

Agenda Item No.:	C
Work Plan:	Fire Protection Work Plan
Topic:	Ongoing Topic: Rangeland Protection Association Formation
Presentation Title:	Hearing Request for a Rangeland Protection Association in Jefferson County
Date of Presentation:	January 4, 2023
Contact Information:	Levi Hopkins, Wildfire Prevention and Policy Manager (503) 949-3572, <a href="mailto:Levi.a.hopkins@odf.oregon.gov">Levi.a.hopkins@odf.oregon.gov</a>

## **SUMMARY**

The purpose of this agenda item is to obtain Board approval to proceed with a public hearing on the subject of providing protection from fire for rangelands in Jefferson County to form the Grizzly RPA.

## **CONTEXT**

This is part of the Department's ongoing effort, pursuant to ORS 477.320, to assist rural communities in eastern Oregon to develop wildland fire protection coverage in areas that are currently unprotected.

Landowners from Jefferson County provided a letter (Attachment 1) requesting the Board to hold a public hearing on the subject of providing protection from fire for rangelands in the vicinity of Madras, Oregon. (Attachment 2).

## **BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS**

Rangelands in eastern Oregon present a concern to Forest Protection Districts because of the lack of fire protection. Fires starting on these lands, left uncontrolled, have frequently threatened, or spread to forestlands protected by the Department. This creates a dilemma for the district and potential use of district resources on unprotected lands that do not financially support the protection district.

The 2004 Fire Program Review identified assisting local communities in developing fire protection on unprotected lands as a high priority. Rangeland Protective Associations have been formed in Ashwood-Antelope, Bakeoven-Shaniko, Blue Mountain, Brothers Hampton, Burnt River, Crane, Fields-Andrews, Frenchglen, Gateway, Greater Pine Valley, High Desert, Ironside, Jordan Valley, Juntura, Lone Pine, Lookout Glasgow, North Harney, Post Paulina, Silver Creek, Twickenham, Vale, Wagontire, Warner Valley, WC Ranches, and Wheeler County Fire & Rescue.

The area the private landowners are considering for fire protection is interspersed with other land management agencies.

Although the emphasis is protection of private lands, opportunities will exist for partnerships and mutual aid agreements with other entities to strengthen wildland fire protection throughout the area.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

The Department recommends the Board approve the landowners' request to hold a public hearing on the subject of providing protection from fire for rangelands in Jefferson County.

## **NEXT STEPS**

The Department will hold a public hearing and determine the support for providing fire protection in Jefferson County, Oregon. If there is sufficient support, a request will be made from the landowners to the Board to determine whether the rangeland should be included within a protection system.

If the Board determines that the rangeland should be included in a rangeland protection system, the Board, in cooperation with interested persons, will establish the extent and type of protection to be provided. Such protection shall be commensurate with the values and uses of the rangeland to be protected.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

- (1) Letter from Board of Directors for Grizzly RPA.
- (2) Map of Proposed Grizzly RPA

Date 12/2/22

Mr. Cal Mukumoto, Secretary  
Oregon Board of Forestry  
2600 State Street  
Salem, Oregon 97310

Dear Mr. Mukumoto

As the designated representative(s) of rangeland/crop landowners in Jefferson County, I hereby request that the Oregon Board of Forestry hold a public hearing on the subject of providing protection from fire for private rangeland/crop lands in the vicinity Grizzly Mtn, in Jefferson County pursuant to ORS 477.320.

Sincerely



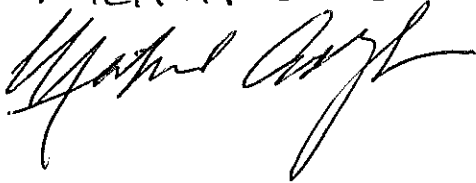
Mark Wunsch



ROBERT E. RUFENEN

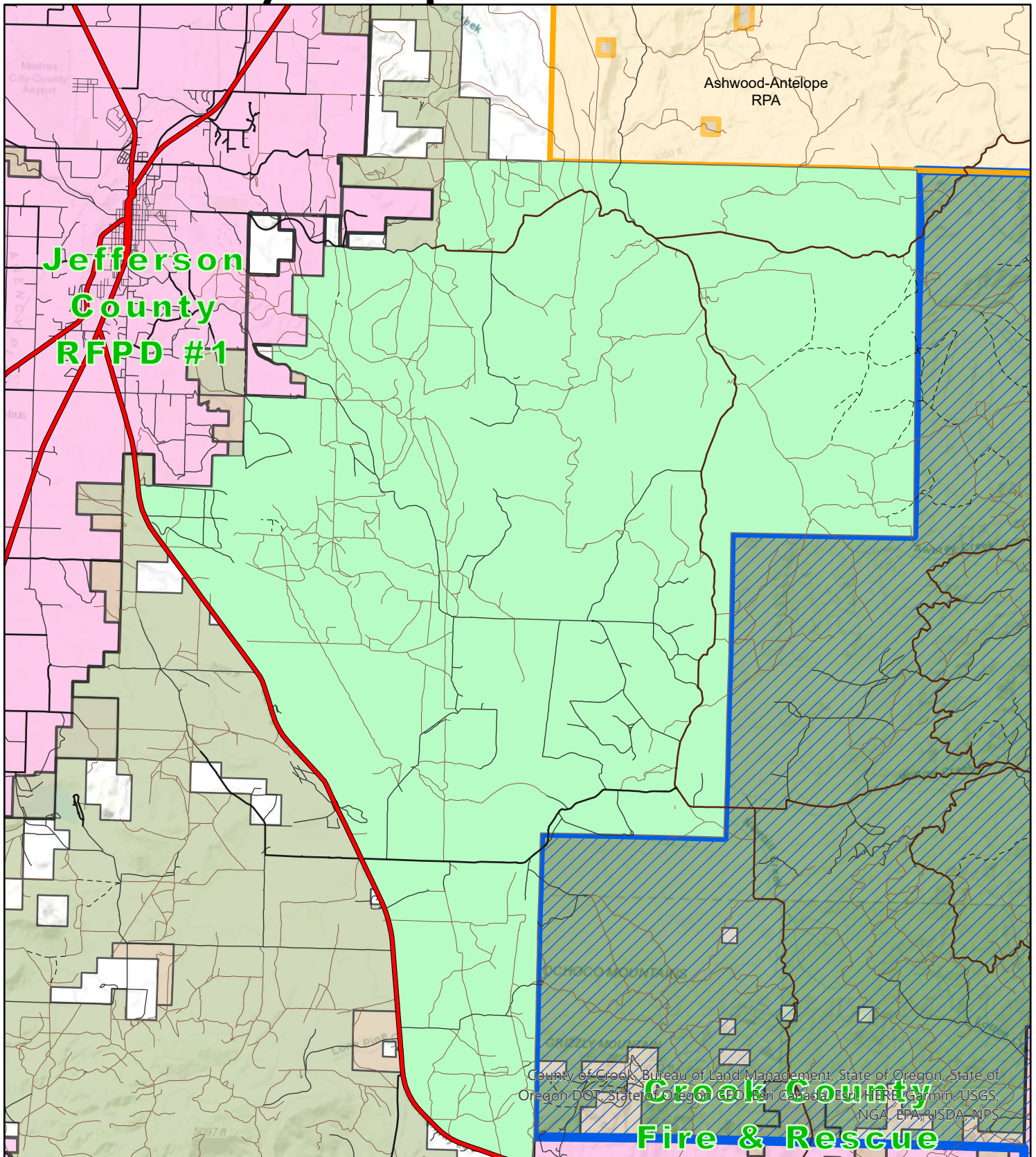
John Fessler      Glenn Fessler

MICHAEL COOKINGHAM



Brent J. Fessler

# Grizzly Proposed RFPA



- Road Types**  
**PDMclass**  
 — Interstate; Highway  
 — Paved; Highway exit  
 — All weather  
 — Dirt

- In UGB; Paved - Secondary Display Layer  
 — Mainline Rd  
 - - Hiking trail  
 - - 4wd trail

- Protection Status 2021**  
 ■ Structural Fire Protection  
 ■ BLM  
 ■ Forest Protection Association  
 ■ No known protection

- Other Federal  
 ■ Rangeland Protection Association  
 ■ USFS  
 ■ ODF Forest Protection Districts  
 ■ GrizzlyProposedRFPA

County of Crook, Bureau of Land Management, State of Oregon, State of Oregon DOT, State of Oregon GEO, Esri, Canada, Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, NGA, EPA, USDA, NPS

**Crook County Fire & Rescue**