July 12, 2012

BEND CHAMBER
CREATING A STRONG LOCAL ECONOMY

Peggy Fisher, District Ranger (Acting)
Bend-Fort Rock Ranger District
63095 Deschutes Market Road
Bend, OR 97701
Re: Mt. Bachelor Project DEIS Comments

Dear Ms. Fisher:

The Bend Chamber supports Mt. Bachelor's Master Development Plan and its impact in improving the economy of the entire Central Oregon region.

Mt. Bachelor has been a key contributor to the success of Bend's community for over 50 years and continues to be an economic driver today. The company's ten year vision not only takes into account the heritage of the region, but it is also innovative in its approach to ensure we are serving the needs of current and future generations.

The Bend Chamber is excited to see the plans of Mt. Bachelor come to fruition and turning the resort into a year-round destination for visitors. The addition of summer activities like downhill mountain biking, trails and a canopy zip line tour will move us forward in enhancing the experience in our national forests.

We are also pleased to see the addition of the Eastside Express, thus offering more skiing and recreational opportunities for our winter tourists. With more area for skiers and recreational enthusiasts, we are solidifying Central Oregon as the place to be during winter.

The creation of a year-round, long-term plan by Mt. Bachelor will turn seasonal employment into an opportunity for more sustainable year round jobs. The local economy will benefit from employees having gainful year-round employment, as well as improve the stability and quality of life to those who are employed.

Mt. Bachelor is an integral part of Central Oregon not only from a recreational and economic perspective, but also through its support of the local community. The organization has increased its support over the last few years through a variety of revolutionary fundraising programs unique to Mt. Bachelor and Central Oregon.

Through the **Charity Ski Weeks** program, Mt. Bachelor has donated $340,825 to local beneficiaries since the program's inception in 2009, averaging over $85,000 per year, with a record breaking contribution last winter of $99,200. A total of 15 Central Oregon non-profit organizations have benefited with cash contributions over the past 4 years.

Previous beneficiaries include: The Environmental Center, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Boys & Girls Club, United Way, MBSEF, Oregon Adaptive Sports, Saving Grace, CASA of Central Oregon, Sparrow Clubs, Family Access Network, Neighbor Impact, Volunteers in Medicine, The Tower Theatre, Girl Scouts, and Boy Scouts.

During the past seven years with its Ski for Schools fundraiser, Mt. Bachelor has generated over $100,000 in proceeds for Bend-La Pine and Redmond schools.

Mt. Bachelor also recently announced its participation in OSU-Cascades 'Ascending New Heights' fundraising initiative to establish a 4-year university in Bend, with a pledge of $250,000.

Through the above efforts, Mt. Bachelor has assisted local charities, non-profit organizations and now OSU-Cascades by offering a discount ticket voucher, whereas upon redemption, 100% of the proceeds are donated directly back to the issuing organization. This is a 'win-win' for Mt. Bachelor, the participating charities, as well as the community by offering local skiers and snowboarders a discounted full-day lift ticket to benefit a worthy cause!

In addition to the aforementioned programs, Mt. Bachelor has contributed to charities through a variety of fundraising channels. From ongoing annual events such as the Dirksen Derby and Oregon Special Olympics, to fulfilling ongoing donation requests with unique product contributions, giving back and supporting the local community is a foundation of Mt. Bachelor's philosophy.

Mt. Bachelor has long been known as a gem in the Pacific Northwest. Above all, this plan will ensure the future growth of the mountain compliments the needs of the community and visitors it serves, as well as enhance the local economy.

Sincerely,

Tim Casey
Executive Director