



Tell Deschutes County you don't want housing built on a toxic waste site and mine until we're sure it's properly cleaned up.

The Deschutes Board of County Commissioners is considering giving the green light to a housing development on a former waste site and mine where hazardous liquids and radioactive waste were once dumped.

What's proposed? Here's a summary. See our website for details, maps and history.

- 19 homes on rimrock overlooking the Deschutes State Scenic Waterway at Lower Bridge in Terrebonne
- Up to 74 homes if the developers pursue their original plans
- Use part of the river flood plain as open space
- Use of former mining lands for open space
- Water supplied by drilling individual wells, meaning NO MITIGATION will be required

Here are some of our concerns.

- The property owners say they've done what's required to clean up the site. We don't think so. There are ongoing airborne silica dust problems for existing residents. They are worried that the dust that blows off the mine may expose them to cristobalite, a carcinogen.



Photo by A. Blair Smith at Lower Bridge. Photo: Bob Knight, April 4, 2004. (Used with permission)

- The plan would allow the developer to include Deschutes River flood plain land as open space. The plan would also include areas that were mined. This raises concerns about families and pets being exposed to past contamination.
- The air, soil and groundwater testing done on the site may not have been sufficient. Neighbors of the project say that groundwater testing and monitoring hasn't been done to meet the state hydrology code, and that soil samples have not been done on the surface, unidentified liquid wastes and toxics, unidentified liquid wastes and radioactive wastes were all dumped at the site in the past, more needs to be done to make sure there aren't serious human health threats.
- Instead of buying water rights for the development, the developer will purchase water for residents. This means any impacts from existing wells, the Deschutes River or the aquifer don't have to be offset. The developer's hydrology report stated that groundwater pumping could reduce Deschutes River flows. And that well yields for existing wells in the area are as low as 5 gallons per minute. But prime bull trout habitat is within 1/2 mile of the site. NO RISK TO FISHED FLOWS IN ACCEPTABLE. And existing well owners' water supplies should be protected.
- The rimrock, wetlands and Borden Beck Wildlife Preserve at the site are home to Golden Eagles and dozens of bird species. Oregon's Department of Fish & Wildlife says the development "could result in the loss of habitats used by a variety of native mammals, birds and reptiles."

Please help by taking any of these simple actions.

1. Attend the County Commissioners' site visit in Terrebonne on Jan. 15, 11 a.m. It's crucial for them to see the public is concerned.
2. Emails to County Commissioners are also really important. Ask them to deny this proposal.
3. Attend the County Commissioners' meeting on Feb. x when they will make a decision to deny or approve the plan.
4. Write a letter to your newspaper. See how to at right.

Thanks for taking part in decisions about the future of the Sisters Country.

OLAWA



The mining sites (all white areas), the Deschutes River and the location for the first phase (enclosed bubble)

Email these decision-makers today

Commissioner
Tammy Baney
Tammy.Baney@deschutes.org

Commissioner Tony DeBoe
Tony.DeBoe@deschutes.org

Commissioner Alan Unger
Alan.Unger@deschutes.org

Planner Will Groves
William.Groves@deschutes.org

Attend the site visit

Tour of proposed Lower Bridge housing subdivision with Deschutes County Commissioners
January 15, 11:00 a.m.
197 Lower Bridge Way
Terrebonne, OR

Write a letter to your newspaper today

Brief Bulletin
No more than 250 words.
Include signature, phone number and address.
letters@bulletin.com

Sisters Nugget
No more than 100 words. Include the writer's name, address and phone number.
letters@sistersnews.com

Writing, expressing your views and showing up DO make a difference.

DONATE

