

Linda Bell, Director
Clackamas County Dept. of Tourism and Cultural Affairs
150 Beaver Creek Road, Suite 205
Oregon City, OR 97045

August 4, 2009

Tourism is the primary economic engine for the Villages at Mt. Hood. The Villages Board of Directors recognizes the importance Visitor Information Centers play in tourism dependent communities. Our community deserves high functioning, extended hours Visitor Information Centers to promote our businesses and the visiting public.

The Villages at Mt. Hood Board of Directors has determined that the USFS information kiosk, by itself, does not meet all of our community's Visitor Information Center (VIC) needs. We thoroughly appreciate all that they do to promote the area; however, their limited hours, seasonal closings on weekends, and limitations to make specific business recommendations as a government agency, limit their ability to fully meet all of the community's VIC needs.

Currently, there is only one other information services business in the Villages at Mt. Hood area. The Wy'East Information Center on Mt. Hood in the Rendezvous area delivers information services 7 days a week, has extended evening hours, and can work directly to assist visitors to find the exact business or lodging property that meets their specific need.

The Villages at Mt. Hood Board of Directors met and determined that, at this time, the Wy'East Information Center on Mt. Hood fills a critical hole in the community's information services architecture. We believe that the Wy'East Information Center merits Clackamas County Tourism dollar support from room tax dollars that are locally generated. We ask for your support in funding this center.

Sincerely,

Bob Reeves,
Chair, Villages at Mt. Hood

Cc: Chair Lynn Peterson, Clackamas County
Commissioner Bob Austin, Clackamas County
Commissioner Jim Bernard, Clackamas County
Commissioner Charlotte Lehan, Clackamas County
Commissioner Ann Lininger, Clackamas County