



Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

117 NW Lafayette Avenue Bend Oregon 97701-1925
(541)388-6575 FAX (541)385-1764
<http://www.co.deschutes.or.us/cdd/>

June 12, 2015

Dear Commissioner Unger:

Deschutes County's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) enthusiastically supports the Black Butte Trail, the proposed 7.6 mile paved trail that would connect Sisters to Black Butte Ranch through the Deschutes National Forest.

BPAC supports a re-submittal of the proposal so that the United States Forest Service can begin a new environmental assessment with a careful and thorough public scoping process. Once the proposal is resubmitted, stakeholders and the public could then comment on and consider the full merits of the proposal.

The Black Butte Trail is consistent with the values and vision of BPAC. It would create a bicycle and pedestrian path linking two popular recreation areas and communities. It would also provide a safe, non-motorized trail allowing more people to access their national forest. While the precise location of the trail will likely undergo revisions in the public process, the Black Butte Trail has great potential as a non-motorized recreational amenity in our forest.

In addition to recreation benefits, trails such as the proposed Black Butte Trail are important because they protect the forest by minimizing damage caused by off trail users.

The committee has learned that the project has support from the homeowners associations of Tollgate and Black Butte Ranch, along with a majority of support from adjacent and nearby homeowners. Due to this community support and the bicycle and pedestrian benefits the project could provide, BPAC believes the project is worthy of further formal consideration and encourages Deschutes County to support the Black Butte Trail.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Howard
Chairperson
Deschutes County BPAC