

Eastern Oregon Forest Protection Association
1604 27th Street
La Grande, OR 97850

January 6, 2016

Doug Decker, State Forester
Oregon Department of Forestry
2600 State Street
Salem, Oregon 97310

Dear Doug,

Eastern Oregon Forest Protection Association (EOFPA) wishes you and your staff a Happy New Year. As the newly appointed President, it is my honor to compose the traditional annual communication letter from the EOPFA Board. This tradition is an important communication tool between our association and ODF.

2015 was a difficult fire season. The two protection districts which make up EOFPA were especially hard hit. In 2015, more acres burned on State protected lands in Northeast Oregon than in the last twenty years combined. Central Oregon was equally affected with far too many acres, homes and structures burning. We saw fires which burned across entire mountain ranges. Words like "epic" don't adequately describe the 2015 fire season. I personally witnessed fire behavior unlike anything I'd seen before.

Like the last two seasons, the 2015 fire season tested the ODF's full and coordinated system. EOFPA sincerely thanks you and your staff for the extraordinary effort. During bad fire seasons it's easy to overlook how many fires were extinguished less than ten acres and how safely all of this work is done. Members of the EOFPA see this work first hand and we appreciate the open communication between your field staff and landowners. We have a truly unique system of fighting and funding firefighting in Oregon, and it is our hope at the EOFPA that this system continues.

Eastern Oregon Forest Protection Association
1604 27th Street
La Grande, OR 97850

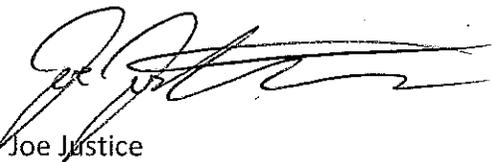
A key to being successful is having experienced staff. EOFPA welcomes Mike Shaw as the new Central Oregon District Forester. Many of us on the EOFPA Board have worked with Mike and feel he is a great fit in his new role. We also look forward to having Travis Medema and John

Buckman back in their roles for the 2016 season. EOFPA is thankful for the experience and knowledge ODF brings to both protection districts.

EOFPA supports the work you are doing in Salem to address large fire funding and creating a sustainable organization. The last three years have truly tested the system. It is time to evaluate both funding and ways to make ODF an even more effective firefighting organization. It's critical all of this work maintains the culture of working directly with associations like EOFPA and landowners.

Keeping working forests viable in Eastern Oregon unfortunately is still a challenge. Rate relief with the Wildfire Protection Act has been a huge help but rates continue to trend up and will affect landowner's ability to manage working forests. EOFPA knows ODF will continue to work hard protecting these lands we value so much. Again thank you for your work in 2015 and we look forward to a much quieter 2016.

Sincerely,



Joe Justice
President, EOFPA

West Oregon Forest Protective Association

January 13, 2016

Doug Decker, State Forester
Oregon Department of Forestry
Salem Headquarters
2600 State Street
Salem, Oregon 97310

Dear Doug:

The West Oregon Forest Protective Association is grateful to the Department of Forestry for its perseverance through a third consecutive difficult fire season. As in the past, the Association is particularly appreciative of the individuals who endured prolonged deployments and hours to fight fire all across Oregon. Also, the Association recognizes the substantial contributions of our federal partners this season as the BLM released severity money to help suppress the Willamina Creek Fire, and the USFS placed resources strategically to ensure a coordinated suppression force was constantly available. Finally, WOFPA commends the use of SPA and severity monies during the 2015 fire season. Although the season was intense and difficult, these funds averted untold damage by keeping many fires small, by preventing fires from becoming worse, and by allowing associations to release resources when needed because of the comfort provided by tools such as standby aircraft.

The Association highly values the cooperative relationship it has enjoyed with the Department for over a century, and believes that the coordinated effort to physically restrain fire is equaled in importance by cooperation during the off-season when fire policy is determined as each influences the success of the other. In this off-season, there are three critically important areas where landowners and the Department will need to work together. First, there is a need to examine staffing levels to ensure the Department can effectively and efficiently fight fire going forward. Second, there is a need to scrutinize large fire insurance holistically for cost structure and the feasibility of self-insurance. Finally, there is the legislatively-driven quest to reintroduce severance taxes on timber harvest, ostensibly and spuriously to pay for large fire suppression, which landowners find objectionable and offensive given our longstanding financial commitment to fire suppression, careful management of our lands, and the steep direct losses sustained from fire damage. Landowners are keenly interested in a good outcome for all of these issues, and anticipate the Department will be a vocally supportive partner in these debates as we fight to maintain the complete-and-coordinated system.

Exploring options to construct a new Toledo Unit office continues to be a top priority for the Association. The Association has enjoyed a great deal of assistance from Department staff and will continue to rely on your support as it endeavors to select the best path forward for this project.

The Association regularly hears from Department staff and contractors that Oregon enjoys the best wildfire fighting organization in the nation. While this may be true, possessing a good system does not mean it is a perfect system. We look forward to working with the Department in the coming year to maintain and improve the complete-and-coordinated system for the benefit of everyone in Oregon.

Sincerely,



Paul Betts,
President West Oregon Forest Protective Association

c/o Oregon Department of Forestry
24533 Alsea Highway, Philomath, OR 97370

AGENDA ITEM C
Attachment 1
Page 3 of 11

ROGUE FOREST PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION

5286 Table Rock Road Central Point OR, 97502
(541) 664-3328 FAX (541) 664-4340

Officers:

President:

Dave Erickson

Vice President:

Darin McMichael

Sec.-Treasurer:

Doug Thackery

Directors:

Lon Casebeer
Ace Carter
Dave Erickson
Tom Hayes
Greg Johnson
Susan Kendle
Darin McMichael
Mike Meredith
Jim Miller
Natalie Simrell
Doug Thackery
Tom Young

Advisory Directors:

Ace Carter
Eric Hensel
Kristin Babbs
David Schott
Dave Lorenz

District Forester

Dave Larson

Members:

Bureau of Land Mgt.
Hancock Forest Mgmt.
Fruit Growers Supply Co
Green Diamond Res. Co.
Indian Hill LLC
Josephine Co. Forestry
Kogap Enterprises Inc.
Lone Rock Timber Co.
Miller Ranch
Murphy Timber Invest.
Perpetua Forests
Plum Creek
Roseburg Forest Products
Silver Butte Timber
Silvifiber Farm
Snowy Butte Timberlands
Stanley Ranch

Member of:

Keep Oregon Green
OFIC Protection
Committee

January 20, 2016

Doug Decker

State Forester

Oregon Department of Forestry

2600 State Street

Salem, OR 97310

Dear Doug,

On behalf of the Rogue Forest Protection Association (RFPA) Board of Directors, I would like to express our gratitude to the Southwest Oregon District (SWO) for their diligent efforts in protecting our forestlands from fire this past summer. This was another busy fire season in SWO. The widespread drought set fuel conditions up for a disastrous season. What needs to be recognized is the outstanding job SWO did to get people on the ground and in the air day after day to suppress fires during those difficult months with above average number of days of above average fire conditions. SWO was at 97.3% for fires less than 10 acres from a total of 255 fire starts.

We felt SWO was well prepared to fight large fires due in part to the coordination between firefighting agencies and Oregon Department of Forestry (State). Some examples of coordination are the State's Incident Command Teams assembled from personnel across the Districts that were called upon 8 times this season and the State's contribution to 16 interagency IMT deployments. The use of SPA Resources and Severity Funds was absolutely necessary in suppressing this summer's fires. We felt the State did a great job of maintaining fire protection support despite personnel changes in high level State positions. Nancy Hirsch, Travis Medema, Doug Grafe and Ron Graham, among others, did outstanding work this year in their new positions.

Day to day resource availability and need between Districts was well coordinated by the Southern Oregon Area. Off District firefighting coordination helped SWO build experience for personnel and defray costs to the district. Dave Lorenz led an outstanding process of working through the hiring process to replace the loss of the District Forester and both Assistant District Foresters due to retirement at the end of the 2015 fire season.

RFPA is excited to welcome the new District Forester Dave Larson and the two Assistant Area Foresters, Tyler McCarty and Lee Winslow. We are excited to have them on board and confident in their abilities to perform their duties.

RFPA also wants to recognize Oregon Forest and Industries Council (OF&IC) and their legislative work to limit fire liability to landowners and their work with the Oregon Forest Protection Committee to coordinate firefighting efforts throughout the state of Oregon. It has come to RFPA's attention that Mike Dykzeul is no longer with OFIC. His 16 years of relentless dedication to the State's coordinated firefighting effort will be missed.

Educating the public has been advanced in SWO with the further development of the SWO Fire website and RFPA's vote to financially support Keep Oregon Green (KOG). Kristin Babbs did an excellent job with KOG leadership. ODOT displaying Extreme Fire Danger warnings on reader boards and the State Parks decision to ban campfires in State Parks are examples of the educational and coordinated effort.

RFPA and SWO remains committed to developing more camera sites and advancing new technology such as drones.

RFPA is concerned, but hopeful, that the State can acquire insurance with a reasonable premium and deductible for future fire seasons. RFPA is also concerned there may be legislative action to change the current funding of firefighting at the State level.

RFPA would like the State to express the need to our Federal neighbors to manage their land to the benefit of fire suppression through salvage and active management. Quick fire suppression in a mixed ownership is the responsibility of all owners and needs to be part of everyone's plan.

RFPA would like the State to be mindful of the importance to the Southern Oregon Area of the Medford Air Tanker Base and not miss any opportunities to support its continued existence. The Medford Air Tanker Base once again provided a valuable tool for fighting fires all across the State during the 2015 season.

In conclusion, I would like to recognize that the RFPA Board values the relationship with the Oregon Department of Forestry, Southern Oregon Area and SWO for their continued conscious decisions through budgeting and on ground work to keep costs down for landowners.

Sincerely,



Dave Erickson
President, RFPA



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Forestry
State Forester's Office
2600 State Street
Salem, OR 97310-1336
503-945-7200
FAX 503-945-7212
www.oregon.gov/ODF



"THE BROTHERHOOD OF FORESTRY"

May 26, 2016

Dave Erickson, President
Rogue Forest Protective Association
5286 Table Rock Rd.
Central Point, OR 97502

Dear Dave and members of the Rogue FPA,

Thank you for your recent letter, in which you addressed the successes of the 2015 season and also recognized the efforts of ODF's Southwest Oregon District. I appreciate as well your openness to share your concerns for the future.

In a season like 2015 (our third consecutive severe fire season) an initial-attack success rate of more than 97 percent is commendable. It couldn't have happened without the efforts of all the agencies and partners, bolstered by the relationships and coordination among them. Faced once again with extremely challenging conditions and a scarcity of resources, the ODF and interagency incident management teams performed well in the region and across the state. And despite leadership changes in the Protection Division, we were able to maintain continuity of operations and provide consistent statewide support.

As you know, the severity resources provided to us through the legislative Special Purpose Appropriation are a backup to our regular firefighting assets. As such, we are careful to deploy them only when the need is great. I commend the Division and the ODF areas for their effective use of the SPA-funded resources in 2015. I liken the way they handled them to the "just-in-time" inventory management system used so successfully in the manufacturing industry to hold down costs. By rapidly moving aircraft and other severity equipment and personnel to areas of high fire danger and occurrence at the time they were most needed, our fire managers enhanced initial-attack success while minimizing expenditures.

I am pleased to hear that you are excited about our new District Forester Dave Larson and Assistant District Foresters Tyler McCarty and Lee Winslow. I am confident that they will provide you with the same high level of service you have come to expect.

Our partners once again made key contributions to the success of the fire season. I am confident that Keep Oregon Green's leadership in public outreach and prevention reduced the number of human-caused fires. KOG crafted and delivered fire safety messages that raised awareness real-time of fire threats. Your association's financial support of KOG helped make possible the organization's prevention messaging. And I would be remiss if I failed to recognize our state agency partners, who stepped up to assist our firefighting effort.

Thanks to you and the association for your support of new and expanded technology, such as the smoke camera system. Early detection is crucial to keep fires small and minimize suppression cost and loss of resources.

I am pleased to report that the state will once again buy a catastrophic fire insurance policy through Lloyd's of London. Even though ODF filed no claims this past season, the policy is an important element in how Oregon funds suppression of large fires. The Fire Program Review is currently exploring new options to fund large fires, such as establishment of a trust fund for large fire costs.

I appreciate your statement regarding our federal partners and the need to increase the pace and scale of restoration on their lands. ODF is committed to working with them to improve forest management and fuels mitigation across all boundaries. Please rest assured that I understand the importance of the Medford Air Tanker Base. ODF will continue to contract for a large air tanker based in Medford, as well as a full complement of helicopters, single-engine air tankers and detection aircraft through the SPA program.

I value the relationships we have forged together over the years. I know that our future is bright and am hopeful that the 2016 fire season will be less severe than the previous three. I wish you and the entire Rogue Forest Protective Association success and safety in the coming year.

Sincerely,



Doug Decker
Oregon State Forester

CLACKAMAS-MARION
FOREST PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION
14995 South Hwy 211, Molalla OR 97038 503-829-2216
Organized to Promote Cooperative Forest Protection
"A Partnership with the Oregon Department of Forestry"
Founded 1912, Incorporated December 21, 1936

President:

Randy Silbernagel

Freres Timber, Inc.

Vice President:

Tyson Losli

Weyerhaeuser Company

Secretary/Treasurer:

Dave Lake

Portland General Electric

Directors:

Roger Beyer

T&R Tree Farm

Lance Christensen

Port Blakely Tree Farms

Jeff Frank

Frank Timber Resources, Inc.

Josh Miller

Olympic Resource Management

John Poppino

Lazy RB Tree Farm

Doug Sheldon

*Weyerhaeuser - Columbia
Timberlands*

Advisory Directors:

BLM – Salem District

**Clackamas Farm Forestry
Association**

**Clackamas County Fire
Defense Board**

**Clackamas County
Forestry**

Keep Oregon Green

**Oregon Dept. Fish &
Wildlife**

ODF - NW Oregon Area

**Oregon Forest &
Industries Council**

USFS - Mt. Hood NF

USFS - Willamette NF

January 26, 20016

Doug Decker
State Forester
Oregon Department of Forestry
2600 State Street
Salem, OR 97310

Dear Doug,

On behalf of the Clackamas-Marion Forest Protective Association (CMFPA), I would like to provide you with our perspective of the 2015 fire season. The ODF North Cascade District (NCD) faced a number of tough challenges this year, including our Niagara Fire which started on July 4th and burned 79 acres of primarily ODF lands. It could have taken off in the footprint of the old Sardine Creek Fire but was a tremendous "catch" by NCD with vital help from other districts, the NW Oregon Area office, Salem ODF resources, USFS, and other local cooperators. The NCD employees also were able to spend over 500 days outside the district helping on incidents as part of Oregon's complete and coordinated system.

I would like to commend Steve Wilson and the NCD employees for all their hard work in 2015, especially their communication efforts. Once fire season started, weekly conference calls were held, daily Situation Reports were emailed, and numerous email and text messages were sent to all interested parties. The NCD IFPL decisions were also successfully handled with only two days in an IFPL 4 (complete shutdown); industrial fire starts were avoided while keeping operators working to the maximum extent possible. The NCD and its landowners/operators used common sense, monitored actual site conditions, and used self-imposed shutdowns as necessary. That type of coordination is not possible without great communications and trust among all parties involved.

There were some new faces in key NCD positions in 2015 and the transition was seamless and successful from CMFPA's perspective. A single day Local Resource Boss training hosted by NCD in June was full of good information, was an efficient use of time (completed in 5 hours), and drew participants from our area as well as adjacent districts.

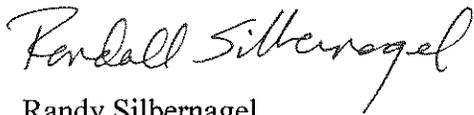
The CMFPA would like to pass on our thanks to Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) for the "Extreme Fire Danger – Use Caution" message

on their interstate electronic reader boards this last year. In the past ODOT was unable to display fire prevention messages on their signs, but it was a big deal to have them post that sign for drivers to see. In that same vein, CMFPA also wishes to thank Oregon Parks and Recreation Department for banning campfires in all state parks for a few weeks this past summer. Their recognition of the extreme drawdown situation and doing what they could to help keep fire out of the landscape was very much appreciated.

As landowners, we continue to struggle to find enough burning opportunities to treat our lands in a cost effective manner. ODF's work on smoke management issues is very important and appreciated by forest landowners. The ability to use fire as a land management tool is critical to maintaining a landscape that is both productive and protected.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our comments and concerns on the 2015 fire season. On behalf of the CMFPA, I wish you success as you guide the department through these challenging times. The collaboration of ODF employees, private landowners, federal partners, rural fire departments, and all other cooperators should make your job easier. Please don't hesitate to ask for our help.

Sincerely,



Randy Silbernagel
President, Clackamas-Marion FPA

Cc: Andy White, ODF NW Area Director
Steve Wilson, ODF North Cascade District Forester
Clackamas-Marion FPA Directors

Klamath Forest Protective Association

PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS

KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON

ORGANIZED TO PROMOTE COOPERATIVE FOREST PROTECTION

Doug Decker
State Forester
2600 State Street
Salem, OR 97310

March 17, 2016

Dear Doug,

It seems like challenging fire seasons are becoming the norm rather than the exception. Maybe to help ease you mind a bit, as I write this we still have several feet of snow in the forest and expecting more on the way. Let's hope that the weather forecasters are wrong about the early snow melt this year.

I want to thank you and your staff for the engagement with other departments in the State, especially with ODOT. There is a segment of the population that does not really understand about the severity of the fire weather and one small misstep on their part could cause a catastrophic fire. This past August I was up in Baker Co. where we had a fire on our property. While driving down I-84 the reader boards were notifying motorists about the extreme fire season. I was very pleased to see this. I understand that to pull something like this off requires a very good relationship with ODOT. Great work!

As you're aware, the Klamath-Lake area fared fairly well during the season; no major fires. However this does not mean that it was a walk in the park.

Because of the communication from your staff, a heightened awareness of how far drawn down the IA resources were was very beneficial. When we're on our own it causes us to rethink our strategy when working out in the woods. Yes it's good to have operators on-site so that we can have quick IA on a fire, but it also poses a potential ignition source if the loggers aren't paying attention. Please keep up the communication to all the partners as it has been very helpful.

Our federal partners continue to play a significant part of protection of the Association property. With the help of local staff many positive changes have been made over the years. However, there is still some concern over the dispatch center and the amount of service the landowners in Klamath County

Klamath Forest Protective Association

PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS

KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON

ORGANIZED TO PROMOTE COOPERATIVE FOREST PROTECTION

are receiving. Having an ODF employee as the Assistant manager of the site does help considerably but continued improvement of the communication to all association members is critical. We are all very concerned when we are notified after the fact of a fire on our property. The use of text messages has been very timely and helpful, however taking that one last step and calling the responsible person for the land is still necessary. This allows us to dispatch our personnel to the area and facilitate what needs to be done.

Along these lines it is unfortunate to see a moving force in the protection arena gone. Mike Dykzeul's departure from OF&IC is both a shock and disappointing as he has been very progressive in supporting private land owner's values. He was a great advocate to all landowners across the state. I assume that you see him as an asset as well. Any help you can provide OF&IC with his replacement will be beneficial to both the Department and private landowners statewide.

You and your staff have done an extraordinary job this past year. You continue to improve and look inward to see if there is anything that needs changing. The large fire funding group is just one of those introspective activities that the department takes on to make the department even better.

Keep up the good work and Keep Oregon Green.

Sincerely,



Lee Fledderjohann
President, Klamath Forest Protective Association