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CENTRAL OREGON LANDWATCH

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*Protecting Central Oregon's natural environment  
and working for sustainable communities.*

## **ACTION ALERT: MARCH 21, 2007**

### **SAVE THE METOLIUS!**

### **NO DESTINATION RESORTS**

Please immediately call Senator Ben Westlund to express support for his Senate Bill 30 which would ban destination resorts from being located in or within three miles of the Metolius River Basin. Although he submitted the bill, he is getting pressure to compromise this protection. Urge him to hold firm and encourage other legislators to support this important legislation. The Metolius River watershed must be protected.

#### **What's at stake?**

The Metolius River watershed, hydrology and water quality are at risk.

- Destination resorts consume vast quantities of water.
- Their golf courses, wastewater and pavement runoff can pollute surface and ground waters.
- Thousands of more visitors will crowd the unique Metolius Wild & Scenic River.
- Damage to the sensitive riparian areas and healthy fish habitat will occur.

The spring-fed Metolius River is a world-class resource. Nothing should be allowed that might compromise it. Home to the West's healthiest population of threatened bull trout, plans by the Tribes and agencies are in motion for reintroduction in 2009 of native sockeye and chinook to their historic Metolius River streams. Now is the time to protect this fishery!

The Metolius's historic character and sense of place should not be diminished with golf courses and subdivisions. That kind of commercial recreation and urban-scale development is not appropriate for the Metolius.

Two destination resorts (Colson and Dutch Pacific) are currently being proposed to be located within and next to the Metolius watershed. Jefferson County is already zoning for them. This legislation, SB 30, is the only definite way to stop them. If not stopped by the legislation, Jefferson County can approve even more resorts in and around the Basin.

- The Colson destination resort would be located within 10,000 acres on top of Green Ridge, as near as three miles east from Camp Sherman, on lands draining primarily to the lower Metolius. It could end up being the largest destination resort in Oregon. To put this potential development in perspective, consider:
  - Black Butte Ranch is about 1,800 acres in size and the proposed Thornburgh destination resort is to be a little less than 2,000 acres. The city of Sisters is less than 1,200 acres. The Colsons asked for and are receiving 10,000 acres within which they can put their resort.
  - Assuming it is fully developed as a destination resort with 50% open space, the 10,000 acres could have more than 7,500 homes if built at the same density as other resorts. For comparison, the proposed Hidden Canyon resort in Central Oregon plans for 3,675 homes and lodging units on 3,243 acres. Assuming only two people per house, the Colson resort could easily have a population of over 10,000 people at times.
  - Even if the Colsons did only a 2,000 acre resort, that size can have 1,500 homes and lodging units (3,000 people), can use 6.4 million gallons of water per day with three golf courses (equivalent to the average annual daily use by a city of 35,000 people) and can generate hundreds of additional traffic trips. Area roads and Camp Sherman could be crowded with traffic.
- The Dutch Pacific destination resort would be located on 640 acres just three miles west of Camp Sherman. It is three miles from Round Lake and the Mt. Jefferson Wilderness on lands draining into the upper Metolius. Even on just 640 acres there could be hundreds of homes and a couple of golf courses. The same-sized Pronghorn destination resort has proposed building around 400 residences and 150 condos, a hotel and two golf courses.

### **Why a three-mile buffer?**

Even if development is planned outside the watershed, city-scale and urban development so close to the Metolius would overwhelm the natural resources of the area. Thousands of people could live at or use the Colson destination resort, resulting in hundreds of additional cars driving into the Camp Sherman area. The result will be traffic jams, air pollution, over-crowded recreation sites, and damage to the fragile and unique ecology of the Metolius. If anything, the buffer should be 10 miles from Camp Sherman to try to reduce impacts from any destination resorts.

The area's unique hydrology is also complex. Ground and surface waters are connected. A buffer is needed to ensure protection of both the upper and lower Metolius.

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E-mail us at [info@centraloregonlandwatch.org](mailto:info@centraloregonlandwatch.org) and let us know what you can do to help. You may be needed to testify before the Legislature or to show up for a rally on the Capitol steps or even fundraise.

**Please contact ALL immediately: (send e-mails with the subject line: SB 30 Metolius)**

Senator Ben Westlund (Bend-D)  
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Rep. John Dallum (co-sponsor of the bill) (The Dalles-R)  
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**Other members of the Senate Education and General Government Committee to contact:**

Senator Vicki Walker, Chair (Eugene-D)  
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Senator Jeff Kruse, Vice-Chair (Roseburg-R)  
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Senator Frank Morse (Albany-R)  
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Also thank the Warm Springs Tribes, c/o Lewis Pitt: [LPitt@wstribes.org](mailto:LPitt@wstribes.org)

**Other key people to contact:**

Governor Ted Kulongoski  
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[www.governor.oregon.gov](http://www.governor.oregon.gov) (click on  
“contact us” and use e-mail option)

Mike Carrier  
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For a copy of the bill: <http://landru.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measures/sb0001.dir/sb0030.intro.html>

And contact your own senator and representative.