

08.10.2021



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AUG 11 2021

Crook County
Community Development

Comprehensive Plan Amendment and Conditional Use Request
Record Number 217-21-000436-PLNG

Crook County Planning Commission:

Just so there is no misunderstanding regarding the public meeting held on July 28, 2021, the Pomranning family is strongly opposed to the proposed open pit mine. There was no indication marked on the form handed out at the beginning of the meeting. If the commission marked the form neutral, please change it to opposed.

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The first public hearing on the conditional use request to strip farmland of its undersoil supporting aggregate infrastructure was not informative. Without question, the individuals supporting the conditional use request distorted and deleted information, essentially only providing a perspective that supported a position, "trust us, no harm will be done to the farmland and surrounding community."

What is evident is the farmland they want to strip will not be useful for crop production. So, where is the value in the land. In the future, the land may support goats and sheep, but it is very unlikely that it will be able to support Prineville valley cows, which we all know is some of the best beef produced in the country. You could turn it into a housing subdivision, but this would require a lot of ground restoration as the underlying aggregate infrastructure is gone. Additionally, no one is going to put a housing subdivision by, what appears to be, a permanent aggregate sorting and grinding mill because of the unrelenting noise and dust, and giant piles of aggregate. I suppose you could change the land use to industrial, allowing for another 77+ acres of aggregate piles, making the entirety of the north valley a destination aggregate mining free for all. It is not clear what Knife River told the owners of this property about the future value of this land, but the aggregate stripping of the property will legally have to be disclosed if the property is ever to be sold, and a greatly diminished land value will be realized.

The above are just two examples, wasteland and declining property value, of the litany of reasons the proposal is not good for the north valley community. What we ask is the commission and the Judge overseeing this conditional use request an independent body of professionals from OSU or a similar community of impartial learned individuals conduct, in conjunction with the Crook County Planning Staff, an unbiased assessment if you as the commission or the Judge are hesitant to deny the above request. Obviously, denying the request at this juncture would be simpler, and send a message to property owners and mining companies that Crook County farmland is still and will remain a valued piece of our economic and cultural heritage.

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