

Cave Junction man compiles Redwood Hwy. traffic report

It may be nothing more than numbers, but Cave Junction resident Roger Brandt thinks his report on tourist and recreation spending on Highway 199 will help resolve disagreement about the region's economic development opportunities.

"The Siskiyou Crest Monument is a good example of this disagreement," Brandt said. "One side claims the monument will yield economic benefits from tourist and recreation spending, while the other side has voiced challenges of 'show me the money.'"

Brandt said that those kinds of disagreements can be expected when people don't have enough information and he hopes his report, which can be seen in full at Highway199.org, and others like it will provide the information needed to get people away from arguing and focused on making meaningful and productive decisions about the region's economic future.

Brandt's report contains a compilation of official traffic records from the state

of Oregon and California along with explanations to help the reader understand the meaning of technical terms used by road departments. Brandt also conducted a five-day survey of traffic near the Oregon-California border. He explained the survey was needed because Oregon and California state traffic records didn't provide adequate information on the types of vehicles going through the corridor. To get this information, Brandt sat by the road for twelve hours on each of five separate days counting vehicles as they drove by. Traffic was sorted into different categories on tracking sheets that were custom designed for the task.

"There has been a lot of effort invested in gathering information to assure the completeness and accuracy of the report," Brandt said.

Brandt explained that there were two reasons why the main focus of the study was at the Oregon-California border.

"This location has the

least amount of commuter traffic on Highway 199 and for that reason the traffic passing this point is expected to be mostly tourist and recreation travel," he said. "The other reason for doing the survey here is because this is the location of the oldest, permanent automatic traffic counter on Highway 199 and, in addition to that, employees at the agricultural inspection station near the border also maintain traffic records".

The automatic traffic counter at the Oregon-California border was installed by the Oregon Department of Transportation in the early 1990s. Wires were installed in the pavement making it possible to physically count every vehicle traveling in both the north and south lanes. The station also has the ability to sort different types of vehicles, such as motorcycles, autos and trucks into generalized categories and calculate what percentage of the total traffic is represented by each of these categories.

"As far as I know, this

is the first time a document like this has been compiled for Highway 199," Brandt noted.

Brandt thinks the data will play a role in the production of well focused economic development plans, strengthen business decisions that can help create jobs in low income communities, and give credence to recreation and tourism related grant applications.

"Traffic records for Highway 199 document that about one million vehicles cross the Oregon-California border every year," Brandt said.

Using this traffic data, he calculated that 30 percent of the total traffic crossing the border represents tourist or recreation travel.

"The method I used to calculate the 30 percent value is explained on page five of the report," said Brandt, "but I think this value is well below the actual number of tourist-recreation vehicles on Highway 199. Using 30 percent as a minimum value, the total annual tourist traffic on

Highway 199 over the past decade has been about 300,000 vehicles per year. If people traveling in each of these vehicles are spending between \$100-\$150 per day, it can be estimated that about 31-47 million dollars of potential tourist spending passes through the Highway 199 corridor annually".

Brandt explained that the \$100-\$150 figure is based on the assumption that an average of three people travel in each tourist-recreation vehicle and spending for each individual in the car is about \$40 to \$80 per day. This range of spending might shift one way or another if travelers

are out for a day trip or are on an extended visit and staying in lodging.

Monthly estimates of tourist-recreation dollars can also be made using the 30 percent value and traffic volume records. For example, Brandt estimated that during the month of May, the average amount of tourist dollars passing through the corridor is about \$90,000 per day or about \$2.7 million during the month. Using the same method for the month of July, the busiest travel month in 2009, Brandt calculated an average of

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EVENTS CALENDAR

Friday, Oct. 15
 - Valley Girls quilt show, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at I.V. Senior Center
 - I.V. String Band, old time folk, 5:30 p.m. at Taylor's Country Store

Saturday, Oct. 16
 - Valley Girls quilt show, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at I.V. Senior Center

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Quality is No. 1 #20
 with Bob Quinn



According to a recent national survey, water from their own well is the preferred source of drinking water for 81% of Americans now served by wells. These results are consistent with other surveys that show Americans are interested in preserving the quality of their rural lifestyles.

This brings up the topic of a "quality" well that will be your lifetime water supply. The original construction of your well is a key factor in acquiring a water supply that will be sufficient for your needs and demands. The State of Oregon has strict rules and regulations regarding construction practices for wells, but there are additional steps that can be taken to help eliminate high concentrations of iron or potential sanding problems that could cost you dearly in the future. Make sure you make it clear to your well contractor if you need to spend a little more time or materials now to insure against these problems. After all, can you imagine mixing a bourbon and water at your housewarming party and it comes out looking like a Bloody Mary?

Wells are no different than any other household system that needs repair or replacement from time to time. For well owners who may be experiencing problems mentioned above, you need only to contact a professional groundwater contractor and have your well system upgraded or possibly equipped with an appropriate water conditioning or treatment device.

Bob Quinn is a member of the Oregon Ground Water Association and owner of **Quinn's Well Drilling and Pump Service** located at 6811 Williams Hwy., Grants Pass. Quinn's provides well drilling, plus installs, maintains and repairs complete water pumping systems. If you have a question about your well or one you are planning, please call Bob or his helpful staff for advice, estimates or helpful information at no obligation or cost. Contact our professional staff by phone, e-mail, or visit our office.

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