

() Discussion only

(X) Action

FROM (DEPT/ DIVISION): County Counsel

SUBJECT: Jubilee Lake Project

Background: The Commissioners have been requested to supply a letter of support for the Jubilee Lake accessibility project. The project is being proposed by Brent Oliver. A letter of support has been drafted for Board review.	Requested Action: Approve letter of support and authorize chair to sign
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ATTACHMENTS: Proposed Letter

*****For Internal Use Only*****

Checkoffs:

() Dept. Heard (copy)
() Human Resources (copy)
() Fiscal
(X) Legal (copy)
() (Other - List:)

To be notified of Meeting:

Needed at Meeting:

Scheduled for meeting on: November 25, 2025

Action taken:

Follow-up:

Board of Commissioners



216 S. E. 4th Street
Pendleton, OR 97801

Daniel N. Dorran
541-278-6201

John M. Shafer
541-278-6203

Celinda A. Timmons
541-278-6202

November 25, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Umatilla County Board of Commissioners, I am writing to express our support for a Jubilee Lake accessibility pilot program. Jubilee Lake was built in 1968 in the Blue Mountains within Union County. It is managed by the U.S. Forest Service under the Umatilla National Forest. Families from Umatilla County, other surrounding counties, and visitors from across the nation rely on this site.

In the early 1990s the Forest Service installed approximately a one-mile paved section of the Lake Access Trail to provide equal access for elderly and disabled citizens, capable of supporting a thousand-pound power chair and a quadriplegic user safely. It is also allowed a person using a walker or mobility aid to travel independently without the risk of tripping or falling. No long-term maintenance plan was ever developed, however, and since construction, no significant maintenance has been done. The paved section has now fallen into severe disrepair. Cracks, heaves, and uneven surfaces make it unsafe and unusable for those who once relied on it for stability and mobility.

A second and equally serious issue is the annual gate closure. Each year on October 15 the Forest Service closes the main gate that provides access to the lake. After that date, the lake is often snow free and fully usable for weeks, yet elderly and disabled citizens are physically prevented from reaching the paved parking area, the bathrooms at the lake, and the paved section. In the spring, the snow commonly melts long before the gate is reopened, again leaving the lake accessible but blocked to those who rely on mobility equipment. The gate closure, not lake conditions, is what prevents equal access to this public resource.

The purpose of this project is to restore access by keeping the main gate open year-round except when snow physically prevents entry. Also, planned repairs will restore the paved section to safe, reliable condition through in-place recycling and surface rehabilitation. This approach reuses existing materials, minimizes environmental impact, and lowers costs by up to seventy percent compared to conventional asphalt paving. These two changes will again restore access to Jubilee Lake for everyone.

We thank you for considering the project and encourage your full support for this impactful initiative.

Sincerely,

Celinda A. Timmons
Chair, Board of Commissioners

CAT:bt