July 24, 2013

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
Attn: Bandon Proposal
725 Summer Street, Suite C
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Public Comment - Bandon State Natural Area/Grouse Mountain Ranch

Dear Commission members:

This letter is intended to clarify my stance in support of the proposed subject land exchange and to provide additional details which may help you and your staff in making your determination regarding whether or not to include the 1,007 acre Juniper Ridge Ranch in this land swap. I previously stated in my July 20, 2013 letter that back in 2005 I had listed Beech Creek and its fish-bearing tributaries as one of the top five "reference stream systems" on the entire Malheur National Forest in terms of overall habitat the stream and its tributaries provided to Mid-Columbia ESU steelhead and isolated westslope cutthroat trout and redband trout populations. In fact out of the top-five streams on the entire forest I ranked Beech Creek and its fish-bearing tributaries number two (ahead of Camp Creek, Canyon Creek and Murderers Creek) in terms of overall importance as a reference stream to steelhead, redband trout and westslope cutthroat trout and I wanted to put that into perspective for those who may not be aware of the significance of that ranking. Back in 2005 while working for the Malheur National Forest as a district fishery biologist I was asked to name the five most important and/or "reference" streams in terms of importance to fisheries resources. I scoured through various stream survey reports and documents, made numerous field trips and talked with knowledgeable local ODFW biologists and named Beech Creek and its fish bearing tributaries as number two out of the top five on the entire Malheur National Forest.

So in my opinion Beech Creek and tributaries are extremely important overall in terms of habitat and water quality for steelhead, redband trout and cutthroat trout and also for the spring chinook salmon that may enter the lower reaches of the stream. I just wanted you to be aware of the significance of this potential land swap in terms of continued and long-lasting benefits to aquatic resources and I understand that a careful review and fact finding is underway, with budget and public concerns being taken into careful consideration, and that OPRD will likely make the best call for the Oregon public, Grant County, Coos and Lincoln

Counties and the fish, wildlife, plants and heritage sites they are tasked with protecting, sharing and enhancing.

I also noted in my previous letter that the 1,007 acre Juniper Ridge Ranch is currently for sale (which abuts the Grouse Mountain Ranch on the east side of Hwy 395) and I noted that if this property is still available you may wish to also consider including the Juniper Ridge Ranch in this potential land swap because of the biological and overall ecological significance of protecting and continuing to enhance cold water sources flowing into Beech Creek and Little Beech Creek. What I didn't mention in that previous letter was that one of the cold water sources that flows into Little Beech Creek and that heads on this ranch may contain an isolated population of westslope cutthroat trout or redband trout. An investigation would need to be conducted in order to verify what species of trout they are, but I have seen fish in this unnamed tributary to Little Beech Creek which appear to be trout. Additionally, one other important consideration in seriously considering including the 1,007 acre Juniper Ridge Ranch in this exchange is that the juniper ridgetop where the ranch headquarters and guest lodge are located could perhaps provide the "unquestioned best" deer and elk viewing throughout the entire area (possibly even including the entire 6,100 acre Grouse Mountain Ranch) for those who are elderly and/or handicapped and who would find it difficult or impossible to strike out on overland hiking explorations. There are also several badgers which can be viewed at times from the hilltop and a variety of raptors and all types of song birds. The ranch owner also has placed literally hundreds of bird houses of various sizes throughout the entire ranch especially in the riparian zones and as I walked the riparian zones this spring the number and diversity of song birds and woodpeckers was astounding.

The somewhat steep access road up to the Juniper Ridge Ranch mountain-top retreat flattens out on the ridge top where the main lodge and guest lodge are located and overlooks a valley where deer herds and elk herds often can be seen browsing perhaps only 300-500 feet away. They don't stay there all the time, but come and go and so viewing the herds would be hit or miss, but this viewpoint is the best I've seen in this entire John Day area (for a commanding view of open meadows and large herds of deer and elk) aside from perhaps the top of Vinegar Hill which is very rugged and remote to get to. The view to the Southwest from the main lodge is also very good and deer and elk can sometimes be viewed in that direction but at a greater distance and the views of the entire Strawberry Mountain range and Aldrich Mountains are spectacular as well.

I just wanted to make the point that most of this potential future State Park is steep ground and fairly inaccessible for elderly and/or handicapped, with the exception of the bottomlands along the highway, the Little Beech Creek area, and perhaps the Gordon Lakes area (which I've never been to) and this hilltop area on the Juniper Ridge Ranch where these herds (when they're there) can literally be viewed while sitting on the deck which would provide those who can't get around as well with spectacular wildlife viewing opportunities. In fact I think the possibilities for wildlife viewing on the Juniper Ridge Ranch are even better then those on the ODFW Phillip W. Schneider Wildlife Area and Murderers Creek area in the nearby Aldrich Mountains.

Also, I know it can be expensive but a paved foot access/utility vehicle access trail could be constructed from the hilltop parking area/ranch headquarters down to nearby Mary's Reservoir for handicapped and elderly where there is a dock and swimming possibilities for those who are able. There is enough room on the Juniper Ridge hilltop such that numerous small outfitters type cabins with bunk beds could be built so as to be rented out for visitors and bring in an income and also to provide limited overnight facilities, say with a central restroom for the 10 or so small cabins that might be constructed along that ridgetop. Also, I might have mentioned in my previous letter that adding the Juniper Ridge Ranch to this proposal would balance out access to include the east side of Hwy 395, where with the current proposal the only real road access to the east side of the highway is for about a mile and a half up Little Beech Creek. While this bumpy, poor access road up Little Beech Creek for the mile and a half is very interesting from a fisheries/riparian perspective, as far as wildlife viewing the Juniper Ridge Ranch hilltop is by far the best location, especially for those with physical limitations who can't hike as much.

Lastly, I also may have mentioned that from the hilltop retreat at Juniper Ridge several day hikes could be undertaken. A trail could head north from the main lodge for about a mile across several ridge tops and a draw which crosses a historic old road, that used to connect John Day with Long Creek in the past, and loop back to the main lodge for a total round trip of about two miles. Another trail could head south and east from Mary's Reservoir up and over a ridgetop and down into a little basin and then continue downstream to two spring-fed ponds where there is a picnic table and lunch stop, then proceed on up and over a small pass with a spur trail to an excellent view point, then down and across another basin and to a point on the main access road where a parking lot could be about 1/4 mile below the main lodge and the trail could continue on from there back up the ridge to the hilltop and main lodge parking area forming about a two mile loop. So much

potential that I wanted to make you and your staff aware of should this property remain available and be considered in the Grouse Mountain – Bandon State Natural Area – Bandon Biota proposal.

If you were to match the Grouse Mountain map with the Juniper Ridge map you'd see that it is a perfectly balanced fit with trail and wildlife viewing access points to both the west of the highway portion, and also the great wildlife viewing location for the elderly and handicapped from the Juniper Ridge Ranch hilltop retreat and trail access points, on the east of the highway portion.

Please note that I'm not commenting just so that the potential State Park acreage would be expanded just for the sake of a larger State Park, but that in my opinion, as a retired fisheries biologist and naturalist, there are real benefits to the biota (in terms of long term protection and continued proper management into perpetuity) and to the Oregon public (through access for research, recreation and soul searching for current and future generations) if this additional land were to become a part of this new State Park, perhaps with a fitting name such as the "Grouse Mountain - Juniper Ridge State Park, Fish & Wildlife Refuge and Ecological Reserve."

Thank you for the opportunity to further comment with regard to the significant biological/ecological benefits and added recreational benefits of including the 1,007 acre Juniper Ridge Ranch lands in this proposal.

Sincerely,

Scott Cotter

Scott Cotter
John Day, Oregon

cc: Grant County Judge – Scott Myers
Congressman Walden

Chris Havel - Bandon Land Swap comment

From: "vines art glass" <vinesartglass@charter.net>
To: <ben.fisher@state.or.us>
Date: 7/26/2013 9:08 AM
Subject: Bandon Land Swap comment
CC: <chris.havel@state.or.us>

Hello,

My name is Bryce Dimitruk and I have been a resident and local business owner in Bandon for 10 years. I am writing today to express my overwhelming opposition to the land swap proposed by Bandon Biota and to request that it is denied. My family and I have been enjoying the new river area weekly for many years I jog to the mouth of the river from the china creek parking lot bi weekly, take my children to the lost lake at least once a week and i have even floated the entire length of the river from the Flores lake outlet all the way to the new river outlet on many occasions. This is a very sensitive ecological area and the river although it is a fairly low flow river that only spans for a few miles it is the home of a very large cutthroat and sea run cutthroat trout population, a native steelhead population and even a good size run of Coho and Chinook salmon.Last year i was able to witness the run of coho salmon while I stood in the mouth of the new river and it was nothing short of magic to see and hear a hundred salmon flood into this tiny river. This area is also the resting point for hundreds of water fowl and even hunting grounds for an occasional bald eagle. There is an abundance of sensitive wildlife located in this small low flow river system that depend on the water run off from the entire area and also the natural buffer from humans that this property maintains .I do not believe there is not enough water to support this golf resort and maintain proper flow of the river and the proximity to the river leads to the possibility of fertilizers and pollution reaching the river system. This area is treasure and should be keep in its natural state for all of the people of Oregon to enjoy for many lifetimes. I hope in the future my children will be able to enjoy the view of lines of geese flying in to land in this area not a line of cars .

I do believe that there are many fellow residents of Bandon that would agree with me but have not yet had there voice heard, for this reason I am going to put together a petition and collect as many signatures as I can to prove that this special place is enjoyed and treasured by many. If you could give me a ruff deadline by which i should have this petition submitted that would be very helpful.

I appreciate the impact the Bandon Dunes has had on the local job market and the donations the Bandon dunes have given to the local schools and I am not against as many golfing locations in Bandon as possible but not in this area or any area that borders the New River/Flores lake reign

I would urge you to review you mission statement on the back of your business cards and hopefully the panel that makes the final decision will come to understand that this location of the proposed land swap is in fact an outstanding natural, scenic, cultural, historic and recreational site that should be protected for our children's children.

This land swap does not meet the requirement of overwhelming benefit to the public and should be denied!

Thank you for your time and understanding and feel free to contact me if you have any questions about this letter or any of my experiences in the new river area

Bryce Dimitruk
541-347-2652
contact@vinesartglass.com

OPRD Publiccomment - Bandon Natural Area

From: Linda Tarr <lindatarr@frontier.com>
To: <OPRD.publiccomment@state.or.us>
Date: 7/26/2013 12:45 PM
Subject: Bandon Natural Area

Below is a print copy of my statement from the July meeting of the Parks Commission in Coos Bay

Dear Parks Commission Members,

First, I want to thank you for your service in protecting and overseeing Oregon's invaluable State Parks. The continued preservation of natural wild places, open to the public, is something which distinguishes Oregon as a place which is not only endowed with an extraordinary diversity of natural beauty, but also with the history of a citizenry which has repeatedly chosen not to sell out to the highest bidder. This legacy of wild beauty has been insured through the foresight and hard work of individuals such as Tom McCall, Samuel Boardman and Oswald West, joined by the widespread support and approval of Oregon's voters and taxpayers.

Now we are faced with a proposal, the specific details of which I am eager to learn. It appears preliminarily that one of the public's wild places near Bandon could become yet another very special golf course. The person making this proposal has earned a reputation as a community-minded person who is also a good steward of the land he has purchased and developed into golf resorts, and I respect those qualities and the economic benefits they have brought to nearby communities.

But I urge and trust you, as public servants, to judge this 'deal' in the context of the ever increasing value of wild places as our state becomes ever more popular, ever more peopled, and ever more altered by development.

It is hard to imagine that, 50 years from now, we will regret that there were only, how many, six? golf courses near Bandon, instead of seven? But we and our descendants may feel deep regret if there are not any Snowy Plovers here, for loss of critical habitat. And we will feel a loss if we aren't able to see and celebrate the triumph of wise and careful restoration and continued stewardship of a rare natural dune system, in the face of that most awesome foe, gorse.

The case for this land swap will be made in terms of dollars; economic benefits for a state struggling to meet many budgetary needs and the promised benefits for the nearby community. I have no doubt that if this one goes through, there will be no end of subsequent proposals near other communities who have their own economic struggles and aspirations.

But I am trusting you all to make careful and visionary consideration of this proposal in light of the larger context, the legacy of natural wild places, open to us all, which need our continued stewardship and which offer a return which cannot be measured in dollar amounts, but whose value to the public is intrinsic to what I love about Oregon.

Thank you.

Linda Tarr
Port Orford, OR

3415 Commercial Street SE, Suite 117 Salem, Oregon 97302 • 503-399-1701

July 24, 2013

Commissioners
Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
725 Summer St. NE, Suite C
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Oregon Parks and Recreation Commissioners:

The Oregon Farm Bureau (hereinafter "OFB") submits the following comments to the proposed land exchange between Bandon Biota and Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (hereinafter "ORPD"). OFB opposes the proposed exchange because it removes land from agriculture and natural resource use, it lacks local support from all affected local governments, the proposal does not satisfy the overwhelming public benefit criteria as required by 736-019-0060(4), it is counterproductive to criteria for public land acquisitions pursuant to OAR 736-019-0060, and the proposal does not fulfill the policy objectives as set forth in OAR 736-019-0040. For these reasons and as explained below, OFB requests that the Commission not support Bandon Biota's proposed exchange.

Bandon Biota's proposed exchange contains several critical flaws as presented, both in substance and process. Substantively, the exchange would remove 6,100 acres of agriculture and natural resource lands from Grant County's tax base and reduces private land availability purchase or use. As you may know, Grant County's tax base is already stressed due to depressed timber harvest and public land ownership of approximately 70%.[1] Furthermore, local ranchers are hard pressed to find available land to graze cattle and support local ranching operations. The proposed exchange would remove more land from the tax base, reduce natural resource land availability, and add to the millions of acres already owned by State and Federal government entities. All of which do not support Grant County agricultural communities.

Additionally, the proposal contradicts the criteria for acquisitions as set forth in rule. OAR 736-019-0060 states in relevant part:

> *(2) "The purpose of the Department and the public's interests are served when an acquisition satisfies one or more *** objectives:*
> *(a) Protects areas of outstanding natural, scenic, cultural, historic and recreational significance for the enjoyment and education of present and future generations.*
> *(b) consolidates state park parcels***.*

[1] Grant County Court Letter to Tim Wood, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department dated July 12, 2013.

*(c) provides a buffer to adjacent or nearby development***.*
(d) provides access to recreation areas , and
(e) addresses opportunities that may be lost to the Department if acquisition is delayed."

The proposal to acquire Grouse Mountain Ranch not only fails to meet the above-mentioned qualifications, but the exchange as a whole is counter-productive to current rules and policies. The Grouse Mountain acquisition unnecessarily adds thousands of acres to the millions of government owned lands. Regionally, there are sufficient public access points and the Department has not established the need for more access points or public lands in Grant County. Moreover, the Bandon State Natural Area (hereinafter "SNA") land that the State would lose by exchanging it with a private developer is counterproductive to the goals of consolidating state park parcels, providing buffers from nearby development, and protecting anything of natural, scenic, cultural, historic or recreational significant. All of which are inapposite of the criteria for State park acquisitions.

Next, Bandon Biota's proposal fails to satisfy the criteria for public land exchanges as required by OAR 736-019-0070. The rule states:

"(4) To approve an exchange that a party other than the Department initiates, the Commission shall determine that the proposed exchange provides an overwhelming public benefit to the Oregon State Park system, its visitors, and the citizens of Oregon."

As proposed, the exchange falls well short of demonstrating an "overwhelming public benefit" to the park system or the citizens of Oregon. First, the proposal lacks the support of at least some affected local governments.[2] Second, the acquisition does not contribute to the park system because is removes land from the SNA, an established park. Third, it reduces available agriculture and natural resource lands from productive use in an area that is already primarily owned by government entities. And fourth, some of the lands the State would acquire as a result of this exchange are not accompanied by long-term stewardship endowments. In light of the many budgetary constraints this state faces, the department has not demonstrated the ability to maintain these lands as a park. Together, the facts do not add up to an "overwhelming public benefit."

Furthermore, the process of approving this exchange must meet certain criteria as set forth in Oregon Administrative Rules. OAR 736-019-0070 provides in part that:

"(3) For exchanges that party other than the Department initiates, the Department will:
(a)Determine whether the exchange aligns with the Department's mission, strategies, objectives and work plan,
*(b) Inquire whether the local county and local communities support the exchange, ***."*

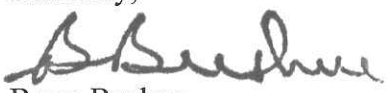
[2] See Grant County Letter.

In this case, the Department has done neither. OPRD has not sought approval from the Grant County Commissioners and it is unclear whether any local county or communities support the exchange. In addition, the proposed exchange does not align with the Departments mission, strategies or objectives. For example, the policies in OAR 736-019-0040 require that the department "conduct real estate transactions in an atmosphere of openness, honesty and integrity." As explained by the Grant County Court, there has been no opportunity for any local public comment on the proposed exchange. Furthermore, OPRD has not engaged any affected industry representatives to determine potential impacts that may result as consequence of the proposed exchange. Therefore, the OPRD staff determination that the proposal meets "overwhelming public benefit" was made outside of "an atmosphere of openness, honesty and integrity" and should not be approved.

Alternatively, OFB respectfully requests that OPRD Commission hold a public hearing in Grant County prior to approving the proposed exchange and acquisition of Grouse Mountain Ranch.

If the Commission has any questions or concerns regarding OFB's position, please do not hesitate to contact Mike Freese at (503) 399-1701. Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,



Barry Bushue
President
Oregon Farm Bureau

1040 W. 13th Street
Medford, OR 97501
July 11, 2013

Governor John Kitzhaber
Oregon State Capitol Bldg.
900 Court St. NE, Suite 254
Salem 97301- 4047

Dear Gov. Kitzhaber,

As one of your longtime supporters, I am writing to you out of concern for a proposed exchange between Bandon Biota (a Michael Keiser company) and Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) in Bandon, Coos County. My husband and I lived in Bandon between 1998 and 2006 and were deeply engaged in city and county committees and actions, and I presented testimony on this issue on July 20, 2011.

I understand that Mr. Keiser and/or his employees have met with you about this exchange, and I am writing to let you know I have serious doubts about the proposal, which I ask you to consider before a final decision is made by OPRD.

1. Bandon State Natural Area (BSNA) has been managed for its natural values for forty-five years. It contains rare botanical resources, especially habitat for the very rare Beach Sagewort, which is critically imperiled. BSNA is also home to the federally listed Snowy Plover, and is a habitat restoration area for the plover. The habitat succeeds for these species because the area is quite remote, with little human traffic; a golf course in that space, even though not directly on the beachfront, will dramatically change the habitat. Predators will increase in the wake of greater human presence.

BSNA is a fragile habitat and deserving of full protection by OPRD. The whole of this Bandon State Natural Area (BSNA) provides for the enjoyment of the natural world as it is without development. If these unique and valuable lands were traded away they could never be returned to their natural state or returned to the State park system.

2. OPRD has a new rule that requires "overwhelming public benefit to the State Parks system, its visitors and the citizens of Oregon...which is resounding, clear and obvious" in any exchange proposed by others.

Bandon Biota's exchange proposal is the first time this new rule is being applied. In the terms of exchange, Biota would receive 280 acres of Bandon State Natural Area (BSNA), while the State would receive two small coastal parcels, money to help purchase a third, money for in-kind gorse control services, and the entire funding for purchase of 6,100 acre Grouse Mountain Ranch in Grant County.

The exchange would set precedent for future cases--in this instance that Oregon is willing to cast off cherished natural areas to enable a private business to expand its resort by merely providing money for other purchases. I question establishing such a precedent.

This land exchange clearly does not meet the "overwhelming public benefit" required by policy. State Parks are for the enjoyment of everyone in Oregon and visitors from other areas as well, not just those that are fortunate enough to live close by. I oppose giving any public property to any private concern.

3. The Coastal State Parks are the crown jewel of the Oregon State Park system — the most popular in the state, along with Silver Falls State Park and the Columbia Gorge. Decision makers and citizens are required to weigh the balance of the coastal park system for the benefit of all Oregonians and thousands of tourists, keep a statewide focus, and decide if such exchanges are a good bargain for Oregon. What Bandon Biota proposes is whittling down a major Park in exchange for two non-threatened coastal parcels, some funding for gorse removal and money for a large parcel far from the coast. I ask your agreement with me that the proposal presents a poor bargain to Oregon and its Coastal Parks.

4. Bandon State Natural Area was deeded by the U.S. Dept. of Interior to the State of Oregon in 1968 "for park purposes only." Even if USDI would be willing to lift this deed restriction, it gives the State a black eye to have accepted Federal land in good faith for parks — until such time as turning part of it into a golf course was a better deal in the State's eyes.

If Oregon is serious about nurturing biological diversity, BSNA should remain whole. BSNA does unfortunately suffer from gorse invasion, but no more so than any other south coast land; and gorse can be successfully eradicated over time. The State is the custodian of public lands and required to ensure the general public's access to and enjoyment of all State Park sites.

I ask you to issue a statement to OPRD and the public that you, as Oregon's Governor, do not place a private resort company's expansion plans above the Oregon State Parks system, and especially the cherished

Coastal Parks. Additionally, I ask that you clarify to OPRD that the most valuable action the agency can take is one that preserves the integrity of the Parks system, and sets precedent for the decision-making process in future exchanges that will expand the Park system without whittling away other Parks, sacrificing one for another.

Sincerely,

Carol N. Doty

Carol N. Doty

cc: Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
725 Summer St. N.E. Suite C
Salem, OR 97301

OPRD Publiccomment - Bandon Biota Land Exchange

From: Arlys Fones <arlysfones@yahoo.com>
To: "OPRD.publiccomment@state.or.us" <OPRD.publiccomment@state.or.us>
Date: 7/19/2013 8:53 AM
Subject: Bandon Biota Land Exchange

As caretakers of public park lands, please retain this public ocean view natural area for public use and do NOT trade it to private interests for yet another golf course with an ocean view. Please do not let yourselves be influenced by monied interests with arguments in favor of jobs or lesser fees for Oregonians. Do the right thing...keep the ocean view for our children and grandchildren!

Thank you for your attention to this important matter,
Arlys Fones
arlysfones@yahoo.com
503-334-5622
9114 SW Trail Ct.
Portland, OR 97219

54628 Geiger Creek Road
Bandon, OR 97411-8850
July 11, 2013

Governor John Kitzhaber
Oregon State Capitol Bldg.
900 Court St. NE, Suite 254
Salem, OR 97301- 4047

Dear Gov. Kitzhaber,

According to a May 13, 2013 article in Golf Travel Insider, Keiser already owns sufficient land in the area for the new golf course he would like to build; the 280 acres of BSNA would merely be used to make the new golf course "superlative" rather than "pretty good." This is certainly not a reason for the State of Oregon to give up 280 acres of a prized natural area, in an area where golf courses are now common (Bandon Dunes has five at its resort already) and coastal solitude becoming increasingly rare. Bandon State Natural Area (BSNA) would be quite different with a major golf course at its back, since the park would provide much less of a buffer for beachgoers after the exchange was completed.

This exchange proposes to grow the State Park system by robbing Peter to pay Paul: the state receives funding for several other parcels only by giving up a large chunk of an existing park. As a policy matter, this is not a good way to build the State Parks system. If Grouse Mountain Ranch should be a part of the State Parks system – and it appears that it would be an excellent addition – then we should all work together to make it happen in the "Oregon way" without sacrificing one park for creation of another.

The removal of the gorse as proposed by Bandon Biota is not necessary. The State park system already has a gorse eradication program in place and working throughout the entire system. The fact that the State program has not gotten to this natural area should not be viewed as an inducement to complete the land exchange.

The appraisal of the land offered for the exchange by Bandon Biota states that of the total 111.3 acres offered

almost 34 acres are beach lands and 25 acres are submerged by New River. The appraiser defines only the upper 52 acres as useable property. Because the entire 111 acres were valued at $800,000 even though only 52 acres were actually considered useable, this means the appraiser thinks useable upland is worth about $15,000 an acre.

In contrast, the appraiser values the same type of upland acres in the adjacent BSNA at $4400 per acre. If you value the BSNA upland at the same $15,000 per acre for useable land, then the 208 acres of natural area wanted by Bandon Biota, are worth $3.12 million.

No matter how many additional parcels may be added to the proposed exchange, I believe the basic value of these BSNA lands is in their present state. The real value of this land as natural habitat cannot be determined simply on the basis of how easily the land can be developed. If you insist on using development as the yardstick then the value is at a minimum $3.12 million.

The trade of this land will remove it from the public trust and give it to a private concern for use as a 'for profit' development that serves a small minority while ignoring the general population. In my opinion, even if this proposed golf course offered "free green fees" every day it would not provide for the quality family recreation currently found in the State Park system.

The proposal from Bandon Biota certainly would not meet the requirements of the OPRD new rule that requires "overwhelming public benefit to the State Parks system, its visitors and the citizens of Oregon...which is resounding, clear and obvious" in any exchange proposed by others.

Sincerely,

Roberta Stewart

Roberta Stewart

cc: Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
725 Summer St. N.E. Suite C
Salem, OR 97301

Grant County Farm Bureau
P.O. Box 472
Kimberly, Or 97848

Oregon State Parks & Recreation
Tim Wood, Director

Grant County Farm Bureau is in opposition to the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department's (OSPRD) proposed acquisition of the Grouse Mountain Ranch parcel (Property) as part of the OSPRD's proposed Bandon Biota Exchange Proposal (Project).

We can see no positive impact this land exchange will have on agriculture or the citizens of Grant County.

Since this land exchange greatly effects the citizens of Grant County we are requesting a Public Hearing to be held in John Day, Or.

Respectfully Yours,

Jeff Thomas
President GCFB

Chris Havel, Director's Office
Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission
725 Summer Street, Suite C
Salem, Oregon 97301

July 16, 2013

Re: Bandon Biota Proposal

Dear Director and Commissioners,

The proposed Bandon Biota exchange of real property and funds for a portion of Bandon State Natural Area for a 27-hole golf course is a win for our coastal community, the Oregon State Park system, visitors and citizens of Oregon. It is certainly clear and obvious that the public is not currently using the 280 acres at issue in the Bandon State Natural Area because it is mostly covered in gorse and has limited public access.

Bandon Biota will be contributing to the control of the noxious weed, gorse that is so invasive it is continuously doing more damage by not allowing the native beach plants and dune species to thrive and stabilize the dunes.

The local economy will certainly be boosted from the jobs that will be created to build the course and the continued jobs required to maintain and operate the facility. State wide, this land exchange could result in an increase in the number of jobs in other portions of the State as well.

The numbers of visitors to the Bandon area will only increase with this added public attraction. By doing so, there is an overwhelming benefit to the local Bullards Beach State Park because of the 97 additional acres for visitors to enjoy.

Oregon Parks and Recreation will receive 111 additional acres of oceanfront land that adjoins the Bandon State Natural Area to the south and west to further secure a more protected area for the Snowy Plover habitat.

The Whale Cove acquisition secures the property will be managed for its natural beauty, scenic value and provide a critical marine habitat for coastal wildlife. It will also protect the property from future development.

The additional $2,500,000 purchase of Grouse Mountain Ranch for a new State Park benefits everyone in the State. It will not only provide significant value to the park system but will also create more State jobs for park rangers and managers of the property.

In conclusion, the Parks system will be enhanced with a brand new public park, the Park system will benefit with more funds to significantly fight the noxious weed gorse, 111 oceanfront acres will be added to the Park system and protect more area for the Snowy Plover and more jobs will be created for the public to enjoy more of what Oregon has to offer on the west and east sides of the State.

I sincerely appreciate the generosity of Mr. Mike Keiser, and what he is personally offering to the public in terms of land and funds to keep Oregon beautiful and open to everyone. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of this exchange. I am a Bandon resident, Oregon tax payer and neighbor of the beautiful Bandon Dunes Golf Resort and use their public hiking trails on a monthly basis.

I sincerely hope that the Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission finds a unanimous vote in favor of the above exchanges to meet the overwhelming public benefit standard.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Juliette Jones
89056 Whiskey Run Lane
Bandon, OR 97411

July 15, 2013

David and Sharon Comden
59045 Seven Devils Rd.
Bandon, OR, 97411

OPRD
ATTN: Chris Havel
725 Summer St NE
Salem OR 97301

Request for comments on proposed OPRD/Mike Keiser land swap.

Dear Chris:

We support the proposed land swap as the public benefits are many:

1. The land being offered by Bandon Biota will complement existing and accessible Bullard's Beach/Coquille River frontage, a much more useful area compared to the relatively unusable strip desired by Bandon Biota.

2. The Bandon State Natural Area (BSNA) is far from natural in its present state because it is covered by the introduced and invasive gorse. Bandon Biota will restore the area by managing invasive species like gorse and European beach grasses, thereby improving the local ecosystem.

3. Bandon Biota has offered to remove gorse from and maintain the BSNA lands adjacent to the desired parcel in a natural state, at no cost to the taxpayer, so the entire ecosystem will benefit from this improvement.

My wife and I don't, and never will, play golf. We have never met Mr. Keiser. So why should our opinions be considered when commenting on this land swap?

- We have owned and lived on 30+ acres about one mile from the Bandon Dunes and Bandon Biota properties for the past 13 plus years.
- We have first hand knowledge about the terrible invasive plant--gorse, its relationship to the environment and the huge fire dangers it represents. Almost all of our property has or had examples of gorse in various stages of growth. (The town of Bandon has twice burned to the ground due to wildfires fueled by gorse.)
- We are familiar with the success Mr. Keiser and his associates at the Bandon Dunes have had in battling gorse and bettering the environment at the same time. We note that these battles have been done with much sensitivity to the welfare of the wildlife on land, lakes, and streams. We have watched as they converted gorse covered waste land into a beautiful and successful golf resort. These lands have become environmental "good neighbors" that benefit all life.
- The Bandon Dunes has constructed and mapped miles of hiking trails that are open to the public, another example of being a good neighbor. The golf resort is part of our community, open for all to enjoy. Perhaps developing a public trail

system could be a condition added to the proposed new courses? Currently, most of the parcel is not good recreational land or habitat.

- We have been active in supporting and trying to better aspects of our community over the years and are familiar with the generosity Mr. and Mrs. Keiser have shown in giving back to our community, sometimes behind the scene.

The gorse reduction, including doing the same on adjacent state lands, at no cost to the state, is especially important because:

- Comments by some who believe stands of non-native and invasive gorse are good for wildlife and the environment are simply not based in fact. We offer knowledge based on years of first hand observation, sweat, blood, expense and broken equipment trying to contain gorse on our property.
- And those that claim the gorse covered lands are "open" may not have tried to walk through mature gorse. It is impenetrable for man or beast. While controlled smaller gorse stands can be a plus for wildlife as they can offer protection from predators, that is not the case for large (several acre) mature stands as seen in the BSNA parcel. As the gorse matures and grows to 10 to 15 feet high, it chokes out all other plants--everything! In fact, you will find very little wildlife because there is nothing to support life other then gorse.You may find wildlife on the edges of these stands, but not in the centers as there is almost no feed to attract or support animals.
- When highly flammable gorse burns, which it will do with certainty at some time, it will destroy the nearby plant and wildlife communities.
- Gorse is very invasive. Wind blown gorse seeds can survive for 40+ years just waiting for sun to warm the soil and sprout. New areas of sun on soil equals more gorse invasion. Gorse has demonstrated that it is the most successful invasive plant in our coastal area. It needs to be controlled for the safety and benefit of both man and wildlife.

All in all, for the above and many other reasons, we support this proposed land swap. Mr. Keiser has demonstrated he can bring good jobs, adhere to environmental regulations, and bring sustainable, clean and quiet recreational opportunities to our community. Bandon Biota has a proven track record as a caring custodian of the coastal environment.

For all of us, including the wildlife, this proposal is truly a win – win!

Thank you for considering our comments.

David and Sharon Comden
Bandon, Oregon

Chris Havel, Director's Office

July 17, 2013

Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

725 Summer Street, Suite C

Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: Bandon Biota Proposal

Dear Director and Commissioners:

I would like to go on record as supporting the proposed land exchange between Oregon State Parks and Bandon Biota. There are many reasons why this is a desirable exchange for the citizens of Oregon, such as adding much needed jobs on the depressed coast; blocking up lands along the Coquille River at Bullards Beach State Park and at New River; and creating new State Parks in other parts of Oregon. However, to me, the most important part of this exchange is the opportunity to control the spread of gorse.

Gorse is perhaps the greatest problem facing the community of Bandon and surrounding areas. My family has been recreating at the Bandon Natural Area for more than 30 years. When we first discovered it, open meadows extended for miles from China Creek to Four Mile Creek. Lower Two Mile Creek was a beautiful stream lined with a lush growth of willows and provided great trout fishing. Today, this entire area is covered with a twenty foot tall stand of gorse that has almost completely destroyed the natural values that made Bandon Natural Area so unique.

At the local level, I am sure that the State Parks staff has the best of intentions to restore this place to its former glory. Efforts have started to remove some of the gorse along the high ridge that is part of the proposed exchange. However, I am told that the budget for noxious weed control has been slashed this year, as it has so often in the past. The fact is that State Parks budget will never be able to support the kind of effort it will take to eradicate gorse in the Bandon Natural Area.

The Bandon Biota proposal offers the opportunity for a systemic approach to gorse control. They have demonstrated an ability to suppress and eradicate gorse on their properties to the north of Bandon. They are willing to accept this responsibility in the Bandon Natural Area for the forseeable future. I think we should let them.

Reg Pullen

55966 Prosper Junction Road

Bandon, Oregon 97411

July 17, 2013

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
Attn: Bandon Proposal
725 Summer Street Suite C
Salem OR 97301

My name is Jim Seeley, Executive Director of the Wild Rivers Coast Alliance, a philanthropic organization funded by the net proceeds from the fifth golf course at Bandon Dunes Golf Resort owned by Mike Keiser. My remarks will pertain to two elements of the exchange - the conservation benefits of the project and the benefit to the community to be derived from the facilities proposed to be built there by Mr. Keiser.

Conservation

1. The golf holes to be built on the site will be constructed and managed with the same agronomic principles applied at Bandon Dunes Golf Resort.
    a. Gorse management - The proposed golf course will be a working landscape, supporting the gorse control benefits in the exchange agreement. One needs only look to Bandon Dunes as a compelling example of the conversion of what was once unusable land due to gorse infestation to a working landscape of turf grass that attracts golfers from around the globe to play golf on the most highly rated public access golf facility in North America. So successful has the resort been that it has become one of the largest employers and economic drivers on Oregon's South Coast.
    b. Two recent awards made to Bandon Dunes speak to the high degree of conservation excellence in place:
        i. The Golf Digest Green Star Environmental Award announced in November 2012.
        ii. The 2010 Oregon Sustainable Tourism and Leadership Award in recognition of Bandon Dunes Golf Resort's commitment to the KemperSports "Green To A Tee™" program helping it become a leader in environmentally-safe business practices in the golf and resort industry.

WILD RIVERS COAST ALLIANCE
community • conservation • economy

Community

1. The motivation and commitment of Mike Keiser is to make a world class links golf facility that is affordable for all Oregonians. It would be modeled after St. Andrews, Scotland, where golf has been an integral part of the local culture for centuries. To accomplish this, the following facilities will be built;
    a. 27 hole, walking only, championship links course designed by Gil Hanse, the world famous architect selected to do the Olympics course in Rio De Janeiro.
    b. Other facilities: clubhouse, caddie house, putting course, short game facility with par 3 course and practice range.
    c. Why these facilities?
        iii. 27 holes will provide adequate golf opportunities to accommodate both locals and tourists which will enable the following rates strategy;
            1. Coos and Curry County residents over 18 years of age will pay as little as $20 per round;
            2. Juniors (under 18) will pay as little as $2 per round.
            3. Oregon residents who live outside of Coos and Curry Counties will pay a fraction of the out-of-state rate, which will be the same as the greens fees charged at Bandon Dunes.
        iv. Other Benefits
            1. Junior Golf 18 and under. A robust teaching program where juniors will be encouraged to learn the game of golf on the practice facilities and play golf on the par 3 course. Once a certain skill level is reached, juniors will be encouraged to play the on the 27 hole course.
            2. Summer Junior Work Program. Participating juniors will be trained and mentored to become caddies. Once graduated from the Mentor Program, junior caddies will be encouraged to work for the out of state "retail golfers," at rates appropriate to caddie skill level.
            3. College Scholarships. The Chick Evans Scholarship Foundation provides full four year college scholarships to qualified junior caddies. Currently at Bandon Dunes Golf Resort, about 4 junior caddies per year are qualifying for these scholarships. With a robust junior work program at Bandon Links, the number of full scholarships could easily quadruple and grow to 20 or more per year.
2. And finally, profits from Bandon Links will go towards:
    a. Capital Improvement projects,
    b. Scholarships,
    c. Assisting with gorse control in South Coast State Parks, returning them to the uses intended.

Michael J. Scalici
54617 Geiger Ck Rd. Bandon, OR 97411
Bus. 541-290-1520 **migs97411@frontier.com** FAX: 541-347-8374
New Millennium: Natural Resources Consulting & Management
Oregon Coast Wild Harvest

Oregon State Parks Commission

July 14, 2013

RE: Land swap between Bandon Biota and Oregon State Parks

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment on this proposed land trade with Bandon Biota.

As natural resources consultant based in Bandon, I am familiar with two of the area properties in the proposed land swap, and on my own recognizance have done assessments of the functional values of the wetlands on these properties using methodologies outlined in both the *Oregon Rapid Wetland Assessment Protocol* (Adamus, et. Al, July 2010) and the *Hydrogeomorphic Assessment Guidebook for Tidal Wetlands of the Oregon Coast* (Adamus, et. al, 2006). Based on results from these assessments, this land swap will be a positive one for the state of Oregon and its citizens.

The 97 acres on the Coquille River estuary's ocean spit that Bandon Biota is willing to trade to the state is a moderately functioning, high value tidal wetland. It has moderate functional value for visiting marine fish and out-migrating salmonid smolts; including the federally-listed coho salmon. Also, this wetland has moderately high function value for waterfowl and shorebirds as well as for sediment retention. Filled in by small caliber drift wood and aeolian sand encroachment over the last few decades, over half of this property's wetlands have been cut off from tidal waters since the 1960's, thus eliminating 15-20 acres of off-channel, high tide refuge and brackish water habitat for coho salmon smolts. As such, It has tremendous potential for tidal wetland restoration which would increase the functional values mentioned above.

Additionally, this property is located adjacent to the popular, heavily used Bullard's Beach State Park and has a horse trail crossing its west edge and a sandy, estuarine shoreline that is often a more tempered beach experience than the adjacent ocean beach on its east edge. It is visited by many people engaging in activities that are compatible with its natural function including kayaking, horseback riding, hiking, educational tours, and birding and is known to contain archeological artifacts. Because of these reasons, this property would be a jewel for the state to acquire.

In contrast with the 280 acres that Bandon Biota would like to acquire, which is mostly upland dunes with dense, impenetrable patches of the thorny, highly invasive shrub,

gorse. It has only about 15-20 acres of interdunal, seasonally-inundated, forested wetlands that are inaccessible to salmonids and scored a "0" for fish habitat and a very low function and value for waterbirds. Additionally, it has much lower accessibility to the public than the Coquille spit property. Thus, the functional value score for these wetlands is very low. Bandon Biota's proposal to cut and maintain the gorse on the adjacent state property will improve accessibility to that property.

Not being familiar with other properties proposed in the deal, I will not comment on them.

Considering Bandon Biota's and Mr. Keiser's record of outstanding land stewardship while improving properties' natural resources and public usage, I support going forward with negotiating a deal that will transfer the 280 acres of State Park property to Bandon Biota.

Once again, thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment on this proposed land swap.

Sincerely,

Michael Scalici, *New Millennium Consulting*

REFERENCES:

Adamus, Paul R., Janet Morlan, Kathy Verble, July 2010. Manual for the Oregon Rapid Wetland Assessment Protocol (ORWAP), version 2.0.2.

Adamus, Paul R., 2006. Hydrogeomorphic Assessment Guidebook for Tidal Wetlands of the Oregon Coast, Part 1: Rapid Assessment Method. Produced by the Coos Watershed Association, Oregon Department of State Lands and U.S.E.P.A.,- Region 10. Charleston, OR

Overwhelming Public Benefit? Yes!

After reading an economic impact study compiled by the University of Oregon in early 2010 before Old Macdonald and the Preserve came on line, I've come to the realization that Bandon Dunes Golf Resort is an unparalleled phenomenon, one deserving of everyone's support in the community. Here are some numbers that stuck out to me;

BDGR total payroll in 2009- $10,413,892.

2008 BDGR was the 4th largest employer in Coos County. Today it is second behind Bay Area Hospital.

Cumulative payroll from 2000-2010, $83,159,587. (Development years)

2009 average annual compensation for BDGR employees- $32,133

2008 average annual compensation in Coos County - $30,316

2009 BDGR paid $518,886.70 in county taxes. Only GTE Verizon paid more

2009 BDGR paid a lodging tax of $93,257 to the state.

2008 BDGR spent $4,493,316 on a broad range of goods and services from 210 local vendors

$650,000 given to local causes though philanthropic efforts in 2008 - this amount has continued annually

I believe this land swap is the exact definition of overwhelming public benefit and the benchmark to which any and all future deals of this kind should model after. As a working class father of two, I parallel my family's future on the South Coast with the success of Bandon Dunes. Please, for the future vitality of the area and its next generations, let this exchange happen without delay. Our children and area need opportunities like this to stay competitive in the world today.

While many areas in the country people are rightfully challenging the drilling of toxic, earthquake causing, fracking wells. The 27 holes Mr. Keiser proposes to drill are 4.25 inches in diameter and average 6 inches in depth. I can't think of any less impactful or better use of this gorse-choked wedge of unused land.

I've heard the opposition's worn old charges of "robbing Peter to pay Paul". I disagree; I like to think about this in terms of "Peter being gracious enough to help Paul with a kidney transplant". This is if we continue to drag Peter and Paul into the debate. I bet they both would have thought the world of Mr. Keiser as most in our community do.

Good Day, Brian Kraynik

541-999-6575 btkvet@yahoo.com

Shaun W Robertson
PO Box 242
John Day, OR 97845
(541) 620-0211
swrobertson@centurytel.net

15 July 2013

Oregon State Parks & Recreation Commission through
Tim Wood, Director
Chris Havel, Communications and Research Division
Vanessa R DeMoe, Commission Assistant

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY TO tim.wood@state.or.us, chris.havel@state.or.us, and vanessa.demoe@state.or.us

RE: PUBLIC COMMENT – COMMISSION MEETING JULY 17, 2013; AGENDA ITEM 6(B)

Dear Commission Members:

My name is Shaun W. Robertson and I am writing to you today in opposition to the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department's (OSPRD) proposed acquisition of the Grouse Mountain Ranch parcel (Property) as part of the OSPRD's proposed Bandon Dunes Exchange Proposal (Project). While I recognize that public ownership of important and significant properties are a valuable tool of the park system, the Property clearly does not meet the statutory criteria for acquisition. Furthermore, due to the superfluous infrastructure present on the Property, the acquisition is not cost effective and the public's money and interests would be better served elsewhere. For these and many other reasons that I would be willing to explain to the OSPRD Commission in detail given additional comment period, I am requesting that the Property be dropped from further consideration.

I am fourth generation from Grant County and have spent significant time on the Property since my grandparents were very close friends of the former Property owner. Currently, I am a natural resource consultant in John Day, with over 25 years experience in fish, wildlife, and watershed management in the John Day Basin and presently serve on the Board of Directors of the John Day Basin Trust, a local, nonprofit land trust composed of local landowners dedicated to the conservation of important lands and resources in the John Day basin. Based on my substantial natural resource management experience in the John Day basin, I am in disbelief that OSPRD purports that acquiring the Property complies with the statutory criteria for public acquisitions or provides an overwhelming public benefit. While the property is scenic and the current owner has completed numerous conservation projects (many with public assistance), there is nothing unique, remarkable or outstanding regarding the Property and, in fact, the Property is no different than any other adjoining or adjacent ranch in the area. The excessive construction and resource-impacting location of the current residence directly conflicts with the rules for acquiring property for the park system and the Property fails to add to or buffer an existing park, address an immediate opportunity that would be lost without acquisition, or fulfill any of the other conditions of OSPRD acquisition.

Frankly, there appears to be no other explanation for the proposed acquisition other than some type of relationship between the Property owner and either Bandon Biota or OSPRD, which relationship fails to

satisfy the conditions and criteria for acquisition. Although the other parts of this Project may remain viable, there can be no other reasonable outcome than for the Property to be dropped from further consideration.

So that I may better understand the Project, I am requesting information regarding the following topics:

- Disclosure of any relationship between the Property owner and Bandon Biota and any document(s) that evidences how the Grouse Mountain Property became involved in the proposed Project, including, but not limited to, correspondence between the OSPRD and the current Property owner.
- A copy of the rating system per OAR 736-019-0060(3) that evaluates the Property relative to the proposed Project.
- A copy of the written environmental review, if any, conducted by the Project proponent.
- Evidence that the OSPRD has, or intends to, inquire whether the local county and communities support the acquisition of the Property.

Please place these comments in the public record related to this Project and provide this correspondence to the other members of the Commission as part of their review of the Project. I would appreciate future notification of the Project to the extent that the Property remains in consideration.

Sincerely,

Shaun W Robertson

cc: Rep. Cliff Bentz
Sen. Ted Ferrioli
Judge Scott Meyers, Grant County
Sharon Rudi, OSPRD Commissioner
Brad Chalfant, OSPRD Commissioner
Grant County Lands Committee
Grant County Farm Bureau
Grant County Stockgrowers

County Court of Grant County
July 12, 2013

Mr. Tim Wood
Oregon Parks & Recreation Dept.
725 Summer St. NE, Suite C
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Mr. Wood & the Members of OPRD Commission,

The Grant County Court and the Grant County Assessor would like to formally object to the proposed addition of the "Grouse Mountain Ranch Parcels" in Grant County to the state park system.

Your staff report concludes that this exchange, transfer or purchase of this property would fulfill the terms of OAR 736-019-0070(4) where it states that the exchange needs to demonstrate an overwhelming public benefit to the OPRD system, its visitors and the citizens of Oregon. The Grant County Court which represents 7,450 citizens of Oregon strongly disputes this allegation for a variety of reasons:

1. There has been no opportunity for any local public comment on the proposed exchange.
2. When there are rural counties in Oregon that are on the precipice of financial insolvency this is a horrible precedent to county governments.
3. There has been no research done to ascertain the negative impact on county government, i.e. reducing tax revenues and the potential impact on local Law Enforcement.
4. The potential impact to private landowners that will have to at least augment a percentage of the fire protection rates.
5. The impact on a State government that arguably has significant budget problems and PERS liabilities.
6. There has been to date, no demonstration of significant ecological, geographic, cultural or scenic qualities that would indicate these parcels are exceptional.

Mr. Wood, when the Bates State Park was originally conceptualized by members of the community and the Grant County Court in 2007/2008 it was presented to OPRD with overwhelming enthusiastic public support by the community. OPRD did a thorough public

201 S. Humbolt St, Ste 280 Canyon City OR 97820 Phone 541-575-0059 Fax 541-575-0065

hearing process and also did an exhaustive DEQ evaluation. It is our opinion that the formation of the Bates State Park was an example of the standard as defined in OAR 736-019-0070(4).

It is our contention that OPRD, its staff and Bandon Biota are attempting to circumvent this rule to benefit a private entity at the expense of the citizens of Grant County.

It would be the request of the Grant County Court and the Grant County Assessor that OPRD respects the tenets of transparency and governmental accountability by, at the very least, bring this proposal to the citizens of Grant County with the public hearing process.

We, "the County Court" strongly feel that Grant County has a sufficient amount of public land within its borders (64%) without removing these parcels from private ownership. OPRD has failed in any substantive way to demonstrate the terms of OAR 736-019-0070(4) have been fulfilled.

Scott W. Myers
Scott Myers
County Judge

Boyd Britton
Boyd Britton
County Commissioner

Chris R. Labhart
Chris Labhart
County Commissioner

Lane Burton
Lane Burton
County Assessor

201 S. Humbolt St, Ste 280 Canyon City OR 97820 Phone 541-575-0059 Fax 541-575-0065

Chris Havel - Fwd: Fw: Bandon land exchange

From: OPRD Publiccomment
To: Chris Havel; Jim Morgan
Date: 7/11/2013 8:20 AM
Subject: Fwd: Fw: Bandon land exchange
CC: John Potter; Tim Wood

This came in to the public comment email. Forwarding for response and FYI. Thanks ~ Vanessa

>>> Phillip Nemrava <pnemrava@yahoo.com> 7/10/2013 6:06 PM >>>

----- Forwarded Message -----
From: Phillip Nemrava <pnemrava@yahoo.com>
To: "orpd.publiccomment@state.or.us" <orpd.publiccomment@state.or.us>
Sent: Wednesday, July 10, 2013 5:57 PM
Subject: Bandon land exchange

As long time Coos and Curry county residents we are concerned primarily with how beach access will or could be affected over time. We know that in the past Bandon Biota has expressed a desire to vacate the Whiskey Run Beach access road, and most probably still would like to do so? While we are not opposed to, or in favor of the actual golf course or land exchange, we are very suspicious of those who would have even considered closing such a popular and frequently used access as Whiskey Run Beach.

Does the State have safeguards in place that protect current beach access? Are there any deals buried in the fine print of this pending agreement that would effect current beach access anywhere?

A response would be greatly appreciated.

Thank You,

Phillip Nemrava, President

Coos and Curry Counties Kite Boarder and Surfer Association.
(541) 297-5991

Chris Havel - Fwd: State Parks Land Swap

From: Tim Wood
To: Havel, Chris
Date: 7/11/2013 11:57 AM
Subject: Fwd: State Parks Land Swap

>>> Alex Mitchell <mitchell.alexanderb@gmail.com> 7/11/2013 10:30 AM >>>
Hello Tim,

I saw an article in the Oregonian today about the proposed swap of a portion of coastal land near Bandon, for a piece of former ranch property in Grant County. I'm not sure how much citizen input via e-mail will sway your decision, but I thought I'd offer my opinion.

I'm generally familiar with that area of the coast... we vacation out there frequently... and I'm also familiar with much of central and eastern Oregon due to 4 years living in Klamath Falls and traipsing all over that part of the state.

As it's described in the article... I think this land swap is a good idea. It seems to be a cost-effective use of state resources and I think the public benefit is there. Central and eastern Oregon offers so many opportunities for beautiful parks in an otherwise sometimes (often?) mostly-neglected area of the state.

I know exactly what kind of old ranch bottom-lands you're proposing to acquire. Gorgeous pieces of land, in my opinion. The coastal areas are worth preserving too, but a medium-sized, ecologically-sensitive golf course seems like a fine use for an otherwise gorst-infested dune... especially if the actual ocean-view portion will be preserved for public access.

Again, as an Oregon resident, voter, fiscally-conservative taxpayer, and park-user, I support this land swap.

Sincerely,

Alex Mitchell
Newberg, OR

OPRD Publiccomment - Bandon Biota land deal

From: Chris Luecke <chris.luecke@gmail.com>
To: <OPRD.publiccomment@state.or.us>
Date: 7/13/2013 1:52 PM
Subject: Bandon Biota land deal

To: Parks and Recreation Commission
Re: Land swap deal with Bandon Biota

It seems like the Parks management personnel will have the best perspective on the value of this tradeoff. It looks like the Oregon Parks system will benefit from the exchange, payment of money, and gorse control to me. The area that would be lost does not get extensive use by the public now.

--
Chris Luecke
Lower Four Mile Lane
Bandon, Oregon

OREGON SHORES

CONSERVATION COALITION

July 15, 2013

Mr. Tim Wood, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department Director
Parks and Recreation Commission Assistant Vanessa R. DeMoe
Oregon State Parks and Recreation Commissioners
Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
725 Summer St. N.E. Suite C
Salem, OR, 97301

Re: Proposed Land Exchange with Bandon Biota

Dear Director Wood, Commission Assistant DeMoe, and Oregon State Parks and Recreation Commission,

Oregon Shores submits these comments regarding the Parks and Recreation Commission's consideration of a land exchange proposed by Bandon Biota for land in just south of Bandon, on the agenda for the Commission's July 16-17, 2013 meeting. These comments hereby incorporate by reference Oregon Shores' comments on the prior Bandon Biota exchange proposal, dated July 20, 2011. Oregon Shores is a private, non-profit organization with members in Coos County and statewide. Oregon Shores' mission is to protect and conserve the natural resources of the Oregon Coast, aid residents in preserving their communities, lands, and waters, and ensure the public's access to Oregon's beaches and natural areas.

Oregon Shores has grave concerns about the proposed exchange of land between

(cont.)

OPRD and Bandon Biota. We do not believe that a case has been made yet that the exchange would be of "overwhelming public benefit," the standard to which all land exchanges involving state park land must be held according to OPRD's own rules.[1] Nor do we believe that there has been a clear demonstration that the exchange "pencils out" even in purely financial terms relating to comparative value.

Oregon Shores strongly urges OPRD and the Parks and Recreation Commission to defer any decision until the situation has been more fully analyzed and the facts are known to the public. OPRD land acquisition policy requires that the Commission "conduct real estate transactions in an atmosphere of openness, honesty and integrity with sellers and the public …."[2] Currently, significant components of the proposal have not been made available to the public. If the Commission renders its decision prior to disclosure of all relevant information, it will not be performing due diligence and risks giving away almost infinitely precious and rare shoreland acreage without receiving appropriate value in return. OPRD should make additional information about the exchange available to the public well in advance of taking any action on the proposal. Otherwise, the Commission will very definitely not have given the public sufficient time to learn the facts and engage in legitimate public debate.

OPRD land acquisition policy requires important analyses and information prior to any decision. Specifically, OPRD policy requires that the department rank and prioritize acquisitions by completing the "Park Acquisition Evaluation" for each property to determine its feasibility and suitability as a state park.[3] OPRD must only acquire property that is "consistent with the department's purpose and its long-range planning goals."[4] Staff has not yet disclosed the information or analysis that supports such a finding. In addition, the acquisition policy specifically requires that a proposal include adequate detail to evaluate the transaction for natural resource assessment, impacts and protection; cultural assessment, impacts and preservation; and overwhelming benefit to the park system.[5] So far, very little information about the exchange, including the exact parcels proposed for inclusion in the transaction, or detail regarding the quality and condition of the ecosystem, habitat, and recreational values, has been disclosed. Oregon Shores requests that the department require the proponent to provide a written environmental review for all lands the department is to receive in the exchange, and make that review available to the public.[6]

For potential land transfers, OPRD establishes the value of the land by an up-to-date appraisal. OAR 736-019-0100(a). An exchange requires transfer land and/or assets of equal value. OAR 736-019-0020(5). Oregon Shores has some questions about the

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[1] OAR 736-019-0070(3)(f)(C)
[2] OPRD Policy # PSP.010, Policy 2(c).
[3] OPRD Policy # PSP.010, Policy 5(f).
[4] *Id*. Policy 5(a).
[5] *Id.* Policy 8(c).
[6] OAR 736-019-0070(3)(e)

timeliness and accuracy of the appraisal submitted by Bandon Biota. OPRD Land Exchange criteria require that the appraisal submitted by Bandon Biota be independently verified, be up-to-date, and that it reflect the intended use, not simply the current or best use as identified by OPRD.

For a land exchange involving property of greater than $250,000 value, OPRD conducts an independent valuation unless it determines that the outside party's land valuation meets OPRD guidelines. OAR 736-019-0100(b). According to the land appraisals submitted by Bandon Biota, the value of the OPRD land is $910,000, while the value of the Bandon Biota land is $1,020,000.[7] OPRD can rely on the valuation provided by the seller if it meets OPRD appraisal criteria. OAR Land Acquisition Policy (Aug. 22, 2010). Has OPRD either independently verified this appraisal or determined that it meets the standards set out in OPRD's Policy for land exchanges, which includes requiring the appraisal be up-to-date and that it considers the property's intended use? OAR 736-019-0100(i)-(j). Has OPRD conducted an independent appraisal of the lands proposed for this exchange?

Under OPRD policy, "appraisals upon which offers are made shall be dated as close in time to the expected closing as possible, and not be older than one year." OAR 739-019-0100(i). The appraisal conducted for the preliminary Bandon Biota proposal, dated June 5, 2010, is already over three years old.[8] A formal proposal by Bandon Biota would call for a revised appraisal to ensure it is up-to-date and in accordance with OPRD policy for appraisals. Does OPRD intend to have a more recent appraisal completed?

An appraisal must consider the "new, anticipated, or intended use" is that is different from the current or best use as identified by OPRD. The appraisal relied upon by Bandon Biota is based upon construction of a single-family dwelling.[9] Oregon Shores questions whether an appraisal based upon this use is an accurate assessment of the value of the lands for OPRD's purposes. Is a single-family dwelling really the "highest and best use" of the land that is currently part of a State Natural Area and which Bandon Biota intends to convert to a golf course? Did the appraisal take Bandon's Biota's development plans for a 27-hole golf course on this land into consideration when determining the value of the OPRD land? Did the appraisal relied upon by Bandon Biota consider the value of the property's intended use?

In any case, for an exchange to meet the "overwhelming public benefit" standard, the Commission must account for the natural, scenic, cultural, historic, recreational, and operational benefits that are likely to be above and beyond the monetary value of the exchange.[10] If the Parks and Recreation Commission makes available the actual values involved in the proposed exchange, allows the information to be fully and independently

[7] Bandon Biota Proposal (Aug. 19, 2010).
[8] Bandon Biota land Exchange Proposal, 28 (Aug. 19, 2010).
[9] *Id.* at 28.
[10] OAR 736-019-0020(8)

analyzed, and then gives the public sufficient time (months, not weeks) to fully respond, Oregon Shores would not at this time take a categorical position in opposition to the proposal, but would instead consider the full range of potential benefits and impacts, monetary and otherwise. However, if the decision were to be made at this time, the only responsible decision is to reject the proposal, both because it is by no means certain that the exchange would meet even the strictly technical criteria, and because the public has not had a legitimate opportunity to learn the relevant facts and then formulate responses.

The following factors and concerns should guide OPRD's consideration of the proposal and the Parks and Recreation Commission's deliberations.

1. The Bandon-area properties which Bandon Biota proposes to exchange in return for the 280-acre parcel of the Bandon State Natural Area are unquestionably valuable from an ecological point of view. However, their value in calculating the benefits of the proposed exchange depends on whether their resource values would be lost unless they came into public hands. If they are not effectively developable, then acquiring them would have little public benefit. Oregon Shores members familiar with land use in the Bandon area contend that little is actually being gained in this exchange, because the properties to be traded won't be developed in any case. This is the crux of the matter, in terms of determining the financial balance of the exchange and thus the "overwhelming public benefit." No decision should be made until this question has been thoroughly vetted by independent experts.

2. Coastal shorelands in public hands are scarce and of extremely high value—even those currently overgrown with gorse. Land located in eastern Oregon should have absolutely no place in an exchange that would involve loss of coastal lands. The "Grouse Mountain" parcel has zero value in determining the public benefit in this situation. OPRD is responsible for conserving the resource values of public lands, not simply for providing recreational playgrounds; the lands in eastern Oregon, however conveniently situated for park development, do not constitute a scarce resource, and would not in any way compensate for the loss of coastal shorelands. OPRD has a special responsibility for maintaining the legacy of Sam Boardman, the agency's founder, who considered coastal lands and access to them the linchpin of the state park system. The eastern Oregon property must be left out of the equation.

3. The property proposed for purchase at Whale Cove is indeed coastal, and highly valuable to the public. However, before its value is considered in weighing the public benefit of this exchange, OPRD must clearly answer whether the funds offered by Bandon Biota are in any way essential to this purchase. If the company's financial contribution simply facilitates a transaction that would happen anyway, ultimately having the role of simply freeing up funds that will later be spent on some other property lower on the priority list, this too should be left entirely out of the equation.

4. There has been great emphasis on the fact that the 280 acres to be surrendered by OPRD is covered with gorse and currently of low habitat or public access value. The

long-term future of this land must be considered in weighing the public benefit. If it were doomed to remain perpetually degraded by invasive species, then indeed its value would be relatively low. But if restoration is possible at a reasonable cost, or if in fact there are plans to conduct such restoration, then the value of this land must be considered in terms of the natural habitat and desirable open space it can become. The Commission has the authority to sell, lease, or exchange of real property if in the opinion of the department it is no longer needed, required or useful for department purposes.[11] The framework for this proposal does not demonstrate or explain why the BSNA parcel is "no longer needed, required or useful" for the state parks system.

5. There must be a careful and thorough analysis of the potential impact of the proposed golf course on what would then be the adjacent lands of the remaining Bandon State Natural Area. Would there be direct access by golfers and other visitors on the public land in what would otherwise be a remote area? Would there be potential impacts on current or potential snowy plover nesting areas, or on other species of concern? Would there be light or noise pollution? Would chemical pollution (herbicide or other) be a possible threat to the public lands? Would irrigation of the golf course affect the water table, or water flows affecting public lands?

Golf courses have potentially negative impacts on the surrounding area, including impacts to groundwater and wildlife habitat, and pollution issues. Visitors to the golf course will likely want to visit the beaches and headlands and this could be disastrous for the endemic and sensitive wildlife species. Garbage and waste associated with the large development will inevitably lead to an increase in opportunistic species, such as raccoons, which will just as inevitably move onto the BSNA, imperiling a host of nesting seabirds. The golf course may also allow invasive species to proliferate, endangering fragile endemic plants in the area. Crows, raccoons, and opossums, which are known to interfere with seabird populations, will have increased access and will likely become nuisance animals. Increased activity by visitors could also interfere with wildlife activity on the natural area.

The Bandon Dunes Golf Course requires the treatment of domestic sewage and production of Class B recycled water. Since 2002, they have been issued four Notices of Non-Compliance with their water permit issued by DEQ. [12] This history raises questions about whether this area and the adjacent park area will be properly protected. Oregon Shores requests that the Commission conduct a careful review of the ecosystem impacts of the proposed trade.

OPRD must determine the impact to natural resources from any proposed exchange. The proposal submitted by Bandon Biota acknowledges the threat posed to the Western Snowy Plover from predatory species and human activity.[13] The result of the

[11] ORS 390.121(3).
[12] *See* DEQ Proposed Renewal of WPCF Permit for Bandon Dunes L.P. (May 7, 2010).
[13] Bandon Biota Land Exchange Proposal, 24 (Aug. 19, 2010).

proposed development would be increased human traffic in the surrounding area. An increase in human activity can also lead to an increase in scavenger species, such as skunks, raccoons, and foxes, all of which pose a threat to the snowy plover. Both of these factors have the potential to harm snowy plover habitat and pose threats to the species survival. OPRD has invested a great deal of time and expense in developing and participating in a recovery plan for the Snowy Plover; the Commission must take great care to assure that this effort not be jeopardized before giving consideration to the proposed exchange.

While the Bandon Biota proposal discusses potential impacts to the Snowy Plover, it fails to provide information on the impacts on other wildlife and plant species in the area, including the Beach Sagewort. What measures would OPRD envision as part of any trade to ensure protection of wildlife habitat and sensitive plant species on the BSNA? These should be clearly set forth for public consideration in advance of a public comment period.

6. The long-term effects of losing the 280-acre parcel must be considered. With sea level rise and increasing storm surges, much higher rates of coastal erosion are anticipated in coming decades. Is there a possibility or likelihood that the public shoreline in this area will be eroded back, such that the parcel in question might acquire increasing value as it becomes more immediately adjacent to the beach? Might this parcel eventually be needed to allow the shoreline to move back and still remain public? Moreover, there is a very high probability of a major tectonic earthquake on the south coast in the relatively near future (decades). The result of such tectonic quakes is that the land drops relative to sea level, typically by three feet or more. This kind of alteration of the shoreline might well cause the portion of the BSNA under consideration for the trade to become more valuable. Conversely, a tsunami, an earthquake, predicted sea level rise and increased storm surges may all cause the land Bandon Biota proposes to trade to become less valuable, and very possibly leave it underwater. The Commission should weigh the long-term values of the parcels in question in light of the risks posed by predictable natural hazards.

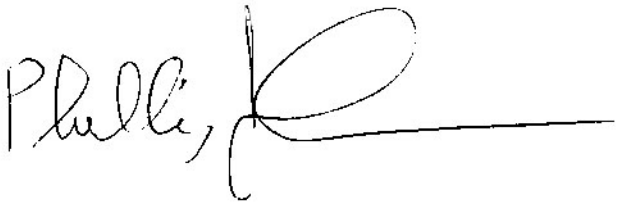
7. The intended use for the state lands sought in the exchange is relevant only in terms of how it might impact adjacent public land. The fact that the announced plan is to develop a golf course is not relevant in terms of regarding this as “recreation” and thus somehow beneficial in terms of OPRD’s mission. There is no certainty that the property would remain in this use. The area has a superabundance of golf courses, so it can scarcely be said that this use would meet some compelling public need. Beyond stating this obvious fact, Oregon Shores isn’t taking a position on golf—the point here is that the Parks and Recreation Commission should not take this use into account either, whether favorably or otherwise. The only relevant consideration is that the land would pass from public control and become available for private development. (As noted above, the intended use can be relevant in terms of assessing the ultimate monetary value of the land to be traded, but that is a different issue.)

8. Oregon Shores has long held the principle that public lands, and especially state parks, should have buffer zones—that rather than allow development right up to their boundaries, so that the public land in effect becomes an amenity for the private development, at the expense of solitude, scenic vistas and habitat values to the public, these lands should be shielded by buffer zones required of adjoining property owners who wish to develop. OPRD is to consider whether acquiring a parcel will provide "a buffer from private development that may diminish the recreation or conservation values of a state park parcel" in evaluating an exchange.[14] In this case, the Commission is being asked to approve a land exchange that would move in the opposite direction, removing the effective buffer created by the little-used land in the 280-acre parcel. If the proposed development by Bandon Biota is allowed to occupy the entire parcel sought in the exchange, then the public shoreland area remaining would have no buffer. If the exchange is to be considered, OPRD and the Parks and Recreation Commission should very carefully examine the possibility of requiring a buffer zone—on Bandon Biota land—between the developed area and the Bandon State Natural Area.

Conclusion

Oregon Shores appreciates the opportunity to comment on this proposal, and looks forward to the opportunity to review more details about the land exchange. Oregon Shores remains willing to consider whether the proposed exchange will be of overwhelming net benefit to the parks system and the public. However, the public has not yet been provided with the information that will make this judgment possible. We state in the strongest possible terms that this matter is not yet ripe for decision, and that if a decision is made now it must be to reject the proposal. Oregon Shores asks that the Commission consider the evaluation criteria carefully and take appropriate measures to ensure that OPRD's policies are carried out to the fullest extent in considering this proposed land exchange.

Sincerely,



Phillip Johnson
Executive Director
Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition

[14] OAR 736-019-0060(2)(c)

NATIONAL COAST TRAIL ASSOCIATION

PO Box 11045 – Portland, OR / www.CoastTrails.org / 503-335-3876

"Keeping the Coast for Everyone"
through advocacy, education and action
for public access, trails and coastal preservation

July 14, 2013

Oregon State Parks Commission
725 Summer Street NE, Suite C
Salem, Oregon 97301

The purpose of this letter is to **provide the *Oregon State Parks Commission* with our comments** on the **proposed exchange with *Bandon Biota*** regarding an exchange of real property and funds for 280 acres of the *Bandon State Natural Area*.

Given that . . .

- Our organization's mission is **"Keeping the Coast for Everyone"** through advocacy, education and action **for public access, trails and coastal preservation.**
- The mission of the ***Oregon Parks and Recreation Department*** is to **provide and protect outstanding natural, scenic, cultural, historic and recreational sites for the enjoyment and education of present and future generations.**
- And, our organization's global ends policy includes developing . . . **a continuous and well-maintained coastal trail system . . . with protected natural and cultural resources . . . to serve the public . . .**

. . . we **believe our comments are consistent both with our mission, and also that of the *Oregon Parks and Recreation Department,*** plus some of the ends we are both working to achieve along the Oregon coast.

The development of the Oregon State Park system, especially along the Oregon coast, has been the result of growing its land base over many decades, through acquisition and donation, thereby not only providing for present but also for future generations. The **pro-active long-term vision of past park directors, like Sam Boardman, and Oregon State Park Commissioners has made all the difference** in making Oregon State Parks what they are today, and what they will be in the future.

The value of the Oregon State Park system, especially along the Oregon coast, not only relative to tourism **in contributing to the state and local economy, but also in providing recreational opportunities and quality of life benefits, is significant.** Another value of the state park system is in **protecting wildlife habitat and natural open space. The protection of existing lands within the Oregon State Park system,** preserving what's already there, as was recently done by the ***Commission*** relative to the *Floras Lake State Natural Area* proposal in Curry County, **is vital in continuing to realize these values.**

Given that . . .

- **Preserving the upland scenic viewshed along recreational trails** is an important component in creating a quality recreational experience for hikers.
- **Protecting and restoring habitat along recreational trails** is an important management approach in enhancing opportunities for wildlife viewing for hikers.

- **Expected continued and significant sea level rise during the 21st-century** combined with resulting **higher storm surges and shoreline erosion** events, plus the geological potential for a **major tsunami event** with resulting **damaging impacts to foredune areas**, could mean the **loss of land** directly parallel to and further inland thereby potentially shrinking the existing land base and wildlife habitat of *Bandon State Natural Area*.

- **Loss of the 280-arce parcel would preclude the use of the land for any future potential state park** purposes to use the land for public recreational purposes such as primitive or other types of campsites with their related facilities.

- **Past donations of land to the state park system have been mad**e, as in the case of a gift of 367 acres of land in 1950 by Borax Consolidated, Ltd of London, now a part of the *Samuel H. Boardman State Scenic Corridor* along the south coast.

- **And the apparent fact that** ". . . Admittedly, he (Mike Keiser) could build Muni (the proposed 27-hole golf course) on the land he (already) owns, and it could be 'pretty good' . . ."
  (Source: *Golf Traveler Insider* website article/interview re: Bandon Muni by Matt Ginella, May 13, 2013)

Therefore, we specifically . . .

- **Seek the continued preservation and protection of the *Bandon State Natural Area* land base as it currently exists.**

- **And encourage *Bandon Biota***, instead of an exchange of the coastal lands they own, **to make a lasting contribution to the public by simply donating both the 111-acre oceanfront and the 97-acre Bullard's Beach Spit parcels,** thereby growing the Oregon State Parks system for future generations.

Finally, given the former response by the ***Oregon State Parks Commission*** to the initial proposal of ***Bandon Biota***, regarding an exchange of coastal lands for coastal lands, **the past decision apparently meant the original proposal did not meet the criteria of providing an "overwhelming public benefit to the state park system."**

A more general question which might be asked by the *Commission* relative to the current proposal -- and the **apparent precedent-setting decision** that would result -- is "Does the Commission agree to an "exchange of state park land" when money is also offered to fund another state park project, whether on the coast or elsewhere?"

What's seems to be complicating this proposal for the *Commission* is that it goes beyond the simple exchange of land – which was the apparent specific intent being addressed by their existing policy of **"overwhelming public benefit" –** since in this case it **also involves the additional offer** of significant money for other state park projects.

How the Commission interprets their existing policy statement relative to the current proposal and situation will make all the difference, not only to this 280-acre parcel, but potentially and more importantly to the future of the Oregon State Park system itself . . . and generations to come.

Thank you for your consideration, respectfully,

Al LePage, *Executive Director*

cc: Board of Directors, ***National Coast Trail Association***

Oregon State Parks & Recreation Commission
725 Summer St. N.E., Suite C
Salem, OR 97301

RE: PUBLIC COMMENT – COMMISSION MEETING JULY 17, 2013; AGENDA ITEM 6(B) RELATING TO GROUSE MOUNTAIN RANCH ACQUISITION PROPOSAL

July 16, 2013

Dear Commissioners,

I am the State Representative for District 60, which includes Grant County. The proposed acquisition, by the State of Oregon or any non-profit, non-taxpaying entity, of the Grouse Mountain Ranch, if consummated and if not appropriately structured, would cause further economic damage to Grant County. Not only would it have a substantial negative impact upon real property tax and fire suppression revenues, it would also further reduce the economic stability of the County.

Of course, this negative impact could be at least partially offset if an appropriate management plan is in place. Such a management plan would have to include use of the property that at least maintains or improves economic activity and allows use of the property for other economically beneficial actions. Additionally, the loss of real property taxes would somehow have to be addressed. Unfortunately, there has not been a public hearing which would allow local residents to understand the proposed future use of the multi-thousand acre parcel.

The failure of timber policy and the refusal of the federal authorities to allow activity on federal forest and BLM lands (which comprise approximately 70% of the County) has pushed the small rural communities in the County to the brink of fiscal ruin. This proposed acquisition, by a public non-taxpaying entity (State Parks), would only accelerate this economically disastrous process.

On behalf of my constituents in Grant County, I urge you to hold a hearing in Grant County so that local residents concerns can be heard. Absent such a hearing, I urge you to oppose the suggested land exchange.

The standard which applies (strong benefit for all of Oregon) is certainly not met by any part of this proposal.

Again, I urge you to vote NO. Thank you for your service and for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

Representative Cliff Bentz
House District 60

July 14, 2013

Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission
Oregon Parks and Recreation Dept.
Attn: Chris Havel
725 Summer St. NE
Salem, OR 97301
Email: chris.havel@state.or.us
tim.wood@state.or.us

Dear Chris Havel and OPRD Commission

As a landowner in Grant County, I would like to weigh in on the recently-discovered "proposed land swap". I am adamantly opposed to privately-owned property being taken out of the tax base. Counties like Grant County, that had relied on timber dollars just a few short years ago are struggling to survive because of those tax dollars disappearing. They do not need to have their situation made worse by taking land off the tax rolls.

I am dismayed by the fact two State officials would ask our county judge to keep a matter like this "under his hat". I think these 2 state officials' jobs should be at stake, speaking as a long term taxpayer in the State of Oregon. It is our way of life that is being affected…and our tax dollars that are being used.

Respectfully,

Shannon Rust

Oregon Parks and Recreation Dept.
Attn: Chris Havel
725 Summer St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

July 10, 2013

Dear Mr. Havel,

I am writing to voice my opinion and concerns on the proposed land exchange with Bandon Biota, in Grant County Oregon. I am a taxpayer and land owner in this county and am also a neighbor to the property being discussed. Our County cannot stand to have any more property taken from our tax roles. We are nearing destitution now, because of the lack of employment and the ongoing waste of our taxpayer dollars, by our State and Federal government. I don't feel like any form of government needs to own more land, when in reality they are not good stewards of the land they have.

During these tough economic times we need to tighten our belts and direct our efforts to the basic things that are needed to provide us with good fire protection, schools, medical facilities, police protection etc. We are having a difficult time in this county just providing adequate services in all of these departments, without adding another park that will take more tax payer dollars to develop. I thought the state was supposed to be broke. If so, how do we propose to do this? I also don't believe that this park would have an "overwhelming benefit to the public." The property was homesteaded in the 1800's and developed to be productive, working agriculture land. We need to remember that these properties raise the food to feed the people of this great state and nation. Please keep that in mind.

Thank you for hearing me out and I truly hope and pray that you will take my concerns to heart and really hear them. I am not the only one in this county that is concerned about this issue.

I would appreciate a response to my letter regarding the decision made on this issue. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mary Ellen Brooks

Mary Ellen Brooks
P.O. Box 487
Mt. Vernon, Oregon 97865
541-932-4540

PO BOX 488
Long Creek, OR 97856
July 14, 2013

Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission
Oregon Parks and Recreation Dept.
Attn: Chris Havel
725 Summer St. NE
Salem, OR 97301
Email: chris.havel@state.or.us
tim.wood@state.or.us

Commission Members

I am a lifetime resident of Grant County, Oregon, and a taxpayer in the county since March of 1966. I am extremely opposed to a land exchange program which was recently brought to my attention. It is my contention that the land in Grant County being considered for exchange has no unique benefits. It will not be an essential part of the Oregon parks division.

Grant County is suffering loss of jobs and population because of the loss of the timber industry in the area. One remaining industry that is still viable is the grazing of livestock. Taking land out of production is not a benefit to Grant County or the state. The reduction in taxes by removing the property from taxation both for county taxes, and fire patrol for Oregon Department of Forestry is definitely not in the best interests of this county.

It is my understanding that this land exchange has been in the making for some six months, and that the Grant County Judge when approached to discuss this land exchange was told by two state agency employees that he was to keep it secret. This goes against all public policy, and is an affront to the residents of the county.

In closing, I once again state this is not an acceptable transaction for the citizens of the county

Respectfully submitted

Sharon E. Livingston
541-421-5276

Chris Havel - Bandon State Natural Area - do not trade it away

From: Margaret Stephens <mlstep@msn.com>
To: "chris.havel@state.or.us" <chris.havel@state.or.us>
Date: 7/16/2013 4:57 PM
Subject: Bandon State Natural Area - do not trade it away

Greetings:

I am writing to urge that OPRD not accept the proposed land exchange that would give Bandon Biota 280 acres of Bandon State Natural Area.

I fail to see how carving away a natural area for another golf course in this area is in the "overwhelming" public benefit. What I see is publicly owned natural areas in a prime site being given to benefit a privately owned business. (Yes, I do understand there would be other lands acquired in this land exchange; however, I do NOT think this is the way to obtain these lands and I question the value received by the Oregon public in this proposed exchange.)

OPRD should continue to obtain land that benefits the public good. OPRD should not trade away any part of this important ecosystem.

I treasure my visits to BSNA. It, and the ecosystem there, needs to be protected and expanded, not diminished.

Sincerely,

Margaret Stephens
Salem, OR 97301

July 10, 2013

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
ATTN: Chris Havel
725 Sumer St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Chris Havel and OPRD Commission:

It is with great concern that I address the draft agenda item 6b, Proposed Exchange with Bandon Biota. As a resident of Bandon and lifetime Oregonian, I do not believe this land trade meets the "overwhelming public benefit" criteria for various reasons.

First of all, the Bandon State Natural Area is a very unique piece of property and irreplaceable. I find it amazing OPRD is considering trading a portion of this property to a "for profit" private entity whose goal is development. This is a highly sensitive area which needs to be protected and maintained for "public benefit". That is why the State of Oregon acquired so many properties along the Oregon Coast years ago. When these original coast acquisitions took place, many of those original landowners actually did not want the "State" to "take" their lands. How can the State justify trading them to a private entity when the State determined years ago that they were so unique, sensitive, and essential for "public benefit"?

Last time Bandon Biota proposed acquisition of this property, OPRD did not approve the land trade. I understand it was because it did not meet the "overwhelming public benefit" criteria. Now that Bandon Biota has sweetened the pot, it is before you again. I find it amazing that according to The World article dated 7/9/2013, Mr. Keiser "does not have enough land to build another golf course or they wouldn't have approached the parks four years ago." Do you know how much land Mr. Keiser currently owns south of Bandon, west of Hiway 101? If not, you need to find out from the Coos County Assessor's office. How much land does it take to build a golf course or is it going to be another "destination" resort? How many golf courses are currently in Bandon? How many can this small community support and is there really a "public need"? Do you really think this development benefits the local community and people of Oregon? How much water will this development require? What will its impact have on those water rights for agriculture use and what will the impact be on water needed for fish habitat? It only takes looking at Klamath to realize currently the importance of "water" in the State of Oregon. What impact will this development have on the fish and wildlife in the Bandon State Natural Area? What will the impact of this development have on the already existing agriculture/timber community south of Bandon? Isn't land planning supposed to protect our natural resource land base from this type of development? Is this type of development compatible next to a "state natural area" and productive natural resource land?

I am adamantly opposed to the conditions of the trade which incorporates the purchase and addition to the "state park system" the 6,100 acre Grouse Mountain Ranch. This property is natural resource land and therefore should be protected under SB100 for ranching/timber and continued private ownership. Our counties are facing financial difficulties and need these lands paying property taxes, providing jobs, and contributing to the local economy rather than going off the tax rolls when it transfers to the State. The cost for management of such a "park" will be extensive adding another cost to us taxpayers of

Oregon. Have you considered the real cost to Oregonians should this acquisition become a reality? Have you considered the impact of this acquisition to the natural resource community in Grant County?

Gorse control is something the State of Oregon should have been doing on their lands all along as well as other weed management. Putting $300,000 into gorse control will do nothing to actually control the gorse unless OPRD has a pro-active gorse management plan in place and a budget each year to maintain control over this invasive. Whether or not you know anything about gorse, you must realize the seeds can lie dormant in the ground for 30+ years. Do you intend to treat these "state natural areas" with herbicides to manage the gorse? How are you going to dispose of these plants? These are huge concerns for us who live in Coos County as this invasive species continues to be spread due to lack of understanding and education of those who do not live in this area.

If your interest is truly "overwhelming public benefit", then you must realize that even though this proposal looks good on paper, the people of Oregon will be losing part of a very sensitive, irreplaceable natural area that every person can now enjoy! The Grouse Mountain Ranch is just another removal of private land into public ownership. There is a cost to Grant County as well as tremendous cost to operate and maintain such a park to Oregon and its taxpayers. Therefore, there is no overwhelming public benefit to this land transaction and it is in the best interest of all Oregonians and the State that the Bandon State Natural Area stays in State ownership and Grouse Mountain Ranch stays in private ownership.

Sincerely,

Sharon Waterman
87518 Davis Creek Lane
Bandon, Oregon 9741

ORCA: Oregon Coast Alliance
P.O. Box 857, Astoria OR 97103
(503) 391-0210 http://www.oregoncoastalliance.org

Protecting the Oregon Coast

July 12, 2013

Tim Wood, Director
Members, Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission
Oregon Parks and Recreation Dept.
725 Summer St. NE, Suite C
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Commission Members and Director Wood,

Oregon Coast Alliance is a non-profit organization whose mission is to protect the Oregon coast by working with coastal residents for sustainable communities; protection and restoration of coastal natural resources; and providing education and advocacy on land use issues.

ORCA writes this letter concerning the proposed Bandon Biota-OPRD exchange on behalf of its members and supporters in Coos County and elsewhere who cherish the Oregon coast. Oregon Coast Alliance has very serious reservations about this exchange proposal, and strongly questions whether it weighs out in the balance as providing an overall benefit to Oregonians and the State Parks system. We are in favor of OPRD's independent acquisition of Whale Cove and Grouse Mountain Ranch when monies become available, presuming those properties continue to meet OPRD's acquisition criteria.

Background

This proposed exchange is similar to that initiated by Bandon Biota in 2010 and 2011, with the addition of monies offered by Bandon Biota to purchase a small but important parcel in Whale Cove, and the large Grouse Mountain Ranch in Grant County. Bandon Biota or associated Bandon Dunes companies proposes to build a golf course, nicknamed 'Bandon Muni,' on the BSNA exchange land.

As before, this exchange falls under the category of "Exchanges Initiated by Other Parties" in the Oregon Administrative Rules that govern OPRD. OAR 736-019-0070(3) states that in such exchange proposals, OPRD will among other things:

- Determine whether the exchange aligns with the Department's mission, strategies, objectives and work plan.
- Inquire whether the local county and local communities support the exchange.
- Determine whether the exchange will accommodate public use and access, and be in the best interests of the Department.

OAR 736-019-0070 (4) directs the Commission to "determine that the proposed exchange provides an overwhelming public benefit to the Oregon State Park system, its visitors, and the citizens of Oregon…which is resounding, clear and obvious." Clearly, this proposal is one which will require careful consideration by the Commission because it is large, complex, and involves a great deal of money and land.

Getting the "Overwhelming Benefit" Rule Off to a Good Start

To the best of ORCA's knowledge, this exchange is the first time the Overwhelming Benefit rule has been applied "on the ground," so to speak. Even if it has been applied elsewhere, this is certainly the biggest test it has faced.

If this exchange is approved, the Commission will be setting a precedent for this Rule that ORCA considers to be dangerous and ill-advised: that it is appropriate to sacrifice one Park for another (or several others). In other words, this exchange paves the way for a policy of robbing Peter to pay Paul. This zero-sum game approach to maintaining and expanding the Parks system is not the way to move ahead. It would be preferable to enlarge the Parks system by collaboration and fundraising to purchase those lands needed for the Parks system, rather than enriching a private business by whittling one Park down to provide the means for others. The "Oregon way" is for parties to a problem or need to join forces, cooperate and find solutions that do not harm one party at the expense of another.

Benefiting the Park System, Visitors and Citizens of Oregon

The Commission must balance the opportunities pro and con in this exchange, and that is a statewide task. But ORCA reminds the Commission that Oregonians cherish the coastal Parks very highly; they are among the most frequently visited in the state. Thus balancing the benefits to all Oregonians must include an analysis of the costs and benefits to coastal Parks. Does this exchange benefit the *coastal* Parks system? ORCA has serious reservations about that.

Michael Keiser/Bandon Dunes already has sufficient land to build a golf course to the east of BSNA *without* the 280 acres of exchange lands, according to a May 13, 2013 *Golf Travel Insider* article (attached to this testimony). The proposed 'Bandon Muni' golf course would be "pretty good" without the BSNA lands; but with the exchange lands the course would be "superlative." This is not an adequate exchange of opportunities for the coast, nor sufficient reason to whittle away 280 acres of BSNA. The State of Oregon should not be in the business of giving its lands to improve the configuration of a proposed private amenity.

BSNA was granted to the State of Oregon by the U.S. Department of the Interior in 1968 "for parks purposes only," as the deed language states. The Bureau of Land Management did not give this land to Oregon for parks purposes merely until it was better in the State's eyes to trade it and allow a private golf course development. Indeed, if OPRD decides to trade a portion of it so that a golf course can be built there, BLM will require OPRD to purchase the reversionary clause in the deed at 100% of Fair Market Value, as current BLM policy requires.

Determining FMV for the reversionary clause is something OPRD must take into account for this exchange, as BSNA is highly valuable in ways not easily quantifiable, for solitude, ecosystem integrity, aesthetics, and similar values. The BSNA lands should be granted a similar per-acre value as the useable acreage at other similar sites, such as the proposed exchange parcel at New River.

BSNA has been managed primarily for its natural values since at least 1968, if not before – forty-five years or more. There are good reasons for this. It has unique botanical resources, especially including the critically endangered Beach Sagewort, which has a Natural Heritage State Rank of S1 "because it is considered to be critically imperiled because of extreme rarity…" As such, it has very high value in a consideration of maintaining species diversity in Oregon.

BSNA is also home to the Federally listed Snowy Plover, and is part of the Habitat Restoration area for the plover. This is in part because the area, which receives low-impact human use, has fewer Plover predators of the sort that increase with higher-impact use and human-generated garbage, such as foxes and crows. BSNA is one of the few areas that offers a sanctuary for this imperiled species, and the State has long managed the land to encourage this.

BSNA was classified by OPRD as a "State Natural Area" in the 1990s. The primary purpose of an SNA is "to protect outstanding, or important portions of Oregon's ecosystems for continued public education, and/or for contributing to larger ecosystem health." Such areas are managed primarily for natural values, and public recreation is encouraged in a natural, undisturbed setting with fairly minimal infrastructure. As OPRD describes it in the agency's classification system documents, "A state natural area is a single large parcel, or a collection of nearby smaller parcels." BSNA is clearly the first of these, a single large parcel managed as required under this classification, for "maintaining long term resource quality. Management will be directed to providing resource stabilization and enhancement…"

Other Benefit Considerations, Including the Gorse Problem

Though OPRD is not in the business of weighing economic benefits of a proposed Park exchange, the Commission must nevertheless consider the situation in Bandon as part of the "overwhelming benefit" to Park visitors and Oregon citizens. The Bandon area

currently has at least five Bandon Dunes golf courses, as well as other private courses. Opportunities for solitary recreation and undisturbed ecosystem are increasingly rare, while golf courses are increasingly common. This is true for visitors as well as residents. If private businesses construct golf courses and/or other amenities on their own land, that is not a matter of state policy; but maintaining the integrity of existing, large parks with strong ecosystem and recreational values is a very important state concern.

Last but not least, we must mention gorse. It is unfortunately true that BSNA suffers from gorse invasion; but this is not a unique problem. Many acres of south coast land, whether State Park, Federal and private, are strangled in this noxious weed, BSNA not more so than other areas. OPRD is implementing a gorse management plan on the fourteen infested coastal State Parks, and BSNA is receiving treatment. OPRD has spent $67,000 on gorse control at BSNA since 2011, and no doubt will spend more, as gorse control requires continuous and longterm strategies to be effective. Gorse does compromise the natural values of BSNA, of course; but the solution is to methodically expand and succeed in a gorse control management plan, which Parks is doing.

Summary

In sum, Oregon Coast Alliance asks the Commission to think very seriously before approving a land exchange that sets the State on the path of sacrificing one Park for another as a means of expanding the Parks system when the opportunity presents itself, and enriching a private business in the process. OPRD has an important mandate to protect existing Parks and expand the system in ways that do not rob Peter to pay Paul, and ORCA hopes the Commission will take these major problems into account before making any decision to approve this very questionable exchange.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify in this matter.

Sincerely,

/s/ Cameron La Follette

Cameron La Follette
Land Use Director

Golf Travel Insider (www.golfchannel.com)

Fate of Bandon Muni may be decided this week; Cabot Cliffs update

- By Matt Ginella
- May 13, 2013 2:09 PM ET

What's the status of Bandon Muni?

"It's no better than 50/50 that this will happen," says Mike Keiser, owner of Bandon Dunes, the five-course resort on the Southwest Coast of Oregon.

Keiser's admittedly frustrated. He has land, money, a vision for a lasting legacy that would continue to positively impact the locals and the local economy, and yet he's having a hard time giving it away. He has been trying to negotiate a land swap with the Oregon State Parks Department for four years. He's set to meet again on Wednesday, May 15, where he says he will make his final offer.

The proposed site of Bandon Muni, which would be home to a 27-hole course designed by Gil Hanse.

Keiser covets a 250-acre gorse-chocked piece of coastal dunesland (pictured above) that's 15 miles south of Bandon Dunes Resort. The No. 1 golf destination in the U.S., as voted by Golf Digest, consists of five courses and 85 holes. In exchange, and in his best estimation, Keiser is offering usable parkland worth four of his dollars for every one of theirs.

So what's the problem?

"There's a cultural divide," says Keiser. "Not to cast aspersions, but they're afraid."

Keiser says state park departments aren't in the business of trading land, especially rare coastal land, and he assumes they're suspicious of his intentions. In a recent article in the Register-Guard, a local newspaper, writer Ron Bellamy told a story of environmental concerns, such as frogs, turtles and birds.

Keiser has always said Bandon Muni would be his philanthropic offering to a community that has afforded him the opportunity to build his dream of links golf in America. Bandon Muni would create another 80 jobs, and cater to Oregonians and locals with affordable green fees and an extensive junior caddie program.

"I see it as a $15-million gift to Coos and Curry County golfers and juniors who don't even know they miss golf," says Keiser.

If he can't get the deal done on Wednesday, he says he'll move on. "The resort will be just fine, thank you."

If he can get the deal done, Gil Hanse, who's building the Olympic Course in Rio, will be the architect. "If it doesn't work, Gil will be just as disappointed," says Keiser, who hasn't spoken to Hanse in six months. "I've been laying low. There's nothing new to report."

Going back to 1999, with the modest opening of Bandon Dunes and a 50-room lodge, Keiser began the foundation of what has become a mecca for avid amateur golfers, with four of the top 25 public courses in the country. In doing so, he has created roughly 1,500 jobs and rescued the tenuous timber industry of Coos Bay. Not to mention the millions of dollars in donations for a local medical facility, schools, the environment and the 60-plus caddies who have gone on to earn Evans Scholarships, which consists of full college tuition to the University Oregon or Oregon State.

"I wish I had better news to report," says Keiser. "Previously, it seemed we were moving forward." Admittedly, he could build Muni on the land he owns, and it could be "pretty good," but if he could turn Hanse loose on a site like the one he wants, "it would be superlative."

Keiser hasn't become Keiser by building 'pretty good.'

Bandon's 'Punchbowl' seeded

Punchbowl at Bandon Dunes Resort

Keiser also told me they've started seeding 'Punchbowl,' the 150,000 square-foot putting course (pictured above), designed by Tom Doak and Jim Urbina. Keiser anticipates a soft opening in September and then, due to the newness of the turf, closing it again in October until the spring of 2014.

I asked Keiser if he was afraid something like the Punchbowl, which will most likely be free and a lot of fun for the competitive types with sore feet and tight hamstrings, would steal business from his other five courses on property. "I don't fear it," says Keiser. "If people are willing to get here, I believe the more things we can present, the better. And I mean it."

To prove it, Keiser says he's also considering a second par-3 course, which would be located in the dunes south of the second hole at Bandon Trails. There's no name or specific timetable for this one, and he hasn't decided on an architect yet, but don't be surprised if it's David McLay Kidd, who built the original 18 holes at Bandon Dunes.

Keiser hasn't considered Kidd for another one of his courses until recently, after they bumped into each other twice in the past six months. Once at the grand opening of Streamsong Resort in Florida, where Keiser says Kidd admitted that in some of his recent designs, he built courses too difficult for what Keiser likes to refer to as "the retail golfer."

Golf.com (blogs.golf.com)

May 16, 2013

New Bandon Muni? Bring It On!

Posted at 1:23 PM by Joe Passov | Categories: Bandon Dunes

The 14th hole at Old MacDonald at the Bandon Dunes resort (Courtesy of Bandon Dunes).

The news from coastal Oregon on Wednesday was encouraging. Bandon Dunes domo Mike Keiser met with the governor of Oregon and the Oregon State Parks Department to discuss the fate of a new course he has planned, tentatively called Bandon Muni Golf Links. “There’s no official announcement at this time,” says Bandon Dunes spokesman B.R. Koehnemann, but sources indicate that the meeting resulted in a preliminary agreement for a land swap to take place that will allow for the creation of the 27-hole course. To that, I say, “Bring it on!”

From Day 1 in the spring of 1999, passionate course connoisseurs flocked to Bandon Dunes Golf Resort, the greatest "must-play" public-course mecca ever built in the United States. So significant was its impact that in 2004, Golf Magazine named it No. 34 of the 45 Greatest Golf Moments of the past 45 years. Since then, Keiser has only enhanced the product, exponentially. Naturally, environmentalists from a fistful of factions have raised stop signs -- or at least caution flags -- but if there's one guy to trust to get things right on the Oregon coast, it's Keiser.

The plan Keiser has in mind is to create a St. Andrews-style muni operation; while his would be privately owned, it would be operated to benefit locals especially, as is the case with how the St. Andrews Links Trust administers its golf offerings. To that end, Keiser acquired several coastal parcels roughly 15 minutes south of Bandon Dunes and hired golf's hottest architect, Gil Hanse, to craft 27 holes. That plan has been in place for at least two, perhaps even three years, and Hanse has completed several preliminary routings. However, Keiser has had his eye on some virtually untouched State Park land, replete with massive dunes, scrubby vegetation and magnificent ocean views that would turn his good golf course into a potentially outstanding one. He proposed a land swap with the state government, but his proposal had stalled -- or at least had been idling for many months. Optimism on Keiser's part had clearly faded -- until now.

The age-old issue of land tampering now rears its head. Do we really need more golf in Bandon? Is it worth it to intrude on such a pristine piece of property? For the state or Oregon to part with such a parcel, there has to be an "overwhelming public benefit," says a state parks spokesman. Keiser makes a compelling case. He's asking for a small slice of an otherwise inaccessible plot that's covered with gorse and other invasive plant species. In exchange he would give up land of equal or greater value, plus cash. He would offer state residents substantial discounts and invite locals from Coos and Curry Counties to play for nominal, even miniscule rates. Juniors would play free of charge and a caddie program will be established to provide jobs for young people.

So long as the bulk of the duneland is maintained in its natural state, this sounds like an "overwhelming public benefit" to me. Thinking that Keiser has kept every promise in keeping Bandon Dunes sustainable and that Gil Hanse embodies the lay-of-the-land, don't-fight-with-nature-but-rather-work-with-it-kind of architect, the Bandon Muni project seems like a certain home run. There remain many hurdles to overcome, but for now, I'm excited to place Bandon Muni on the front burner.

July 14, 2013

Oregon Parks and Recreation Dept.
Attn: Chris Havel
725 Summer St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Grouse Mt. Land Acquisition, Bandon Dunes Land Exchange

Dear Sirs,

The Grant County Stockgrowers (GCSG) is comprised of over 70 ranching families and local businesses in Grant County, Oregon and we are strongly opposed to the above referenced land acquisition within *our* county that has nothing to do with the Bandon Dunes Land Exchange in Coos County, other than as a puzzle piece in a big money business deal for Michael Keiser's personal gain. We are extremely shocked and disappointed with the secretive nature with which the dealings on the Grouse Mt. acquisition has proceeded within our county and with our elected officials as well as the supposed public servants of the OPRD. We feel we still do not have all the pertinent information regarding this proposal. Of the 6,400 acres owned by Mr.& Mrs. George Meridith, 6,100 acres is the proposed acreage for acquisition by the OPRD. What is proposed for the other 300 acres and the multi-million dollar house that is not accounted for in this proposal? Will the state parks take over the Meredith's' existing "maintenance" burden and create for them their own personal residential "state" park?

The Stockgrowers are concerned with taking private land out of production which also decreases the taxpaying land base in this county. Timber production, livestock production, hay production are necessary for private landowners to pay their taxes and assessments, all of which provides jobs and turns dollars over many times in our local economy. Recreation helps but rarely can generate enough income or provide the jobs that agricultural production does. Taking additional private land out of our tax base increases the tax burden on agricultural landowners who are already being pressured with increased input costs such as feed, fuel, equipment and labor. Fire assessments add to the tax burden of owning private lands which will be spread amongst fewer and fewer private landowners whenever these acquisitions occur. The Grouse Mt. property currently pays approximately $24,000 in farm deferral taxes, $14,000 on the house alone. In 10 years, that is a loss of ~$240,000. Who will support our county services; our schools, our hospital, emergency services, our library, etcetera?

All the benefits: "The property will provide significant natural resources, recreational, cultural and scenic value to the park system" already exist in private ownership. Why does the government need another park in a county that is over 70% public lands? Why does the government want more land? The Oregon government is experiencing cuts to agency funding yet these type of proposals continue to overwhelm the already over burdened taxpayers with the associated costs to acquire, operate (staff) and maintain the excess properties in a time when the State government can't even fund the operation and

maintenance of existing properties. The State can expect annual maintenance costs associated with these 6,100 acres of land which includes existing noxious weed problems that rival the gorse problem on Bandon State Natural Area. Who do you think will end up paying those bills? In short, the acquisition of this property does NOT provide an overwhelming public benefit to the …citizens of Oregon per OPRD land acquisition and exchange policy **OAR 736-019-0070**.

Although the Grant County Stockgrowers Association is in support of private landowners rights to manage and dispose of their property as they feel necessary, our organization is not in support of the continued expansion of government acquisitions that essentially takes private property off our tax rolls and erodes the ability for our county government to support needed services. ***We are opposed to any acquisition or trade that takes one acre off the tax rolls and out of production.***

Sincerely,

Jack Johns
President, Grant County Stockgrowers

Cc Rep. Greg Walden
Sen. Ron Wyden
Sen. Jeff Merkley
State Rep. Cliff Bentz
State Sen. Ted Ferrioli
OCA President Curtis Martin
Blue Mt. Eagle newspaper

Would like to be added to the
* Email notification list
{Maybe touch base w/ him about other info}

Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

PUBLIC COMMENT

ATTENDANCE REGISTER

OREGON STATE PARKS
Nature HISTORY Discovery

Registration is optional; however, the Commission would welcome the opportunity to keep a record of those in attendance at this meeting, and would appreciate your indication in advance of any subject about which you may wish to make a statement.

Agenda Item Number (if applicable) _____

Do you wish to make a statement?

☒ **Yes** ☐ **No**

If yes, please specify subject: Hunter Access on the proposed Grouse Mountain Ranch parcel Land exchange

Name: Ty Stubblefield

Date: 7.17.2013 **Meeting Location:** North Bend

Address: 301 Serenity Lane

City/State/Zip: Roseburg, OR 97471

Phone Number: 541-643-5327

E-Mail Address oha_ty@yahoo.com

Organization Represented: Oregon Hunters Association

Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

PUBLIC COMMENT

ATTENDANCE REGISTER

OREGON STATE PARKS
Nature HISTORY Discovery

Registration is optional; however, the Commission would welcome the opportunity to keep a record of those in attendance at this meeting, and would appreciate your indication in advance of any subject about which you may wish to make a statement.

Agenda Item Number (if applicable) 6.B

Do you wish to make a statement?

☒ **Yes** ☐ **No**

If yes, please specify subject: LAND TRADE

Name: JOHN SWEET / Ch County Commr

Date: 7/17/13 **Meeting Location:** Coos Bay

Address: 1291 N. 9TH ST.

City/State/Zip: Coos Bay, OR 97420

Phone Number: (541) 269-9049

E-Mail Address j.sweet1@charter.net

Organization Represented: Coos County

Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

PUBLIC COMMENT

ATTENDANCE REGISTER

OREGON STATE PARKS

Nature HISTORY *Discovery*

Registration is optional; however, the Commission would welcome the opportunity to keep a record of those in attendance at this meeting, and would appreciate your indication in advance of any subject about which you may wish to make a statement.

Agenda Item Number (if applicable) Bandon Biota Exchange

Do you wish to make a statement?

☒ **Yes** ☐ **No**

If yes, please specify subject: Exchange

Name: Sharon Waterman

Date: _____ **Meeting Location:** _____

Address: 87518 Davis Ck Ln

City/State/Zip: Bandon, Or

Phone Number: 541-347-3453

E-Mail Address _____

Organization Represented: OFBP

Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

PUBLIC COMMENT

ATTENDANCE REGISTER

OREGON STATE PARKS
Nature HISTORY *Discovery*

Registration is optional; however, the Commission would welcome the opportunity to keep a record of those in attendance at this meeting, and would appreciate your indication in advance of any subject about which you may wish to make a statement.

Agenda Item Number (if applicable)_____

Do you wish to make a statement?

☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

If yes, please specify subject: land swap involving Bandon Natural Area

Name: Lydia Delgado

Date: 2/12/13 **Meeting Location:** Coos Bay OR

Address: 355 Douglas Ave SW

City/State/Zip: Bandon OR 97411

Phone Number: 541-347-8035

E-Mail Address ldelgado@mycomspan.com

Organization Represented:_____

Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

PUBLIC COMMENT

ATTENDANCE REGISTER

OREGON STATE PARKS
Nature HISTORY Discovery

Registration is optional; however, the Commission would welcome the opportunity to keep a record of those in attendance at this meeting, and would appreciate your indication in advance of any subject about which you may wish to make a statement.

Agenda Item Number (if applicable) _____

Do you wish to make a statement?

☑ **Yes** ☐ **No**

If yes, please specify subject: PROPOSED LAND SWAP WITH BANDON BIOTA

Name: MICHAEL SCALICI

Date: JULY 17 2013 **Meeting Location:** RED LION

Address: 54617 GEIGER CK RD

City/State/Zip: BANDON OR

Phone Number: 541-290-1520

E-Mail Address migs97411@frontier.com

Organization Represented: NEW MILLENNIUM CONSULTING

Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

PUBLIC COMMENT

ATTENDANCE REGISTER

OREGON STATE PARKS
Nature HISTORY Discovery

Registration is optional; however, the Commission would welcome the opportunity to keep a record of those in attendance at this meeting, and would appreciate your indication in advance of any subject about which you may wish to make a statement.

Agenda Item Number (if applicable) 6. b

Do you wish to make a statement?

☑ **Yes** ☐ **No**

If yes, please specify subject: Property exchange proposal - Bandon

Name: Claudia Hundhausen

Date: 7/17/13 **Meeting Location:** Red Lion Coos Bay

Address: 3795 Beach Loop Dr

City/State/Zip: Bandon

Phone Number: 541 347 1312

E-Mail Address hausd@mycomspan.com

Organization Represented: —

Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

PUBLIC COMMENT

ATTENDANCE REGISTER

OREGON STATE PARKS
Nature HISTORY Discovery

Registration is optional; however, the Commission would welcome the opportunity to keep a record of those in attendance at this meeting, and would appreciate your indication in advance of any subject about which you may wish to make a statement.

Agenda Item Number (if applicable) Land Swap

Do you wish to make a statement?

☒ **Yes** ☐ **No**

If yes, please specify subject: Bandon Land Swap

Name: Mike Claassen

Date: 7-18 **Meeting Location:** Coos Bay

Address: 1455 Pelican Place

City/State/Zip: Bandon, OR 97411

Phone Number: 541-347-9585

E-Mail Address mmclaas@earthlink.net

Organization Represented: Bandon City Council

Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

PUBLIC COMMENT

ATTENDANCE REGISTER

OREGON STATE PARKS
Nature HISTORY *Discovery*

Registration is optional; however, the Commission would welcome the opportunity to keep a record of those in attendance at this meeting, and would appreciate your indication in advance of any subject about which you may wish to make a statement.

Agenda Item Number (if applicable) 6 BANDON EXCHANGE

Do you wish to make a statement?

☒ **Yes** ☐ **No**

If yes, please specify subject: BANDON LAND EXCHANGE

Name: LINDA TARR

Date: 7/17/13 **Meeting Location:** NORTH BEND

Address: 47255 CEDAR HOLLOW

City/State/Zip: PORT ORFORD, OR 97465

Phone Number: 541 332-1032

E-Mail Address lindatarr@frontier.com

Organization Represented:

Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

PUBLIC COMMENT

ATTENDANCE REGISTER

OREGON STATE PARKS
Nature HISTORY *Discovery*

Registration is optional; however, the Commission would welcome the opportunity to keep a record of those in attendance at this meeting, and would appreciate your indication in advance of any subject about which you may wish to make a statement.

Agenda Item Number (if applicable)_____

Do you wish to make a statement?

☑ **Yes** ☐ **No**

If yes, please specify subject: Bandon Biota Land swap

Name: Bart Streity

Date: 7/17/13 **Meeting Location:** Red Lion

Address: 87112 Boak Rd

City/State/Zip: Bandon OR 97411

Phone Number: 541-551-0626

E-Mail Address _____

Organization Represented: _____

Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

PUBLIC COMMENT

ATTENDANCE REGISTER

OREGON STATE PARKS
Nature
HISTORY
Discovery

Registration is optional; however, the Commission would welcome the opportunity to keep a record of those in attendance at this meeting, and would appreciate your indication in advance of any subject about which you may wish to make a statement.

Agenda Item Number (if applicable) 6a

Do you wish to make a statement?

☒ **Yes** ☐ **No**

If yes, please specify subject: Bandon

Name: Julie Miller, Bandon Chamber

Date: _____ **Meeting Location:** _____

Address: 300 2nd Street

City/State/Zip: Bandon OR 97411

Phone Number: 541 347-3054

E-Mail Address bandoncc@myrcomspan.com

Organization Represented: Bandon Chamber

Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

PUBLIC COMMENT

ATTENDANCE REGISTER

OREGON STATE PARKS
Nature HISTORY Discovery

Registration is optional; however, the Commission would welcome the opportunity to keep a record of those in attendance at this meeting, and would appreciate your indication in advance of any subject about which you may wish to make a statement.

Agenda Item Number (if applicable) _____

Do you wish to make a statement?

☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

If yes, please specify subject: Bandon Dunes property proposal

Name: Sandy Messerle

Date: 7/16 **Meeting Location:** Red Lion

Address: 50 Central Ave (SCDC)

City/State/Zip: Coos Bay, OR 97420

Phone Number: 541-266-9753

E-Mail Address sandy@scdcinc.org

Organization Represented: SCDC

Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

PUBLIC COMMENT

ATTENDANCE REGISTER

OREGON STATE PARKS
Nature HISTORY Discovery

Registration is optional; however, the Commission would welcome the opportunity to keep a record of those in attendance at this meeting, and would appreciate your indication in advance of any subject about which you may wish to make a statement.

Agenda Item Number (if applicable)_____

Do you wish to make a statement?

☑ **Yes** ☐ **No**

If yes, please specify subject: Concern over the trade of BNSA. ~~for~~

Name: Keith Saylor

Date:_____ **Meeting Location:** Coos Bay / Red lion Inn

Address:_____

City/State/Zip:_____

Phone Number: 541-655-0328

E-Mail Address kfsaylor@gmail.com

Organization Represented: Personal

Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

PUBLIC COMMENT

ATTENDANCE REGISTER

OREGON STATE PARKS
Nature HISTORY Discovery

Registration is optional; however, the Commission would welcome the opportunity to keep a record of those in attendance at this meeting, and would appreciate your indication in advance of any subject about which you may wish to make a statement.

Agenda Item Number (if applicable) 6 b

Do you wish to make a statement?

☒ **Yes** ☐ **No**

If yes, please specify subject: Bandon Biota

Name: Julie Jones

Date: 7/17/13 **Meeting Location:** Coos Bay

Address: 89056 Whiskey Run Lane

City/State/Zip: Bandon, OR 97411

Phone Number: 541.347.2528

E-Mail Address

Organization Represented:

Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

PUBLIC COMMENT

ATTENDANCE REGISTER

OREGON STATE PARKS
Nature
HISTORY
Discovery

Registration is optional; however, the Commission would welcome the opportunity to keep a record of those in attendance at this meeting, and would appreciate your indication in advance of any subject about which you may wish to make a statement.

Agenda Item Number (if applicable)_____

Do you wish to make a statement?

☑ **Yes** ☐ **No**

If yes, please specify subject: does State parks own the land south of Bandon?
Meeting at night for working people

Name: Dick Mork

Date: 7-17-13 **Meeting Location:** Coos Bay OR.

Address: Po Box 1361

City/State/Zip: Coos Bay OR 97420

Phone Number: 541 404 5760

E-Mail Address _____

Organization Represented: _____

Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

PUBLIC COMMENT

ATTENDANCE REGISTER

OREGON STATE PARKS
Nature HISTORY *Discovery*

Registration is optional; however, the Commission would welcome the opportunity to keep a record of those in attendance at this meeting, and would appreciate your indication in advance of any subject about which you may wish to make a statement.

Agenda Item Number (if applicable)_____

Do you wish to make a statement?

☒ **Yes** ☐ **No**

If yes, please specify subject: SALE of PARK LAND

Name: JON COOPER

Date: AUG 17 2013 **Meeting Location:** RED LION

Address: 1450 RIVERSIDE

City/State/Zip: BANDON OR 97411

Phone Number: 347 9879

E-Mail Address _____

Organization Represented:_____

Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

PUBLIC COMMENT

ATTENDANCE REGISTER

OREGON STATE PARKS

Nature HISTORY *Discovery*

Registration is optional; however, the Commission would welcome the opportunity to keep a record of those in attendance at this meeting, and would appreciate your indication in advance of any subject about which you may wish to make a statement.

Agenda Item Number (if applicable)_____

Do you wish to make a statement?

☒ **Yes** ☐ **No**

If yes, please specify subject: Bandon Land Swap Proposal

Name: Rob Taylor

Date: 17-7-2013 **Meeting Location:** Red Lion

Address: PO Box 973

City/State/Zip: Bandon OR

Phone Number: 541-347-9942

E-Mail Address obetewic@msn.com

Organization Represented: myself

Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

PUBLIC COMMENT

ATTENDANCE REGISTER

OREGON STATE PARKS
Nature HISTORY *Discovery*

Registration is optional; however, the Commission would welcome the opportunity to keep a record of those in attendance at this meeting, and would appreciate your indication in advance of any subject about which you may wish to make a statement.

Agenda Item Number (if applicable)_____

Do you wish to make a statement?

☑ **Yes** ☐ **No**

If yes, please specify subject: live in area across from project - have concerns

Name: Don Chance

Date:_____ **Meeting Location:**_____

Address:_____

City/State/Zip:_____

Phone Number: 541-297-2647

E-Mail Address _____

Organization Represented:_____

Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

PUBLIC COMMENT

ATTENDANCE REGISTER

OREGON STATE PARKS
Nature
HISTORY
Discovery

Registration is optional; however, the Commission would welcome the opportunity to keep a record of those in attendance at this meeting, and would appreciate your indication in advance of any subject about which you may wish to make a statement.

Agenda Item Number (if applicable)_____

Do you wish to make a statement?

☑ **Yes** ☐ **No**

If yes, please specify subject: BANDON

Name: Dwight Caswell

Date:_____ **Meeting Location:**_____

Address: 457 Alameda Ave.

City/State/Zip: Astoria OR 97103

Phone Number: 503-883-3097

E-Mail Address dwight@vonscom

Organization Represented:_____

Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

PUBLIC COMMENT

ATTENDANCE REGISTER

OREGON STATE PARKS
Nature HISTORY Discovery

Registration is optional; however, the Commission would welcome the opportunity to keep a record of those in attendance at this meeting, and would appreciate your indication in advance of any subject about which you may wish to make a statement.

Agenda Item Number (if applicable)_____

Do you wish to make a statement?

☑ **Yes** ☐ **No**

If yes, please specify subject: Land trade, Bandon

Name: Cam Parry

Date:_____ **Meeting Location:** Coos Bay

Address: P.O. Box 5924

City/State/Zip: Charleston, OR 97420

Phone Number: 541-888-1029

E-Mail Address camparry@frontier.com

Organization Represented: My Self, Coos County Resident

Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

PUBLIC COMMENT

ATTENDANCE REGISTER

OREGON STATE PARKS
Nature HISTORY Discovery

Registration is optional; however, the Commission would welcome the opportunity to keep a record of those in attendance at this meeting, and would appreciate your indication in advance of any subject about which you may wish to make a statement.

Agenda Item Number (if applicable) 6(b) - Bandon Biota Land Exchange

Do you wish to make a statement?

☒ **Yes** ☐ **No**

If yes, please specify subject: I'm speaking for Mike Keiser, proponent of the land exchange

Name: Steve Corey

Date: 7/17/13 **Meeting Location:** Coos Bay

Address: P.O. Box 218

City/State/Zip: Pendleton, Oregon 97801

Phone Number: 541-276-3331

E-Mail Address corey@corey-byler.com

Organization Represented: Attorney for Bandon Biota

Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

PUBLIC COMMENT

ATTENDANCE REGISTER

OREGON STATE PARKS

Nature
HISTORY
Discovery

Registration is optional; however, the Commission would welcome the opportunity to keep a record of those in attendance at this meeting, and would appreciate your indication in advance of any subject about which you may wish to make a statement.

Agenda Item Number (if applicable) 6 b

Do you wish to make a statement?

☒ **Yes** ☐ **No**

If yes, please specify subject: BANDON LINKS GOLF COURSE

Name: JIM SEELEY

Date: 7/17/13 **Meeting Location:** COOS BAY

Address: 667 MADISON AVE S.E.

City/State/Zip: BANDON

Phone Number: 541 347 8842 847 609 2418 (c)

E-Mail Address jseeley@wildriverscoastalliance.com

Organization Represented: WRCA & BANDON BIOTA

Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

PUBLIC COMMENT

ATTENDANCE REGISTER

OREGON STATE PARKS
Nature
HISTORY
Discovery

Registration is optional; however, the Commission would welcome the opportunity to keep a record of those in attendance at this meeting, and would appreciate your indication in advance of any subject about which you may wish to make a statement.

Agenda Item Number (if applicable) 6a

Do you wish to make a statement?

☑ **Yes** ☐ **No**

If yes, please specify subject: Bandon

Name: Bill Sweet

Date: 7/17/13 **Meeting Location:** Coos Bay

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Phone Number:

E-Mail Address

Organization Represented: