@gmail.com  
(541) 639-5585

>

**From:** [Steven Freitag](#)  
**To:** [PUBLICCOMMENT \\* OPRD](#)  
**Subject:** Upper Deschutes State Scenic Waterway  
**Date:** Sunday, October 25, 2015 12:53:55 PM

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Steve Freitag and Teri Freitag owners of property 18937 Baker Rd. within these boundaries of Deschutes Riverwoods Subdivision, agree with the proposed changes Bend Park and Recreation District has put forward. A bike/pedestrian bridge has been discussed at many meetings over the years and would greatly enhance the public being able to access this part of the river system.

**From:** [Amanda Telford](#)  
**To:** [PUBLICCOMMENT \\* OPRD](#)  
**Subject:** Comment on proposed pedestrian bridge  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 21, 2015 8:58:13 PM

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October 21, 2015

Dear Sir or Madam;

I am writing to you to express my strong support of the proposed pedestrian/bicycle bridge construction between Deschutes River miles 172 & 174.4 as a public trail connection.

I live in the neighborhood of Deschutes River Woods. My house is ¼ mile from the Meadow Picnic Area day use site – however, I am on the opposite side of the river. To access this area, and the Deschutes River Trail, I must drive 25 minutes through Bend. My family uses this trail heavily, and we make this drive at least twice a week.

A bridge would be a great benefit to the city of Bend. To the thousands of people in the neighborhoods of the Southwest, it would allow much easier access to our wonderful trail system. It would cut down on city traffic and pollution by saving so many people the drive through town. It would increase quality of life for my neighborhood and the entire city.

We live in Bend to enjoy the beautiful environment and the many outdoor recreation opportunities – I have two young children who would benefit from this bridge construction as well. I am teaching them to appreciate outdoor recreation, as well as to be good stewards of our environment. Better access to our trail system would be very much appreciated.

Thank you,

Amanda Telford

**From:** [D.Hamar](#)  
**To:** [PUBLICCOMMENT \\* OPRD](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed changes  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 20, 2015 10:28:07 AM

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They sound reasonable and helpful.

**From:** [Tyler Deke](#)  
**To:** [PUBLICCOMMENT \\* OPRD](#)  
**Subject:** Oregon Administrative Rule 736-040-0073  
**Date:** Friday, October 16, 2015 10:09:07 AM  
**Attachments:** [Bend MPO letter re OAR amendment.pdf](#)

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Attached is a letter in support of the proposed changes to OAR 736-040-0073. Please contact me if you have any questions.

--

Tyler Deke, AICP  
Bend Metropolitan Planning Organization  
709 NW Wall Street  
Bend, OR 97701  
541-693-2113



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**From:** [Donald Wyman](#)  
**To:** [PUBLICCOMMENT \\* OPRD](#)  
**Subject:** Amendment to Rule 736-040-0073 for Deschutes Scenic Waterway  
**Date:** Thursday, October 15, 2015 11:44:09 AM

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We strongly urge you to pass the amendment to allow a footbridge to be built between mile 17.1 and 17.4 on the Deschutes river.

My wife and I live on the east side of river just above Lava rapid #2. We and many of my neighbors have to routinely travel 9-11 miles (one way) to reach the hiking and biking trail network on the west side of the river. A footbridge a few miles downriver from our homes would allow us to ride and walk over to the west side of the river without having to do the long and costly trip by car. There are many families on our street and in these neighborhoods that would greatly benefit from the new bridge, if and when built.

So again, please change the rules and let this happen.

Thanks

**From:** [Joan & Mark Davis](#)  
**To:** [PUBLICCOMMENT \\* OPRD](#)  
**Subject:** OPRD, ATTN: Deschutes Rulemaking  
**Date:** Friday, October 09, 2015 7:58:38 PM

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OPRD Commissioners:

I am in favor of the rule change to allow a foot and bicycle bridge across the Deschutes River in the location selected by the BPRD. I voted for the scenic river designation of the Upper Deschutes and I also live within the boundaries of this scenic waterway. I also boat the Meadow Camp run past the bridge site almost daily during the summer. As a resident and river user I see no negative issues that would result from the construction and use of this bridge.

The Deschutes River Trail is used by thousands of residents and visitors each year and that number is growing fast. More miles for the trail system will keep the user density lower and increase the quality of their experience. This bridge will provide a much needed connection between the city trails and the USFS trails. Bend will soon have a world class trail system and this bridge is a vital component to that goal.

Thank you,  
Mark Davis

October 21, 2015

Dear Sir or Madam;

I am writing to you to express my strong support of the proposed pedestrian/bicycle bridge construction between Deschutes River miles 172 & 174.4 as a public trail connection.

I live in the neighborhood of Deschutes River Woods. My house is ¼ mile from the Meadow Picnic Area day use site – however, I am on the opposite side of the river. To access this area, and the Deschutes River Trail, I must drive 25 minutes through Bend. My family uses this trail heavily, and we make this drive at least twice a week.

A bridge would be a great benefit to the city of Bend. To the thousands of people in the neighborhoods of the Southwest, it would allow much easier access to our wonderful trail system. It would cut down on city traffic and pollution by saving so many people the drive through town. It would increase quality of life for my neighborhood and the entire city.

We live in Bend to enjoy the beautiful environment and the many outdoor recreation opportunities – I have two young children who would benefit from this bridge construction as well. I am teaching them to appreciate outdoor recreation, as well as to be good stewards of our environment. Better access to our trail system would be very much appreciated.

Thank you,

Amanda Telford





**Oregon Parks and Recreation Department**

Public hearing on proposal to amend Oregon Administrative Rule 736-040-0073

799 SW Columbia Street, Bend, OR

6-8 p.m., October 28, 2015

Comment sheet – please print neatly

Your first and last name: Carrie McGuigan

Your residential address: 18796 Choctaw Rd. Bend OR 97702  
(street) (city) (state) (zip)

Comment:

PLEASE change the rule to open up  
the option for pedestrian crossings in  
the Upper Deschutes Waterway. There  
are many active people drawn to Bend  
for the recreational/outdoor lifestyle moving  
into the neighborhoods in SW Bend & DRW.  
We want a bridge to get across by foot  
& bike to nurture the health of  
ourselves & our families. We want less  
driving, more access to the trails we can  
see from our backyard.

You may comment here in writing and hand to the hearings officer today, or submit comments by email to [opr.d.publiccomment@oregon.gov](mailto:opr.d.publiccomment@oregon.gov).

**All comments must be received no later than 5 p.m., October 30, 2015 to be considered.**

OPRD Staff will summarize comments and make a recommendation to the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Commission in February 2016. To be placed on a emailing list on this topic, send an email to [opr.d.publiccomment@oregon.gov](mailto:opr.d.publiccomment@oregon.gov) and say you're interested in the Upper Deschutes rule.

More information on Oregon's scenic waterways is online at <http://bit.ly/scenicwaterways>.



**Oregon Parks and Recreation Department**

Public hearing on proposal to amend Oregon Administrative Rule 736-040-0073

799 SW Columbia Street, Bend, OR

6-8 p.m., October 28, 2015

**Comment sheet – please print neatly**

Your first and last name: Rich Kelly

Your residential address: 60643 River Bend Dr  
(street) (city) (state) (zip)

Comment:

I'm not so agawts the bridge idea  
but Im agawst opening up the East  
side of the River to trail access through  
the private property. If the east  
side could stay private the bridge could  
work

You may comment here in writing and hand to the hearings officer today, or submit comments by email to [opr.d.publiccomment@oregon.gov](mailto:opr.d.publiccomment@oregon.gov).

**All comments must be received no later than 5 p.m., October 30, 2015 to be considered.**  
OPRD Staff will summarize comments and make a recommendation to the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Commission in February 2016. To be placed on a emailing list on this topic, send an email to [opr.d.publiccomment@oregon.gov](mailto:opr.d.publiccomment@oregon.gov) and say you're interested in the Upper Deschutes rule.

More information on Oregon's scenic waterways is online at <http://bit.ly/scenicwaterways>.