



Hannah Elliott

From: alice Vaughn <amcymbala@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 28, 2022 12:11 PM
To: Plan
Subject: Opposition to Crossing Trails Resort

CROOK COUNTY

JUL 28 2022

PLANNING DEPT

My sister and I are life long Central Oregonians and our family has a long history in the area as well. We, like others in Powell Butte, moved here from Bend because we were looking for peace and quiet and open spaces.

We adamantly oppose any type of resort development in Powell Butte for many reasons. First, and foremost, WATER! All of us that live in Powell Butte are dependant on a well for our water. Developers will tell us that these major resorts needing water for hundreds of homes, pools and golf courses will not affect the current wells in the area, but this is a lie. There are dozens of property owners in other areas where major developments have been approved whose wells are drying up requiring them to spend thousands of dollars to drill a deeper well or worse, pay to have water hauled in.

We are living in historical times of drought and it is unacceptable that these developments are being approved. The people in this area raise cattle, grow hay and other crops and are dependant on water to do that. Some of these farms and ranches have been here for generations and they cannot continue to exist without this precious resource. Their property values will decline just like the water levels.

Arizona is a prime example of a state in a drought emergency and due to the growth in the larger cities and developers continuing to receive approval for more and more building, smaller communities are being cut off from access to water. This is not what we want for our beautiful community of Powell Butte. Not everyone is interested in becoming another Bend and the representatives of the people of Crook County must respect the wishes of the voters. Say "NO!" to these developers and preserve the quality of life for all of us that live in Powell Butte.

In the governor's executive order of determination of a drought emergency, it states that the drought is "likely to have a significant economic impact on the farm, ranch, recreation and natural resources sectors. Extreme conditions are expected to affect local growers, increase the potential for fire, shorten the growing season and decrease water supplies."

The declaration also states that the water supply conditions are "not expected to improve and that preparation and resiliency to drought are vital to the health and safety of persons, property and the economic security of the citizens and businesses" of Crook County. Approving and allowing this resort developement to be built is in direct opposition to the governor's executive order.

The US Drought Monitor Map as of July 21, 2022 shows Crook County to be in the exceptional/extreme range. It also lists the historical impacts of this level of drought to be delayed planting, high wildfire activity, negative impacts on wildlife, scarce irrigation water, an increase in well water usage causing wells to dry up resulting in homeowners having to truck in potable water.

In addition to these documented findings, a development of this, or any kind, will result in other negative impacts to the Powell Butte community such as an increase in traffic on the already dangerous Hwy 126, the added stress on public services already stretched thin, light pollution and the effect on deer and bird migration are just a few examples.

These issues are only the beginning of the troubles a large resort development will bring to this small community. You only have to look as far as Deschutes County and the Thornburgh Resort near Eagle Crest to see the results.

Please take into consideration these concerns before deciding on whether to approve or deny the proposed resort development plan.

Thank you.
Alice Vaughn
Jeanne Cook

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