

In 3 minutes it is hard to convey the lack of consistency and transparency that has been a part of ODF's dealings on the Firefighting Crew Agreement over the last 5 years. We would certainly be happy to provide information for the Oregon Board of Forestry to look over and would like to be part of any public meetings to work for a fair and equitable process should you so desire.

Poor management policies have led to a failure on the part of the ODF Fire Protection Unit to act in the best interest of the taxpayer, the landowners, or the contracting community. The lack of conformance to any standard in the RFP process and the administering process of the agreement continues to escalate into a problem that simply cannot be tolerated and has reluctantly led to legal action against ODF by some private contractors.

Why allow an agency that has failed to comply with standard contracting practices to write their own set of rules? Costs continue to escalate in part due to the unequal and lack of enforcement of current laws and the uncertainty of the process.

Communications with the private businesses are selective and unbalanced giving advantages to certain private businesses while leaving others out of the process.

There is a failure to look at the true costs of the process and what is actually driving cost increases or how to manage a fair and legal system to control costs and increase efficiencies.

I encourage members of the Oregon Board of Forestry to look into all sides of the story because I am sure you will find the facts interesting and realize there is a need for oversight of the contracting process and a need to change the operating procedures within ODF Fire Protection Unit.

Certainly adopting rules on a temporary basis is unfair as we are in the middle of a process and have submitted the RFP for this year's fire season. ODF Fire Protection Unit should not be the key driving force in creating any future rules if the board determines there is a need for a process outside DAS contracting rules.

We hope you will carefully consider whether there is an overwhelming need for a special process for contracting these services.

Do not let ODF's continued procrastination of the contracting process create emergencies or urgencies that would not exist if they were and operating in a transparent manner.