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First name: Nancy Last name: Engelhard

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hi There, as a long time member of cota, as a recreational enthusiast and outdoor enthusiast, I still canNOT be in favor of the project. After 35 years of living in Bend and seeing what the push of recreation into the habitat of the wildlife has done to the wildlife, I feel like we need to do better and educate the recreaters more as to their impact on wildlife and habitat by their presence, attraction of pets and themselves etc to the area. It sure took me an awfully long time to understand what I was doing to habitat, stressing of the wildlife and the habitat/environment fueled by my recreational habits, but now that I have, I cannot unsee it and unlearn it or turn the other way just so I can go play on my bike and on my equipment in the terrain that belongs and has belonged to the wildlife. They are being pushed out from virtually every direction including from recreation. I understand how the booming population is in need & amp; want of more recreational fun, how housing and roads affect the habitat, the ever-present desire for more business and money, and the health rationale behind more outdoors for people as well, but I think this is a perfect educational moment for bikers and recreaters to learn and understand more about their impact on the environment, and particularly on

the wildlife by their presence. Would love to see cota and other groups become more, for example, involved in migratory pathways and other opportunities to help mitigate our loss of habitat, distressing the wildlife, and encouraging and understanding as to what their presence that is ever growing means to the critters, plants and wildlife. They're truly seems to be a disconnect between recreaters and understanding their impact on the environment. It's time we own up too. Thanks for listening.