

Date: May 26, 2015
To: Oregon Board of Forestry
From: Gordon Foster, Rangeland Fire Protection Coordinator
Subject: Hearing Officer's Report on Wagontire Landowner Hearing ORS 477.320(1)

Hearing Information

Proposed Area: Wagontire area, southwest of Burns, Oregon, Harney & Lake Counties
Hearing Date & Time: May 12, 2015, 4:00 p.m.
Hearing Location: Riley Store & Archery, Riley, Oregon
Written Comments Due: May 12, 2015, 4:00 p.m.
Hearing Authorized: Board of Forestry meeting, July 23, 2015
Hearing Officer: Gordon Foster, Rangeland Fire Protection Coordinator

The Public Hearing on the proposal to bring the Wagontire area into the Oregon Protection System was formally convened at 4:10 p.m. in the Riley Store & Archery after a discussion regarding the proposal. Registration forms were available for people who wished to provide oral comments on the proposed formation. The hearing was closed at 4:16 p.m.

Two (2) members of the public representing the area landowners attended the hearing. Four (4) people signed the Public Hearing Participation Record form and provided oral comments. One (1) person representing the Bureau of Land Management & USDA Forest Service attended in support of bringing the area into the Oregon Protection System. One (1) person representing the Oregon Department of State Lands attended in support of bringing the area into the Oregon Protection System.

Summary of Oral Comments

Community interest in the formation of the proposed Wagontire Rangeland Protection Association is high and is strongly supported by landowners in the Wagontire area. An interim board of directors has been established and a person has been acting as secretary. Additionally, a set of by-laws has been 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 number of large fires in their area, more specifically the Buzzard Complex of 2014. These landowners want a way to protect their private property and actively take part in the protection of their lands. The increased level of protection for this area can be achieved by bringing it into the Oregon Protection System and forming a Rangeland Protection Association.

No local residents opposed the proposed RPA formation. Oral testimony was in full support of bringing these lands into the Rangeland Protection System and forming a Rangeland Protection Association.

Summary of Written Comments

No formal written comments were received.

/s/ Gordon Foster
Gordon Foster
Rangeland Fire Protection Coordinator
Eastern Oregon Area