

# Redmond hosts energy forums

BY JOE SIESS  
CO Media Group

The Environmental Center hosted its first Local Energy Forum at the Oregon State University Extension Service in Redmond Saturday, where experts and members of the community discussed topics that included electric vehicles, energy efficient and affordable housing, and sustainability in schools.

Deschutes County Commissioner Phil Chang spoke at the forum, sharing some methods to create renewable energy that could be used locally.

Emilie Marlinghaus, of Bend, attended the forum Saturday and said she has been interested in climate change since the 1980s.

The topic of energy is all part of addressing the climate crisis.

"I've always envisioned Bend being this leader. We had this opportunity to really think outside the box and make bold moves," Marlinghaus said.

"Since this is a county energy plan the big obstacle right now is getting support from the county commissioners to pass the plan."

Marlinghaus said over the years she has seen some pretty dramatic changes in Bend, and is no longer certain if Bend will become the leader she envisioned. But she is hopeful.

In his presentation Chang brought up possible opportunities for De-

schutes County to become more sustainable, such as harnessing the power within biomass and biogas processes, which are both ways to extract energy that otherwise would be lost. These methods are in addition to hydro-electric and solar power, which are both being used in Deschutes County.

In order to convince the public of the opportunity in biomass and biogas renewable energy, "a lot of stars need to be in alignment," Chang said.

He said it is important to create incentives and to make the case for making the long term investments into a more sustainable future. Convincing the public of the value and benefits and providing enough subsidies to match those benefits is all part of it, he said. Also reminding people of how important resilience is, is another way of making the case.

"Reminding people of how vulnerable we are to global energy supply interruptions, and the economic impacts of that — I think that is something lots of people get," Chang said. "And showing people the jobs that are possible... We can create jobs and we can put ourselves in a more economically secure position in the long run."

Neil Baunsgard, of the Environmental Center, spoke on local policy and transportation electrification. He also mentioned a new round of federal funding to the state of Oregon through



Joe Siess/The Bulletin

**Brian Durbin, fiscal director of the Kor Community Land Trust, discusses energy and affordable housing Saturday at the Environmental Center's first Local Energy Forum at the Oregon State University Extension Service in Redmond**

the Oregon National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Plan.

"Within the next five years, we will have well developed charging infrastructure, above and beyond what we already have, all the way up and down Highway 97, Highway 20, Highway 26," Baunsgard said. "So those directions

are going to be better electrified, where there is a charging hub at a minimum of every 50 miles on all of those corridors."

Baunsgard said getting people to try eclectic vehicles, whether it is an eclectic bike, car or bus, is the best method to get communities to adopt the trend.

"Change is hard, and it is right to be skeptical and think through all the unintended consequences. But when people choose electric transportation, people very rarely go back," Baunsgard added. "It is not new anymore, it is a pretty exciting future."

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## SPORTS

# Where to watch the FIFA World Cup locally



AP Photo/Ricardo Mazalan

**Dutch supporters cheer before the World Cup, group A soccer match between Senegal and Netherlands at the Al Thumama Stadium in Doha, Qatar on Nov. 21.**

BY NICK ROSENBERGER  
Redmond Spokesman

The 2022 FIFA World Cup kicked off in Qatar on Sunday, Nov. 20, with a game between host nation Qatar and Ecuador. Ecuador steamrolled the home team 2-0 with Ecuador's Enner Valencia scoring two goals in the first 30 minutes of the game.

In the first three scheduled competitions, the United States played against Wales on Nov. 21 and will play England on Nov. 25 and Iran on Nov. 29. Each of the first three games kick off at 11 a.m.

For those interested, multiple venues will be showing the games in Redmond.

### Wild Ride Brewing

Located at 332 SW 5th St., Wild Ride will be hosting a watch party at 11 a.m. on Nov. 21, Nov. 25 and Nov. 29.

Those wearing red, white and blue will get dollar pints off during the game.

Additionally, food carts outside will be serving food from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. including Shred Town, Red Road Pizza Company (closed on Mondays) and Wild Catch.

### Otto's Landing

Located at 652 NW 6th St., Otto's Landing will also be playing World Cup matches starting when they open at 11 a.m. on weekdays and 9 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

Like with Wild Ride, Otto's Landing has food carts on hand including Fresco and Fried, Johnny's Supreme Street Greek Gyros and Orale!

### General Duffy's

With two buildings located off of 4th St. that have a combined total of eight TV's on hand, General Duffy's will likely be showing the games but will also take requests to put

them on if not.

Those interested can call ahead to make sure the games are playing.

Duffy's has over 30 beers on tap and six food trucks at their 1.4-acre location in downtown Redmond including That Guy's Bistro, Nonna's Cucina and Sally's Wok.

### Initiative Brewing

Initiative Brewing located at 424 NW 5th St. will also be playing the games during their normal business hours from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Initiative brewing has a year-round and seasonal tap list as well as an assortment of pub food including Bavarian pretzels, nachos, burgers, tacos, bowls and more for when the World Cup calls for a little nervous munching.

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# New details released on controversial mountain biking project in Ochocos

BY MICHAEL KOHN  
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A plan to construct biking trails in a remote area of the Ochoco National Forest east of Prineville has been scaled back by the U.S. Forest Service following a lengthy dialogue with bikers, equestrians and other stakeholders who have been watching the evolution of the project.

Details of the new plans were laid out in a draft environmental assessment for the Lemon Gulch Trails Project, which is now available for public review, according to a news release on Thursday from the Forest Service.

Plans to develop the new biking trails have ignited spirited debate in Prineville and the mountain biking community of Central Oregon. Some believe the project will help ease tensions on existing trails shared by bikers and equestrians. Others say building the trails will damage sensitive habitat for deer, elk, eagles, cougar and other wildlife.

Still more worry that the project will attract hordes of mountain biking enthusiasts to Prineville, altering the city's rural character in the same way that outdoor sports transformed Bend's logging town image. The project is a frequent talking point on the Facebook group "Don't Bend Prineville."

The network of bike trails is planned for the west side of the Lookout Mountain Ranger District, about 20 miles northeast of Prineville.

The draft environmental as-

essment compares five options, including a "no action" alternative.

One alternative has just 19 miles of trail built in the area. Another would see 51.6 miles of new bike trails.

The Forest Service prefers the 27.5-mile alternative, which includes 9.8 miles of beginner trails, 11.2 miles of intermediate trails, and 13.9 miles of advanced trails.

"It provides a much smaller footprint than the original proposal based on key issues raised in earlier phases of the project, as well as individual and group meetings with permittees, community members, and elected officials," according to the release.

The Forest Service notes that the 27.5-mile alternative also "reduces trail density in some areas specifically to address wildlife and grazing concerns, while still maintaining a complete mix of trail opportunity."

Slater Turner, Lookout Mountain district ranger, said the draft environmental assessment was developed over a one-year period and included input from Crook County community leaders, grazing permittees, and tribal members of the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, as well as other stakeholders and interested parties.

"We have taken great care in incorporating a wide variety of comments and look forward to hearing feedback on these alternatives," said Turner.

A scoping document released

in March 2021 laid out original plans for the project, as part of a larger proposal by trail users interested in expanding trail access in the Ochoco National Forest.

The draft environmental assessment is a refined version of the scoping document after widespread public feedback showed cracks in the community over the plan. The criticisms are widespread, ranging from concerns over wildlife habitat to the perceived influx of outside mountain bike groups. Even the name of the project has sparked controversy — critics insist the area be called Lemon Creek, not Lemon Gulch.

In September, opponents organized a protest in front of the Crook County Courthouse in Prineville, urging the Forest Service to rethink the plans and choose another location.

Dave Nielsen, an opponent of the project, said reducing the size of the complex from 51.6 miles of trail to 27.5 will not make much difference and the area will still experience negative impacts caused by development.

"Just as many riders and followers will visit the complex to ride, even if the complex is half of that in the original proposal," said Nielsen, who advocates for the "no action" alternative.

If the plan is adopted, the use of mountain bikes would be banned from Dec. 1 to May 1 for deer and elk winter range protection. The project also in-



Mark Morical/Bulletin file

**A pristine singletrack trail climbs up Lookout Mountain, as seen in 2015.**

cludes plans for three parking lots located at different elevations to facilitate shuttling. Kiosks and vault toilets are also planned.

The Forest Service describes the level of development as "low level" to maintain a "rustic character."

While the single-track trails would be designed for mountain bike use, they would also be available for hikers and trail runners. Some trails would be designed for adaptive mountain biking equipment. Equestrian use would be discouraged and dogs would not be allowed on the trails before July 1.

Kim McCarrel, an avid horseback rider who frequently rides trails in Crook County, said she applauds the Forest Service's efforts to create purpose-built bike trails that "provide the kinds of experiences many mountain bike riders want."

McCarrel said equestrians will appreciate the effort to redistribute mountain bike use away from Lookout Mountain and Round Mountain trails, two

areas popular with horseback riders. Conflicts between bikers and horseback riders arise frequently on both trails, she said.

"These trails became popular for mountain biking (recently) because they had nowhere else to ride," said McCarrel. "The steep slopes and short sight lines create ideal conditions for a downhill mountain bike to inadvertently spook a horse and endanger its rider."

Travis Holman, a mountain biker and vice president of the Central Oregon Trail Alliance, said the 51.6-mile alternative "would do the most to give mountain bikers the best riding experience and therefore presents the best chance to reduce crowding and conflict on other trails."

But he also acknowledged that the preferred alternative "represents the best compromise of those presented in the EA."

"We are very heartened to see that impacts to natural and cultural resources can be minimized while still providing a

valuable outdoor recreation experience," Holman said.

"As mountain bikers, we want everyone to have the opportunity to enjoy healthy recreation on our shared public lands while minimizing impacts on natural and cultural resources, and we're happy to see that this can be accomplished at Lemon Gulch," Holman adds.

A phased construction is planned if the project moves forward, with an initial set of trails installed followed by one or two years of monitoring before the building of additional trails.

Trail maintenance would be conducted with help from local trail user groups, including Ochoco trails and Central Oregon Trail Alliance.

Public comments will be accepted on the project through Dec. 19. Those wishing to comment may do so electronically on the U.S. Forest Service website ([fs.usda.gov/project?project=58831](https://fs.usda.gov/project?project=58831)).

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