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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I currently serve as the President of the Elkai Woods Fractional Home Owners Association at Widgi Creek on Century Drive. We have three HOAs here representing nearly 200 homes. Over the past year we have met on several occasions with Deschutes National Forest representatives to express our concerns about the growing problems with dispersed camping and frequent campfires directly across from us along Century Drive near the new bike path and extending north into the forest. We very much appreciate and support the efforts of the Forest Service to propose new regulations in our area which would significantly reduce the risks and conflicts that we have been dealing with recently.

More specifically, some of our owners have experienced trespassing and other troubling behaviors from nearby campers as well as observing and reporting out-of-control campfires, RVs, tents and vehicles remaining in the same camp spot for numerous weeks without moving, unsanitary campsite conditions, piles of refuse from abandoned campsites, and general unsightliness from the proliferation of unregulated camping along the scenic highway directly across from our homes. Campfires in this area have been particularly concerning. Recently, two of our HOAs have experienced the cancellation of our hazard insurance policies and a denial for coverage from numerous other major insurance companies due to distance from the nearest fire station (just over five miles), and our proximity to the forest. When we finally found coverage the premiums were extremely high and the annual renewal process has become a major effort due to our risk factors.

We seek your help in reducing the conflicts and risks that the dispersed camping activities and campfires have caused.

Thank you!