

Date: December 15, 2008
To: Oregon Board of Forestry
From: Gordon Foster, Hearing Officer
Subject: Hearing Officer's Report on Ash Butte RFPA ORS 477.320(1) Hearing

Hearing Information

Proposed RFPA: Ash Butte Rangeland Fire Protection Association
Hearing Date & Time: December 15, 2008, 1:00 p.m.
Hearing Location: Ashwood Grange, Ashwood, Oregon
Written Comments Due: December 15, 2008, 1:55 p.m.
Hearing Authorized: Board of Forestry meeting, September 3, 2008
Hearing Officer: Gordon Foster, Rangeland Fire Protection Coordinator

The hearing on the proposed formation of the Ash Butte Rangeland Fire Protection Association was convened at 1:00 p.m. in the Ashwood Grange Hall. Registration forms were available for people who wished to provide oral comments on the proposed formation. The hearing was closed at 1:55 p.m.

Seven (7) members of the public and three (3) local government officials attended the hearing. Ten (10) people signed the Public Hearing Participation Record form and provided oral comments.

Summary of Oral Comments

Community interest in the formation of the proposed Ash Butte Rangeland Fire Protection Association is high and is strongly supported by a small number of landowners in the immediate area in the Trout Creek area. There was significant opposition from landowners in the Antelope and southern Wasco County area. The boundary of the proposed Ash Butte Rangeland Fire Protection Association was drawn to meet the wishes of the landowners. An interim board of directors has been established and a person has been acting as secretary. Additionally, a set of by-laws is in the process of being established, corporate legal status has been applied for and received, a bank account has been established, some funds have been raised, and commitments of time and equipment have been received.

Landowners and residents of the area are increasingly worried about the incidence of rangeland fire. This is due, in part, to the rapidly increasing population of the urbanized portions of central Oregon. This, in turn, has resulted in more people recreating on and near rangelands in the Ashwood area. It is the perception of the local citizens that many of the people recreating in the vicinity of their rangelands have no, or a very minimal, knowledge of fire prevention and that this puts them and their lands at increased risk of being damaged by fire.

No local residents appear to oppose the proposed RFPA formation. Oral testimony ranged from full support to comments regarding how the organization would be managed.

Summary of Written Comments

No formal written comments were received.

Agency Response to Comments

Discussion after the Public Hearing regarding comments on organization; Agency response was that the organizational structure and operation of the association is a decision made by the local landowners involved in the Rangeland Fire Protection Association.

Gordon Foster
Rangeland Fire Protection Coordinator
Eastern Oregon Area

PUBLIC HEARING PARTICIPATION RECORD
REQUEST TO FORM A RANGELAND FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION UNDER ORS 477.320
 Location: Ashwood Grange Hall, Ashwood Oregon Date: December 15, 2008 Time: 1:45 PM, Hearing closed 1:55 PM

NAME & ORGANIZATION	MAILING ADDRESS	TESTIMONY SUBMITTED	
		WRITTEN	ORAL
Thomas W. Ledbetter	8151 NE Trout Creek Road Ashwood, Oregon 97711		X
Janilee Ledbetter	P.O. Box 25 Ashwood, Oregon 97711		X
Kenneth Ledbetter	P.O. Box 25 Ashwood, Oregon 97711		X
Robert Ware	10401 NE Wilson Creek Road Ashwood, Oregon 97711		X
John Marston	Trout Creek Road Ashwood, Oregon 97711		X
Keith Brown Deputy State Fire Marshal	400 NE Third Street Prineville, Oregon 97754		X
Dave Fields Supervisory Deputy State Fire Marshall	63319 Jamison Bend, Oregon 97701		X

