

From: Jolly Hibbits <egretflats@wildblue.net>
To: <oprđ.publiccomment@state.or.us>
Date: 11/24/2013 9:05 PM
Subject: comment on land exchange

Dear Editor:

What can you members State Parks and Recreation be thinking??? Yet another golf course for Bandon? Michael Keizer already has 5 or 6 (lost count) near Bandon. Also near Bandon is the Face Rock course and another just south called Bandon Crossings. Doesn't Parks and Recreation know that there are other forms of outdoor recreation? Only a very small part of the population play golf, (less than 10%) or even want to. Its an expensive sport, takes up a lot of space, uses a lot of water and pesticides. Michael Keizer says "I see it as a \$15 million gift to Coos and Curry county golfers and juniors who don't even know they miss golf". He also sees a new course as being a "philanthropic" offering to the community (Capital Press, Nov. 15, 2013). My friend says it would be much more philanthropic to simply write a check for \$15 million to be used for the swimming pool that Bandon has always wanted and could not afford, and perhaps some covered year round tennis courts. That would be a real gift, and not one that simply puts more money in Keizer's already deep pockets.

Please also remember that the trade that is about to be allowed, is supposed to " provide overwhelming public benefit". Included is taking a 6100 acre ranch in Grant County essentially out of production and off tax rolls. What benefit is there taking a ranch out of production there; and providing more golf here? Good for folks who don't even know they want it, and producing a cadre of young caddies to serve the needs of those who can afford to play the expensive sport???

Also consider that two new golf courses are being considered for Cape Arago on "poor quality farm land". and two near Pistol River. Even poor quality farm land does produce food, golf courses do not. More golf courses, more food from Mexico and China! Jeff Haga says "it is creating some jobs, but there's got to be other things that create jobs other than a bunch of golf courses" (Capital Press, Nov. 15, 2013). Diversity is the answer, NOT more golf.

Please think about it Parks and Recreation members---and do something that REALLY, overwhelmingly provides public benefit to EVERYONE, not just Michael Keizer and a chosen few.

Jolly Hibbits
54070 Bear Creek Rd.
Bandon, OR 97411
541 347 2229

OPRD Publiccomment - Grouse Mountain State Park

From: "Marty Pont" <mjpont@charter.net>
To: <OPRD.publiccomment@state.or.us>
Date: 11/23/2013 5:17 PM
Subject: Grouse Mountain State Park

I support the Grouse Mountain State Park, encouraging the use of the park for hunting as a wildlife management tool in the park, takiing into consideration safety zones around picnicareas and campsites.. Than You

OPRD Publiccomment - Grouse Mountain State Park

From: Mark Weitz <markweitz@msn.com>
To: <OPRD.publiccomment@state.or.us>
Date: 11/23/2013 3:57 PM
Subject: Grouse Mountain State Park

Dear Sirs,

I am writing in support of the Grouse Mountain State Park that is being proposed. As an avid hunter and outdoor enthusiast I understand the importance of hunting and other outdoor activities for our citizens and especially our young people. By providing more opportunity for hunting and fishing perhaps some of these young people will have a lifelong passion, like me and become productive happy adults.

Sincerely,

Mark Weitz
V.P. Solstice Outdoor (Retired)

From: "Albert J. Farmer" <farmer4342@gmail.com>
To: <OPRD.publiccomment@state.or.us>
Date: 11/23/2013 3:24 PM
Subject: Bandon/Biota Grouse Mountain Land Exchange

I whole heartedly agree with the preliminary approval by the Oregon State Parks & Recreation Commission with respect to the two property projects. The Grouse Mountain Ranch will provide many Oregonians with valuable recreational opportunities. I am encouraged that the commission recognizes the significant population segment that value highly the ability to hunt in Oregon and, in so doing, provide financial benefits to the local economy as well as a proven wildlife management tool on the public land. I trust that the Commission will designate portions of the exchange that allow multiple use of the ranch. I, along with many others, thank the Commission for their preliminary decision and for their trust in the Oregon citizens.

A.J.(Jed) Farmer
541-562-6267
farmer4342@gmail.com

OPRD Publiccomment - LAND TRDE

From: <safbec2@comcast.net>
To: <OPRD.publiccomment@state.or.us>
Date: 11/23/2013 10:21 AM
Subject: LAND TRDE

As a hunter and a member of OHA for the past 17 years, I very much favor the afore mentioned land swap.

Ken Fannesbeck

OPRD Publiccomment - Grouse Mountain

From: Harold Laird <bearlaird@gmail.com>
To: <OPRD.publiccomment@state.or.us>
Date: 11/23/2013 9:30 AM
Subject: Grouse Mountain

Oregon State Parks and Recreation Commission

Thank you for your recent preliminary approval of the Grouse Mountain land exchange. In recent years it has become harder and harder to find areas for recreational use. The people of this State are grounded in the recreational use of the States lands, but logging, though important to the economic well being of this State, has tied up much of the recreational uses and made it harder to enjoy the basic outdoors life. Thousands of licensed Oregon hunters and fishermen will be able to enjoy their past time with the passage of this exchange.

Harold L Laird

OPRD Publiccomment - Grouse Mountain State Park

From: SteveSandra Freilinger <steve.sandee@gmail.com>
To: <OPRD.publiccomment@state.or.us>
Date: 11/23/2013 9:15 AM
Subject: Grouse Mountain State Park

I would like to express my appreciation to the commission for understanding and acknowledging that hunting is a valued and significant outdoor recreation activity for many Oregonians.

I am including my voice in expressing my support of the Grouse Mountain State Park. Hunting can be an excellent method for wildlife management in the park when safety zones are in place.

Thank you,
Steve Freilinger

OPRD Publiccomment

From: <csdaj@q.com>
To: OPRD publiccomment <OPRD.publiccomment@state.or.us>
Date: 11/23/2013 8:46 AM

I am writing to Thank the commission for recognizing hunting as a historical, cultural and legitimate recreational past time for thousands of licensed hunters in Oregon.

I support the Grouse Mountain State Park encouraging the use of hunting as a wildlife management tool in the park, taking into consideration safety zones around picnic areas and campsites.

- I support the exchanges of property and money with Bandon Biota, a private land holding entity owned by Michael Keiser, owner of Bandon Dunes and other golf courses. Bandon Biota proposed to receive 280 acres of the 878-acre Bandon State Natural Area to help create a new walk-in golf course. According to state rules, when an outside party initiates a land exchange, the proposal as a whole must provide overwhelming benefit to Oregon's state park system. In return for receiving 280 acres of the Bandon property, the state park system would receive 208 acres of private property in the Bandon area, \$300,000 worth of help controlling gorse — an invasive plant affecting parts of Bandon State Natural Area and other south coast parks — and \$2.95 million to fund two other state park purchases. Of that amount, \$450,000 would be used to match a federal grant for a governmental entity to acquire 10 oceanfront acres at Whales' Cove in Lincoln County, and \$2.5 million would be used to fund a portion of the Grouse Mountain Ranch acquisition.

I think that it is good to look at future multiple use of our state lands.

From: Ron Makinson <ronmakinson@yahoo.com>
To: "OPRD.publiccomment@state.or.us" <OPRD.publiccomment@state.or.us>
Date: 11/23/2013 8:18 AM
Subject: Grouse Mtn.

Dear Sirs

I am a hunter, and am glad you recognize me as a member of the largest outdoor users in the State. I support the Grouse Mountain State Park Plan, using hunting as a management tool.

Ron Makinson (Registered Voter) Gold Hill, Oregon

Sent from my iPhone

OPRD Publiccomment - Bandon/Biota Grouse Mountain Exchange

From: Randy Becker <randy@rrbecker.com>
To: "OPRD.publiccomment@state.or.us" <OPRD.publiccomment@state.or.us>
Date: 11/23/2013 7:48 AM
Subject: Bandon/Biota Grouse Mountain Exchange

Hello,

My name is Randy Becker and I live in Medford. I have lived in Oregon for 44 years, raised children who have their own families and all decided to live and work in Oregon. All our families have enjoyed using the Oregon Park system for various outdoor activities, including hunting. I appreciate the various departments in the State of Oregon, including the Parks Department, who recognize hunting as a legitimate activity for many Oregonians. In my opinion, hunting is one of the wildlife management tools available to the State. I support the Grouse Mountain State Park using hunting as a management tool while, of course, maintaining safety zones for camping and picnicking areas.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into this matter.

Sincerely,

Randy Becker

OPRD Publiccomment

From: "Larry" <larrymm@nehalem.tel.net>
To: <OPRD.publiccomment@state.or.us>
Date: 11/22/2013 10:58 PM

I support the Grouse Mountain State Park encouraging the use of hunting as a wildlife management tool in the park, taking into consideration safety zones around picnic areas and campsites.

Thank for taking the time.

Larry McClure

From: Vanessa Demoe
To: oprd.publiccomment@state.or.us
Date: 11/22/2013 9:15 AM
Subject: Fwd: Grouse Mtn Ranch State Park

>>> "Elberta" <rockpileoldies@ortelco.net> 11/20/2013 4:53 PM >>>

Attn. Jay Graves; ORPD Commission Co-chair

We support the Sale of Grouse Mtn. Ranch in Grant County. Our property is the Seven +/- Parcel East of the BLM Land.

We have been informed that all Property lines will be Surveyed. The Previous owner to the South of us installed An illegal access. We were told this by the Department of Transportation when we received our Permit. He built a fence to match that access which reduced our property from nine acres to what it is now. The Platt map shows ours to be 426' by 960'. Where our house sits we have only 296' north line to south . The folks we bought it from had legal proceedings in process with Him. They were elderly and lived in Bend. It was difficult for them to continue traveling over here and we did not have money keep the process going. My Husband expressed this at the public meeting in Mt Vernon. We hope this mail re-affirms his comments at that meeting.

Erie and Elberta Miller
22954 Hwy 395 N. Mt Vernon Or.
97865

New Millennium: Natural Resources Consulting & Management

Michael Scalici

54617 Geiger Ck Rd. Bandon, OR 97411
Bus. 541-290-1520 migs97411@frontier.com FAX: 541-347-8374

TO: Oregon Parks Commission

RE: Land Exchange with Bandon Biota

November 19, 2013

I am a Coos County resident who is a natural resources consultant. Over the last 25 years, I have been designing, implementing and monitoring projects that restore degraded wetlands, streams, and other sensitive habitats.

I am also somewhat familiar with the Bandon SNA, having tramped those dunes in all seasons over the last 18 years.

Last week, I downloaded and reviewed the *Vegetation Inventory and Botanical Resource Assessment for the Portion of Bandon State Natural Area under Potential Land Exchange Consideration* by Noel Bacheller, October 23, 2013.

If approved, this land exchange would transfer some 280 acres of hard-to-get to, off-the-beaten track coastal dunes with some sensitive habitats from the State of Oregon to a private golf course developer. On paper, this would sound quite unpalatable to me. But Mike Keiser and the Bandon Biota team are not your typical golf course developers. Mr. Keiser is not only fully aware of the responsible stewardship that comes with responsibly managing properties having wetlands and sensitive habitats with endangered species, but he has an excellent track record demonstrating this.

Just look at the Bandon Dunes Golf Resort as a case in point. In 2006, their superintendent won the national Environmental Leaders in Golf Award from Golf Digest and the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America for his efforts to reduce the use of water and herbicides.

In 2009, KemperSports, the company that manages Bandon Dunes, developed an environmental initiative program called *Green to a Tee*. This program encompasses environmentally focused initiatives within several core areas of facility operations, including:

- Golf course maintenance
- Habitat management
- Water conservation
- Energy use
- Recycling
- "Green" vendor utilization
- Staff education

At Bandon Dunes, the last I looked, they were close to receiving Level 3 (out of 4) certification.

In 2012, Golf Digest honored Bandon Dunes with their 4th annual Green Star Award for Outstanding Environmental Practices.

A recent Carbon Footprint Study by Syngenta concluded Bandon Dunes' overall impact is a net reduction in carbon. Using a trademarked tool called the *Turf Carbon Calculator*, they calculated the sustainability of many U.S. golf course operations. The idea behind this is to drive environmental stewardship and reduce carbon footprints on golf courses, and Bandon Dunes ranked high.

Bandon Dunes has also been certified in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary program. This program is an education and certification program that recognizes and helps golf courses protect the environment by enhancing the valuable natural areas and wildlife habitats that golf courses provide, by improving watering and fertilizing efficiency, and by minimizing potentially harmful impacts of golf course operations.

And, now with the creation of the Wild Rivers Coast Alliance (the non-profit organization that Mr. Keiser started to fund projects on the South Coast of Oregon committed to conservation, the community, and the economy), an entirely new funding source is available for projects that blend innovative ecological initiatives with economic opportunity while promoting sustainable land stewardship.

If you ever make it to Bandon Dunes, walk the public trails that wind through the property. There are miles of trimmed and mulched forest and dune trails for anyone to walk. Around the Bandon Preserve golf course, you'll see *Phacelia argentea*. Listed as threatened under Oregon's Endangered Species Act, here, the Silvery Phacelia is flourishing. The grounds crew has been removing the invasive European beach grass, Scotch broom and other non-native plants to restore conditions suitable for the *Phacelia* seeds to take hold. If you visit in the spring, you'll see the resident bee populations feverishly pollinating the flowering *Phacelia* plants.

I would like to express my support of the land trade between State Parks and Bandon Biota. There is indeed an overwhelming benefit to the state of Oregon should this exchange go through. Unlike what many in the opposition believe, the non-golfing public will benefit from the exchange as a result of privately-funded invasive weed management and maintained wild-land hiking trails. Environmentally responsible land stewards like Mike Keiser and Bandon Biota are hard to come by.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael Scalici".

Michael Scalici

From: Rebecca Miller <millerre_@hotmail.com>
To: "Park.Info@state.or.us" <park.info@state.or.us>
Date: 11/22/2013 8:24 PM
Subject: Bandon Dunes and E.Oregon land swap

Hi there~

I would like to make a public comment about the land swap between Bandon Dunes and a future Eastern Oregon State Park. I'm not sure where to send my comments to, but was hoping you could forward along. I found out about the landswap through the OPB earthfix webpage.

While it would be fantastic to have another giant E.O. state park in the Ore St. Park system I'm a little dubious about about selling 230 acres of public property to a ritzy golf course (for only 2.5 million dollars) on the coast. Especially since there is limited property of this size along the coastline.

If it absolutely has to be a golf course, I'm more apt to support something like a lease program -Stonecreek in Clackamas County is a great example, where the county/state still owns the property and leases to Bandon Dunes (or whoever), gets a portion of the revenue, keeps the grounds open to the public and affordable golf for all to enjoy (not just the ritzy out of towners). Who knows -maybe the revenue from a new 'golfing' state park could help buy the Eastern Oregon state park. Win! Win!

Thank you for your time
Rebecca Miller

Oregon City