



OREGON WILD

Formerly Oregon Natural Resources Council (ONRC)

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July 16, 2015

Commissioner Alan Unger
Deschutes County
1300 NW Wall Street
Bend, OR 97701

Subject: Black Butte – Sisters Paved Trail

Dear Commissioner Unger,

We are writing to express our support of the proposed paved trail between Black Butte and Sisters. Oregon Wild represents over 10,000 members and supporters who share our mission to protect and restore Oregon's wildlands, wildlife, and water as an enduring legacy for future generations.

The proposed trail would provide residents and visitors a beautiful, non-motorized, way of traveling between Sisters and the community of Black Butte Ranch. While we normally support keeping wildlands just as wild as possible, this proposal that generally parallels the highway will have minimal impacts. In our estimation it wouldn't significantly impact wildlife or wildlands values. It would however, reduce car traffic (and the associated carbon pollution), and provide thousands of people a high quality experience of their local national forest.

We look forward to seeing the trail completed.

Best Regards

Erik Fernandez
Wilderness Coordinator
Oregon Wild