

Suggested Talking Points

1. Thornburgh Resort proposes to use **millions of gallons of water every day** at a maximum daily rate.
2. I am concerned about the effects of Thornburgh Resort's extensive water usage. The proposed plan will withdraw millions of gallons of water from the underlying aquifer, negatively affecting Whychus Creek.
3. I am worried about the effect of such large water withdrawals on fish and wildlife. For instance, species of trout and Steelhead are already struggling to survive due to current water shortages. Lower water flows mean that streams and waterways quickly heat up to lethal levels for fish, and there is reduced access to spawning grounds. Removing more water from streams and rivers will threaten native species across Central Oregon.
4. Deschutes County Code requires destination resorts to prove that "any negative impact on fish and wildlife resources will be completely mitigated so that there is no net loss or net degradation of the resource." DCC 18.113.070(D). There is little doubt that removing immense amounts of water from the Deschutes River, Whychus Creek, and the aquifer will hurt fish and wildlife water resources.
5. The Thornburgh Resort reached an agreement over water use with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) in 2008. The resort claimed it would rely on certain cold water sources. *It appears that those water sources may no longer be available.* To protect fish and wildlife, the County requires the resort to either: 1) demonstrate that the terms of the original fish and wildlife mitigation plan are still in place, or 2) if the water sources have changed, the County must require the resort to reach a *new* agreement with ODFW to show that any negative impact on fish and wildlife resources from the new water sources will be completely mitigated.
6. I am opposed to Deschutes County allowing any further development of Thornburgh Resort until the resort demonstrates it complies with the county code requirements for full mitigation of the effects on fish and wildlife.
7. If the water sources have changed, the public should have the right to participate in the process of reaching a new agreement with ODFW to ensure full mitigation of the effects on fish and wildlife.