



Sisters Growth by Jojo (grade 7)

Have you seen new faces in Sisters lately? Of course you have! Sisters is growing rapidly. But why? People are moving from the big city and coming out to the country because they want to be in a peaceful place, not the big city where there are a lot of cars and traffic. But when more people come here they are bringing more traffic to Sisters. Businesses need employees and the available housing make more people come to Sisters. The city council debated making a police station because as more people come to Sisters, there is more crime. There is still not that much crime in our town, however, so the council decided not to make a police station.

In Sisters people plan to build more affordable housing. When that happens, even more people will be able to live in the town. More people also mean that more businesses will open, which can be a good thing for the economy. Will Sisters eventually grow into a city as big as Bend? Whether you think its good or bad, Sisters is growing rapidly.

Fishing in Central Oregon by Makiha (grade 7)

There are many great places in Oregon to fish and have a great time. Since I can't name all of those places, I wrote about two places I know. As a fisherman, I love to share my info with other anglers and help them be successful. Here are some tips:

Just outside of Sisters there is Three Creeks Lake. It is a small lake with some awesome fishing for brook and rainbow trout. I fish with an ultra lite spinning rod with six pound test ultra green. Then I tie on a panther martin or a size three blue fox. I troll in a canoe or one of the available rental boats. I also walk around the lake and cast out and reel slowly in from the bank.

The upper Deschute River in Crooked River Ranch is a great all around fishing river. There are rainbow and brown trout and white fish. Here you can use the same set up described above with a size seven gold and black rapala or a silver and black with an ultralight spinning rod. If the water is murky you will want to use a size 11 or 13 rainbow trout rapala. Please always make sure you release more than you keep!

Elk Habitat by Hanna (grade 5)

Consider the elk for a moment. Their habitat is in forests and meadows. Elk like to live in forests because of all the food they can find. There are a variety of fresh grasses, plants and berries, like roships, for them to eat. Sometimes elk like to live in meadows because there are grass and water. Another important aspect of the elk's habitat are thickets. Thickets are places where there are a lot of trees and bushes. Something that is good about thickets is that elk can hide in them. Thickets also have a lot of leaves and different barks and grasses for them to eat.

The Metolius Basin is a wonderful habitat for elk. In fact, a herd has been seen by many people this winter near Camp Sherman. We even saw it from the school bus one morning right near the four corners stop. Be aware that with the elk herd here, more cougars have also been sighted near town.

In winter elk search for food and warmth. If they can't find food they will eat bark off trees or leaves. Some elk can't reach the leaves or can't get the bark off of trees. Baby elk will stay with their mother until they can find their own food and water without their mother. Some of them might die in the process of winter but the rest will go hungry and thirsty. Looking for warmth they slog through the snow.

In my opinion, elk are one of the most beautiful animals on earth. Their fur is like a blanket, a beautiful blanket and a beautiful animal.



Elk in Central Oregon. Photo credit: Sara Gregory deschutescollaborativeforest.org/guest-bloggers/migrating-elk-deer-central-oregon