

Agenda Item No.:	E
Title of Issue:	South Cascade Forest Protection District Boundary
Date Presented to Board:	January 9, 2008
Primary Staff Contact:	Rick Gibson
Title:	Fire Prevention Manager
Contact Information:	503-945-7440 rgibson@odf.state.or.us

SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda item is to seek approval from the Board to hold a public hearing and to develop a final administrative rule which amends the boundary of the South Cascade Forest Protection District.

CONTEXT

ORS 477.225 requires that the boundaries of forest protection districts be described in administrative rule and that boundary adjustments be made only after a public hearing.

BACKGROUND

The current boundary of the South Cascade Forest Protection District was originally established by the Board in December 2005. No adjustments to the boundary have been made since that time.

Seneca Jones Timber Company owns 210 acres of forestland which is outside of, but immediately adjacent to, the South Cascade Forest Protection District boundary and have requested that the boundary be amended to include this parcel.

ORS 477.225 provides that, for the purposes of administrative convenience, roads or other recognizable features may be used to define the boundary of a forest protection district. In this case, the South Cascade District has recommended that the present boundary to amended to proceed along a county road. The proposed new description would add a total area of approximately 840 acres to the District. In addition to Seneca Jones Timber Company, three additional landowners will be added to the District. All of these landowners have forestland fuel on their properties, however some portions are also used for agricultural purposes. Under this proposal, the forestland portions will become subject to the fire protection provisions of ORS chapter 477 while the agricultural portions will not.

The Brownsville Rural Fire Protection District currently protects and taxes only structures in the area proposed to be added to the South Cascade Forest Protection District, and will continue to do if the proposed amendment is made. They have been contacted about this proposal and have consented to the boundary amendment.

RECOMMENDATION

The Department recommends that the Board direct the State Forester to begin the rulemaking process to amend OAR 629-041-0557, the boundary description of the South Cascade Forest Protection District.

NEXT STEPS

The Department will hold one or more public hearings on the proposed boundary amendment. The Department will then return to the Board and request final approval to amend the boundary description.

ATTACHMENT

- (1) Proposed amendment to OAR 629-041-0557, South Cascade Forest Protection District Boundary