



2843 NW Lolo Drive, Ste. 200 | Bend, OR 97703

Phone (541) 647-2930

www.colw.org

PRESS RELEASE

January 26, 2023

For immediate release

142 acres near Crooked River Ranch: LandWatch goes to the Land Use Board of Appeals

On January 17, Central Oregon LandWatch appealed the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners' decision to approve the conversion of 142 acres of agricultural land to a rural residential subdivision.

This land was formerly Forest Service land and is adjacent to Crooked River Ranch.

We are concerned that this decision violates Oregon's Land Use Planning laws, which protect the state's agricultural industrial land base and direct new growth inside urban growth boundaries.

This move from the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners comes fifty years after Oregon's renowned Land Use Planning system was put in place. Governor Tom McCall, who grew up in the Lone Pine Valley, saw unplanned sprawl like this subdivision as an unmitigated threat to Oregonians' quality of life. He gave a celebrated speech to the Oregon Legislature in 1973, saying:

"There is a shameless threat to our environment and to the whole quality of life - the unfettered despoiling of the land. Sagebrush subdivisions, coastal condomania, and the ravenous rampage of suburbia in the Willamette Valley all threaten to mock Oregon's status as the environmental model for the nation. "

The County's decision to approve this rural subdivision is contrary to Oregon Statewide Planning Goals 3, which preserves agricultural land for farm use, and Goal 14, which prevents sprawl by providing for an orderly and efficient transition from rural to urban land use.

Central Oregon LandWatch is a land use watchdog and environmental advocacy group working to preserve farmland and forestland, and protect open space, wildlife habitat, and water.

Media contact: Caitlyn Burford, Communications & Outreach Manager
541-647-2930 ext.807, caitlyn@colw.org



WE DEFEND AND PLAN FOR CENTRAL OREGON'S LIVABLE FUTURE