

# **MBD Development Manager, Mt. Hood Meadows Oreg., LLC**

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February 20, 2019

Chair Dembrow  
Members of the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

**Re: Mt. Hood Meadows Oregon, LLC  
Support for Senate Bill 448**

Dear Chair Dembrow and Members of the Senate Committee  
on Environment and Natural Resources:

Mt. Hood Meadows Oreg., LLC participated in pre-session discussions concerning search and rescue and the need to simplify Oregon's chaotic system of recreational permits.

We understand that SB 448 is a 'placeholder' for a larger discussion about search and rescue funding. We applaud these discussions, and encourage the Oregon State Sheriff's and the outdoor community to continue the dialogue to identify an equitable way to fund search and rescue activities in Oregon's rural recreation lands.

As written, the primary intent of SB 448 is to consolidate the chaos of Oregon's recreational passes into one streamlined and consumer-friendly point of purchase. We urge the Committee to not lose this important goal in the legislative process, and to legislatively authorize the Office of Outdoor Recreation to conduct this study during the 2019 legislative session, be it SB 448, or another legislative vehicle.

Many Oregonians are multi-season, multi-activity recreationalists. Currently, many don't know for sure which pass is required for which activity in the time and place the outdoor recreational activity occurs. We hear this from our guests every day!

It would be both good public policy and good business practice for the State of Oregon to consolidate the sales of all outdoor recreation passes into one electronic platform. This would clarify which permits are required for the public to purchase, and provide the recreating public with a convenient means to obtain the correct pass for their preferred activity.

We applaud the efforts of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife for their recent launch of their electronic licensing system, which allows the public to buy their licenses/tags online for access on from smartphones, in addition to the ability to print them at home. This system provides a template for how all Oregon outdoor permits could be conveniently purchased and electronically displayed.

We believe that the Office of Outdoor Recreation, in Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, is the right state agency to coordinate the discussions between all state agencies issuing outdoor recreation permits. The Office of Outdoor Recreation is also best suited to develop a plan for a simplified, single point of purchase for all permits that clarify which permits the recreating public need to enjoy the bountiful outdoor recreation opportunities in Oregon.

With careful analysis that includes input from all state agencies that issue outdoor recreation permits and licenses, we hope that a simple and consumer-friendly system will be successfully presented to the 2021 Legislature for adoption.

Our two suggestions for amending SB 448 are:

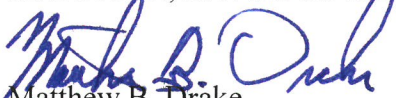
- 1) Give the Director of the Office Outdoor Recreation until September 15, 2020 to work with other state agencies to develop his findings and prepare a report to the 2021 Legislative Assembly with recommendations for implementation;
- 2) Remove the reference to “search and rescue activities” in Section 1 (1) line 9, to separate this Oregon Outdoor Pass Study from the ongoing discussions about how best to fund search and rescue in Oregon.

We are pleased to give the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources our suggestions on how to productively study the important issue of recreation pass consolidation in Oregon. We hope that a legislative vehicle will be found to move this important legislative concept forward during the 2019 Session of the Oregon Legislature.

Thank you for hearing us on SB 448.

Sincerely,

MBD DEVELOPMENT  
MANAGER, MT. HOOD MEADOWS OREG., LLC

  
Matthew B. Drake  
President