

My name is Shannon Hall, and although I do not oppose SB 761 in its entirety, I do oppose the funding of \$225,000, “for providing alternate access to private cabins to minimize water quality impacts on the S. Fork Walla Walla River.”

The Senate Committee needs to be informed regarding the private cabins referenced in the bill. The private cabins referenced can be viewed by accessing the Umatilla County Interactive Map here:

<https://umatillacogis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=31d08e9fa56045628407eb957b922892>.

Specifically, two parcels of land, 113716- Widner Mountain Land, LLC and 133711- FE and Clara Wright, are where the cabins are located. Members of these parcels of land have not abided by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to access their cabins in the past. In fact, they tried to create their own road to their cabins through the Walla Walla River without permission, consent, environmental impact analysis or regard for the wilderness area they impacted. The members involved do what they want without regard for other landowners and governmental entities.

Consequently, members of the two parcels mentioned above and numerous other investors purchased land abutting their property. Please reference the Umatilla County Interactive Map above and enter ID number 133711, which is owned by the Southfork Timber & Cattle Company, LLC (STCC). STCC has at least 15 different investors and although their LLC claims they are a “Timber & Cattle Company,” they are not. Instead, they are a group of individuals using their LLC as a guise for hunting and recreational use, more of a timeshare concept.

Once the BLM admonished the owners of the parcels of land with the private cabins for attempting to create a road to their cabins in an environmentally fragile area without permission, they chose a different path. Instead of following the rules, the group constructed a road on the STCC land down to the private cabins. Again, an environmental impact analysis was not conducted, and the road is so steep, it is almost untravellable.

Now this group of individuals that has consistently disregarded regulations and restrictions, wants the state of Oregon to give them \$225,000 of Oregon taxpayer's money for access to their cabins.

The summary of the SB 761 states that it, "Appropriates moneys from the General Fund to the Water Resources Department to implement projects that benefit water demands in the Walla Walla basin."

Providing \$225,000 to a small few for a road to their cabins will not benefit water demands in the Walla Walla basin. The funds allocated for alternate access to their private cabins benefit only a handful of people and is not for the greater good of the Walla Walla basin and is a misuse of taxpayer's money.

Since it is highly likely this bill will pass because of support from the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR), I would ask that the \$225,000 proposed project consider the following:

- 1) Funding should be for road alternatives from the bottom of the property, which would have a wider impact for more individuals, not just a few cabin owners.
- 2) All ingress alternatives should require coordination with affected landowners, including landowners whose lands would be crossed to access their private cabins.
- 3) Affected landowners should have input into any recommended study alternatives.
- 4) Cabin owners are responsible for securing legal rights-of-ways across other private lands.

I respectfully ask that you redeploy the \$225,000, intended to benefit a few private cabin owners, to a greater good that will have a broader impact for the benefit of more.

Sincerely,

Shannon Hall