

Submitter: Ken Poole
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3122

I, Ken Poole have been a resident of Malheur County since 1961. My family built a cabin on the Owyhee Reservoir in 1972 and have been a regular visitor there for the past 52 years. The maintenance of the road to the reservoir has been neglected over the years, with patchwork pothole filling being the rule each spring/summer. The last 25 years I have paid quite close attention to the increasing # of fishermen on the Owyhee river below the dam, and the percentage of vehicles with license plates from out of state has steadily grown. One such trip I counted 110 vehicles along the roadway, 88 of them from out of state. I think it is fair for there to be a user fee for the use of the road and pullouts, and the users of the road should pay their fair share. The folks using the road from Idaho buy their gas in Idaho, do not pay property taxes in Malheur county, and do not make any effort to assist in the funding of the maintenance of the road. A toll, user fee, or some other system to have users of the Owyhee reservoir roadway help pay for the maintenance of the road is only fair. The parking for boat trailers at the boat ramps has also been an issue, with no space available on busy weekends during the summer months. Some additional parking areas need to be addressed at the day use state park and the boat ramp that is there. This could be partially funded by a use fee. I certainly hope the Oregon Legislature can assist Malheur County residents in getting a user fee system put in place so the wear and tear of the roadway can be paid for by the people that are wearing out the roadway. Thanks you for your consideration. Ken Poole