

Date: June 8, 2016
To: Oregon Board of Forestry
From: Marvin J. Vetter Rangeland Fire Protection Coordinator
Subject: Hearing Officer's Report on Greater Pine Valley Landowner Hearing ORS 477.320(1)

Hearing Information

Proposed Area: Ranches in Baker County between Halfway and the Snake River
Hearing Date & Time: June 7, 2016 Halfway, Oregon
Written Comments Due: June 7, 2016 7:00 PM
Hearing Authorized: Oregon Board of Forestry
Hearings Officer: Marvin J. Vetter Rangeland Fire Protection Coordinator

The Public hearing on the proposal to bring the Greater Pine Valley ranches into the Oregon Protection system was formally convened at 7:28 PM in the VFW Hall, after the question and answer period from attendees. Registration and sign in forms were available who wished to provide oral or written comments on the proposed formation. The hearing was closed at 7:42 PM.

Twelve members of the public representing the area landowners and wildland agencies attended the meeting, and one rancher provided oral comments at the hearing. There was also representation from Lookout Glasgow RFPA, and Vale BLM that presented oral comments. Representatives from the Oregon Department of Forestry, Northeast District, were also in attendance.

Summary of Oral Comments

The community interest in the formation of the proposed Greater Pine Valley Rangeland Protection Association is high and strongly supported by the local landowners and local government. There has been two large costly fires in the area within the last ten years, and the local landowners want to assist local wildland agencies with initial attack to prevent any more large fires in the area.

The ranchers want a way to protect their land and way of life from wildfires. The increased level of protection for this area can be achieved by bringing them into the Oregon Protection system and forming a Rangeland Fire Protection Association.

Already established Lookout Glasgow RFPA, testified that by forming, we can bring more assets to the area and assist each other with fire protection into the future.

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

No formal written comments were received.

/s/ Marvin J. Vetter

Oregon Department of Forestry

Eastern Oregon Area

Rangeland Fire Protection Coordinator