

# Statement on Agreement to Manage Juniper Ridge

At its October 16 meeting, the Bend City Council had planned on discussing a resolution to authorize temporary overnight vehicle camping and improve safety, sanitation, and case management at Juniper Ridge. Due to the lack of decision by Deschutes County Board of Commissioners', the City is unable to consider the proposed resolution. Unfortunately, there is no timeline on when the Commission might reconsider or develop a new resolution or agreement to manage Juniper Ridge.

On September 5, the Bend City Council and the Deschutes County Board of Commissioners at a joint meeting unanimously agreed to work collaboratively to:

- Establish a Temporary Safe Stay Area to help protect community members, both housed and unhoused
- Increase security
- Lessen the impacts on the environment from trash and wildfire
- Work collaboratively with service providers and the Coordinated Houselessness Response Office to allocate and leverage county-wide resources to assist in case management

The Deschutes County Board of Commissioners' failure to adopt a resolution implementing our agreement from September is an extremely disappointing development. Our joint City and County constituents are demanding action. The City of Bend is ready to move forward with creating solutions for the Juniper Ridge area to increase safety for nearby residents and property, reduce wildfire risk, give people a safe place to stay, and to provide case management services to help individuals move into more permanent housing. We appreciate the support of Commissioner Tony DeBone who showed a willingness to move forward with the resolution today instead of further delaying implementation of the agreement made at the joint meeting to collaborate and work together on finding solutions to managing the Juniper Ridge area.

The City of Bend remains committed to finding solutions to managing the Juniper Ridge Area. This is an effort that will not be accomplished alone and will take collaboration with both government agencies. The Bend City Council will persistently seek collaboration and firmly urge our colleagues to honor the agreement established on September 5 to make meaningful progress in keeping our entire community safe.



At tonight's City Council meeting, the Council directed the staff to spend American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)\* dollars toward safe parking resources within the City of Bend urban growth boundary, and other eligible services. The ARPA funds must be under contract by December 31, 2024, and spent by December 31, 2026.

*\* ARPA State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds were provided by the Federal government to State and local governments to fund efforts to fight the pandemic, sustain and strengthen the economic recovery, maintain vital public services, and make investments that support long-term growth, opportunity, and equity. ARPA funds have been used by the City to address the public health and negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, including services and infrastructure to support individuals experiencing homelessness.*