

Submitter: Brent Jenkins

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation

Measure: HB3248

Central Oregon SXS Club HB 3248

Co-Chairs Gorseck and McLain, Vice Chairs Boquist and Boshart Davis, Members of the Committee,

I have been working with the SxS community for 11 years. I make maps for the Central Oregon SxS Club and the general public that show routes that are available in the National Forest, BLM and State lands for SxS use. My primary interest is to create maps that show people how and where they can access small central Oregon and eastern Oregon towns from public lands. The economic benefit to the small towns is enormous. Small towns that have benefited from my maps are, Fort Rock, Silver Lake, Crescent, Crescent Junction, Paisley, La Pine, Chemult and Sumpter, I am currently working on a set of maps for SxSs that will create a route between Crescent and Oakridge. The Crescent Forest Service office is working on changing the designation on a few of the roads from Street Legal Only to All Motor. There is also an effort in Oakridge to do the same. This is a very time-consuming process. The process was started in the Crescent office in 2019 and it is still on going. The economic benefit to small towns is more than most people would image. The most popular maps that I make are those that go to a destination where folks can stop for lunch and fuel. Think back when you were a kid. Imagine riding into a small-town with your mom and dad in a SxS and stopping at the local Dairy Queen for lunch and ice cream. Maybe staying in the local hotel in Sumpter and getting up in the morning and riding right from your hotel out on an adventure into the Nation Forest. Stopping in Fort Rock for homemade pie.

I was with a group in Oakridge when they had a SxS festival there. The Dairy Queen owner kept the shop open a little late for a group of us in SxSs. We filled the parking lot. Another group, after stopping in Paisley for pizza, road out into the desert where the wild horse roam. The kids saw 5 herds of wild horses that day. There is no legal route into Paisley currently. There will be if this bill passes.

I have seen the smiles on these kids' faces. It is an experience that they will never forget.

There are towns like Oakridge that you cannot access from the forest, and I can tell you that the economic impact of making SxSs street legal and thus avoiding the years it takes, if it happens at all, to get road designations changed to allow access would be huge. A town like Oakridge, with its proximity to Eugene and other towns in the valley, would see a tremendous number of folks staying in their hotels and RV Parks every week from the Spring thaw to the winter snows. Forest Service roads would be open and access to these small towns would no longer be a problem.

I am in total support of this bill.

Thank you.
Brent Jenkins