



October 20, 2017
Oregon Smoke Management Review Committee
2600 State Street
Salem, Oregon 97310

To the Oregon Smoke Management Review Committee:

On behalf of the 500+ business members of the Central Oregon Visitors Association I write in support for the increased use of safe and effective prescribed burning in Central Oregon's forest. Prescribed burning, under controlled conditions in the spring and fall, allows the Forest Service to reduce the risk of larger uncontrolled fires during the heat of the summer.

The Milli Fire near Sisters this summer again demonstrated the importance of prescribed fire as the most effective tool available to reduce wildfire risk to our communities and the people the live, work, and visit our forests. Healthy forests are a vital component to sustain the annual \$1 billion in economic impacts provided by Central Oregon's tourism industry.

We know that in order to increase the use of prescribed fire we need meaningful reforms to Oregon's smoke management rules. The recommendations outlined in the Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project represent a viable and holistic strategy that would enable greater use of prescribed fire to counter the trend towards larger and increasingly severe wildfires.

While prescribed fires may lead to an increase in short-term smoke impacts in our communities we recognize the need to fight wildfires before they happen. There is no smoke-free option to living in central Oregon. The question is: are we applying prescribed fire strategically in the forests around our communities to reduce the likelihood of severe wildfires and the far-reaching negative consequences on public health, local economies and long-term resilience of our forests.

Ultimately, we support a more holistic solution to prescribed fire and smoke management. We believe that the short-term impacts of prescribed fire will be far less than the impacts of wildfire. We ask that you carefully consider strategies to increase the use of prescribed fire while protecting air quality and the health of our communities for the long run.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alana Hughson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Alana Hughson
President & CEO