

CORRECTIONS TO PROPOSED CRATER LAKE WILDERNESS:

It is FALSE that Diamond Lake Resort would be negatively impacted. The boundary of the proposal does not remotely touch the Resort, the cabins, the roads, electrical lines, the trails, the ski runs, the lake itself: none of that. For that which is already developed, remains open to vehicles, motorboats, fishing, biking, snowmobiling etc.

It is FALSE that the Crater Lake National Park's infrastructure, including all of the buildings, the roads, the pullouts, the camping spots, trails, etc. would be inaccessible to people: they are not included. The back country of the Crater Lake National Park is the only land in the proposal. Yosemite National Park and Denali National Park are two very popular National Parks that are also managed as Wilderness. What this means is that something like a helicopter touring service would not be able to do a fly over business if the park were managed as a Wilderness. Hawaii National Park has this problem at Mt. Kilauea, and many wish it were under Wilderness protection.

It is FALSE that we will not be able to harvest trees from our National Forests. Those plantations that have resulted from being previously cut and are now part of a silvacultural management strategy, are not included in the proposed Wilderness. The majority of the National Forest is managed for timber production in the Umpqua, the Rogue Siskiyou and the Fremont Winema National Forests. These National Forests will be able to continue timber production into the future, as long as their plantations continue to produce fir and pine trees. The Inventoried Roadless Areas that are included in the proposal have never been cut and are therefore part of the Wilderness Proposal, such as Twin Lakes Roadless Area. Would anyone like to see a clear cut in the Twin Lakes Area? I don't think so. It's value as an example of remarkable beauty now far outweighs it's value in timber.

It is FALSE that fires are never fought in Wilderness designated areas. Fires are at times, fought with vehicles and chain saws in Wilderness designated areas. It also is true that in some Wilderness designated areas, watering systems are installed for wildlife, if the area is particularly arid. It is also true that in some Wilderness designated areas, noxious and invasive plants are removed, sometimes using vehicles to transport chemical solutions to the sites. It is also true that in many Wilderness designated areas in the West, domestic animal grazing is permitted. This, in a way, is a hoof print of mankind's remaining in Wilderness.

The idea behind the Wilderness Act, was that to the best of mankind's ability, there should be places where the natural systems are left untouched and undisturbed by humankind. Why? There are numerous reasons, but one of those reasons is that, unlike a managed park or resort, there is a human need to interact with the wild. We need unstructured nature as surely as we need art, music, dance, and unstructured time. We certainly need the wildlife that has endured in these places since the dawn of time, whose habitats are being reduced over the past fifty years to a fraction of what they once were, due to human development. We are seeing children who never even get to experience a park, and most interact with a very tamed version of nature in neighborhood, state and county parks. Wild is part of our human heritage and it is definitely necessary for much of the life that is endemic to a place.

There is now another pressing need for Wilderness. In our striving for bettering our human condition, we have created a carbon rich atmosphere that is having a greenhouse-like affect on our planet. The Earth heating up. There is less rain. There have been other events in Earth's past, such as ice-ages, creating era's of extinction. As much as we don't like the idea of change, it is

happening. One of the miraculous things about the plant kingdom, for example, is that it 's genetic or DNA memory can come into play as it adapts to changes in its environment. Plants have a chemical communication system that allows them to change or adapt when necessary. If we allow what few native untouched forests, (we used to call them, "VIRGIN FORESTS"),to remain untouched by bulldozer or chainsaw, the network of chemical memory stays intact and can then function to inform and assist in adaptation to climate change. Following Mt. Mazama's magnificent eruption, 7,700 years ago, the forests recovered, in part, due to seed beds within the soils covered with ash and magma, but also because there was not a competing force of alien invaders from other continents, as there are today.

The Roadless Areas that are included in the Crater Lake Wilderness Proposal, are such examples of untouched native forests that contain a millenia of information in their roots, fibers and soils that will help future generations of forests adapt and survive into the future, as our planet heats up. Yes, we may lose many of our trees and tree species will migrate to higher elevations, but I believe it is incumbent upon us to make that possible for them, for us and for the wild animals that also need those migration pathways forged by the Plant Kingdom.

All trends throughout the country show that environmental amenities are the number one factor for companies locating to an area, and with the companies, come jobs. Our County Commissioners have placed great confidence in UCC to train a work force who would be qualified for jobs in the tech industry and other professional level positions. If our county commissioners then listen exclusively to the dinosaurs of another age, they shortshrift the citizens of opportunities. Times are changing. The Timber Industry is not the king it once was. Other economic and growth factors have come into play.

To act upon a request to pass a Resolution Against the Crater Lake Wildernesss Proposal is to advertise to the world that here in Douglas County we don't value our wild areas, we don't place a high priority on protecting our National Park, and if you come to visit, don't get upset if you see clear cuts to the edge of the park. We like it that way. And, by the way, you can take your money elsewhere. We don't believe in global warming, which is why we think the Jordan Cove project and pipeline are great and we don't much care for our county parks, having just clear cut one with trees of 500 years old.

Don't ignore the important changes and trends that are producing vibrant economic growth in communities where wild recreational opportunities not only exist but are valued and protected. Where clean clear cold water has been given a priority. Where quiet recreation has as much value as motorized recreation.

I recommend that the County Commissioners do not take the advice from the Douglas Timber Operators to make a Resolution Against the Crater Lake Wilderness proposal, a proposal that only enhances and protects our National Park from degradation and diminishing in the very qualities that make it an entire experience of the glorious nature we are priveleged to enjoy.