



**Hannah Elliott**

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**From:** Janna and Paul Brewster <pjbj494@gci.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 5, 2022 11:27 AM  
**To:** Plan  
**Cc:** Janna & Paul Brewster  
**Subject:** Formal Comments on Proposed Crossing Trails Destination Resort  
**Attachments:** Crossing Trails Destination Resort\_07\_05\_22.docx

Please include the comment letter below as part of the public record for the Crossing Trails Destination Resort Proposal

Thank you.

Paul and Janna Brewster

10270 SW Nicole Dr

Powell Butte, OR 97753

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10270 SW Nicole Drive  
Powell Butte, OR 97753  
July 5, 2022

Crook County Community Development  
Planning Division  
300 NE 3<sup>rd</sup> St, Room 12  
Prineville, OR 97754

**Subject: Crossing Trails Destination Resort (DR-08-0092)**

Dear Planning Commission Members and Staff:

As residents of Powell Butte we are writing to express our grave concerns regarding the proposed Crossing Trails Destination Resort. We appreciate the opportunity to provide public input concerning a development proposal that we believe would adversely affect the quality and character of our community, as well as put major strain on existing public infrastructure and natural resources both in Powell Butte and Crook County.

We believe that Crook County faces a major crossroad with this proposal. Powell Butte still retains significant rural character as evidenced by ranching and other agricultural ownership. The development of another destination resort with 750 units in the heart of this area cannot help but adversely affect the character of Powell Butte. As this proposal has resurfaced, it is evident from the reaction of the people who live here that they have had enough of this kind of development and are unwilling to bet the future on another resort given the growth that has already occurred in the area in the past 20 years. The original proposal was considered and approved in 2008-2009, a time entirely different from the one we face today. The County has a unique opportunity to apply the brakes and reconsider the impacts that unbridled growth, as this project exemplifies, brings with it.

With regards to road infrastructure we have seen traffic flows on Rt. 126 and its feeder roads increase exponentially over the past several years with the development of Prineville's server farms and their associated construction traffic as well as commuters travelling to and from their workplaces in Redmond and Bend. With the cost of housing in Crook County being relatively less expensive than Deschutes County we have seen commuter travel increase significantly. The addition of 750 housing units will only further serve to increase traffic numbers and compound safety concerns from high-speed traffic exiting and entering Rt. 126. You only have to look at the number of accidents at the turnoff to the Old Powell Butte Hwy at the Post Office to know how hazardous driving this road has become.

Lastly we have serious concerns about impacts to water quantity and quality that the resort may have. Concerns regarding overall water supply and apportionment between agricultural and residential use grow by the year as our local population continues to grow and is further affected by a warming and drying climate. Whether the resort is supplied with water from private sources, such as Avion, or drills its own wells, is there truly a

sufficient water source? Also, what will be the impact on existing agricultural uses in the vicinity? We are anecdotally aware of residents on the lower slope of Powell Butte losing existing well sources on their property, likely as a result of increased agricultural use from wells drilled at lower elevations. A study of the local aquifer should be considered and included as part of the project analysis. The issue of sewage treatment is also one of concern. How will on-site treatment of effluent impact water quality in the vicinity?

This is a very large and complex development proposal. We urge the Planning Commission and its staff to devote whatever resources and professional expertise it can avail itself of, including drawing upon outside experts who can lend their objective review. The proponents of this proposal should finance whatever studies are felt necessary by the Commission, with the work completed by experts in their respective field as approved by the Commission.

Thank you for providing the opportunity for us to comment.

Sincerely,

/s/ Paul and Janna Brewster

Paul and Janna Brewster