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Organization:

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Comments: To Whom It May Concern;

I am responding to this request for input on the Plan for Forest Orders concerning Camping and Campfires on the Deschutes River. As a canoe paddler, I have used the Deschutes River Paddle Trail from Wickiup Res. To Bend. This trail goes through a mix of Private and Public lands that are highly used in Summer. With many Campgrounds filled close to the River, it makes finding a camp spot difficult since everything is in the canoe and walking around a Campground (i.e. LaPine State Park) looking for a spot while leaving gear and canoe unprotected is not desirable. I have found dispersed spots, while not common, to be a better alternative. I have never used fire on my trips, instead using camp stoves for cooking. During a day of paddling when it is time to put in to shore it is difficult to find a place already among the Private holdings and suitable camp spots. The stretch between Wickiup Res. and Pringle Falls take out have fairly available spots for overnight but below the logjam to Benham Falls it becomes harder to find a spot now, the added restrictions would either increase the distance paddled, reducing the trips time or just pull out and shorten the trip that way. That would be a cut in the usage of the Des. River Paddle Trail that has recently been implemented or add to already high Day use.

Please let the open and sometimes quick decision for a leisurely 3-4 day paddle to enjoy the trip be possible instead of several day trips with much gear handling and extra driving to try to enjoy the trip through the Country.

Rod Adams