

Agenda Item No.:	C
Work Plan:	Fire Protection Work Plan
Topic:	Ongoing Topic: Rangeland Protection Association Formation
Presentation Title:	Expansion of Field-Andrews RPA Boundary
Date of Presentation:	March 6, 2024
Contact Information:	Levi Hopkins, Fire Prevention and Policy Manager (503) 949-3572, Levi.a.hopkins@odf.oregon.gov

SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda item is to obtain Board approval to proceed with an expansion of the current boundary for Field-Andrews Rangeland Protection Association to include additional rangeland not currently protected.

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.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

The Board approved to proceed with a public hearing to expand the boundary of the Field-Andrews RPA at the January 3,2024 meeting. A public hearing was held January 30, 2024, at the Trout Creek Ranch in Fields, Oregon.

Community interest in the expansion of the proposed Field-Andrews Rangeland Protection Association is high and is strongly supported by landowners in the Fields-Andrews area in Harney County. The Fields-Andrews Board of Directors is excited to bring in additional properties to assist with dues and additional volunteers to assist in Firefighting.

Landowners and residents of the area are increasingly worried about the incidence of rangeland fire. By protecting the outlying unprotected areas to meet up with adjacent agency boundaries and spreading the equipment out, they will have a much better chance of catching the range fires at a smaller size. The increased level of protection for this area can be achieved by bringing it into the Oregon Protection System and expanding the Rangeland Protection Association boundary.

No local residents opposed the proposed RPA expansion. Oral and written testimony was in full support of bringing these lands into the Rangeland Protection System and expanding the Rangeland Protection Association boundary.

RECOMMENDATION

The Department recommends the Board take the following action when it meets on March 6, 2024:

Approve the expansion of the boundaries of the Field-Andrews Rangeland Protection Association, pursuant to ORS 477.320.

NEXT STEPS

The Department will continue its work with local landowners in the area supporting the Field-Andrews Rangeland Protection Association. This will include developing mutual aid agreements, providing training as requested, offering FEPP equipment as available, and any other assistance as requested and feasible.

ATTACHMENTS

- (1) Fields-Andrews Rangeland Protection Association Expansion Hearing Report
- (2) Written Testimony
- (3) Public Hearing Roster
- (4) Map of Proposed Expansion

Date: January 30, 2024
To: Oregon Board of Forestry
From: Allison Rayburn, ODF Rangeland Fire Program Coordinator
Subject: Hearing Officer's Report on Fields-Andrews Rangeland Fire Protection Association boundary expansion ORS 477.320(1)

Hearing Information

Proposed Area: 4,500 acres north of current Fields-Andrews RFPA, in Harney County
Hearing Date & Time: January 30, 2024 @ 5:00 PM.
Hearing Location: Trout Creek Ranch, Fields, Oregon
Written Comments Due: January 30, 2024 by 5:00 p.m.
Hearing Authorized: Board of Forestry meeting, January 3, 2024
Hearing Officer: Allison Rayburn, ODF Rangeland Fire Program Coordinator

The Public Hearing on the proposal to expand the Fields-Andrews RFPA boundary and bring those additional lands into the Oregon Protection System was formally convened at 5:04 p.m. at the Trout Creek Ranch, 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 5:07 PM.

9 members of the public representing the area landowners attended the hearing. 8 people signed the Public Hearing Participation Record form and 3 provided oral comments. There was a discussion before the hearing to obtain further information on how the RFPA is funded and the agreements they have in place to work with the Wildland fire agencies.

Summary of Oral Comments

Andy Gray the President for the Fields-Andrew Rangeland Fire Protection Association started off the oral comments, with a statement that he is in support of the expansion. David Wratford is good with the expansion and will be good to have a truck up North and final oral comment Rodney Hoagland said he is good with the RFPA expansion.

Summary of Written Comments

The Harney County Emergency Manager delivered written comments in support of the Fields Andrews Rangeland Fire Protection Association expanding their boundary to take in the unprotected area.

The Harney County Judge provided written comments in support of the expansion of Fields Andrews Rangeland Fire Protection Association.

Department of State Lands provided written comments in full support of the expansion to include 160 acres of DSL.



Allison Rayburn
ODF Rangeland Fire Program Coordinator
Eastern Oregon Area



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Department of State Lands

951 SW Simpson Ave., Suite #104

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State Land Board

Tina Kotek

Governor

January 31, 2024

Oregon Department of Forestry
2600 State Street
Salem, OR 97310

LaVonne Griffin-Valade

Secretary of State

Tobias Read

State Treasurer

RE: Fields-Andrews protection boundary expansion

The Department of State Lands is in full support of the expansion of the Fields-Andrews Rangeland Fire Protection Associations boundary to include a 160-acre parcel of State Trust lands. These RFPA's have been critical in protecting Oregon rangelands from wildfire.

Thank you for your consideration and continued support.

Sincerely,

Randy Wiest
Rangeland Manager
CSF Real Property Division
Dept State Lands



HARNEY COUNTY COURT

Judge Bill Hart

450 North Buena Vista #5, Burns, Oregon 97720

Phone: 541-573-6356 Fax: 541-573-8387

Websites: www.harneycountyor.gov

January 29, 2024

Oregon Department of Forestry
2600 State Street
Salem, Oregon 97310

RE: Fields-Andrews RFPA Expansion

On Behalf of the Harney County Court, I am sending this letter in support of the Fields-Andrews Fire Protection Association (RFPA) and their efforts to annex unprotected land into their established protection boundary.

The requested expansion would allow for earlier suppression efforts of rangeland fires that could potentially threaten private property and valuable agricultural resources in the area. This expansion would also foster continued coordination and bring increased resources to State and Federal rangeland firefighting partners. RFPAs in Harney County are a valued resource and are respected by land owners and partners alike.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Fields-Andrews RFPA and their efforts to annex unprotected lands into their protection boundaries.

Sincerely,

Bill Hart

County Judge

bill.hart@harneycountyor.gov



HARNEY COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Melinda Todd, Emergency Manager

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Oregon Department of Forestry
2600 State Street
Salem, OR 97310

RE: Fields-Andrews Rangeland Fire Protection Association's Request to Expand

Oregon Board of Forestry

Harney County Emergency Management would like to support Fields-Andrews Rangeland Fire Protection Association (RFPA) and their efforts to annex unprotected land into their established protection boundary. This annexation of land will bring additional fire response to an area that currently does not have fire protection.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Fields-Andrews RFPA and their effort to include unprotected land into their protection boundaries.

Sincerely,

Melinda Todd
Harney County Emergency Manager

PUBLIC HEARING PARTICIPATION RECORD
REQUEST TO EXPAND THE "FIELDS ANDREWS RFPA BOUNDARY" AREA INTO THE OREGON PROTECTION SYSTEM
UNDER ORS 477.320

Location: Trout Creek Ranch Date: 1/30/24 Time: 1700

PLEASE PRINT

NAME & ORGANIZATION	MAILING ADDRESS	TESTIMONY SUBMITTED	
		WRITTEN	ORAL
MELINDA TODD, HARNEY COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	450 NORTH BUENA VISTA BURNS, OR 97720	X	
Bill Hart Harney County Judge	450 North Buena Vista Burns, OR 97720	X	
ANDY GRAY FIELDS - ANDREWS RFPA	45207 Whitehorse Ranch Ln. Fields OR, 97710		X
David Watchford F-A RFPA	45931 " " "		X
Rodney Montagna FIELDS ANDREWS RFPA	22288 FIELDS DRIVE FIELDS OR 97710		X
Joe Kingon	Oregon Edd Ranch		
Steve Doman	Colony Ranch.		
Zak Morgan	21541 Fields - Denio RD Fields OR 97710		
Brittany Enneberg	62432 e Steens Mtn Rd. Princeton, OR, 97721		
Dereck Enneberg	62432 e Steens mtn, Rd Princeton, OR, 97721		

Revised 20100301

Randy Wiest - DSL

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X

Fields-Andrews Expansion

