



## AGENDA

*(Chair May Alter the Agenda)*

### BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Tuesday, June 28, 2022

GoToMeeting: <https://meet.goto.com/890052469>

or Dial [1 \(571\) 317-3122](tel:15713173122); Access Code 890-052-469#

Livestream: <http://facebook.com/BentonCoGov>

**THE BOARD WILL TAKE A BRIEF RECESS BETWEEN THE WORK SESSION AND BUSINESS MEETING**

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9:00 A.M.

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#### I. Opening:

- A. Introductions
- B. Announcements

#### II. Comments from the Public

*Time restrictions may be imposed on public comment, dependent on the business before the Board of Commissioners. Individual comment may be limited to three minutes.*

#### III. Review and Approve Agenda

#### IV. Work Session

- 4.1 9:00 a.m., 1 hour - Annual Update from Bureau of Land Management & Siuslaw National Forest - *Andy Frazier, Scott Snedaker, Dan Eddy; Bureau of Land Management; Michele Holman, Siuslaw National Forest*
- 4.2 10:00 a.m., 30 minutes - Update from Visit Corvallis - *Christina Rehklau, Visit Corvallis*

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BUSINESS MEETING

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**V. Information Sharing:** (If time permits the following section will be heard. *The chief purpose of "Information Sharing" items is to allow the Board of Commissioners time and a venue to update one another of their individual activities.*)

- 5.1 Nancy Wyse, Chair
- 5.2 Pat Malone, Commissioner
- 5.3 Xanthippe Augerot, Commissioner
- 5.4 Joe Kerby, County Administrator

**VI. Other**

ORS 192.640(1)" . . . notice shall include a list of the principal subjects anticipated to be considered at the meeting, but this requirement shall not limit the ability of a governing body to consider additional subjects."

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**  
**BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**Tuesday, June 28, 2022**  
**GoToMeeting link: <https://meet.goto.com/890052469>**  
**Livestream: <http://facebook.com/BentonCoGov>**  
**9:00 a.m.**

**Present:** Nancy Wyse, Chair; **Xanthippe Augerot**, Commissioner; **Joe Kerby**, County Administrator; **Vance Croney**, County Counsel

**Excused:** **Pat Malone**, Commissioner

**Staff:** **JoeHahn**, Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion; **Amanda Makepeace**, BOC staff; **Erika Milo**, BOC Recorder; **Lynne McKee**, Natural Areas, Parks & Events

**Guests:** **Dan Eddy**, **Andy Frazier**, **Scott Snedaker**, Bureau of Land Management; **Michele Holman**, Siuslaw National Forest; **Peggy Perdue**, resident

Chair Wyse called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

**I. Opening:**  
**A. Introductions**  
**B. Announcements**

There were no announcements.

**II. Comments from the Public**

No comment was offered.

**III. Review and Approve Agenda**

No changes were made to the agenda.

**IV. Work Session**

**4.1 Annual Update from Bureau of Land Management (BLM) & Siuslaw National Forest (SNF) -- Andy Frazier, Scott Snedaker, Dan Eddy, Bureau of Land Management; Michele Holman, Siuslaw National Forest**

Holman reported that for the Marys Peak Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) communications site project, BPA sent an analysis and decision to move the existing communications site adjacent to the National Forest system site and co-locate with SNF. The Forest Service adopted that analysis and signed the draft decision to issue a permit. Some community members objected to the permit, primarily those who want the site to move off Marys Peak. The objection period is over and the Forest Service is ready to make a final decision, pending concurrence from the Fish and Wildlife Service about BPA's biological assessment. BPA intends to start construction in spring 2023.

Augerot asked if that would expand the facility's footprint on Marys Peak.

Holman replied this will make the footprint smaller; there will just be a small building and an antenna. Some engineering design work is needed for the tower platform.

Several Title II stewardship projects (from retained receipts from timber sales) were worked on this year. Secure Rural schools awarded \$69,000. Benton County received funds for:

- City of Corvallis Public Works: \$3,200 to treat non-native invasive species along roads and areas in the Corvallis watershed.
- Forest Service: \$5,000 for dump site cleanup, towing abandoned vehicles and boats, and hazardous materials removal.
- Marys Peak: meadow restoration is ongoing on BLM, SNF, and City of Corvallis lands.
- Road maintenance: \$20,000 for 15 miles of road drainage and surface maintenance.

Responding to a question from Augerot, Holman confirmed that the Resource Advisory Council had been reconstituted with full membership. This year an estimated 14 full-time equivalent positions were generated through stewardship projects in Benton County, based on earned income of \$604,000. Staff are preparing a summary of projects in all covered Counties. 2021 stewardship timber sales generated \$3.3 million for on-forest projects and \$700,000 for off-forest projects. Projects already assigned: in 2022, \$66,000 was spent on the west point Marys Peak meadow. The Marys River Watershed Council worked on Greasy Creek invasive plants control and trout habitat and Upper Marys River fish habitat. Several timber sales are ongoing, mostly in Lincoln and Lane Counties. Fire program: staff have good relationships with local Oregon Department of Forestry, and are working on preparedness. Due to rain in late June 2022, fire risk predictions have gone down considerably. Siuslaw homeless issues in 2021: Benton County is relatively low compared to other counties. One fairly large homeless camp at the base of Marys Peak is no longer there. Holman thanked Benton County Sheriff's Office for support.

Snedaker shared that Marys Peak Field Manager Paul Snyder is no longer working there. Snedaker summarized project activities, including the Ridgeview Overlook, Bummer Creek restoration, and Alsea Falls Campground (see packet).

Frazier reported on the BLM timber sale program in Benton County. The Beaty Ryder late secessionary reserve sale, west of the Community of Alsea, is active. In 2020, \$1.4 million was sold to local business Murphy Company; operations will wrap up in 2023. Staff are in the early planning stages of the Aloha Trout project, east of Alsea; work should begin in Fiscal Year 2024. Other areas include North Highway 126 sales and the Lobster Valley area, scheduled for sale starting in 2023. Responding to a question from Augerot about sales, Frazier replied that the 2020 Labor Day fires shifted the situation. Starting January 2021, the Marys Peak Field Office helped the Cascade Field Office with fire salvage; staff are still working to put up sales from this. Sales in Benton County will pick back up in the next year. Markets are very good.

Augerot praised the collaboration and implementation of new State wildfire legislation.

Eddy replied that BLM is still evaluating the State approach, seeing how the Federal pieces will combine. The Wildfire Risk Map will be out this week, which should help identify future fuels treatments. Forests are back to average fuel moistures and a slow start to fire season is expected.

#### **4.2 \*Update from Visit Corvallis (VC) - *Christina Rehklau, Visit Corvallis***

Rehklau reported that VC has continued project work during the pandemic, and was able to make payroll cuts instead of laying off staff. Staff are finishing the Mid-Willamette Valley Food Trail, a Travel Oregon program which includes 52 local farms, restaurants, and other eco-tourism businesses. Travel Oregon is a marketing tool but also presents many opportunities to businesses.

Travel Oregon and Oregon Department of Transportation funded a smartphone travel application for the Marys Peak to Pacific Scenic Byway. The app provides a narrative about history and sights along the drive.

Just before the pandemic, VC received a Travel Oregon grant to do visitor research. The City of Corvallis is often associated with Oregon State University (OSU), but VC found that people who order the VC visitor guide and use the VC website are less interested in OSU. Following the research, VC engaged in rebranding.

The Visitor Center moved from the Chamber of Commerce to a downtown Corvallis location, which tripled the number of walk-ins since visitors are already downtown. Restaurants are pleased. Because VC was encouraged not to promote visitation during the pandemic, the organization put more emphasis on public relations and is starting to reach new markets.

Hotel tax revenue returned abruptly in June 2021, even higher than in 2019. The World Athletics Championships (WAC) will occur in September 2022; hotel demand is expected to stay strong through the end of that month. VC just completed the Heart of the Valley Adventure Map, a partnership with Willamette Valley Visitors Association and Travel Oregon. With funding from partners, the \$12-13,000 project cost VC about \$1,500. The map will be available in July 2022, hopefully in time for early WAC arrivals. Hotels will probably sell out during WAC. There is some pushback about WAC crowds, which could reduce restaurant and retail business, but VC has provided businesses with information about options to suggest to visitors. The Oregon Senior Games will be held in August 2022, with around 495 athletes registered so far.

This year, VC will take about three months to re-do its three-year strategic plan. The Board will receive a survey. Past tourism has been promotional; now there is interest in more product development, including brochures and working on a Willamette River trail.

Rehklau described ways the County can help, such as supporting agritourism and downtown Corvallis. Regarding Benton County's three rounds of American Rescue Plan Act funding, Rehklau encouraged the County to help organizations that did not receive Paycheck Protection Program or Economic Injury Disaster Loan funds, such as non-501(c)3 organizations and new businesses. Consider smaller loans to businesses in the last round. VC was unable to apply because of how it is funded by Corvallis. VC is considering ways to help the Corvallis-Benton County Economic Development Office, a small office which is short one employee. EDO is interested in taking over the Main Street program. The Downtown Corvallis Association is dissolving; VC is trying to support Simon Date in taking over some of those roles.

Augerot praised VC for making Benton County more visible, adding the outdoor recreation aspect, making partnerships, and leveraging funds.

McKee and Wyse thanked Rehklau and staff.

## **{Exhibit 1: Visit Corvallis presentation}**

### **V. Information Sharing**

#### **5.1 Nancy Wyse, Chair**

No business was discussed.

#### **5.2 Xanthippe Augerot, Commissioner**

Augerot mentioned that ABC House seeks sponsorship for a run which will be held in Benton County for the first time. ABC House serves children in Linn and Benton counties who have suffered sexual abuse. Sponsorship levels range from \$600 to \$5,000.

Wyse commented that the Board donated \$600 in April 2022.

Augerot noted that if the County contributes \$1,200, its logo is featured on participant t-shirts.

**MOTION:** Augerot moved that Benton County contribute \$1,200 to support the ABC House Superhero Fun Run & Walk, to be held here in Benton County, and to support the work of the organization. Wyse seconded the motion, which **passed 2-0.**

Kerby to determine the source of funds and request an invoice from ABC House.

Augerot asked Kerby to resume quarterly updates on the Board budget. Augerot met yesterday with Representative David Gomberg and will meet with Senators Gelser Blouin and Representative Dan Rayfield this week to brief them on the Justice Systems Improvement Program and solid waste issues. Gomberg's priorities include housing affordability, public safety, transportation, and staffing.

### **5.3 Pat Malone, Commissioner**

No business was discussed.

### **5.4 Joe Kerby, County Administrator**

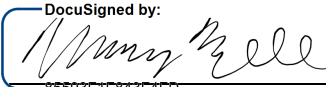
Kerby discussed meeting technology. The July 5, 2022 Board Meeting will use the Owl audiovisual recording device and test Zoom instead of GoToMeeting, which will stabilize the County's platform and allow greater accessibility for people with disabilities. The County will continue to use GoToMeeting internally until the organization migrates to Teams in late 2022 or early 2023.

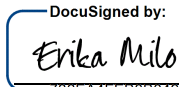
### **VI. Other**

No other business was discussed.

### **VII. Adjournment**

Chair Wyse adjourned the meeting at 10:21 a.m.

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 Nancy Wyse, Chair

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 Erika Milo, Recorder

*\* NOTE: Items denoted with an asterisk do NOT have accompanying written materials in the meeting packet.*

# WORK SESSIONS

## MARYS PEAK FIELD OFFICE, NORTHWEST DISTRICT

*Andy Frazier, Supervisory Forester – 503-315-5979*

*Scott Snedaker, Assistant Field Manager – 503-779-7963*

*Dennis Teitzel, Acting District Manager – 503-315-5616*

**Benton County – 57,845 acres of BLM-managed land**



## RIDGEVIEW OVERLOOK

Later this summer, the BLM will start a habitat improvement project along the Marys Peak Road in Benton County. The project will be visible from the roadside overlook at mile 2.5. By removing some vegetation, the project will improve forest habitat by reducing competition between trees, provide logs for nearby stream restoration projects, and restore the view from the roadside overlook. Members of the public have asked us to improve the view from this overlook for many years. Achieving important wildlife and fisheries goals while opening up the view makes this project a real two-for-one effort.

The project will take place on three acres of forestland designated as late-successional reserve. The BLM designates late-successional reserve areas to develop and preserve forests with complex habitat characteristics. The forest within this three-acre project area does not currently have these characteristics.

By removing smaller trees, the BLM will reduce competition around the largest trees. These remaining trees will be able to grow faster without as much competition. This will accelerate the development of big trees with complex crowns important for wildlife species like the northern spotted owl and marbled murrelet. Mid-sized trees removed from the site will be placed in nearby streams to improve fish habitat. None of the trees being removed will be sold for commercial value (e.g., as a timber sale).

Once the work is complete, visitors to the Marys Peak Road overlook will find a clearer view of the Cascade Mountains to the east, including Mount Jefferson and Three Sisters, and the Coast Range to the west.

## BUMMER CREEK RESTORATION SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS PROJECT

**Bummer Creek Tributary Restoration Project** - This project is planned to occur this summer or early fall. The project would place up to 40 pieces of large woody debris in an alcove of Bummer Creek, repair a five-foot head cut on a tributary to Bummer Creek, and replace three side-by-side, partially blocked and undersized culverts with a precast concrete box culvert to allow for full fish passage on a tributary to Bummer Creek. The

Project is located on private land within the Marys Peak Field Office in the Alsea Watershed. The work is approved for Benton County funding under Title II of the Secure Rural Schools Act. The designated Federal official approved this project for \$50,000.

## RECREATION

**Alsea Falls Campground and Day-Use Area; Fall Creek Mountain Bike Area** – The Alsea Falls Campground and Day Use area along the South Fork of the Alsea River remains one of the most popular recreation sites on the Northwest Oregon District, with nearly full reservations every weekend of the summer and lots of activity throughout the week. The campground's use is well-connected to the popular mountain bike area, which has reached its full design build-out under our 2015 Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP), which called for about 13 miles of gravity-assisted trails. Visitation at this site has remained steady throughout the pandemic.

## TIMBER SALES & FORESTRY ACTIVITY

**Beaty Ryder LSR Treatment** – The one active timber sale in Benton County on BLM-managed land is the Beaty Ryder timber sale, which sold in 2020. This project is designed to enhance forest stands for wildlife purposes, such as habitat improvement for species like the Northern Spotted Owl, Marbled Murrelet, and Red Tree Vole. This project also utilizes timber for fish habitat improvement near the site and in nearby streams. This contract, which sold for \$1.4 million is currently operating on BLM managed lands less than a mile north of Alsea. Operations are expected to continue through the year and wrap up in 2023.

**Aloha Trout** – The Marys Peak interdisciplinary team of natural resource scientists, foresters, and engineers are in the early planning stages of the Aloha Trout project, which lies northeast of Alsea on checkerboarded lands interspersed with Starker forest lands. This project will consider regeneration and thinning treatments, primarily on Harvest Land Base lands. We have not begun the public scoping process for the accompanying NEPA process. The team is currently surveying the forest stands, roads, and other natural resources of the lands before proposing any specific treatments. We expect work on the ground to begin in this area in Fiscal Year 2024 and will kick-off a robust public engagement process in the coming year.



# Fiscal Year 2021-22 Update

# Since 2019

- Project work
  - Mid-Willamette Valley Food Trail
  - Marys Peak to Pacific Scenic Byway App
  - Visitor Research
  - Rebrand
  - Visitor Center Move
- Emphasis on PR



# Current Situation

- Revenue returned to normal levels in June 2021
- Expect demand to stay strong through end of September



# Current Projects

- Heart of the Valley Adventure Map
- World Athletics Championships/OR22
- Oregon Senior Games



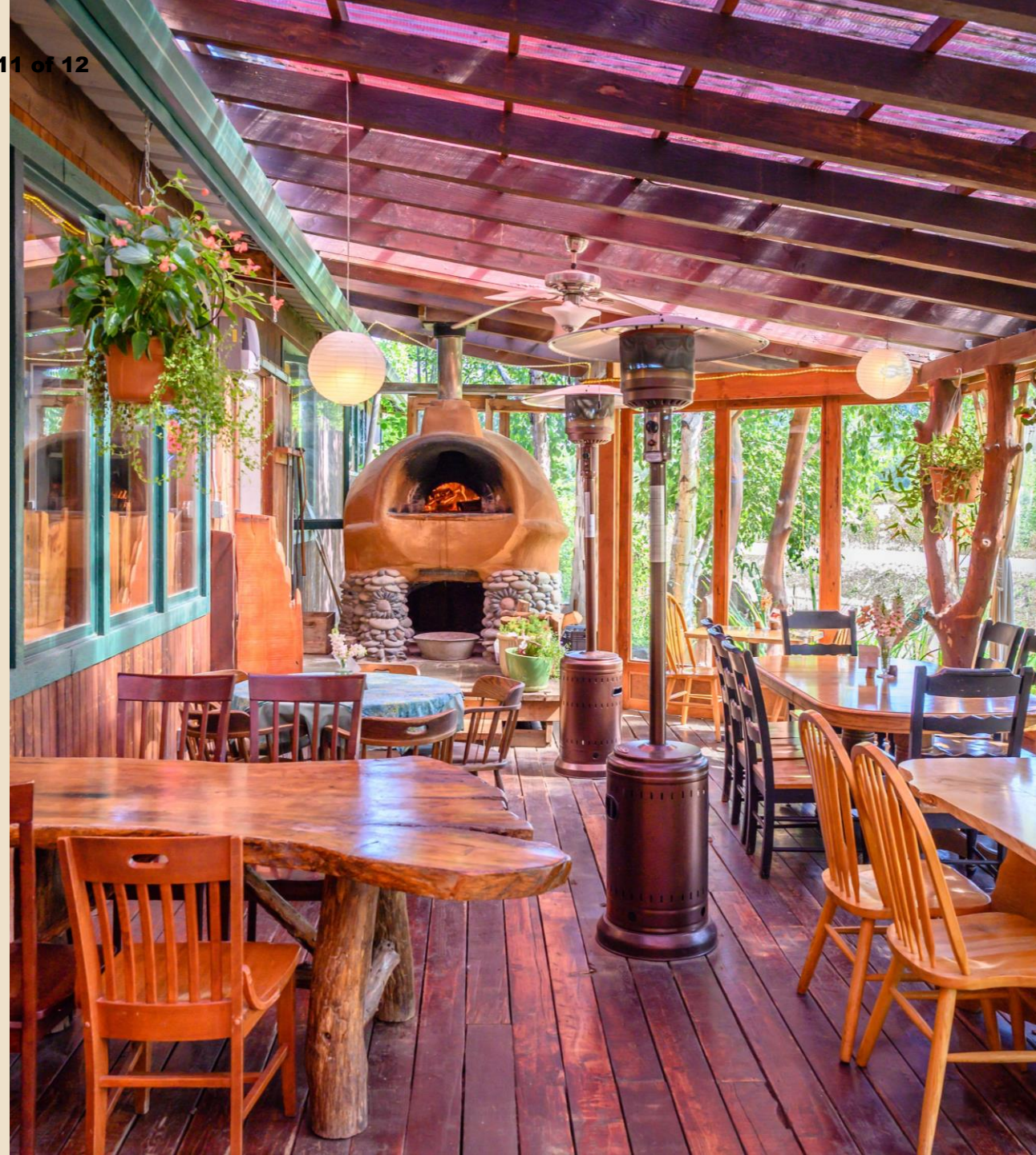
# Future Plans

- Strategic Planning
- Product Development



# What help looks like

- Help for organizations that did not receive PPP and EIDL funds
- Supporting Agritourism
- Supporting Downtown
- Visit Corvallis involved in the conversation



Thank You





Fiscal Year 2021-22 Update

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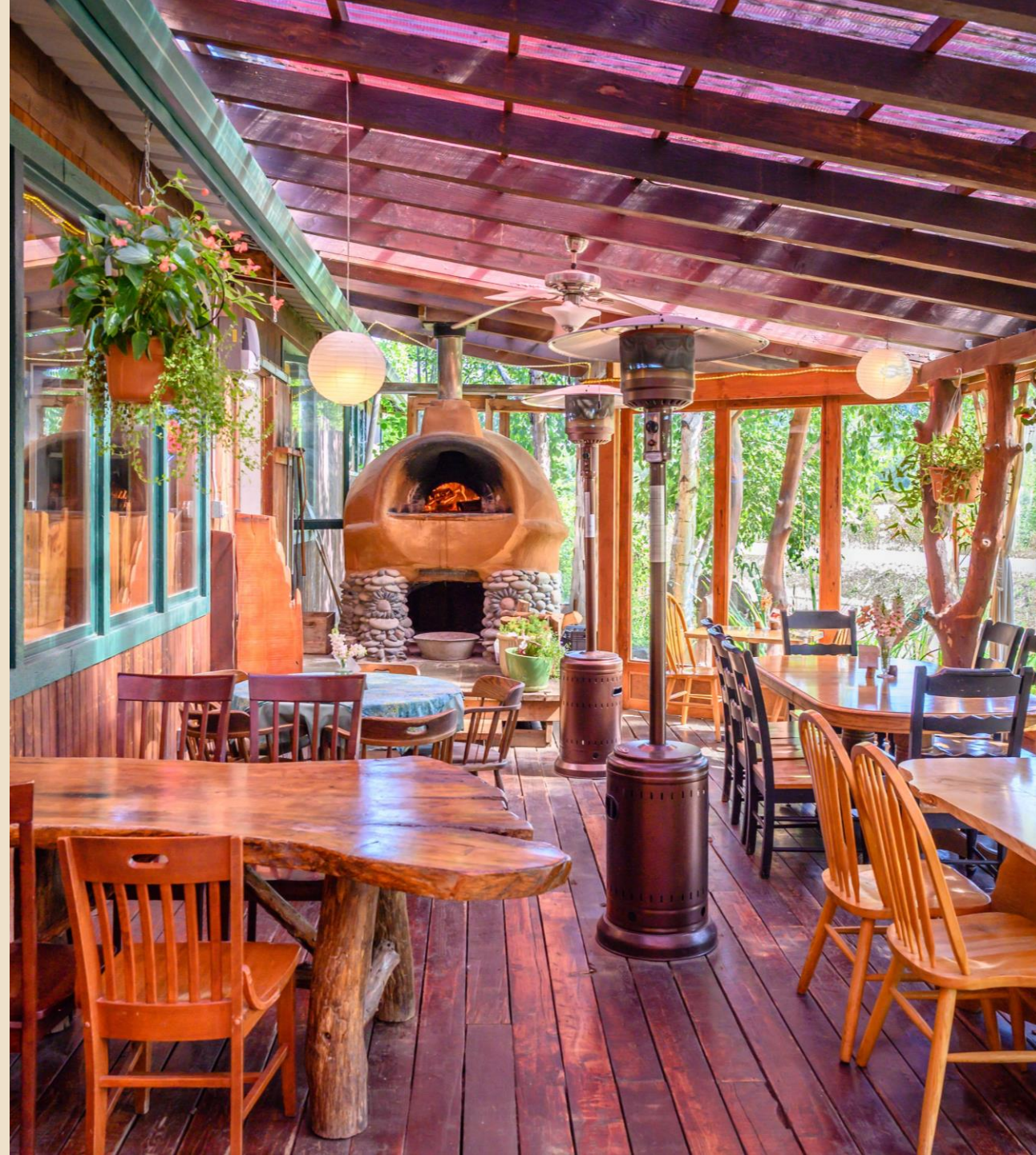
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