



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA REQUEST & STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: October 16, 2024

SUBJECT: Consideration of Draft Resolutions to Assist the City and County with Land Management of Land NE of Bend (commonly referred to as Juniper Ridge)

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

Approve of Board Signature of Resolution.

BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

During the joint meeting between Deschutes County Board of Commissioners and the Bend City Council on September 4, 2024, the governing boards agreed to establish a Temporary Safe Stay Area and work collaboratively to mitigate the public health and other issues resulting from unsanctioned camping at property northeast of the city of Bend (Juniper Ridge).

The governing boards approved the following motion:

- *Establishment of a Temporary, Safe Stay Area, with direction to staff to coordinate:*
 - *Legal, land use/siting issues, potentially adopting joint 'orders'*
 - *Communication and outreach plan*
 - *Scoping of on-site services, leveraging existing contracts and procurement efforts with a housing connection and intensive case management, a focus on safety, and key performance metrics, including a monthly follow up for six months*
- *Full Closure of areas owned by the City and County outside of the Temporary Safe Stay Area by May 31, 2025*
- *Continued coordination on fire fuel reduction and other fire reduction strategies as part of the management plan*

To implement the above approved strategy, City staff drafted Resolution No. 2024-046. It's important to note that some of the items listed in Resolution 2024-046 may not be able to be implemented.

Commissioner Phil Chang asked County staff to draft an alternative resolution that mainly focused on providing case management services, which is Resolution No. 2024-049.

At the October 16 Board of Commissioners meeting, consideration of the draft resolutions is scheduled for a public hearing at 1:00 p.m. Members of the public are invited to testify in person or by video. Testimony will be limited to 3-minutes per person.

Key elements of Resolution No. 2024-046:

- 170-acres of property owned by the City and County northeast of the City of Bend will be designated as the “Temporary Safe Stay Area” or “TSSA” (see attached map).
- The TSSA will not be available to homeless individuals not living in vehicles.
- The TSSA is not intended to be a place for people not currently camping or sheltering on lands at Juniper Ridge.
- The County and City plan to provide the following services at the TSSA: portable toilets, handwashing stations, drinking water, and trash disposal facilities.
- The County and City plan to fund housing-focused case management services at the TSSA.
- The County and City will use land management strategies to provide a framework for rules of conduct, including property clean-up efforts and periodic security patrols.
- The County and City will coordinate on fire fuel reduction and other fire reduction strategies.
- The City will close its property east of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad tracks by May 31, 2025.
- The TSSA is intended to close no later than December 31, 2026.

Key elements of Resolution No. 2024-049:

- The County and City plan to provide the following services at the 170-acres property owned by the City and County: portable toilets, handwashing stations, drinking water, and trash disposal facilities.
- The County and City plan to fund housing-focused case management services.
- The County and City will use land management strategies to provide a framework for rules of conduct, including property clean-up efforts and periodic security patrols.
- The County and City will coordinate on fire fuel reduction and other fire reduction strategies.
- The City will close its property east of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad tracks by May 31, 2025.

Attachments:

1. Draft Resolution 2024-046
2. Draft Resolution 2024-049

BUDGET IMPACTS:

TBD.

ATTENDANCE:

Erik Kropp, Deputy County Administrator