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First name: Carrie

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Organization: City of Bend

Title: Risk & Emergency Management Director

Comments: Holly Jewkes, Forest Supervisor, c/o Alicia Bergschneider

Deschutes National Forest

63095 Deschutes Market Road, Bend, OR, 97701

To Holly Jewkes, Forest Supervisor, c/o Alicia Bergschneider,

On behalf of the City of Bend Emergency Management, I am writing to express strong support for the City of Bend Outback Site Conveyance, as reflected in the Environmental Assessment.

The Forest Service's land conveyance to the City is a necessary step toward critical infrastructure improvements needed to maintain delivery of safe drinking water and reliable water for fighting fires. Approximately 60% of the City's annual supply is surface water from the Bend Municipal Watershed located in the Deschutes National Forest. This is the same water we use to fight fire in Bend.

As the Director of Risk & Emergency Management in Bend, I'm interested in the subsequent, future uses of that conveyed land.

The site's planned expansion allows the City to meet new federal security requirements for water systems, build infrastructure that increases reliability of water resources, and realigns the current Forest Service (FS) road to maintain public access, while creating a privately-owned access road to allow City staff and emergency services clear access to the Water Filtration Facility, free from public vehicular obstructions.

The reliable infrastructure proposed includes a pre-treatment facility that will reduce water turbidity during wildfires, flooding, and rain/snow melt events, helping to ensure the facility's membrane filters continue operating even during severe weather events. Turbidity that overwhelms our filtration membranes could reduce water availability which would immediately impact firefighting resources to protect Bend's watershed and community. Also, a proposed water fill station would allow Bend's and other firefighting agencies to better protect our community in a more efficient way.

The risks to our water system are heightened during the summer months, the same period our water system experiences peak demand and the improvements we could make on this system once the land is conveyed would be a huge safety improvement.

I respectfully request your support for the City of Bend Outback Site Conveyance to help protect this community.

Sincerely,

Carrie Karl, Director of Risk & Emergency Management

City of Bend