



**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

511 Washington St, Ste. 101 • The Dalles, OR 97058  
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***Pioneering pathways to prosperity.***

December 5, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

During the summer of 2018, Wasco County endured a number of catastrophic fires devastating crops, consuming open range and wilderness, damaging and destroying structures and taking a life. Citizens in the Bakeoven to Shaniko area of Wasco County are forming a Rangeland Fire Protection Association, working collaboratively to prevent future fires. Their stated purpose is to have better trained and coordinated citizens/volunteers, have reliable fire equipment that is evenly distributed, foster a working relationship and mutual respect with the local fire agencies, and limit the size and cost of fires. Toward these goals they have:

- Met with ODF
- Registered with the Secretary of State and been assigned an EIN
- Established a bank account and are working on their 501(c) 3 status
- Scheduled a public hearing as required by the Board of Forestry for mutual aid agreements with ODF and BLM

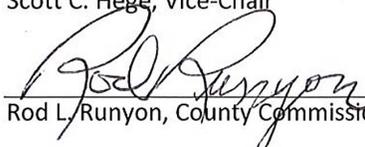
Wasco County is in full support of the grass-roots efforts of our citizens to protect their communities, livelihoods and natural resources from the destructive forces of wildfire. We appreciate your consideration of their application for grant funding that will be used to secure equipment and encourage you to join us in supporting this endeavor.

Sincerely,

Wasco County Board of Commissioners

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Steven D. Kramer, Commission Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Scott C. Hege, Vice-Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Rod L. Runyon, County Commissioner



**SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

511 Washington St., Ste.102 • The Dalles, OR 97058  
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To whom it may concern:

November 27, 2018

On November 27<sup>th</sup> 2018 the Wasco County Sheriff's Office was advised of the formation of Bakeoven-Shaniko Rangeland Fire Protection Association.

As the Wasco County Sheriff I am writing this letter of support for the aforementioned association. Over the last several years, and in particular 2018, Wasco County has seen a rise in wildland fires covering diverse areas of this county. These areas include, but are not limited to; private/public rangelands, urban interface, tillable croplands, and state/federal lands. These fires also can cause severe damage to businesses, equipment, and residences, costing property owners and insurance companies thousands of dollars.

As the above mentioned fires appear to be increasing with regularity the Sheriff's Office strongly supports the formation of Rangeland Fire Protection Associations. These associations have the ability to provide important fire fighting protection for land owners within the association boundaries. Additionally, the formation of these associations supports the opportunity to acquire funding for fire fighting operations, including equipment and important training. Furthermore an association has the ability to partner with neighboring fire agencies, thus increasing the support they need in these situations.

The Wasco County sheriff's Office strongly urges your support for the Bakeoven-Shaniko Rangeland Fire Protection Association.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lane Magill".

Lane Magill

Wasco County Sheriff