

Submitter: Rebecca Picton
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1131

In 1987, Jeff Picton and I obtained the necessary Federal and State permits to rehabilitate injured, sick and orphaned wild animals. Word spread and we started to become inundated with creatures. Friends stepped forward to help. We incorporated Chintimini as a non-profit 501(c)3. In December of 1990, we were able to purchase 5 acres of the Lewisburg property, which only had a 2 bedroom house and small barn at the time. We, with the help of many wonderful volunteers, built what is now there from the ground up. Jeff's folks helped with the purchase and continuing support, since Jeff didn't start receiving a salary for many years (I never did). The number of wild animals we received grew every year, and donations of time and money sustained the operation. Jeff finally retired a few years ago, and Chintimini was able to purchase the property, to which 4+ more acres had been added.

Early on, we started an education outreach program, as it was clear that most of the problems encountered by wildlife were directly or indirectly related to human activity. This program has made a difference. People care about wild animals and they want to do the best for them. They are so relieved to find a place to take the creatures they find, whether injured or orphaned. The Chintimini staff and hundreds of volunteers over the years have generously given their hearts and efforts to returning the patients to the wild. Or, sadly, easing them out of their suffering when necessary. We have had many vet students and other medically trained personnel assist in treating injuries and illnesses, and have added greatly to the body of knowledge about wildlife disease and husbandry. To forward this endeavor, Chintimini coordinates with other state and national rehabilitation groups, and also with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the US Fish and Wildlife department.

Being a non-profit entity is difficult, especially in financially challenging times. People would love to donate goods and money, but sometimes just don't have any extra to give. The clinic is an old contractor trailer that we moved there in 1994 and renovated. It has served the purpose, but is in much need of updating and repair. Holding and flight cages are showing their age, too. And with an expanded nature/education center, Chintimini would be able to offer even more programs to children and adults, to do the important work of reconnecting them with the amazing natural world around us. It is up to all of us to take care of our Earth.

Thank you for your time and consideration of SB1131.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Picton