

Crescent Lake Community Action Team (CLCAT)

Postal Regulatory Commission
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Date: January 14, 2010

Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue NW Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268-001

ATT: Richard Oliver-Docket # PI 2010-1

Regarding: Suspension of the Crescent Lake, Oregon Post Office PRC DOCKET PI-2010-1

Dear Postal Regulatory Commission:

Our Crescent Lake Post office zip code 97425 was suspended on December 6, 2005, because of a disaster. The store that housed the post office was devastated by fire. At the time we lost our post office, we also lost much of our town's identity, and a gathering place for friends in our remote mountain village. At the time of the fire our post office had transitioned and expanded from a Third Class post office (135 units) to a Second Class (260 units) post office.

Mark Bolton, the owner of the store, the Odell Sportsman, quickly contacted the United States Post office (USPS) to enlist help in reestablishing the Crescent Lake Post Office once the building had been rebuilt. Initially he received no response from the USPS regarding our post office, until there was a letter campaign to enlist help from elected officials in communicating with the decision makers inside the USPS. Finally after months of no comment & stalling there was one town meeting with the community and the representatives of the USPS. This town meeting was on March 14, 2006 and was to discuss "our options". At that town meeting it was made clear to us that all alternative locations suggested by the community for the post office were not good enough to meet the standards required by the USPS also it was unlikely that the store and location for the Crescent Lake Post Office, when it was rebuilt, would meet the tough Americans Disability Act (ADA) standards required by the USPS. And "**no**" the USPS would not work with the owner of the store to ensure these tough standards would or could be met. This was really an unfortunate stall tactic since any new building built in the State of Oregon, that is for public (customer) use, is required to meet ADA standards. At this meeting it was also stated by USPS representatives that the store could not be rebuilt in time for the post office to return to its location in the town. This comment was answered by a Klamath County Commissioner, John Elliot, who stated that he would ensure that the county would do all in its power to expedite the process to help

PO Box 1176

Crescent Lake, OR

97733

the store owner meet the deadline set by the USPS to reestablish our Crescent Lake Post Office. Mark Bolton, the store owner, rebuilt the store with an enlarged area included for the post office in the required timeframe that the USPS had stated.

As of this date, January 12, 2010, we have not received from the USPS District Manager or any other USPS representative, a letter stating what is going to happen to our post office. We have received correspondence from the USPS Manager of Operations stating that the mail for Crescent Lake would be handled temporarily out of Crescent, Oregon; where they have a post office that is 17+ miles away. The road linking Crescent Lake to Crescent, Oregon is a secondary road and during the winter months is maintained only after main roads have been successfully cleared. We were informed that we should use the Crescent zip code for ease of mail processing until a final decision was made regarding our Crescent Lake Post Office.

The residents feel they have been harassed by the USPS demanding that we are to use the name Crescent, the name of our neighboring town. We are not to use our own unique zip code and all mail with that zip (97425) is being returned. This dogmatic behavior by the USPS has led to our parcels being returned and our packages, which are delivered by other carriers, are being lost and the use of another zip code is causing confusion. This confusion still goes on today. Also our Certified USPS mail has been signed for by the Post Mistress that is not familiar with us as individuals and is out of touch with what is happening in our little community. However, now there is a new change regarding our USPS mail that requires us to drive 34+ miles round trip to the Crescent Post Office to sign a card in order for our Express mail to be delivered or wait a total of three days or more for the mail to be sent over to us for delivery. If we had our own post master/post mistress we would receive our mail the same day just like the citizens in the other small towns and communities that currently have their own post office. During the winter months the roads can be very icy and treacherous. We are a town of mainly retirees. We have already had a fellow retiree die on the roads coming back from the Crescent Post office because he needed to pick up his mail.

Will our post office be closed or reopened? It appears through this harassment that the USPS has made a decision but we have not been officially informed.

Since the suspension of the post office in Crescent Lake, Oregon the town and surrounding community has grown together in its need and request to have our post office reopened. We in the Town of Crescent Lake have tried in vain to communicate with the decision makers regarding the need to reopen our post office. We have written the Postal Regulatory Commission to request help in restoring our post office. The letters to the Postal Regulatory Commission were answered stating that we needed to wait until the Crescent Lake Post Office was officially closed. Clearly events and issues have caused the Postal Regulatory Commission to look into how small isolated towns in the United States are being treated by the USPS and this is encouraging.

We object to the temporary suspension of our post office because it is really a closing without giving us our rights according to Title 39. We should have had 60 days to object and 30 days to contact the Postal Rate Commission.

We also wish to note the following:

1. In the past 10 years of operation the post office had no break-ins and no theft of mail. No records are available prior to our last postmistress.
2. There are four classes of post offices. The Crescent Lake Post Office was a third class post office with 135 units. In July 2005 there was a recent expansion to 260 units would advance Crescent Lake Post Office to a second class post office
3. CFR at the time stated that when changing the location of a fourth-class office that "is one-fourth of a mile or more from (the) existing location (they shall) furnish a statement signed by majority of customers approving change" of location.
4. After the fire, offers made to the USPS providing office space or temporary post office trailer parking in Crescent Lake were apparently ignored. Consequently, Crescent Lake residents are forced to drive 34+ miles, under sometimes hazardous conditions, to perform complex mail services.
5. USPS took 84 days to directly communicate with Crescent Lake postal patrons after the fire.
6. 39CFR 241.4 was the Code of Federal Regulations governing the emergency situations including fire. It states that the use of emergency and temporary space will be limited to 180 days in duration.

Clearly, the USPS has not followed its required regulations and has not worked with our town and community to come to an equitable arrangement. The USPS has been nothing less than dismissive and has harassed our town to conform to their desires and they have not listened to residents regarding what is best for our town.

We are a very unique town and community. We are an historic town dating over 100 years that is isolated in the Cascade Mountains of Oregon located on Highway 58. Our full time residents are over 250 people. However, we are a recreational resort area and our recreational population is over 3400 people. Along with this we have vacationers visiting our four lake side resorts and during our summer months we have eight federal, state, and privately owned camping facilities. Supporting these recreational activities are restaurants, motels, grocery stores, real estate offices, a state airport, and gas stations along with other support facilities. Our spring and summer residents and visitors enjoy fishing for record breaking Lake Trout, Kokonee, hiking the Pacific Crest Trail along with camping, boating, wind surfing, birding and enjoying our quiet local ambiance. During the winter months our town and community supports downhill skiing, cross country skiing, snow shoe adventures, and snowmobiling on groomed trails that take the riders up to the high mountains. In one day you can literally leave your home or cabin on a snowmobile and ride to Crater Lake National Park for lunch and return home in time for dinner. All of this on groomed trails maintained by the local snowmobile club, Walker Rim Riders, for our winter residents and guest.

Because we are so unique in where and how we live our high mountain life we also have many residents and visitors that come to stay for many weeks and months at a time. Back when we had our own post office these residents would have their mail forwarded to Crescent Lake to be held and delivered to them by our Post Mistress. Living here in the middle of a wilderness surrounded by National Forest and near clear high mountain lakes the USPS gave us a unique ability to keep in touch with our family and friends many miles away. Also, because of our position along the Pacific Crest Trail, which runs from the United States border with Mexico to the United States border with Canada, we have many hikers and outdoorsmen that depend on our town for refreshing their supplies. When you hike the Pacific Crest Trail you sign in at selected points along the trail. This way the authorities can determine, when there are emergencies in the area, the number of possible hikers on the trail and determine their possible locations. Also this enables the hikers to request boxes of supplies to be delivered to the next check point and resupply. Crescent Lake is one of those checkpoints and a resupply location. This has added an extra burden to the hikers along the route.

After our post office was destroyed by fire we had a signed petition requesting the return of our post office and we gave a copy to the Postal Representatives. We had one meeting with the representatives and we filled out one mail-in questionnaire. As time passed not only have our full time residents become more resolute in wanting our post office returned but our recreational residents have also felt the lack of support for our town and community by the lack of postal support. We recently had another petition to see if the support was waning or growing for the return of a post office. We were overwhelmed by the increasing support and response of our residents in wanting our own post office and a unique zip code returned. These petitions are available upon request. The second petition is approximately 17 pages and this clearly shows us that a fully functioning post office is needed by all of our residents and visitors.

After losing our unique zip code we have struggled to maintain our identity and not be lost to another community over 17 miles away. We suffered the tragedy of a small airplane crash that was so confusing to the search and rescue response that they were setting up for the emergency response in a different town altogether. This mix-up caused the survivors of the crash, with severe injuries, to spend an extra night out in the wilderness during the middle of winter. Then once again another mix up took place when we had an arson fire in the national forest land that grew into a major Wildland fire and threatened our town. Because of the USPS persistence to change the name of our town and the persistence to change our zip code, the federal and state response to our fire initially set up camp forty miles north of where they should have been to make the daily commute to come in and fight the fire. Once again the reaction we received was the dumb struck response when the emergency responders finally found their way to our mountain town and could not understand why the post office is insisting that we become non-existent. Hours, sometimes minutes are critical when responding to a fire! Knowing where Crescent Lake is located by not only Global Positioning System Coordinates but also by computerized mapping software that uses zip codes to locate towns and community helps bring emergency response in minutes not hours or days later.

What we have here in Crescent Lake is a very unique environment that will continue to bring visitors, and residents back year after year. Between our spring and summer recreational opportunities and our fall and winter recreational activities, Crescent Lake has what is seldom found across the country and not found anywhere else in the State of Oregon. Yes, there is snowmobiling in other places in Oregon but not where you can ride groomed trails up to the high Cascade Mountains and dine in a historic restaurant and return to gather with friends and family at the local hangout. Or to take your Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) and travel the trails and roads to the top of mountains and gaze with wonder at the majestic views before you.

If our town was slowly closing due to bad economic times and struggling to maintain its identity due to residents moving away to find better opportunities, we here in Crescent Lake would find all that acceptable. We suffered in our past history when the logging industry moved away from our town. The Town of Crescent Lake has rebuilt itself with all the recreational opportunities that are available. Currently, our town continues to welcome more and more residents and visitors and they do not understand why the USPS has taken such a stubborn stance to our mountain town.

Crescent Lake needs to have its own unique zip code and its own US Post Office.

If economics is the only reason for closing the Crescent Lake Oregon Post office then we have four recommendations that would be acceptable and would help the USPS. But the most important issue to us is to have open communication with the USPS so we can come up with an agreement that would work for all concerned.

Recommendations:

That Crescent Lake have a unique zip code restored and our own full time post office.

That Crescent Lake have a unique zip code restored and the postal service consolidates the Gilchrist/Crescent Post Offices to Gilchrist, since they are only one mile apart and these two small communities are on a main highway that is highly maintained during the harsh winter weather, and bring the remaining Post Mistress from Crescent to Crescent Lake.

That Crescent Lake have a unique zip code restored and the Gilchrist/Crescent Post Offices are consolidated into one area, since they are only one mile apart, and the post master from Chemult becomes our post master on a part time basis. We would be open to a part time post office if we also have a unique zip code that identifies our town separate from the other communities.

That Crescent Lake have a unique zip code restored and a part time post master along with an Automated Postal Center (APC) installed.

We understand that the use of our old zip code 97425 needs to be replaced because our mail is being serviced through a different processing center. However, through this different processing center there is a unique zip code, 97725 that is available and it is very close to our old zip code.

Unfortunately, because of the resistance to communicate that has been received from the USPS any support or compromise is not open to us. The USPS gave us a set of indoor cluster boxes only after they came up for their one town hall meeting and saw that, with 8 feet of snow along side the roads, it would be impossible for the town to maintain mailboxes in selected locations out-of-doors.

The residents of Crescent Lake are also aware that since the suspension of our post office the Crescent Post Mistress has been slowly showing less and less income attributed to the Crescent Lake Post Office. This is amazing to us because our town has continued to grow with new cabins and homes since our post office has been unofficially closed since December 2005 and we are required to work through her and her office.

We here in Crescent Lake are resolute that we need to have our own unique zip code and a post office of our own. We are willing to appeal the decision to permanently close our post office and the end result of closing the Crescent Lake Post Office would be to permanently close out our historic town's identity.

Having said all of this, I do want you to know that the residents of the Town of Crescent Lake are appreciative to the Crescent Post Office for helping us in a time of need. But we want our historic town to remain and we want our own unique zip code and post office.

I personally want to thank you for your attention to this problem. If you have any further questions or require more information regarding our town and surrounding community please contact me at: 541-433-2218 or by e-mail: cgoevelinger@centurytel.net. Also attached to this letter are letters of testimony by area businesses.

Respectfully,

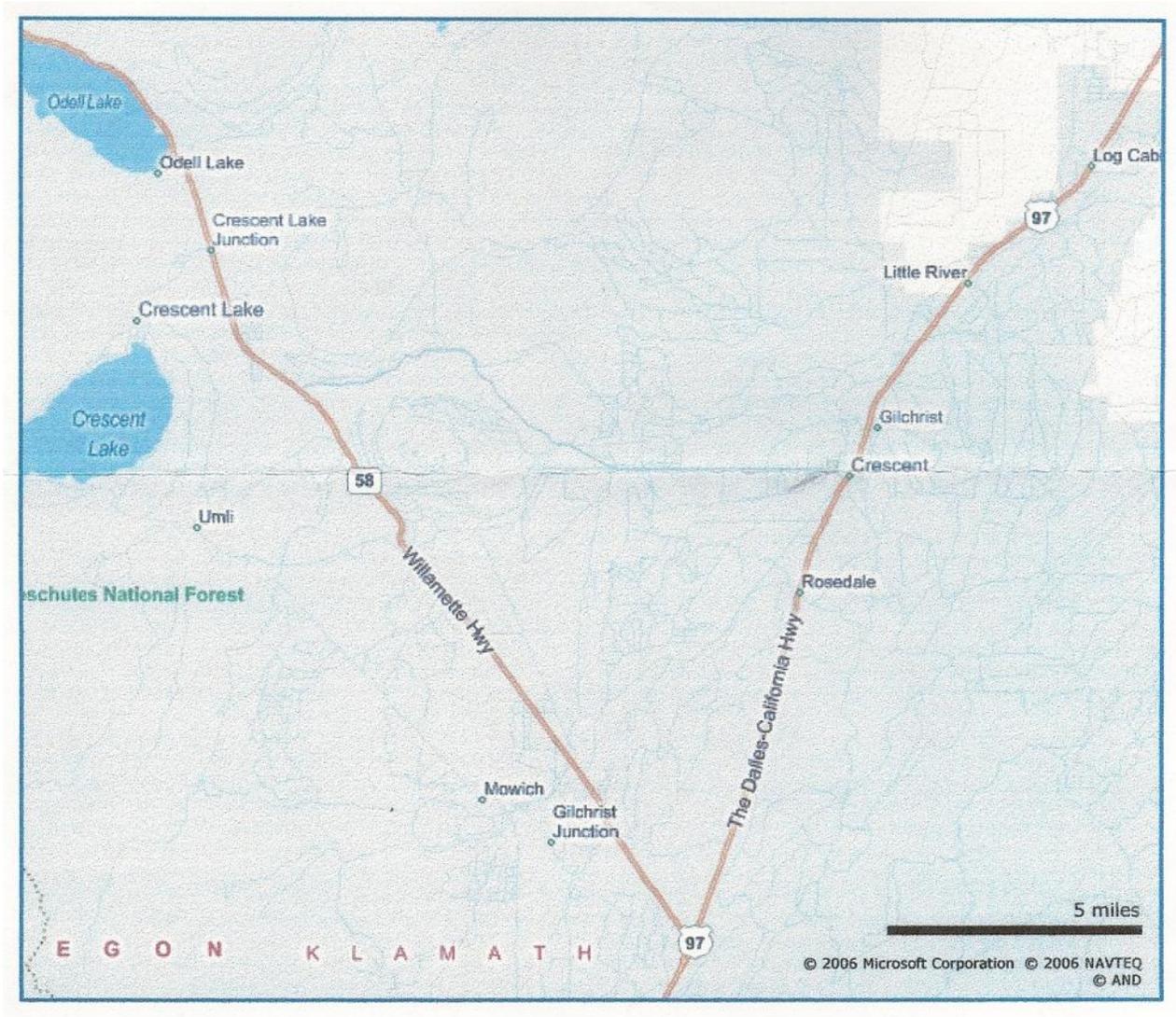


Carol Goevelinger
President, Crescent Lake Community Action Team

Attached:

Map of area: showing Crescent Lake, Gilchrist-Crescent
North Klamath County Chamber of Commerce Membership Listing
Testimonials: Kerry Ellington, Crescent Creek Cottages
Robert Henderson, Willamette Pass Inn
Linda Barron, Broker, Cascade Realty at Crescent Lake
Tim Cramblit, Chief, Central Cascades Fire & EMS

Cc'd: Mark Bolton, Owner, Odell Sportsman
John Elliot, Klamath County Commissioner
Greg Walden, Congressional Representative
Doug Whitsett, State Senator
Betty H. Eickler, USPS Advisor
Crescent Lake Community Action (CLCAT) Team and website:
www.centraloregoncommunityactionteams.org



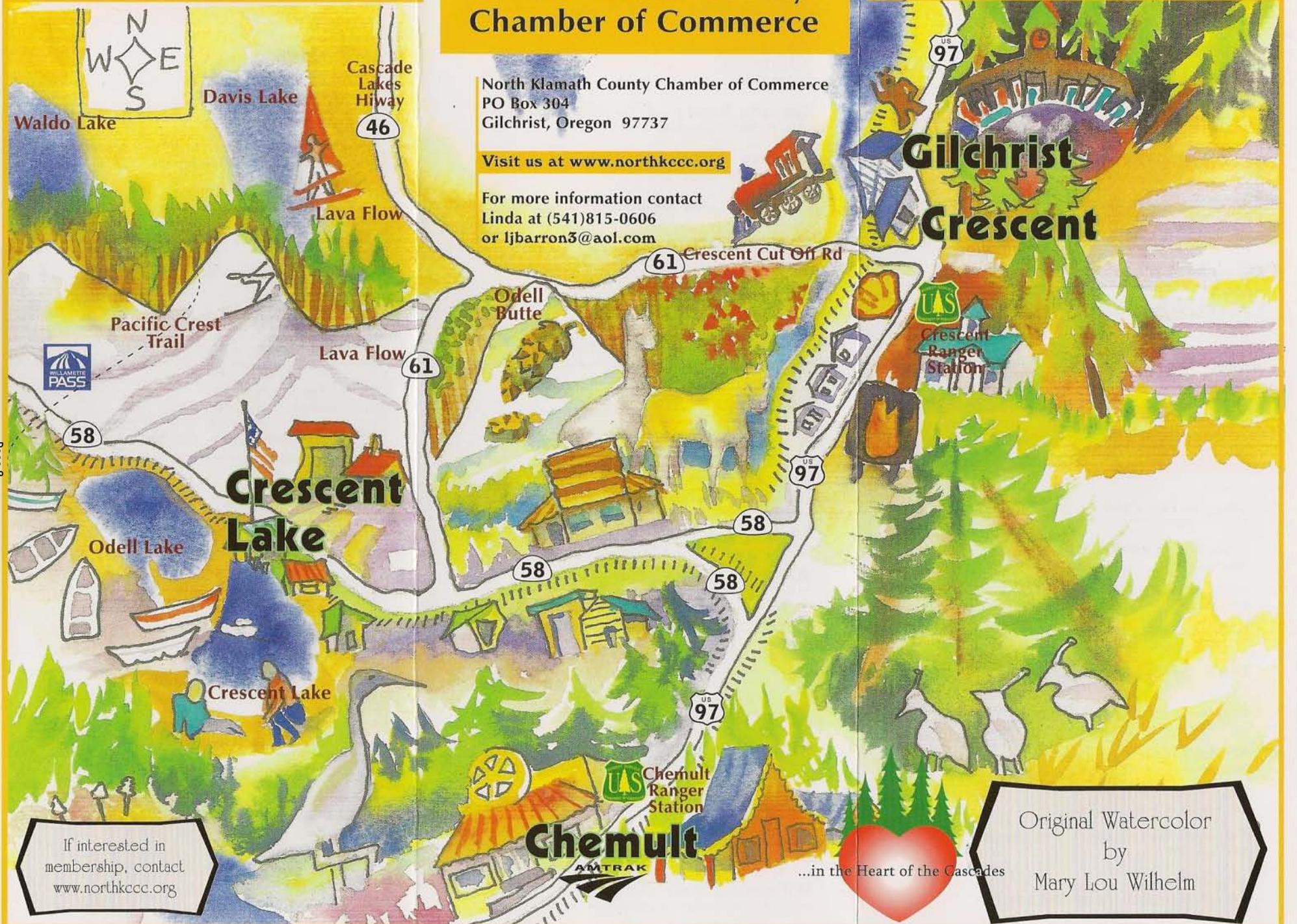
- The distance between Crescent and Gilchrest is one (1) mile.
- The distance between Crescent and Crescent Lake is 17+ miles.
- Travel between Crescent and Gilchrist is by way of US Highway 97.
- Travel between Crescent and Crescent Lake is by Crescent Cutoff Road.

North Klamath County Chamber of Commerce

North Klamath County Chamber of Commerce
PO Box 304
Gilchrist, Oregon 97737

Visit us at www.northkccc.org

For more information contact
Linda at (541)815-0606
or ljbarron3@aol.com



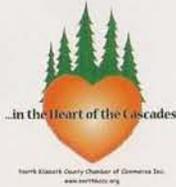
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If interested in membership, contact www.northkccc.org

Original Watercolor
by
Mary Lou Wilhelm

...in the Heart of the Cascades

2008 Membership Listing



North
Klamath
County
Chamber of
Commerce,
Inc.
www.northkccc.org

Chemult

Double D Mountain Market;
541-365-2216; ddmountainmarket@centurytel.net

Feather Bed Inn;
541-365-2235; gidget1@thefeathbedinn.com

Pilot Travel Center;
541-365-0991; www.pilottravelcenter.com

Crescent

Clearwater Contracting LLC;
541-433-2627

Crescent Country Market;
541-433-0040

Crescent RV Park;
541-433-2950; chuck@kenspportinggoods-or.com

DBA All Ways Signs;
541-433-2044; kapp@eoni.com

Ken's Sporting Goods & Liquor Store;
541-433-2530; chuck@kenspportinggoods-or.com

Little River Backhoe;
541-771-2254; baymunk@msn.com

Little River Bar & Grill;
541-954-5641; calc4@juno.com

M&L Enterprise;
541-815-0039 or 541-433-2205

Mohawk Restaurant & Lounge;
541-433-2836

R & K Guns;
541-420-0484; gunsbyliencerray@yahoo.com

Crescent Lake

ARBONNE;
503-557-0443

Cascade Realty at Crescent Lake;
541-433-5678; ljbaron3@aol.com

Crescent Creek Cottages & RV Park;
541-433-2324; ellingt5@aol.com

Crescent Lake General Store;
541-433-2533

Crescent Lake Lodge & Resort;
541-433-2505

Crescent Lake Property Management;
541-433-2227; RDSKLS@earthlink.net

Crescent Lake Realty, Inc.;
541-433-5468; sally@crescentlakeoregon.com

Crescent Lake Visitors Center;
541-433-5368; sally@crescentlakeoregon.com

Diane Davidson

**Diamond Peaks Neighborhood Watch
(DPNW);** www.dpnw.org

KJ's Cafe';
541-433-2005; kmatkowski@hotmail.com

Manley's Tavern;
541-433-9637

Jeff Moore Trucking;
541-429-2852; jeffmooretrucking@yahoo.com

Muffin Manor;
541-433-5310; rebelgcc@aol.com

Odell Lake Lodge & Resort;
541-433-2540; odellakeresort@yahoo.com

Odell Sportsman Center;
541-433-9366; odellsportsman@yahoo.com

Showcase Antiques;
541-420-9539

Taylor Stone, Artisan;
spiritualstone@hotmail.com

Willamette Pass Inn & Chalets;
541-433-2211; www.willamettepassinn.com

Gilchrist

Art of the Heart;
541-433-2861 or 541-815-0930

CAT/DBA-KITCLP_FM;
541-433-5482

Crafted Guitars;
541-433-5444; eggflats@hotmail.com

Gilchrist Mall & Deli;
541-433-5367; michaelina9@aol.com

**Gilchrist Family Restaurant & Pine
Room;**
541-433-2523; pwardp698@aol.com

Gilchrist Inn;
541-433-2878; www.gilchristinn.com

Gilchrist Real Estate;
541-433-2963; kristymet@aol.com

Interfor Pacific;
541-433-2222

**North Klamath Co. Chamber Visi-
tors Center;** www.northkccc.org

South Valley Bank;
541-433-2936; bsullivan@southvalleybank.com

Watercolors by Mary Lou;
541-815-3356

Western Travel and Recreation;
bert@coinet.com

Other Members

"Chosen to Serve" Ministries, Inc.;
resources@chiloquin.org

Ghost Rock Ranch;
541-536-5593; gina@ghostrockranch.com

Little d Technology;
541-536-1079; tony@littledtech.com

Mid State Electric;
541-536-1423

**Wilderness Garbage & Recycle Cen-
ter;** 541-536-1194

Crescent Creek Cottages & RV Park
19100 Hwy 58, Crescent Lake, OR 97425

January 11, 2010

Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue NW Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268-001

ATT: Richard Oliver-Docket # PI 2010-1

Regarding: Suspension of the Crescent Lake, Oregon Post Office PRC DOCKET PI-2010-1

Dear Postal Regulatory Commission:

I have been a full time resident and business owner in Crescent Lake, Oregon for 10 years. My business has been in Crescent Lake since the early 1900's. Our P. O. Box number was actually 7, until the Odell Sportsman burned in 2005.

I was on the local Fire Board at that time and was involved in dealing with the postal authorities trying to create a temporary place to receive our mail. We live on a mountain that has very treacherous roads in the winter. It is approx. 16 miles each way to mail a package, pick up mail or sign for mail. Our community is comprised of mainly retired elderly people, many who do not drive in the storms. We had temporary allowed cluster boxes installed on the fire dept. property until our post office could be rebuilt.

Since that time, we have been summarily dismissed by the postal authorities. Post office boxes were put back into the Odell Sportsman without any postmaster. We still have to drive to Crescent to mail packages, pick up registered/express mail, or retrieve packages that are left there.

The DMV refuses to acknowledge Crescent Lake with the 97733 zip code. The Veteran's administration, social security, IRS and other governmental agencies will not recognize it. Our mail is mis-delivered, returned and lost. There is no way to know what we haven't received. A local business owner nearly failed to get a loan because of a returned bill she was not expecting caused a black mark on her credit report. It has caused serious hardship for our residents. One of our longtime, elderly residents died in a single car crash on the Crescent Cut Off Rd on icy, slick roads. He was going to Crescent to get his mail.

I am also a real estate broker. The MLS, multiple listing service, does not recognize the 97733 zip code, only 97425. If an agent uses the "new" zip code the property will not come up on a search. This has caused serious hardship and financial loss to owners/sellers and agents alike. Mapquest only recognizes 97425 for directions to this area. This has caused our clients and guests to suffer hardship, getting lost and frustration. Not the right professional image one is trying to portray. NOAA only recognizes 97425.

I do not understand the logic behind this mess. The USPS has a very tarnished image and should be trying to increase their revenue not decrease it. It is in my best interest to ask clients, guests and family members to use one of your competitors to conduct business because I can no longer trust you. We were always proud of our little post office. It was a meeting place for the community in the mornings and a way to check on our elderly neighbors. We were proud of our postmistress and knew that she cared if our mail was correctly distributed.

I have personally written letters to Marcia Teeters, Dallas Keck, Robert Zlytek and Mr. Black in Denver. Out of frustration, I actually wrote to the Postmaster General. Obviously, I was ignored. Our community deserves to have our post office back. There is a space for it in the re-built Odell Sportsman. You continue to ignore the seriousness of this matter. We are growing, with a new destination resort being built on the Crescent Cut-Off Rd. This will bring additional residents and businesses to our area. How can you just ignore us? Is this the new USPS? Should we continue to ignore you and move to your competitors? Do you even care?

We are asking again for you to please re-open our post office. We need it, deserve it, and want it back immediately.

Sincerely,



Kerry Ellington
Crescent Creek Cottages & RV Park
(541) 433-2324
&
Cascade Realty at Crescent Lake
(541) 815-6363

Current lousy mailing address: P. O. Box 1007, Crescent Lake, OR 97733

Don't bother mailing me anything as it will probably be returned!

Regarding: Appealing the Closure of the Crescent Lake Post Office

Dear Commissioners:

As the owner of a resort in Crescent Lake, Oregon I would very much like to see the United States Post Office reopened in Crescent Lake which was closed due to a fire in 2005 and never reopened. The store that housed the previous U. S. Post Office was rebuilt with space to accommodate the replacement post office and has been available for the Postal Service to reopen the Post Office since 2006.

We send and receive time sensitive materials to wit: Federal and State taxes, County and State Lodging taxes, certified and registered mail from the Dept. of Employment as well as the IRS. This time sensitive material (sending and receiving) requires that we drive a 40 mile round trip daily to the Post Office in Crescent often in blizzard conditions in the winter time. Also, any outgoing mail over one ounce can not be mailed in a mailbox so it must be handed to a Postal Clerk 20 miles away in Crescent.

In that we are over 75 miles from any town over 1000 people we have nearly all of our supplies, and maintenance and repair parts delivered almost daily. When we had a U S Post Office in Crescent Lake we could use the postal service for 85% of our shipping services, using UPS for only the heaviest and largest shipments. With our post office eliminated by the Postal Service we now use UPS exclusively because they deliver to us without us making a 40 mile round trip to receive a package or a letter, HOWEVER, we would welcome having the services of the U S Postal Service reinstated as we would go back to using those services for 85% of our shipping and receiving business as the U S Post Office in Crescent Lake would be more convenient than UPS.

I do not feel it would be necessary to have the Post Office open full time as part time would surely suffice for the community. Even limited hours would eliminate the 40 mile drive to send and receive letters and packages for the entire community , business and residential customers. Our business would support a Post Office.

Also, having my mailing address as Crescent, Oregon when my business is in Crescent Lake on Hwy 58 (which does not go through Crescent) is very confusing to my potential and new customers. It is critical that my business be identified with Crescent Lake as all of my customers come to me because I am in the Crescent Lake community, close to the lake and the snow ski area and Not 20 miles away in Crescent on Hwy 97.

Our identity as Crescent Lake Oregon is vital to all the business's in our community since we all depend on the tourist business and without the " Lake " in our address's we no longer exist separately

from the Crescent/Gilchrist community which is 20 miles away from us and has 2 Full Time U S Post Offices 1 mile apart from each other.

Thank you for you attention to this matter as it is of vital importance to everyone in this community, year round residents, summer residents, business owners and tourists alike.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Robert W. Henderson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Robert W. Henderson

President & CEO

Willamette Pass Inn LLC

Willamette Pass Chalets LLC

Postal Regulatory Commissioner:

January 13, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

The closing of our post office in Crescent Lake has directly affected me as a business owner and the effectiveness of my business. I am a real estate broker in Crescent Lake, Oregon. I deal with people who live locally and those who access their information via the internet from all over the state and other state's as well.

Those looking for property have a specific target in mind. Crescent Lake, Oregon and Crescent, Oregon denote two very different economic areas and draw two very different clientel. They are 17 miles apart. Crescent Lake, surrounded by gorgeous lakes, resorts, Ski Pass and hundreds of walking trails. Is a vacationers' mecca. Crescent, a small town linking Chemult to Gilchrist along the Hwy 97 corridor is primarily residential. Giving both towns the same zip code has made it impossible for many to locate Crescent Lake property. When googled they get Crescent along Hwy 97. This applies to other out of area agents as well.

Insurance Companies are quoting inaccurate rates. The Fire protection Class is a Class 9 in Crescent Lake. It is a Class 5 in the town of Crescent. From a consumer's point of view, it is very inconvenient and inaccurate information that property owners are being quoted.

To google property in Crescent Lake the zip code given redirects people to a completely different area.

Buying office supplies or requesting a mailing is sometimes impossible. The physical address is not recognized with the new zip code. This is very frustrating from a business point of view. To market a business, to effectively direct clients to property one needs to not question your location. Our location in now being questioned all the time.

We desperately need our own zip code.. Our community identity is very important to the continued growth in our area.

Sincerely,

Linda Barron

Broker, Cascade Realty at Crescent Lake

Resident of Crescent Lake

To whom it may concern, Greetings,

In regards to the arbitrary suspension/ closure of the Crescent Lake, Oregon 97425 Post Office and loss of zip code.

My concern, as Fire Chief for Central Cascades Fire & EMS, is that without a community zip code we have also lost community identity. This was apparent during the 2008 Royce Butte Conflagration where federal resources and personnel, as well as regional and national news agencies ended up in the wrong community. These kinds of mix-ups can contribute to loss of life and property. This is a public safety issue.

This is important for statistical purposes which are used for funding and resource applications. Insurance companies also do not have an accurate way to locate us for insurance coverage for homeowner or business insurance. The existing Crescent zip code provides highly inaccurate and misleading information. We also regularly have civilians who are lost looking for local residences because their GPS and other electronic search devices send them to Crescent/Gilchrist, approx. 17 miles east.

We regularly have phone and mail mix-ups with Crescent Fire District because of the shared zip code. These mix-ups were the motivator behind our district changing names from Crescent-Odell Lakes RFPD to Central Cascades Fire & EMS. The change from our old zip, 97425, to Crescent's zip, 97733, has just put us back to where we were prior to the name change.

As Fire Chief, I request the return of our old 97425 zip code, to help preserve and protect our community. If the Postal Service cannot provide full postal services in our community, at least consider limited services several days (1 or 2 even) per week. I believe that the community is willing to agree to a reasonable level of service, but arbitrary suspension of service and loss of our historic zip code is not acceptable. This has gone on for far too long.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Cramblit, Chief
Central Cascades Fire & EMS
20400 Crescent Lake Highway
PO Box 1065
Crescent Lake, Oregon 97425-1065
541-433-2800, fax: 541-433-2801
e-mail: 1201ccfems@centurytel.net