

Exhibit E

**Deer Creek Tract/South Basin
Springs Land Exchange at
Phillip W. Schneider Wildlife Area**

**Public Correspondence received as of
February 21, 2013**



ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK FOUNDATION

Bruce Eddy
Northeast Region Manager
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
107 20th Street
La Grande, OR 97850

January 2, 2013

Dear Bruce,

The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) strongly supports the South Basin Springs land acquisition and exchange in the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) Phillip Schneider Wildlife Area. ODFW ownership of the 560 acre South Basin Springs parcel will prevent residential/recreational amenity development of the property, and ensure its value as critically important winter range for elk and mule deer. ODFW ownership will also provide access to thousands of acres of publically owned lands beyond the borders of the South Basin Springs parcel.

RMEF appreciates the current landowner's conservation ethic and patience in this transaction. Appraisal documents state that the highest and best use monetary value of the South Basin Springs property lies in recreation/amenity development. The landowner recognizes the potential impacts to wildlife, to adjacent ODFW property access and management, and to the public if the South Basin Springs property was developed for recreation amenity uses. RMEF is confident that ODFW ownership of the South Basin Springs property will bring the best results for wildlife and the public.

Please let me know if you have any questions or if you need additional information.

Thank you,

Bill Richardson
Oregon & W Washington Lands Program Manager
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

Kevin Blakely

From: Robert Quinton <RQuinton@beobank.com>
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2013 8:04 AM
To: Kevin Blakely
Subject: RE: PWSWA Land Exchange

Thank you

Bob Quinton, VP
Commercial Loan Officer
John Day Branch
Office: 541-575-1862
Fax: 541-575-1705
rquinton@beobank.com

From: Kevin Blakely [<mailto:kevin.l.blakely@state.or.us>]
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2013 8:03 AM
To: Robert Quinton
Subject: RE: PWSWA Land Exchange

The landowner is S Bar S Ranches. The State has been working with Don Moss as the representative for S Bar S through Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation lands program manager, Bill Richardson. Attached is map for location references.

Kevin Blakely
John Day Watershed Manager
Phone: 541.276.2344
Fax: 541.276.4414
Kevin.L.Blakely@state.or.us

From: Robert Quinton [<mailto:RQuinton@beobank.com>]
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2013 7:48 AM
To: kevin.l.blakely@state.or.us
Subject: PWSWA Land Exchange

Mr. Blakely, could you please tell me who the vested owner of the 560 acre parcel that is being proposed as an exchange for the 160 acres of public land in the PWSWA land exchange?

Thank you

Bob Quinton, VP
Commercial Loan Officer
John Day Branch
Office: 541-575-1862
Fax: 541-575-1705
rquinton@beobank.com

Kevin Blakely

From: Kevin Blakely
Sent: Wednesday, February 13, 2013 9:28 AM
To: 'Roy Beal'
Subject: RE: south basin springs project
Attachments: MAPS--Deer Creek-South Basin Springs Land Ex-021213_klb.pdf

Thanks for your comments and questions. Attached map shows that Forest Service Road 24 does pass through the Deer Creek tract which is proposed to transfer to private ownership. The USFS road is a public road with a substantial history of public access along the forest road to other public lands (BLM and USFS). The Deer Creek tract does not have any other legal access or easements from/to other properties. There are state statutes (Chapter 368) which include a definition for a "Public road" as meaning a road over which the public has a right of use that is a matter of public record. Grant County court has always been very adamant regarding any attempts to change historical public access through any landownership.

I will be following up with the ODFW Realty staff in Salem to review the title report regarding the forest road issue. Generally, access was not ensured by title companies in Oregon until 1985. If needed the state will record a public conveyance easement along the short section of Forest Road 24 prior to closing the title transfer of the Deer Creek tract.

Kevin Blakely
John Day Watershed Manager
Phone: 541.276.2344
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Kevin.L.Blakely@state.or.us

From: Roy Beal [<mailto:roybeal@ortelco.net>]
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2013 1:07 PM
To: kevin.l.blakely@state.or.us; roybeal@ortelco.net
Subject: south basin springs project

Kevin

As a member of rmef and a Grant County sportsman I have a couple of questions regarding the proposed land swap. Does the road up Deer Creek pass through the land proposed for swapping into private ownership? Does this road swap include a solid easement that will carry through into the proposal? How much are we paying in addition to swapping the land? There is confusion about the location of the road, as well as the presence/non presence of an easement. The maps obviously show the location of the road to be on the land proposed for swap. This road is the only access to thousands of acres of national forest ground providing the best turkey hunting in the northwest for public land oriented sprotspersons in a typical spring, as most roads are closed early season by snow. thx

Kevin Blakely

From: Kevin Blakely
Sent: Friday, February 15, 2013 9:11 AM
To: John Crafton; 'Walter Berry'
Cc: michelle.n.dennehy@state.or.us; Bill Richardson <brichardson@RMEF.ORG>
(brichardson@RMEF.ORG); Bruce Eddy
Subject: RE: Phillip W. Schneider Wildlife Area land exchange

The Deer Creek tract (current ODFW ownership) does include a short section of US Forest Road 24 across the northwest corner of the property (BLM lands on both sides). As part of the due diligence in any land transaction, the state receives and reviews title reports for all involved properties. The ODFW title report for the 160-acre Deer Creek Tract includes a roadway easement, recorded in 1957, to USA (BLM) from the property owner at that time (Stewart Livestock Co.). Public access through the Deer Creek tract, along Forest Road 24, is therefore guaranteed as part of the title transaction.

I appreciate the concerns and comments from OHA membership. Please feel free to contact me if you have any other questions.

Kevin Blakely
John Day Watershed Manager
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Kevin.L.Blakely@state.or.us

From: Walter Berry [<mailto:WalterB@brasada.com>]
Sent: Friday, February 15, 2013 5:18 AM
To: John Crafton; kevin.l.blakely@state.or.us; michelle.n.dennehy@state.or.us
Subject: RE: Phillip W. Schneider Wildlife Area land exchange

Well said John.



BRASADA RANCH
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From: John Crafton [<mailto:jlcrafton@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, February 14, 2013 10:26 PM
To: kevin.l.blakely@state.or.us; michelle.n.dennehy@state.or.us
Subject: Phillip W. Schneider Wildlife Area land exchange

Kevin & Michelle,

The Redmond Chapter of Oregon Hunter's Association and Central Oregon QUWF have provided tens of thousand of

volunteer hours over many years on the Phillip W. Schneider Wildlife area improving winter range habitat for big game and game birds in the Murderers Creek area.

We have looked over the land exchange and could agree to it with one stipulation which could be a deal breaker.

It appears the Deer Creek Tract, 160 acre exchange encompasses both sides of the Deer Creek Road. In the exchange, the Deer Creek Road "ABSOLUTELY MUST" remain open to the public. In the exchange, it must be written that the new owner and subsequent owners can in NO way compromise or close the use of the Deer Creek road to the general public.

Redmond OHA's deceased member Ron VanDomelen, a former BLM employee was instrumental in building the Murderers Creek road around the isolated 40 acre chunk that use to block the public from the Murderers Creek Barn/House/Ranch area. The general public does not need to waste huge amounts of money building another road around another private landowner.

Redmond OHA and Central Oregon QUWF will support the exchange if this is written into the contract, if not, Redmond OHA and Central Oregon QUWF will use every means we have including legal action to stop any attempt at closing the Deer Creek Road.

Redmond OHA and Central Oregon QUWF wish to receive notification of any "action" memos, emails, letters or phone conversations pertaining to this issue. You may send all information to Redmond OHA, c/o John Crafton, PO Box 1407, Redmond, OR 97756 or email at jlcrafton@hotmail.com or call 541-233-3740.

We anxiously await your reply.

Sincerely, John Crafton - Redmond OHA Board Member & Project Chairman

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