



Central Oregon Conservation Network
50 SW Bond Street, Suite 4, Bend, OR 97702
541-241-4762
centraloregonpriorities.org

January 22, 2019

Dear Mayor Russell and Bend City Councilors:

While Mirror Pond has long been a centerpiece and identifying feature of Bend, the Deschutes River is the lifeblood of our region, and its health remains critical to our future.

COCN's mission is to improve environmental outcomes and quality of life in the region. On behalf of the Central Oregon Conservation Network (COCN), I write today to encourage you to consider the health of the river, fish passage, and improved habitat and water quality as you look to the future of Mirror Pond. Dredging is not the most ecological approach to maintaining Mirror Pond.

Additionally, COCN opposes the use of public funds for dredging the private land that underlays Mirror Pond. The City has other pressing community-wide priorities that require funding, like affordable housing and transportation.

COCN believes the primary focus of restoration in the Mirror Pond reach of the river should be about the river and needs to include considerations for ecosystem health. We support an ongoing public process that will scientifically evaluate the health of the river and work toward restoring the essential Deschutes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads 'Nikki Roemmer'.

Nikki Roemmer
Coordinator, Central Oregon Conservation Network

COCN is coordinated by the Oregon League of Conservation Voters Education Fund and powered by the thousands of Oregonians who belong to COCN's member organizations: