

**Hannah Elliott**



**From:** Ellie Gage <ellicgage823@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 27, 2022 11:33 AM  
**To:** Plan  
**Subject:** Objection to Crossing Trails  
**Attachments:** CCPC XTrails letter.docx

**CROOK COUNTY**  
**JUN 27 2022**  
**PLANNING DEPT**

Hello,

Please find my letter of objection attached.

Ellie Gage

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Dear Crook County Planning Commission,

I'm writing this letter to voice my objection to the proposed Crossing Trails Resort.

My husband's family are long-time Crook County residents. We have lived in Powell Butte for 12 years, and we are currently raising the fourth generation here.

I understand that development of this area is inevitable, but the infrastructure needs to be in place before additional development occurs.

I have three main concerns that I would like to address:

1. Traffic and highway safety concerns
2. Water
3. Wildlife

I spoke with Oregon State Police regarding the high number of accidents that occur on Highway 126. Within the last 24 months there have been 61 accidents recorded by Oregon State Police on the short stretch of Highway 126 between the Powell Butte Post Office and Waibel Corner. Many of these accidents occur where roads branch off Highway 126 to the North and South. We have witnessed many of these accidents firsthand, and we also have seen the numerous tire marks on the highway where accidents were narrowly avoided. This stretch of highway is treacherous and is in desperate need of improvements to increase the safety of those travelling it. As it is, the highway cannot possibly safely accommodate the increased demand that will be placed on it from an additional 750 housing units at Crossing Trails.

In addition to Powell Butte being classified as high desert, we are also experiencing extreme drought. Several of our neighbors have experienced wells going dry in the last 12 months. The amount of water required to supply household and irrigation water to an additional 750 housing units is enormous, and it's impossible to justify where that water will come from. Even if the developer plans to utilize Avion water instead of drilling private wells, my understanding is that that water comes from the same aquifer that all residents of Powell Butte depend on. If the aquifer cannot keep up, then what happens to all of Powell Butte?

The area where the development is proposed serves as both a critical migration corridor and calving ground for elk. If the development moves forward, that habitat will be lost. As Central Oregon continues to grow, wildlife continues to be pushed out. This could increase the amount of motor vehicle collisions with elk, and it could also result in loss of the herd that utilizes that habitat. The more decisions that are made in favor of development, the more Powell Butte loses the things that make it such a special community: safety, productive farms and ranches, wildlife, and abundant beauty.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my concerns.  
Ellie Gage