



BlueRibbon Coalition
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Ben Burr, Executive Director
BlueRibbon Coalition
P.O. Box 5449
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September 8, 2025

Holly Jewkes, Forest Supervisor
c/o Alicia Bergschneider
Deschutes National Forest
63095 Deschutes Market Road
Bend, Oregon 97701

Dear Supervisor Jewkes,

BlueRibbon Coalition (BRC) is writing to provide feedback for the City of Bend Site Conveyance. BRC is a national non-profit organization that champions responsible recreation and encourages a strong conservation ethic and individual stewardship. We champion responsible use of public lands and waters for the benefit of all recreationists by educating and empowering our members to secure, protect, and expand shared outdoor recreation access and use by working collaboratively with natural resource managers and other recreationists. Our members use motorized and non-motorized means of recreation, including OHVs, horses, mountain bikes, and hiking to enjoy federally managed lands throughout the United States, including those of the U.S. Forest Service. Many of our members and supporters live in Oregon or travel across the country to visit Oregon and use motorized vehicles to access USFS managed lands throughout Oregon. BRC members visit these areas for motorized recreation, sightseeing, photography, hunting, wildlife and nature study, camping, water sports, and other similar pursuits. We would like to add our support to any comment submitted by any other individuals or

organizations that advocate for motorized use and increased recreation access overall. BRC members and supporters have concrete, definite, and immediate plans to continue such activities in the future.

Support for the Land Exchange

This proposed exchange will provide critical water resources for the community while preserving and enhancing recreation access therefore BRC supports the 48 acre acquisition. The Forest Service has included specific plans to re-route trails where necessary and ensure continued public access to existing routes, which aligns with BRC's mission to maintain multiple-use recreation opportunities.

Recreation Access and Trails

BRC emphasizes the importance of maintaining established routes and access to public lands. We support the Forest Service's commitment to continue existing recreational access and to create sustainable re-routes where necessary. Ensuring that trails remain open and accessible benefits local recreationists, prevents user conflicts, and reduces the environmental impacts of concentrated use on a limited trail network. There needs to be specific timelines of when the re-route will be completed and public access restored after the sale of this land.

EXPLORE Act Compliance

This land exchange supports the goals of the EXPLORE Act by expanding and enhancing outdoor recreation opportunities, including motorized use. The Act encourages improved infrastructure, increased access, and multiple-use recreation management across federally managed lands. We urge the Forest Service to continue to prioritize these goals in the implementation of this exchange, including clear commitments to maintain or designate trails for motorized access.

Economic Benefits

Maintaining public access to these lands supports local economies through recreation-based tourism. Dispersed camping, trail use, and other outdoor activities generate revenue for local businesses, guide services, and other tourism-dependent services. By preserving access and creating clear plans for trail management, this exchange ensures that these economic benefits are protected and enhanced.

Conclusion

BRC supports this land exchange as it balances the community's need for water resources with the protection and expansion of recreational access. We commend the Forest Service for incorporating plans that preserve multiple-use recreation, and we encourage continued transparency and engagement with recreation users to ensure that trails remain open, accessible, and sustainably managed.

BRC requests to be considered an interested public for this project and for all future land exchanges in Oregon. Correspondence and information regarding this exchange can be sent to the following address and email:

Ben Burr
BlueRibbon Coalition
P.O. Box 5449
Pocatello, ID 83202
brmedia@sharetrails.org

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature consisting of stylized, overlapping capital letters 'B' and 'B' followed by a long horizontal line.

Ben Burr
Executive Director
BlueRibbon Coalition

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Simone Griffin'.

Simone Griffin
Policy Director
BlueRibbon Coalition