



City of Prineville

387 NE THIRD STREET ♦ PRINEVILLE, OREGON 97754

REGULAR MEETING BRIEF

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City Council Meeting Brief Carey Foster Hall January 26th, 2016

Council Members Present:

Betty Roppe

Jason Carr

Jeff Papke

Gail Merritt

Steve Uffelman

Jason Beebe

Council Members Absent

Jack Seley

Additions to the Agenda

None.

Consent Agenda

None.

Visitors, Appearances and Requests:

Mayor Roppe had announcements and explained that some residents attended the previous Council meeting asking for an opportunity to speak at the next Council meeting regarding the Oregon Wild proposal. Since this proposal has not been presented at a City Council meeting before, they will do so this evening. Mayor Roppe stated that the purpose of this meeting tonight is to see the proposal, and take public input to see whether Council wants to take a position or not, and that it is a fact finding meeting. The city is not obligated to hear this, but is doing so as a service to our citizens. Mayor Roppe provided ground rules for the meeting and thanked everyone for coming to share their comments with the Council. Mayor Roppe also stated that seven letters had come in late this afternoon that the Council has not seen yet.

A. Oregon Wild Presentation – Sarah Cuddy

Ms. Sarah Cuddy working for Oregon Wild campaign, noted that she was born and raised in Prineville. Ms. Cuddy said that she has heard loud and clear that there is general mistrust and wants to try to work towards resolving that in the future without attacking each other.

Ms. Cuddy explained that change is coming. There has been a lot of changes in the community with new businesses, and we should think progressively about thinking what the future of the forest should be, before growth happens such as in Bend.

Ms. Cuddy went over growth statistics and projections for the next 50 years which is expected to double. It is an opportunity to benefit economically. Oregon Wild is in the process of hoping to find the middle ground. They (Oregon Wild) kept the information broad to gather information.

The proposal contains about 8% of an entire proposal. The perceived restrictions of the proposal does not exist for all of the area. The wilderness portion of the proposal does not have roads currently, so with the exception of snow mobile access the rest of the area would not be affected. Some of the parts of the forest does include thinning while other parts would create more protections.

This plan would create one common place to go for processing applications rather than the many to go through right now.

Ms. Cuddy hopes that this is just to get the conversation going, which it has, and they are seeking public input during this process.

Mayor Roppe thanked Ms. Cuddy for making the presentation

B. Public Appearances

Brad Bartlett, a Prineville resident thanked Ms. Cuddy. Mr. Bartlett asked everyone in the audience to raise their hands if they support. Mayor Roppe asked him to address her, not the audience. Mr. Bartlett explained that he saw about 8 hands raise. He asked Council to look at the number of people to see how important this is.

Chuck Banks, a newer resident to Prineville stated that he has a unique perspective. Primarily if you look at the entire west, the government owns an average of 40%. Why does the Federal government need to own 50% of the land mass? They do not. It is a whole bunch of bureaucracy. With all of his experience in all of these states it doesn't matter here either. By the time it becomes Federal, it is out of our hands.

DS Edwards, lives east of town in Crook County. He compared this proposal to the 1700's and agreeing to the crown. Mr. Edwards continued with the history of the pine tree and size restrictions for cutting. History is repeating itself for the fight for public lands.

Joe Hudspeth, address is in the telephone book. Mr. Hudspeth wants everyone to know who Oregon Wild really is. They are professional litigators, who produce law suits and injunctions. Mr. Hudspeth provided history on how Oregon Wild originated and referred to Andy Kerr who started the spotted owl which destroyed an industry. Mr. Kerr was hired by Oregon Recreation Area (ORA) and also wrote a book called *Oregon Wild – Endangered Forest Wilderness*. Now known as Oregon Wild.

Aaron D. Wittmeyer, lives on NW Morrow Avenue. Stated that it isn't that a plan isn't good, it's that they are not trusted. Now they want to control over 300,000 acres of the Ochoco's. Mr. Wittmeyer strongly suggested that City Council oppose.

Kim Kamback, lives in Prineville. Ms. Kamback asked for listening to all perspectives. All of these perspectives are of value and is democracy's greatest hour. Ms. Kamback wants each of them heard and this lays the ground work for all future plans like this. Ms. Kamback thanked everyone.

Pam Hardy, lives in Bend and Works for Oregon Wild. Ms. Harding sits on the Ochoco Collaborative and talked about that process and how they come to a shared understanding. Ms. Hardy encouraged people to check the facts with the people proposing face to face. Talked about water rights and creating recreation and it is not about taking water rights. Oregon Wild has not opposed every timber sale that has gone on and supported the Wolf proposal.

Pete Sharp, lives in Crook County, born and raised. Mr. Sharp has been to every Oregon Wild meeting. Mr. Sharp told Pam that if they would do away with all the wilderness he would sit down and work with them and has yet been able to do that. How can they be sure that the rules won't get changed down the road? Mr. Sharp referred to Ponderosa pines. Mr. Sharp stated if we don't start logging it, the health will continue to decline.

Justin Gottlieb, a Crook County resident. Stated he prepared a sheet on history for council to review and encouraged that all land use issues be looked at.

Craig Woodward, lives in Prineville. Mr. Woodward stated those that read the Oregon Wild proposal are confused by contradictions and referred to thinning, grazing, still fighting fires, not restricting public access, making more water storage, and we need to make an informed decision on this.

Roger Hudspeth, a Prineville resident. Spoke about grazing and how they count cattle in and out of the allotments and how they steer cattle from water sources to keep them from tramping down the banks. Mr. Hudspeth is not in favor of government control of our forest.

Teresa Rodriguez, a Prineville resident. Ms. Rodriguez talked about not wanting it to end up like Deschutes Forest and will not camp there because she doesn't want to camp three feet from someone else being able to hear them, keep her dog on a leash, and staging areas for off road use which is crowded and dangerous. Ms. Rodriguez, doesn't want attacking of others either and read a paragraph from one of Ms. Cuddy's email to Ms. Rodriguez. Ms. Rodriguez said that this is the eighth meeting and Oregon Wild has received our input.

Jim Peterson, a resident of Prineville is against the proposal and cannot think of anything worse than denying access. This is about money, about getting lawyers and getting organized to stay on point. The point is do we want this proposal?

Mona Drake, a resident of Tumalo. Ms. Drake talked of working with Deschutes Forest and the ATV trails that were created out of that. Ms. Drake encouraged everyone to get involved in a Travel Management Plan for the Ochoco Forest.

Donna Hammond, a Prineville resident. The Federal government has no business in the state and has no legal authority according to the constitution. Ms. Hammond referred to Territories and authority. Ms. Hammond said the Council swore an oath to protect citizens from encroachment upon their freedoms and they should have the wisdom to do so. If they do not know enough, they can help Council get educated.

Brett Nelson, a resident of Prineville. Mr. Nelson states that there is a community disconnect nationwide. Mr. Nelson questioned if anyone knew by the fourth Oregon Wild meeting what the proposal was. Mr. Nelson asked what the facts are. We still do not know what the plan is and it is a liquid proposal. Mr. Nelson wants the details brought forward, the numbers.

Eric Fernandez, a Bend resident. Mr. Fernandez encouraged everyone to do their research and asked them to go to the Oregon Wild website for facts that are available. Mr. Fernandez asked how we come together for a plan for what they need. How can the Ochoco's be protected while being able to use. This is the time to voice your opinion to make a difference in how the plan is drafted.

Mike Nelson, a Prineville resident. Mr. Nelson wants to talk about fires and how it cannot be controlled by the suppression tactics they allow, such as an 18" line. The canopy needs to be allowed to be opened up. You cannot get in a wilderness to fight it. The elderly community cannot get out and hike anymore, so it is important to for them to continue to get into the Ochoco's and enjoy. Believes it should just be left the way it is and not support in any way.

Paul Cuddy, a Prineville resident. Has been to all of the meetings except for one. The proposal was left deliberately vague to open a discussion. Mr. Cuddy talked about the County Court, and for this stage in the process to say they oppose, is wrong. Mr. Cuddy would like everyone to explore possibilities. There is an opportunity and it could work for everybody.

Mayor Roppe said there is still plenty of people left to talk and would like to extend the meeting for another 45 minutes.

Elzada Magdanlena, a resident of Prineville. Ms. Magdanlena explained that they moved to Prineville because of the Ochoco's and it is great the way it is. Ms. Magdanlena asked that everyone watch the water rights there, and asked Mayor Roppe to ask Oregon Wild with all of the forest in Oregon, why did they choose this one? They are asking to increase wilderness footage, which is contiguous to wilderness area that is already burnt to a crisp. There are other places that may need to be considered more. Ms. Magdanlena asked why, with all the knowledge in this room on the Ochoco's, wouldn't this group come together and create their own plan and forget Oregon Wild?

Craig Burkhart, a Crook County resident. Stated that they are getting reports of shots fired in Burns and thoughts and prayers are with them. Mr. Burkhart referred to Ms. Cuddy's comments in a news article. Mr. Burkhart went to Oregon Wild website and determined that they are not our friends. With all the meetings recently held, everyone has said no to this proposal and provided a list of all the organizations who have said no to the proposal. The only ones not listening is Oregon Wild. Bad deals do not get better if they keep getting pushed on you.

Karen Yergin, a Crook County resident. Ms. Yergin said that she is adding one more group to the "no" list, and that is dog mushers. These proposals start by what they say. Don't worry, look
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what this is going to get you, we will not lock you out. As a dog musher, I say no. As a snow mobile club member, I say no.

Jodie Fleck, a resident of Crook County. We do not want to end up somewhere in the middle, we want to stay where we are. Ms. Fleck cited all the areas covered by emergency services and without these roads, it would be hard to respond to emergencies and they can't help them. Ms. Fleck referred to a report from April, 2012 called *Designated National Recreation Area, Their History, Purpose, Management and Influence on Local Communities*. This report was sponsored by the Wilderness Society, and were also people at the table making recommendations. It went to legislation, and it had completely changed its identity. Ms. Fleck encouraged Council to read the report.

Alena Pointess, declined to give address. Plain and simple, does not want the Oregon Wild proposal to go forward. We are better suited to take care of the Ochoco's. It doesn't belong to them, it belongs to us.

Faith Storey, lives north of town and declined to give address. Miss Storey is a youth of the community, and wants more information pushed towards the youth. Miss Storey stated that no, she does not want Oregon Wild coming in and taking over her Ochoco's that she was born and raised in.

Buck Davis, a Bend resident. Mr. Davis represents East Cascade Chapter of Back Country Horsemen. They had Ms. Cuddy attend two of their meetings, after Ms. Cuddy contacted them. Afterwards, they formed a committee to study the proposal further as well as the Oregon Wild group. They did study both and determined that they do not support the proposal.

Ellis Bouvier, a Prineville resident. He is new to the area and was drawn here because of the Ochoco's. Oregon Wild is looking for something to fix and the Ochoco's do not need to be fixed.

Jordan Fleck, a Crook County resident. Mr. Fleck said that he doesn't like when people keep saying try, rather than what they did. Mr. Fleck asked what Oregon Wild has done. Mr. Fleck stated that they need to ride around with farmers and ranchers who will naturally take care of the lands. Mr. Fleck would like to have Oregon Wild present exact details on what they intend to do, not just a summary.

Corina Riven, a Bend resident. She had originally planned to support Oregon Wild, however realizes that this is not what the community wants. She explained that after being in the Ochoco's, this is the first time she had not ran into someone else. She encouraged the community to form a group to work with the forest service on a plan to embrace recreational activities to capitalize on the economic benefit.

Curt Schlemline, a Sisters resident. He is new to Central Oregon. Mr. Schlemline provided a definition of wilderness area. Mr. Schlemline is a member of the Back Country Horsemen. His desire to come here is for access to the land. Mr. Schlemline explained how restrictive it is, and to imagine if it were applied to the Ochoco's. It is your land go enjoy it.

Jim Valentine, a Prineville resident and President of Ochoco Snow Sports. They are opposed to the Oregon Wild proposal. People throughout the state of Oregon come here to enjoy the open
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area. National Recreation Area is opposed to motorized access. Snow Sports is a big industry here and brings a lot of money here.

Elden Ward, a Prineville resident. He has been a forester for over 50 years. The Forest Service has mismanaged yes, but partly due to legislation that this Oregon Wild group has done. Stopping timber sales, size limitations, spotted frog and owl. This group wants five million acres, and they are taking credit that they have protected in Oregon, 90 miles of wild and scenic river, and saved 7 million trees though they have probably burned up by now. He is against the proposal.

An unidentified speaker, stated he is the second person not required to give an address and name. They were all but forced to give their address. Mayor Roppe explained that they are trying to be sensitive to those that fear giving their address and that this is not about addresses it is about the proposal. Mayor Roppe stated we need to move on and asked if he had something to share regarding the proposal. The speaker said it was about the proposal and if these people are afraid to give their addresses, what else are they hiding?

Greg Miller, a Prineville resident and small business owner. Mr. Miller said that people come here to fish, hunt, ride horses and snowmobile. Mr. Miller stated that Oregon Wild presented this as the best for us. Mr. Miller googled Oregon Wild and, pages and pages of lawsuits came up for them trying to take the land. Oregon Wild is getting paid to take this land away from us. Every Friday morning he hears of new people and businesses moving to our area because of the Ochoco's and does not support this proposal.

Charles Gates, a Powell Butte resident and former Science Teacher at Crook County High School. Mr. Gates has seen changes over the last ten years that he doesn't like. Mr. Gates said the meeting was civil and fantastic tonight. He questioned if we just leave things alone it will be better, and cautioned against it. Something needs to be done. A recreation plan should be considered.

Diana Ackerman, a Prineville resident. Ms. Ackerman googled Oregon Wild and they also want to take 30,000 acres of Crater Lake, and talked about other areas they want to take over. Ms. Ackerman talked about overhearing people working fires getting paid hundreds of dollars to sit on the side of the road, because they were not allowed to fight the fires. We do need management, but not Oregon Wild's proposal.

Mayor Roppe stated that she had received letters from CO Patriots, Craig Woodward, Prineville Disposal, Ken Taylor, Central Oregon Wild Horse that withdrew their support of the proposal, a letter from Amy Stewart supporting Oregon Wild, and a note regarding Mr. Cuddy's comments.

Mayor Roppe asked what they would like to do now.

Councilor Uffelman stated that he has seen the letters since they were sent to all of the Council, between the meeting the other night and tonight, there is enough information to make a decision.

Councilor Papke thanked everyone for being civil and the comments received. In order to preserve what we have for us, for our kids, and for many generations to come, this is not the way to do it and he is opposed.

Councilor Merritt said she and her family has enjoyed activities in the Ochocos for years, and there is no doubt that she is opposed to this proposal.

Councilor Beebe said that he just bought two snowmobiles and does a lot of hunting, fishing, camping, and we already have a mechanism in place for managing the forest. There needs to be collaboration between them and the community to maintain it, and is opposed to it.

Councilor Carr said he spent ten years as a journalist and has spent years covering topics like this. Councilor Carr took stated he took the time to do the research and after careful consideration, is opposed to this plan. The three reasons why are, Crook County still generates a significant amount of economic activity from the land. Councilor Carr agrees that you shouldn't focus on the short term and should focus on the long term. The proposed wilderness area would shut out mountain bikers within the boundaries. Until a plan balances economic development with protection, he cannot support it. The current system isn't working, but adding another layer of government and bureaucracy isn't the best route. We lose the ability to have local input and control when we turn it over to the Federal agencies. Councilor Carr would support a locally driven collaboration for a solution for a common ground. Councilor Carr is disappointed in how Oregon Wild went about presenting this. Oregon Wild went to the community asking support for their plan, input into their plan, and what about the community's plan? If they would have come to the community and got input before development of a plan, it may have been better received. We need a more local input.

Councilor Uffelman concurred with Councilor Carr's comments and is concerned about the motives and distrust of Oregon Wild. The restriction of access to various groups of people and added layers of bureaucracy.

Mayor Roppe thanked the two youth that spoke and appreciates their opinions; thanked the local law enforcement for being here; and so happy to see so many people here. Mayor Roppe suggested that letters to our representatives does make a difference.

Councilor Uffelman continued about the issues that were appropriately raised that have brought forward.

Councilor Uffelman made a motion to oppose the Oregon Wild proposal and join with Crook County to draft a letter to congressmen and senators. Motion seconded. No discussion on motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Council Business

None.

Staff Reports and Requests:

None.

Ordinances:

None.

Visitors Appearances and Requests:

The meeting adjourned at 8:53 P.M.

Motions and Outcomes:

Motion:	Outcome	Uffelman	Carr	Beebe	Merritt	Seley	Roppe	Papke
Motion to oppose the Oregon Wild proposal and Join with Crook County to Draft a Letter to Congressmen and Senators.	PASSED	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	Y	Y

Public Records Disclosure

Under the Oregon public records law, all documents referred to in this session are available at the City’s website. www.cityofprineville.com. An electronic copy of the meeting packet is available for download at www.cityofprineville.com/packets. A full annotated voice recording of this meeting is available at www.cityofprineville.com/meetings