



C I T Y   O F   M O S I E R

small enough to make a difference

P.O. Box 456 / 208 WASHINGTON ST.  
MOSIER, OR 97040

May 6, 2021

Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
Capital Construction Subcommittee  
Oregon Legislature

**Subject: Mosier Testimony for May 7 Public Hearing in Favor of SB 5534**

Dear Honorable Committee Members,

On behalf of the community of Mosier, Mayor Arlene Burns, Mosier City Council, Chief Mike Renault, Fire Board President Phil Evans, and the Mosier Fire District Board, I am submitting the attached testimony in favor of Senate Bill 5534 with a funding request for the new **Mosier Center – Fire Station/Community Center/City Hall**.

Key reasons to support our project:

- Our request is for \$750K, 11% of the project. This support would bring us to 57% funded. This support PLUS a Fire District pending loan or bond of \$1.3 million brings us to 77% funded.
- The project improves Mosier Fire District's service capacity not only for our own district, but the entire region, as evidenced in Mid-Columbia Fire and Rescue's letter of support (LOS) – attached.
- We have the support of Wasco County as evidenced in the County Commissioners' LOS
- Schematic design is complete, and we will soon begin construction documents. A general contractor has been hired through a CMGC RFP process. We are near shovel-ready.
- This project is well supported by the community, many of whom are in volunteer firefighter and leadership positions. A quiet campaign for major gifts is underway. A more general campaign for smaller gifts will follow when the project is 80% funded or better.

Along with letters of support, I have included a project description and funding budget showing our funding assets in hand, as well as the breakdown of what we plan to raise. We are extremely grateful for this opportunity and look forward to the successful passing of the bill. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions about the project.

Sincere Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Colleen Coleman".

City Manager  
City of Mosier  
[Colleen.coleman@cityofmosier.com](mailto:Colleen.coleman@cityofmosier.com)  
541.490.9758



# MOSIER CENTER

CITY HALL | COMMUNITY CENTER | FIRE STATION

A 'net zero' facility to support regional safety & economic vitality in the heart of the Gorge



**Regional Fire & EMS Support** Mosier is a small but growing and increasingly diverse community that supports The Dalles & Hood River as well as other communities in the region via Mutual Aid agreements. Mosier Fire also regularly assists accidents along I-84, at rest stops and within Memaloose State Park. This facility will provide much needed space for ongoing fire and medical training. It is also slated to be the first certified net zero fire station in the country.

**Ability to serve as 'Command Central' for Emergencies** Mosier Fire has hosted several conflagrations in the last decade including the Microwave Fire in 2011, the Oil Train Derailment in 2016, and subsequent Memaloose fires in 2017/18 and the lethal Mosier Creek fires in 2020. With growing fire dangers in the area we are likely to host more in the coming decades. The location is also a key communications check point in local emergency plans.

**Regional Tourism / Economic Development** Located on the Historic Hwy, the new center will provide information, restrooms & services for the 2 million tourists who travel through the Gorge each year. These numbers grow each year and doubled after the Eagle Creek Fire pushing hikers and bikers East to our area.

**History Museum / Community Gathering Space for Wider Valley & Regional Partners** Mosier is the civic and social hub for over 2000 residents and many community organizations in the wider Mosier valley. The new building will include a home for the Mosier Valley Historical Society's collection of photos and artifacts as well as visitor center, meeting spaces and kitchen use.

**Food Pantry & Emergency Shelter** Especially after Covid-19 economic impacts, food insecurity is an issue in the Gorge and 98% of the region's food is shipped in by truck. These facilities provide the public with a **Resiliency Hub** in case I-84 is closed off for an extended period.

*After a 2016 oil train derailment, 2017/18 Memaloose I & II fires and 2020 Mosier Creek, Dry Creek and Seven Mile fires, the City of Mosier and Mosier Fire District have recognized a dire need for community resilience. We are now more determined than ever to build the "Mosier Center" with state of the art emergency and public services.*

**COST:** \$6.5 Million

**FUNDS REQUEST:**

\$750,000 State

\$650,000 Federal

**MATCH FUNDS:**

\$5.5 Million

**CONSTRUCTION:**

2024

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

511 Washington St, Ste. 101 • The Dalles, OR 97058  
p: [541] 506-2520 • f: [541] 506-2551 • [www.co.wasco.or.us](http://www.co.wasco.or.us)

*Pioneering pathways to prosperity.*

Senator Lynn Findley  
900 Court Street, NES-403  
Salem, OR 97301  
[Sen.LynnFindley@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Sen.LynnFindley@oregonlegislature.gov)

Representative Daniel Bonham  
900 Court Street, NEH-483  
Salem, OR 97301  
[Rep.DanielBonham@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Rep.DanielBonham@oregonlegislature.gov)

April 21, 2021

Dear Senator Findley and Representative Bonham,

Wasco County supports City of Mosier and Mosier Fire District's joint Mosier Center construction project to house a new fire station, city hall and community center.

In the Columbia Gorge, the City of Mosier is an important provider of services such as fire protection, emergency medical response and emergency sheltering. Thousands of area residents and innumerable travelers rely on these services for safety and protection. This project supports the sustainability of services as the area population and tourism continue to grow.

In addition to vital services, Mosier is the eastside inlet and outlet to the Mark Hatfield Twin Tunnels Trail and the gateway to several popular hiking and biking routes along the Historic Highway. The Community Center component of the project will provide key resting and wayfinding facilities for tourists in the National Scenic Area and will also support the economic goals of our region.

We encourage your support of funding for this important, forward-looking project and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Wasco County Board of Commissioners

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Scott C. Hege, Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kathleen B. Schwartz, Vice-Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Steven D. Kramer, County Commissioner



Mid-Columbia Fire and Rescue  
1400 W. 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
The Dalles, Oregon 97058  
Phone: 541-296-9445  
Fax: 541-296-8656

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April 22, 2021

Senator Lynn Findley  
900 Court St NES- 403  
Salem, OR, 97301  
[Sen.LynnFindley@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Sen.LynnFindley@oregonlegislature.gov)

Representative Daniel Bonham  
900 Court St NEH- 483  
Salem, OR 97301  
[Rep.DanielBonham@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Rep.DanielBonham@oregonlegislature.gov)

Dear Senator Findley and Representative Bonham,

This letter is written in support of the funding request for the City of Mosier and Mosier Fire District joint project to construct the Mosier Center, a new fire station/city hall/community center.

The Mosier area community has long been a dedicated provider of services to the north central region of Oregon and the Columbia Gorge. These services include fire protection, emergency medical response, emergency sheltering and various community support functions, all of which are valued by many thousands of area residents and untold numbers of travelers through the I-84/Columbia Gorge corridor. Mosier Fire District's ability to continue these services will be greatly enhanced through completion of this project.

A new Fire Station / Community Center for Mosier would be an investment in the safety and health of this community and those who pass through. The value placed in Mosier's fire district is the value that is placed on their homes and area.

Improved response time is a needed benefit for both Mosier firefighters and their automatic/mutual aid partners. Their firefighters can experience delays in retrieving their gear and getting the apparatus out of fire stations because of their current design. Having better access to gear, equipment and apparatus as a result of a better designed facility would result in enhanced Mosier's response time to emergencies.

Mosier's firefighters serve their community unselfishly, spending hours in training and providing 24-7 coverage. They need a modern, state-of-the-art facility that will provide them with the ability to do all aspects of their jobs well. An adequate, functional Fire Station/Community Center will enable them to achieve this goal.

Finally, the community of Mosier has home insurance at reasonable rates because of their dedicated and well-trained volunteer firefighters. The community boasts a good rating by the Insurance Service Office (ISO). Mosier's history of investing in their fire district has paid dividends and a new Fire Station/Community Center will only continue to keep this community and fire district strong.

I highly encourage you to support Mosier's request for State funding.

Sincere Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert F. Palmer". Below the signature, the name "Robert F. Palmer" is printed in a smaller, sans-serif font, followed by "Fire Chief" in a smaller font.



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

## Department of Forestry

Central Oregon District

The Dalles Unit

3701 West 13th

The Dalles, OR 97058

PHONE: 541-296-4626

FAX: 541-298-4993

[www.ODFcentraloregon.com](http://www.ODFcentraloregon.com)

April 20, 2021

Senator Lynn Findley  
900 Court St NE  
S-403  
Salem, OR, 97301



"STEWARDSHIP IN FORESTRY"

Representative Daniel Bonham  
900 Court St NE  
H-483  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Senator Findley and Representative Bonham:

This letter is written in support of the funding request for the City of Mosier and Mosier Fire District joint project to construct the Mosier Center, a new fire station/city hall/community center.

The Mosier area community has long been a dedicated provider of services to the north central region of Oregon and the Columbia Gorge. These services include fire protection, emergency medical response, emergency sheltering and various community support functions, all of which are valued by many thousands of area residents and untold numbers of travelers through the I-84/Columbia Gorge corridor. Mosier's ability to continue these services will be greatly enhanced once the project is completed.

As a partner fire agency, the Oregon Department of Forestry works collaboratively with Mosier Fire in many facets of fire, including prevention, readiness, training, public outreach & communication, and suppression. The planned facility in Mosier will help facilitate ongoing coordination between multiple emergency response entities in meeting overall goals and objectives.

I encourage you to support Mosier's request for State funding. In addition to the funds that Mosier has in hand, will bring from its own sources and through local fundraising, State funding will enable success and long-term benefits of the new facility.

Sincerely,

Kristin Dodd  
Unit Forester



## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

511 Washington Street, Suite 102 • The Dalles, OR 97058

p: [541] 506-2790 • f: [541] 506-2791 • [www.co.wasco.or.us](http://www.co.wasco.or.us)

*Pioneering pathways to prosperity.*

Representative Daniel Bonham  
900 Court St NE H-483  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Representative Daniel Bonham,

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Respectfully,

Sheridan McClellan, Emergency Manager  
Wasco County Emergency Management  
Email: [sheridanm@co.wasco.or.us](mailto:sheridanm@co.wasco.or.us)  
Phone: 541-506-2790



## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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900 Court St NE S-403  
Salem, OR, 97301

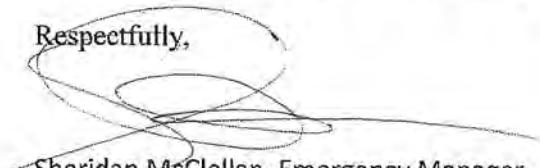
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I encourage you to support Mosier's request for State funding. In addition to the funds that Mosier has in hand, will bring from its own sources and through local fundraising, State funding will enable success and long-term benefits of the new facility.

Respectfully,

  
Sheridan McClellan, Emergency Manager  
Wasco County Emergency Management  
Email: [sheridanm@co.wasco.or.us](mailto:sheridanm@co.wasco.or.us)  
Phone: 541-506-2790



# CITY OF HOOD RIVER

FIRE & EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

1785 Meyer Parkway, Hood River, OR 97031 | [HoodRiverFire.com](http://HoodRiverFire.com)  
Office 541-386-3939 Fax 541-387-4590



April 20, 2021

Senator Lynn Findley  
900 Court St NES- 403  
Salem, OR, 97301  
[Sen.LynnFindley@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Sen.LynnFindley@oregonlegislature.gov)

Representative Daniel Bonham  
900 Court St NEH- 483  
Salem, OR 97301  
[Rep.DanielBonham@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Rep.DanielBonham@oregonlegislature.gov)

Dear Senator Findley and Representative Bonham,

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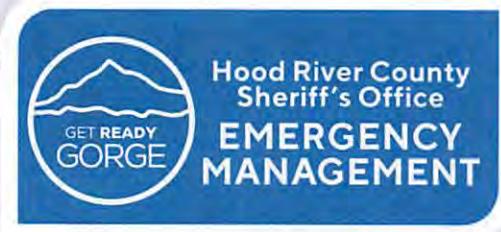
In addition, the City is the eastside gateway to the Mark Hatfield Twin Tunnels Trail and several important hiking and bicycle routes along the Historic Highway, including the Mosier Plateau Trail, Memaloose State Park and the Rowena Crest Trailhead. For this reason, the new Mosier Community Center will provide key resting and wayfinding facilities for tourists traveling through the National Scenic Area, and support the economic goals of our region.

We highly encourage you to support Mosier's request for State funding.

Sincere Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leonard Damian".

Leonard Damian  
Fire Chief  
Hood River Fire & EMS



4/20/21

Senator Lynn Findley  
900 Court St NES- 403  
Salem, OR, 97301  
[Sen.LynnFindley@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Sen.LynnFindley@oregonlegislature.gov)

Representative Daniel Bonham  
900 Court St NEH- 483  
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Dear Senator Findley and Representative Bonham,

This letter is written in support of the funding request for the City of Mosier and Mosier Fire District project to construct the Mosier Center, a new fire station/city hall/community center.

The Mosier community has long been a dedicated provider of services to the north central region of Oregon and the Columbia Gorge. These services include fire protection, emergency medical response, emergency sheltering and various community support functions, all of which are valued by many thousands of area residents and untold numbers of travelers through the I-84/Columbia Gorge corridor. Mosier Fire District's ability to continue these services will be greatly enhanced through completion of this project, and in turn, benefits all Gorge communities and visitors.

Hood River and Mosier, as adjacent communities, are vital mutual aid partners in emergencies and disasters, that we've seen escalating in recent years: COVID, Mosier Creek Fire, Rowena Fires, Sevenmile Hill Fire, White River Fire, Fir Mountain Fire, Holloway Fire, Warm Springs fire, Eagle Creek Fire, 2012 and 2017 Winter Ice Storm, 2015 and 2020 drought.

Our small and rural communities face particular challenges due to lack of resources and staffing, and can only make demonstrable improvements in community services with the infusion of grant funding.

Sadly, our communities also face vastly increasing future risks, according to the August 2018 OCCRI (Oregon Climate Change Research Institute) study for Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development, *Climate Change Influence on Natural Hazards in Eight Oregon*

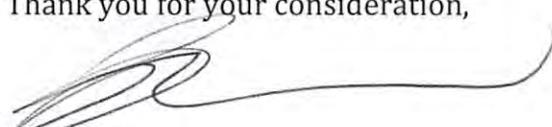
*Counties*<sup>1</sup>, Wasco and its adjacent counties Hood River, Sherman, and Gilliam:

- Wildfire: Across all eight counties, wildfire risk projected increase of 38% greater frequency by 2050, compared to historical baseline.
- Heat waves: Extreme heat events are expected in increase in frequency, duration, and intensity due to continued warming. Extreme heat event increase: 12 additional days at or above 90 degrees.
- Hottest day of the year is projected to increase by 8 degrees by 2050 compared to historical baseline
- Drought: Counties like ours, reliant on spring and summer snowpack to supply summer water demands, will experience more frequent drought conditions in Wasco and Hood River Counties.

The City of Mosier is the eastside gateway to the Mark Hatfield Twin Tunnels Trail and several important hiking and bicycle routes along the Historic Highway, including the Mosier Plateau Trail, Memaloose State Park, and the Rowena Crest Trailhead. For this reason, the new Mosier Community Center will provide key resting and wayfinding facilities for tourists traveling through the National Scenic Area and support the economic goals of our region.

We highly encourage you to support Mosier's request for State funding.

Thank you for your consideration,



Barbara Ayers

Emergency Manager, Hood River County  
601 State St. Hood River, OR 97031

[Barbara.Ayers@co.hood-river.or.us](mailto:Barbara.Ayers@co.hood-river.or.us)

(541) 386-1213

<https://GetReadyGorge.com>

<https://www.hoodriversheriff.com/what-we-do/emergency-management/>

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<sup>1</sup> August 2018 OCCRI (Oregon Climate Change Research Institute) study for Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development, *Climate Change Influence on Natural Hazards in Eight Oregon Counties*, pages 386-432:

[https://www.hoodriversheriff.com/images/uploads/documents/Hood\\_River\\_MNHMP\\_2018\\_small.pdf](https://www.hoodriversheriff.com/images/uploads/documents/Hood_River_MNHMP_2018_small.pdf)



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

## Historic Columbia River Highway Advisory Committee

Region 1 Headquarters  
123 NW Flanders Street  
Portland, Oregon 97209  
Phone: (503) 731-8200  
Fax: (503) 731-3266

April 22, 2021

Senator Lynn Findley  
900 Court St NE  
S-403  
Salem, Oregon, 97301

Representative Daniel Bonham  
900 Court St NE  
H-483  
Salem, Oregon, 97301

### RE: Mosier Center Complex

Dear Senator Findley and Representative Bonham,

The Historic Columbia River Highway Advisory Committee supports the City of Mosier's application for funding the Mosier Center Complex, including the Plaza and Bike Hub in downtown Mosier.

The Advisory Committee is a supporter of other bike hubs throughout the Gorge and recognizes the importance of providing State Trail and Historic Columbia River Highway users information, access to restrooms, and bike fix-it stations. Completing the full complex including the Fire Station and Community Center will provide amenities and needed services.

Mosier is uniquely positioned at the east end of the Mosier Twin Tunnels, a huge draw for State Trail users, and we anticipate visitation increasing as ODOT constructs the remaining segments west of the City of Hood River. Completing the Mosier Complex, including a bike hub would provide continuity between Troutdale, Cascade Locks, Hood River, and The Dalles and would enhance the experience for users on the State Trail, and provide information for other recreational activities nearby while also enhancing the City's main street, providing benefits for visitors and residents alike.

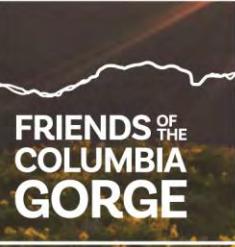
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arthur Babitz".

Arthur Babitz  
Chair, HCRH Advisory Committee

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wayne P. Stewart".

Wayne P. Stewart  
Vice-Chair, HCRH Advisory Committee



HOOD RIVER | PORTLAND | WASHOUGAL

GORGEFRIENDS.ORG

April 20, 2021

Senator Lynn Findley  
900 Court St NES- 403  
Salem, OR, 97301  
Sen.LynnFindley@oregonlegislature.gov

Representative Daniel Bonham  
900 Court St NEH- 483  
Salem, OR 97301  
Rep.DanielBonham@oregonlegislature.gov

Dear Senator Findley and Representative Bonham,

On behalf of the staff, board and 6,000 members of Friends of the Columbia Gorge, I am writing this letter in support of the funding request for the City of Mosier and Mosier Fire District joint project to construct the Mosier Center, a new fire station/city hall/community center within the Urban Area of Mosier.

Mosier is a key indicator of the recreation opportunities and community safety and livability of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. The Mosier area community has long been a dedicated provider of services to the north central region of Oregon and the Columbia Gorge. These services include fire protection, emergency medical response, emergency sheltering and various community support functions, all of which are valued by many thousands of area residents and untold numbers of travelers through the I-84/Columbia Gorge corridor. Mosier's ability to continue these services will be greatly enhanced through completion of this project.

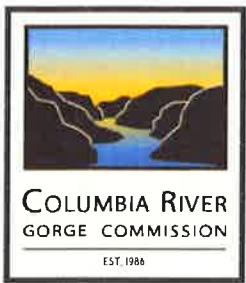
In addition, Mosier is the eastern gateway to the Mark Hatfield Twin Tunnels Trail as well as several important hiking and bicycle routes along the Historic Highway, including our own Mosier Plateau Trail, Memaloose State Park and the Rowena Crest Trailhead. For this reason, the new Mosier Community Center will provide key resting and wayfinding facilities for tourists traveling through the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. Providing tourists and recreation users a reason to stop in Mosier will further benefit the businesses that rely significantly on those tourists

With the community already securing 45% of the necessary funding, I encourage you to support Mosier's request for state funding to bring this project to fruition.

Sincerely,

*Kevin Gorman*

Kevin Gorman  
Executive Director



April 20, 2021

Senator Lynn Findley  
900 Court St NES- 403  
Salem, OR, 97301  
[Sen.LynnFindley@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Sen.LynnFindley@oregonlegislature.gov)

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In addition, the City is the eastside gateway to the Mark Hatfield Twin Tunnels Trail and several important hiking and bicycle routes along the Historic Highway, including the Mosier Plateau Trail, Memaloose State Park and the Rowena Crest Trailhead, all critically important public areas in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. For this reason, the new Mosier Community Center will provide key resting and wayfinding facilities for tourists traveling through the National Scenic Area, and will support the economic goals of our region. Since the Columbia River Gorge Commission supports both recreation, natural and scenic resource protections and economic vitality, we believe this project fills both purposes of the National Scenic Area Act.

I highly encourage you to support Mosier's request for State of Oregon funding.

Sincerely,

Krystyna U. Wolniakowski  
Executive Director

April 21, 2021

Senator Lynn Findley  
900 Court St NES- 403  
Salem, OR, 97301

Representative Daniel Bonham  
900 Court St NEH- 483  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Senator Findley and Representative Bonham,

Travel Oregon's vision is a better life for all Oregonians through strong, sustainable local communities that welcome a diversity of explorers. This includes enhancing economies throughout the state to help communities better leverage the state's multi-billion-dollar tourism industry. It also means working together for community improvements that will support a safe and enjoyable visitor experience and enrich the quality of life for Oregonians. As such, we support the Mosier Joint Fire/Community Center project.

The popularity of the Columbia River Gorge is increasing as tourists seek outdoor recreation and culinary experiences. Between 2016 and 2017, 3.3 million visitors stayed overnight in the Mt. Hood-Columbia Gorge region. Countless visitors traveled along I-84, passing by or stopping in Mosier. Mosier is home to scenic hiking trails including the Mosier Plateau and Rowena Crest Trailhead and is the eastside gateway to the Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail. Visitors also enjoy high-quality wine and culinary experiences, with Mosier as the focal point of the recently developed East Gorge Food Trail, highlighting 30 culinary businesses.

The joint fire/community center will provide key resting and wayfinding facilities for visitors traveling in the Columbia River Gorge, supporting the local tourism economy. Additionally, the center will increase public safety and provide a resource in the event of an emergency situation or wildfire.

Travel Oregon strongly prioritizes efforts to reduce wildfires and their associated negative economic impacts. The Mosier community has felt the impact of wildfires over the past four years. In 2017, the community experienced the 2017 Eagle Creek Fire. In 2018, Wasco County faced wildfires that heavily impacted the Lower Deschutes River, in turn impacting the local outdoor recreation economy. In 2020, the Mosier Creek Fire threatened approximately 300 homes and burned nearly 1,000 acres. Communities must be prepared to respond and ensure safety for all who are located within their boundaries. An improved fire station will help mitigate potential wildfire impacts in Mosier and the surrounding area.

In 2017, Oregon experienced a \$51.5 million loss in visitor spending attributable to wildfires; Wasco County alone experienced a \$2.59 million loss. These losses can be detrimental to the vitality of communities that depend on tourism dollars to boost local economies. The Mosier Joint Fire/Community Center project will serve as a hub for visitors, but more importantly, result in increased public safety and wildfire mitigation, ensuring the area can remain open to visitors and continue to strengthen the local tourism economy.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Todd Davidson  
CEO, Travel Oregon