

PUBLIC COMMENT SIGN-IN SHEET

Wildfire Response Council | February 3, 2020

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FRIENDS OF THE
MADLINS FIRE COMMS

Memo to: Matt Donegan, Chair

Members of Governor's Council on Wildfire Response

From: Jim King PhD

Friends of the Metolius Fire Committee - Roger White, Brian Metke, Pete Schay

Re: Oregon's Best Kept Wildfire Secret

I won't keep you in suspense: the 2003 B&B Fire was arson, directed from Washington DC and coordinated by four local officials (Ron Pugh, USFS Law Enforcement, Bob Young and George Ponte of ODF, and Dennis Luke the then Deschutes County Commissioner).

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To refresh your memory: the B&B fire killed 3 people (1 murdered, 2 others as a direct consequence of the fire) over 91,000 acres burned, with 164 million dollars spent for suppression and loss of timber value, and particularly painful to those of us who bought homes in Camp Sherman to enjoy them, every single old growth tree on the Deschutes National torched.

For details of the fire, the false USFS report of the cause, the cover up, the collective refusal of Camp Sherman residents to "buy any of the government fabrication". The central issue now the Friends of the Metolius Fire Committee is to finally pass our three federal proposals that would prevent reoccurrence of all aspects of B&B: the arson, the lie about the cause, the cover up and the imposition of an absolute "code of silence" which until a few months ago survived.

The three policy proposals are:

- 1) investigate their own fires,
- 2) All protections on a particular piece of federal (or state?) land stay in place after any fire to avoid incentivizing fire as is the way to get around protections (such as wilderness, wild and scenic rivers)
- 3) Funds for fire prevention and suppression be distributed to each local district to eliminate the current politicking that currently goes on at the regional offices
- 4)
- 5) As a retired college psychology professor who was honored as teacher of the year I have the time and capacity to effectively testify to state committees and legislative hearings and I am willing to drive to Salem (reimbursed, of course) to help you incorporate the lessons from this "secret" into your thinking as wildfire policy makers; I offer my services to your Council (possibly as short term ad hoc member?). With my quest for justice as long as I breathe and can talk. Specifically, I am currently scheduled to talk Board Oregon Department of Forestry, the Bend City Council, the Bend Office of the FBI, Central Oregon Community College, Oregon State University, and many "One night stands" at bookstores and coffee houses in Central Oregon as my crazy 16 hours a day will allow.

Cc Governor Kate Browne, Senators Merkley, Senator Wyden, Congressman Earl Blumenthal, Congresswoman Susanne Bonamici, Lisa Clark BLM Fire Response Coordinator, State Forester Peter Da Congressman Peter Defasio, Friends of the Metolius President Doug Hancock, Oregon Forest Council President Tim Hermack, the Supervisor of Deschutes National Forest, Editor of Oregon Wild: Endangered Forest Wilderness Andy Kerr, Former Governor John Kitzhaber, Former Environmental Advisor to President Obama Van Jones, Pace Law School Professor Robert F Kennedy, Deschutes County Sheriffs Deputy Deron McMasters, CEO of National Forest Foundation Mary Mitsos, Congressman Kurt Schrader, Activist and Editor of Wildfire: A Century of Failed Forest Policy, George Wuerrhner,