

Memo to: ODF Board of Forestry

From Jim King PhD , Chair

B&B Fire Committee (Jim King, Brian Metke, Pete Schay, Roger White)

Camp Sherman, Oregon

Re: Key Fire Matters before the ODF Board

In testimony today and documentation , we will provide;

- 1- Proof that the 2003 B&B was politically motivated arson (See Jewkes letter to Metke)
- 2- Evidence that senior managers from ODF, Bob Young and George Ponte, played a key role in starting and then covering up the cause of the wildfire
- 3- Evidence of, at least, one fraudulent application for funds to the Western States Governors Association
- 4- Evidence that an insensitive and cruel response from ODF to Chris Dahl was responsible for his death
- 5- Evidence that a mismanaged attempt by ODF employees to back-light a fire to stop the B&B led to a 2.2 million loss by the Dahl family.

Our Committee demands that ODF

- A) Publicly acknowledge that the USFS position that the B&B fire was not lighting caused and that should guide future actions of all agencies in the future
- B) Provide a public apology to Trish Dahl and settle the 2.2 million dollar dispute.
- C) Provide public apologies in person and in the press to the spouses of the three people who died from the B&B fire

Our Committee urge ODF and all other land management agencies to join together to

- 1- Begin to reestablish credibility of public land management
- 2- Push law enforcement agencies to prosecute persons guilty of crimes
- 3- Demand the federal elected officials pass legislation that will prevent further political arson, corruption, cover-ups, and mismanagement of public resources (see our trifold for details and know these officials had these proposals within months of the fire in 2005.

Cc Trish Dahl, Rebecca Sokol, Mark Foster, Holly Jewkes, and John Mehihoff

Your

Deschutes National Forest after the B&B Fire!



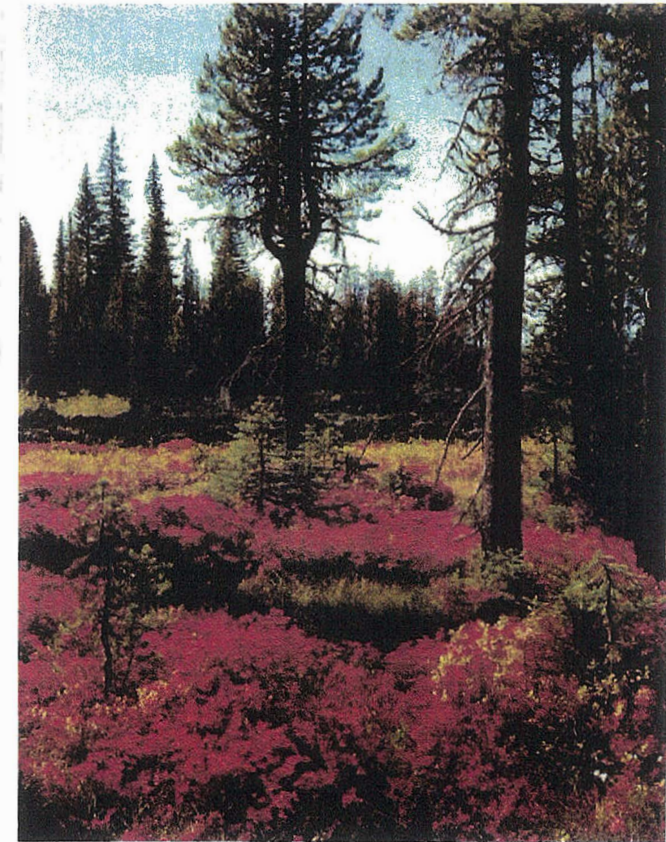
1. Read in Oregonian articles
2. Read on website "Les AuCoims "Don't Get Hosed"
3. Read on website "Robert F. Kennedy's Rolling Stone Article"
4. Read on website "B&B Committee's Connecting the Dots"
5. Read in Dr King's book, "It's About Time: The 16 Year Saga" when released

B&B Communications to
Jim King PhD
2011 Snowgoose Dr RV2
Eagle Crest, Or. 97756

Occupant

Your

Deschutes National Forest before the B&B Fire!



We Need Your Help to
Prevent a B&B Type Arson
Anywhere in the US!

AGENDA ITEM A
*Ric Ergenbright Photography
Attachment 1

How You Can Help:

First, by contacting Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley to support policy changes:

- 1) To require all future wildfires on federal lands to be investigated externally
- 2) Fire suppression funding be returned to federal land management agencies.
- 3) All pre-fire protections on a particular forest remain in place after fires to avoid incentivizing arson.

Secondly, by contributing to our committee's efforts. It is estimated over a million dollars has been spent to hide or suppress the truth about the B&B arson and much more is expected to be spent to discredit our efforts. Such "mischief" has already occurred by arresting Dr. King. By contrast, our Committee is in debt and needs your donation in order to continue our efforts to pressure the authorities to deal with the cover-up and make the policy changes to prevent a recurrence.

You can contribute on-line (with PayPal or credit card) at our website (www.bandbfirerevisited.org), or mail it to:

~~Our Website (that can accept testimony):
www.bandbfirerevisited.org~~

~~Our Phone (that can take recorded messages):
541/595-0120~~

~~Our Post Office Box:
PO Box 423,
Camp Sherman, OR 97730~~

Pertinent Quotes and Comments:

"They burned the heart out of Oregon... and we have to heal it,"

Governor John Kitzhaber (Whose beloved Metolius area was specifically targeted by arsonists).

"When we don't question this kind of thing, we have given up our humanity, and when we give up our humanity, we have become an oppressed people,"

Naomi Tutu (Who recently spoke in Bend about her father - Desmond Tutu's- struggles in South Africa).

"There is no god higher than truth,"

Mahatma Gandhi (Whose life and writings still serve to inspire many of us).

"We should leave no stone unturned, now

or in the future," Ron Pugh (Who led the original U.S.F.S investigation and now supports the re-investigation of B & B in light of the new information that has surfaced since his group completed its work).

"Your case in Oregon comes down to not letting the authorities get away with such disrespect and disregard for your personal safety, our natural resources, and the

American rule of law," Van Jones

(Who was the environmental advisor to President Obama).

"I was shocked that people were willing to live with this obvious lie. As a therapist and change consultant, I know nothing ever changes if we don't speak the truth about the current reality,"

Dr. Jim King (Who has led the B&B effort).

Our Goals:

1) A policy change requiring all future wildfires on federal lands to be investigated externally.

2) A policy change returning fire suppression funding to the federal agencies.

3) A policy change ensuring all pre-fire protections remain in place after fires to eliminate incentives for arson.

4) Obtain a credible external re-investigation of the B&B Fire.

5) Educate the community about the issues, re-investigation and the progress of the policy changes.

6) Re-establish credibility in the land management agencies, the Oregon Department of Forestry and the US Forest Service.

7) Restore Oregonians' trust in personnel from these agencies working in our forests and communities.

8) Heal the sense of betrayal that grew out of what happened and how it has been mishandled by our government agencies.

9) Rededicate ourselves to be better stewards of our sacred planet.

10) Build community and leadership capacity (more courage and fierceness!) to better respond to these situations in the future.

Lightning Occurrence 07/23/2003-08/19/2003 Booth and Bear Butte Fires

Legend

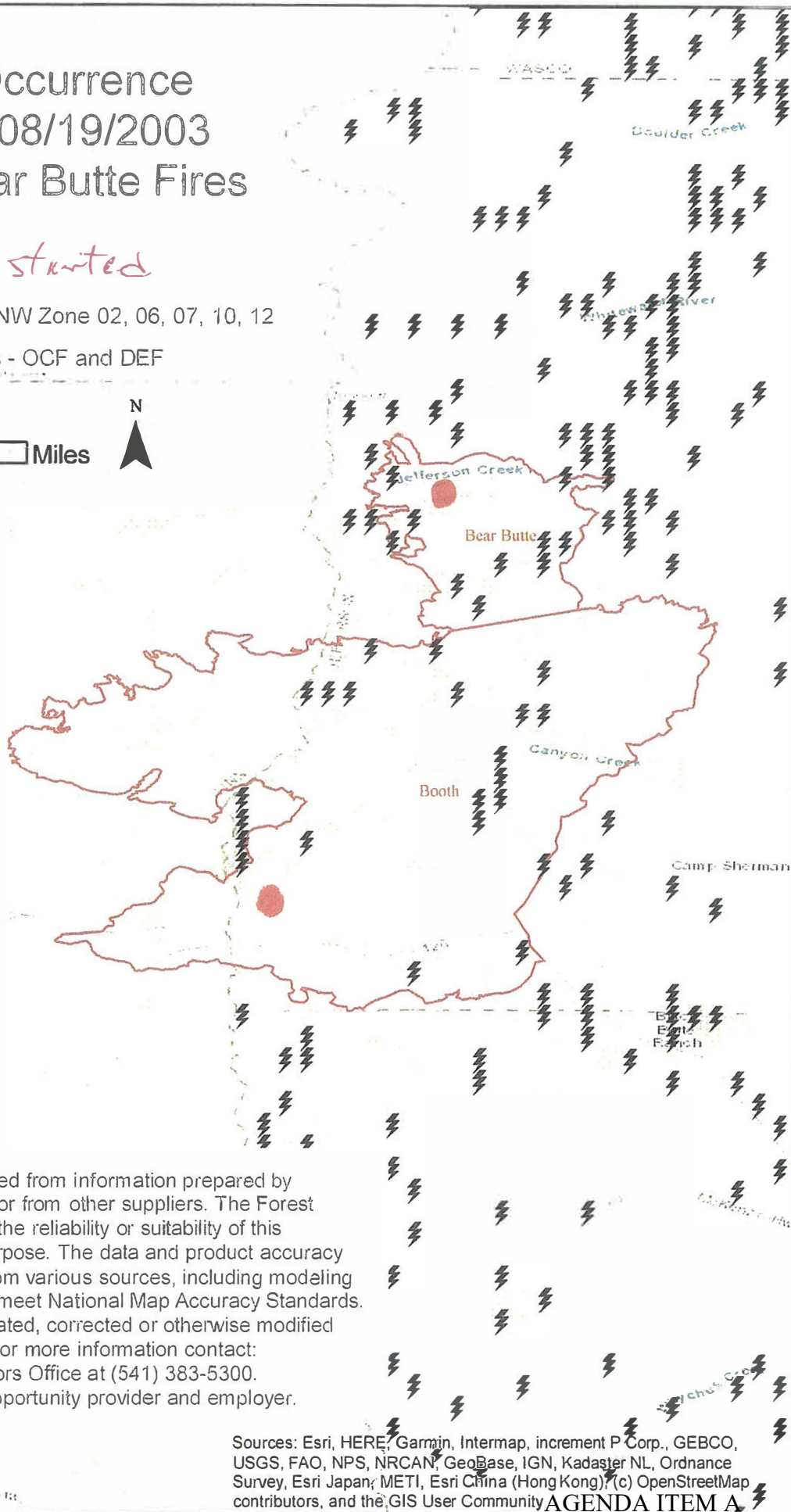
● *Fire started*

⚡ Lightning Detections NW Zone 02, 06, 07, 10, 12

□ Large Fire Perimeters - OCF and DEF

10

Miles



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3 Key "Drivers" of Change

"Look out! If 'change' and 'stress' are connected—and they are—life isn't going to get any easier."

Coming to Grips With Reality

"Surrendering to change does the most to eliminate stress. It creates the opportunity for breakthrough rather than breakdown."

Basic Mistake #1: Expect Somebody Else to Reduce Your Stress.

"Don't count on anybody else coming along to relieve your stress. There's a good chance you're the only one in your work situation who will, or even can, do much to lighten your psychological load."

Basic Mistake #2: Decide Not to Change.

"Resisting change is one of the most common causes of stress on the job. And it's stress that we bring on ourselves."

Basic Mistake #3: Act Like a Victim.

"Any time we act like a victim, we actually weaken ourselves. We load ourselves down with more self-induced stress. Beyond that, we literally make ourselves more expendable."

Basic Mistake #4: Try to Play a New Game by the Old Rules.

"Maybe you think it's stressful having to make all the necessary adjustments. But if you think adapting is tough duty, just see how difficult life becomes if you don't."

Basic Mistake #5: Shoot for a Low-Stress Work Setting.

"It's pretty obvious to people that the stress of a rapidly changing organization can be difficult and unpleasant. What's not so clear to us sometimes is how much more trouble we're in for if the organization fails to change."

Basic Mistake #6: Try to Control the Uncontrollable.

"...Trying to control matters that we personally can't control is a bad investment of our psychological energy. It also weakens our ability to deal with other issues where our efforts could produce a real payoff."

Basic Mistake #7: Choose Your Own Pace of Change.

"The simple fact is that failure to keep up with the organization's rate of change is resistance. Intent is not the issue here. Impact is. We might be innocent so far as our motives are concerned, but we're guilty of resisting change whenever we slow things down. We also create tension between ourselves and the rest of the organization."

Basic Mistake #8: Fail to Abandon the Expendable.

"We need to abandon the expendable. Not only does it relieve a lot of the pressure, but it also makes room for the far more important work that higher management is going to grade us on "

Basic Mistake #9: Slow Down.

"... Whenever we get slammed by another change, our first impulse is to slow down...proceed more cautiously...buy some time so we can size up the situation. On the surface this makes sense. A more careful analysis of the situation, though, suggests that in the longer run this sort of reaction leads to even greater stress."

Basic Mistake #10: Be Afraid of the Future.

"You just can't build a decent argument for giving in to fear of the future. Sure, the concerns are legitimate enough. But that doesn't mean you should let them squeeze all the juice out of your job."

Basic Mistake #11: Pick the Wrong Battles.

"Pick the wrong battles, and you put yourself on a sure road to burnout. In spite of all the effort, the end result is more likely to be personal damage than any psychic relief or satisfaction."

Basic Mistake #12: Psychologically Unplug From Your Job.

"High job commitment serves as an excellent antidote to stress. Like some modern wonder drug, commitment makes us emotionally stronger."

Basic Mistake #13: Avoid New Assignments.

"Don't assume that it's less stressful to 'ease into' a new situation. Instead of building up your nerve before entering the game, build it by entering the game. One of the best ways to reduce stress is to get better...quicker."

Basic Mistake #14: Try to Eliminate Uncertainty and Instability.

"Many employees seem to think that if only they can stabilize the situation, they'll feel less stress. The reality? They can't...and they wouldn't."

Basic Mistake #15: Assume "Caring Management" Should Keep You Comfortable.

"While minimizing job stress may sound like a 'caring' move, it's a cruel option in this day and age. Keeping employees comfortable ultimately proves to be one of the most heartless things management could possibly do."

Taking Personal Responsibility for Stress Reduction.

"Rather than carry on about how others are failing to lower our stress level, let's just make sure we're doing what we ourselves can do."

A Survival Guide to the Stress of Organizational Change

AGENDA ITEM A

Attachment 1

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Organizational Change Survival Guide:

This organization is going to change—it must—if it is to survive and prosper. Rather than banging your head against the wall of hard reality and bruising your spirit, invest your energy in making quick adjustments. Turn when the organization turns.

Practice instant alignment.

Your own decisions may do more to determine your stress level than anything the organization decides to

"Ride the horse in the direction that it's going"

Werner Erhard

AGENDA ITEM A

Attachment 1

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B&B Fire Truth Conference:
Camp Sherman's Historic Community Hall
8-5 pm March 5th Camp Sherman, Oregon

B&B Truth and Reconciliation Committee Conference Goals:

- I- Build Community pressure for three "preventive" policies related to wildfires
- II- Educate Community about the issues, status of legal matters and local heroes
- III- Begin to re-establish credibility of land management agencies and personnel
- IV- Begin to heal the sense of betrayal from the arson and government cover-up
- V- Rededicate ourselves to be stronger stewards of this sacred planet
- VI- Build capacity (more courage and fierceness) in our Community and leaders to prevent a recurrence of these crimes in the future

8-8:30 am Registration and Donations (Sliding scale donations from adults and free for students)

8:30 **Opening Session** with Jim King (Convener of B&B Truth and Reconciliation Committee)
- Introductions of key participants / speakers

8:45-9:00 **History of B&B Fire Truth Committee - Jim King**
- Introduction of Keynoter

9:00 **Keynote Notes: History of "Crimes Against Nature – Ideas and Ideals of Robert F Kennedy**

10-10:15 **Coffee Breaks (Start silent auction with musical accompaniment**

10:15-10:30 **Light It, Fight it and Log it!** Community Theater Group from Breitenbush

10:30 – **B&B Fire Truth Panel** (Central Oregon's living heroes)
🗣️ Oregon's Truth Tellers (Chris Dahl, Betsy Johnson, Gary Lovegren, Jack McIntire, Roger White, Martin Winch, and others via anonymous statements)
🗣️ Other Fires that are known to be arson - Professor Tim Ingalsbee, University of Oregon
🗣️ ? Ron Pugh, USFS Law Enforcement Agent for B&B , Retired US Forest Service
🗣️ Q&A

12:00 – 1:30 **Catered lunch (order sandwich, etc on website) and/or brown bags**

1:30 -2:30 **Policies needed to Prevent these Crimes in the Future – Jim King and others**

2:30 – 2:45 Coffee break

2:45 – 3:45 **Panel of Oregon Elected Officials or their Representatives**
(Senate Wyden staffer David Blair to organize and moderate?)

3:45 – 4:45 **Panel of Oregon Green Group Leaders (Friends of the Metolius, Oregon Wild, Sierra Club, +)** (Sierra Club's Gretchen Valido to organize and moderate?)

4:45-5:00 - **Conference Closure** (w/ Jim King)

Eg Sunday Post Conference Play Plans

- 1) Hike in burned area followed by more therapeutic hike on river (lead by Tim Lillebo?)
- 2) Fly Fishing on Chris Dahl's Pond (Chris wants them taken so fire up your smoker because they're huge!) Chris will show you how and where to cast (not really important but Chris will feel important?)

Networking

Decide to Network

Use every letter you write

Every conversation you have

Every meeting you attend

To express your fundamental beliefs and dreams.

Affirm to others the vision of the world you want.

Network through thought

Network through action

Network through love

Network through spirit.

You are the center of the world.

You are a free, eminently powerful source of life and goodness.

Affirm it. Spread it. Radiate it.

Think day and night about it

And you will see a miracle happen:

The greatness of your own life.

In a world of great power, media.

Monopolies, and 4½ billion individuals.

Networking is the new freedom

The new democracy

A new form of happiness.

Robert Mueller

LOGGING COMING TO METOLIUS

Oregonian, The (Portland, OR)-August 19, 2003

Author: MICHELLE COLE - The Oregonian

Summary: The president is expected to laud the forestry effort, but building trust took years

The trees with the blue ribbons will be cut. Everything decked in pink stays.

Of the 50 or so ponderosa pines in a quarter-acre patch of the Deschutes National Forest, as few as 13 could be spared the chain saw.

"There's going to be a huge difference. And I'm going to get hammered by some people," says Tim Lillebo, Eastern Oregon field representative for the Portland-based Oregon Natural Resources Council.

When President Bush travels to Oregon this week, he is expected to call national attention to this sort of effort to thin the overgrown forests of the West. The dangers of fire, the president has argued, justify limiting environmental reviews and speeding the momentum to cut.

But the story around Camp Sherman, where the cold clear Metolius River runs through the Deschutes, is more complicated. The decision to selectively prune and log more than 12,000 acres was forged under long-standing procedures and took several years, during which environment advocates like Lillebo and a diverse range of community members and foresters had a voice in the planning.

For decades, Lillebo and other conservationists fought against logging the Metolius River Basin, a spectacular but increasingly tinder-dry landscape about 15 miles northwest of Sisters.

But they now tentatively support a U.S. Forest Service plan to use logging, pruning and prescribed burns to reduce the severe fire risk within a 17,000-acre area that includes old-growth ponderosa, one of the nation's largest spring-fed rivers and a popular vacation playground for generations of Oregonians.

The president's trip follows his weekend radio address in which he stressed the importance of logging for the protection of forests and nearby communities and precedes a U.S. Senate vote this fall to speed environmental reviews and limit appeals on logging. Bush started this conversation a year ago in Oregon following the mammoth Biscuit fire.

A textbook example

The White House estimates more than 190 million acres of forest and rangeland nationwide -- an area twice the size of California -- face elevated fire risk. The Metolius Basin offers a textbook example of densely packed stands, insect infestation and progressive disease.

Even so, the Metolius Basin cut embraces forest management the old-fashioned way: slowly, deliberately and bureaucratically. Conservationists, community members and even Forest Service officials say the years it took to develop the Metolius Basin Forest Management Plan helped build trust between the public and the government, and a consensus about how to manage a much-loved forest.

"Frankly, one of our concerns about the president's visit is that we're going to be co-opted into supporting his healthy forest initiative, and that's not what we have here," says Kent Gill, a resident and secretary of the Friends of the Metolius, a conservation group formed in the 1980s to battle logging.

The president is scheduled to land in Portland on Thursday morning and possibly make a trip to Camp Sherman, as news crews have been directed to nearby Redmond.

Like matches waiting to be lit

Low-intensity fires historically have swept through the Metolius Basin every 8 to 12 years. But 80 years of aggressive fire suppression have left the normally open ponderosa pine stands clogged with tall, spindly trees competing with 200-year-old giants for sunlight, water and nutrients. The forest floor is thick with brown pine needles, mounds of bark shed from the ponderosa pine and highly flammable bitterbrush.

Heavy snow followed by rain and ice storms in the winter of 2000 left thousands of trees bent, broken or dead -- and standing like rows of giant matches waiting to be lit.

For many homeowners, those storms heightened the sense of urgency. In his annual Memorial Day meeting with the community three years ago, Sisters district ranger Bill Anthony says the crowd repeated two questions: "What are you going to do?" And, "Why aren't you doing something now?"

If he'd had some of the tools now available to him under Bush's healthy forest initiative, Anthony said he could have begun thinning and removing brush around homes and vacation cabins near Camp Sherman, named for the Sherman County wheat ranchers who first built summer homes there in 1916.

Understanding people's interest

The Bush administration has granted federal land managers the authority to use controlled burns to reduce fuel on public lands up to 4,500 acres. Other methods -- such as thinning, pruning, mowing and mulching -- are now allowed on up to 1,000 acres without extensive environmental review or public appeal.

"That would have helped the community to be a little more comfortable," Anthony said. "But it would not have removed all of the risk."

Instead, the Forest Service invested more than three years and

\$500,000 in wildlife and field surveys in the Metolius Basin. A citizen's advisory group was convened and an environmental impact study drafted and redrafted to address the public's concerns about cutting too much old-growth.

"The payoff has been in understanding people's interests, where there's common ground and where there isn't," Anthony says. "The downside is that you can go through all of this and still end up with appeals and lawsuits."

Last month, the Forest Service released its detailed final plan to treat 12,600 acres in the Metolius Basin to reduce fire hazards and improve forest health in the old-growth stands. The cost: \$11 million over 5 years for what will be one of the largest forest treatment programs in the state.

No public appeals yet

Anthony estimates sales of the 21.7 million board feet of commercial lumber to be harvested from the project will generate \$6 million -- money that will stay in the Deschutes National Forest under the Bush forest initiatives.

Anthony notes the Forest Service spent more than \$25 million in the past two summers fighting fires on the Deschutes National Forest, including the 4,200-acre Cache Mountain fire, which last year destroyed two homes in nearby Black Butte Ranch.

So far, the agency has received no public appeals of its plans for the Metolius. The deadline for any challenges is Sept. 2. In the absence of filings, the cutting could begin as early as October.

Under the healthy forests legislation passed by the House this spring, the right of appeal would be limited only to those individuals and groups that made substantive written comments during the planning of a forest project. Under current law, anybody who has indicated an interest in a project can appeal.

The Friends of the Metolius would have standing under either scenario. Gill says the group plans to monitor the work closely but has no plans to appeal.

"We're comfortable enough that we're ready to go ahead," he says.

But that level of comfort wouldn't be there, Gill notes, without the extensive environmental reviews and small-scale demonstrations of the various treatment alternatives.

"I'm not sure I'd trust everybody in the Forest Service on every issue," he said. "But I think we've made some progress."

Lillebo and the Oregon Natural Resources Council are also leaning against an appeal.

Conservationists still have concerns, however. Among them: soil compaction from logging activities and proposed clear-cuts of larch trees in a patchwork of areas one-quarter to 3 acres in size.

But Lillebo said the relationships he's formed with managers on this forest lead him to think they care about public involvement, clean water and protecting wildlife.

"I think this is going to be a success story -- this Metolius project," he said. "I think it deserves to move ahead."

Michelle Cole: 503-294-5143; michellecole@news.oregonian.com

2 Photo by Doug Beghtel - of The Oregonian staff

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PROTESTS, FOREST FIRES PRECEDE BUSH'S TRIP

Oregonian, The (Portland, OR)-August 20, 2003

Author: HARRY ESTEVE - The Oregonian, MICHAEL MILSTEIN - of The Oregonian staff contributed to this story

Summary: Demonstrations and blazes start at Portland and Central Oregon sites the president is set to visit

Protests got an early start Tuesday in preparation for President Bush's fund-raising visit Thursday to the University of Portland.

Demonstrators climbed trees, unfurled a banner and got arrested near where Bush plans to speak.

Then, later Tuesday afternoon, two forest fires broke out within view of the Central Oregon site where the president plans to talk about his Healthy Forests Initiative. By late in the day, both fires were burning out of control, each on about 200 acres.

Neither development has changed any of the president's plans, said spokesmen for the White House and Bush's re-election campaign.

"We're aware of the current situation and monitoring events," said White House spokesman Ken Lisaius. "We'll let you know if anything changes."

Plans call for the president to fly into Portland late Thursday morning, attend a \$2,000-a-plate lunch fund-raiser, then fly to Redmond in the afternoon. He's scheduled to tour a stand of trees in the Deschutes National Forest near the Metolius River, then talk about his plan to increase logging in public forests to reduce the risk of wildfires.

Bush will spend the night at a private home in Central Oregon, then

leave Redmond on Friday morning for Seattle, where he will hold another fund-raiser and give a speech on Northwest salmon issues. Portland won't see much of Bush -- he'll be in and out in about two hours.

Only those who pay for lunch at the University of Portland will get to see and hear the president. Bush is expected to give a general talk about the issues that have dominated his agenda for the past three years.

"The president, when he travels, he talks about his priorities for the nation, including securing the homeland, fighting terrorism, strengthening the economy and creating jobs," said Scott Stanzel, spokesman for the Bush-Cheney campaign.

For security reasons, neither campaign nor White House officials would divulge many details of the events or their schedules.

But it's clear that anyone who doesn't want to get caught by motorcade traffic and barricades should steer clear of the North Portland campus until early afternoon on Thursday. And you may want to rethink that Thursday afternoon fly-fishing trip to the Metolius River.

1,000 protesters expected

Protest organizers expect at least 1,000 people to show up at Columbia Park for a demonstration and march to the campus.

"People will be massing to express their outrage toward Bush's illegal, imperialist war abroad and his attacks on civil liberties, education, jobs and the environment here at home," said a statement from Liz Samuels, one of the organizers.

Regna Merrit of the Oregon Natural Resources Council said she expects a sizable contingent of environmental activists to join the protest, including members of Greenpeace and the Sierra Club. They will be holding big red "stop" signs to call on Bush to "stop his attacks on our forests," Merrit said.

"He loves trees; so do we," she said. "We just like to keep them vertical."

Bush has supported a program of increased logging in national forests to reduce the risk of fires that blacken huge swaths of timberland in the West every summer. Environmental groups say the program is a cover to return to days of intense logging before endangered species rulings helped cause a sharp decline in the industry.

Tuesday's events could underscore the president's message.

Firefighters on Tuesday evening were attacking two wildfires not far from the fire-prone forest stands the president planned to tour. One, on Santiam Pass about 15 miles northwest of Sisters, forced the closure of U.S. 20 and the evacuation of nearby Deschutes National Forest campgrounds.

A second blaze was burning near Bear Butte, 13 miles northwest of Camp Sherman and near the edge of the Warm Springs Reservation.

Michael Milstein of The Oregonian staff contributed to this story.

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2 Color photos by BRENT WOJAHN/The Oregonian

Graphics -- Map by The Oregonian/Location of University of Portland

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FAST-MOVING FIRE CLOSES SANTIAM PASS

Oregonian, The (Portland, OR)-August 20, 2003

Author: MICHAEL MILSTEIN - The Oregonian, STEPHEN BEAVEN of The Oregonian contributed to this report

Summary: The Booth blaze, near Black Butte Ranch, and another fire are burning in view of President Bush's visit

Authorities closed U.S. 20 over Santiam Pass west of Sisters and began evacuating Deschutes National Forest campgrounds

The Booth fire and a second fire near Bear Butte to the north were torching dense forest within view of areas President Bush Healthy Forests Initiative.

The Booth fire was estimated at 1,200 acres Tuesday night, and the Bear Butte blaze was estimated at 1,000 acres and spreading. Their cause was not known but under investigation. Some lightning had moved through the area in recent days, said Carol Connolly of the Central Oregon Interagency Dispatch Center.

The Booth fire was burning about a mile from Santiam Pass, 15 miles northwest of Sisters, and about 200 yards north of U.S. 20. Officials were halting westbound traffic at Black Butte Ranch, about eight miles from the fire, and eastbound traffic at the Linn-Deschutes county line.

No timetable had been set for reopening the highway, Connolly said. Alternative routes over the Cascades were either far to the north on U.S. 26 or to the south on Oregon 242.

Officials evacuated campgrounds around Square Lake, Long Lake and Round Lake, north of U.S. 20. Several campgrounds south of the highway also were evacuated.

To the north, the Bear Butte fire was burning about 13 miles northwest of Camp Sherman. It had crossed the boundary of the Warm Springs Indian Reservation, said David Widmark, fire information officer for the Northwest

Interagency Fire Coordination Center in Portland.

Air tankers from Redmond were dropping retardant on both fires Tuesday evening. Firefighters were approaching the Bear Butte fire on foot because helicopters could not lift them because of strong winds.

Crews had special permission to use chain saws, retardant and helicopters inside the Mount Jefferson Wilderness Area, where they otherwise would not be permitted.

Stephen Beaven of The Oregonian contributed to this report.

Graphics -- Map by The Oregonian/Locations of Bear Butte fire and Booth fire

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THE VIEW FROM OREGON

Oregonian, The (Portland, OR)-August 21, 2003

Summary: President Bush never will satisfy his environmental critics, but he can still deliver for Oregon's forests and fish

Look out across Oregon's smoky horizon, and the effects of President Bush's environmental policies stretch as far as the eye can see.

The president left his tracks on this state well before he set foot here. From the brittle eastside forests to the polluted Portland Harbor, from the irrigated green Klamath Basin to the salmon swimming up warm, shallow coastal rivers, there is no better place than Oregon to take a sweeping view of the president's record on the environment.

Right now, it isn't pretty. Yet the full picture of this president's stewardship of Oregon's rivers, forests and other postcard attributes is still developing.

This administration is a lost cause on major national environmental issues, especially those involving energy. President Bush and his advisers may be the last people on Earth to deny the reality of global warming. And to the bitter end they will insist it makes sense to open up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas drilling.

However, on regional issues such as forest policy, salmon and the Klamath, there are still opportunities for the administration to get it right. President Bush should be welcomed as he visits Central Oregon -- with the Deschutes National Forest thick, sick, and smoky -- and describes the need for more thinning, more controlled burns, more fire protection and more jobs for rural communities.

The president is absolutely right about the problem -- and mostly right

about the solutions. However, the administration seems determined to use fire as a vehicle to accelerate commercial logging in backcountry areas. We agree with the president that Oregon needs a new and improved Northwest Forest Plan and a larger and stable supply of logs from public forests, but it's wrong to try to get there on the back of a firetruck.

If Bush is serious about wanting to help break the stalemate on public forests, he should explicitly signal today that he is willing to avoid logging old growth and roadless areas, protect communities and provide real money in his Healthy Forest Initiative.

The view from here is that Bush has no chance of satisfying his critics on the broad national issues of clean air and water, oil and gas drilling in the Rockies and logging in roadless areas.

Yet Oregon is a good place to find middle ground on environmental issues. This is a place where loggers and conservationists came together in a mostly voluntary effort to restore threatened coho salmon. There's broad agreement on major thinning projects, including an 11,000-acre swath of the forest where the president had hoped to speak.

Oregon could be one place where Bush is able to deliver on his campaign promise to usher in "a new era of environmental protection." If so, the administration must do more than stoke the conflict in the Klamath, bait environmentalist groups on forest issues, eagerly remove coho salmon from the endangered species list and hand off responsibility for them to the state.

Oregon needs an adequately financed Superfund to help Portland clean up its harbor. It needs no letup in the federal investment in salmon recovery throughout the Northwest. Most of all, on this smoky summer day, it needs a carefully written, well-funded plan to start bringing its national forests back to health.

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SMOKEY BEAR NEEDS LEGAL HELP FROM BUSH

Oregonian, The (Portland, OR)-August 21, 2003

Author: DAVID REINHARD - The Oregonian

So far this year wildfires have scorched almost 2.5 million acres -- on top of the 7 million acres lost last year. The fires have destroyed buildings, led to the evacuation of homes and national parks and the deaths of firefighters. And there's more devastation and death to come. This year, next year or years from now. The U.S. Forest Service figures that more than 190 million acres of forest and rangeland are at risk of catastrophic fires.

And so far this year -- well, the Senate has failed to do anything to prevent all this economic and environmental ruin other than pay to put out the fires.

Don't blame President Bush, who's in Oregon today pushing for the Healthy Forests Initiative he offered last year. Or the House of Representatives, which passed the basics of Bush's plan with an impressive bipartisan majority last May. Or even the full Senate. Republican and Democratic backers have the votes to pass the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (House Bill 1904); they just don't have the 60 votes to stop a Democratic filibuster.

The problem? The ultimate sticking point could prove to be the proposal's judicial-review provisions. The bill would make two major changes. One would allow judges overseeing forest-health projects to consider the long-term impacts of not treating an area. Currently, they can consider only short-term impacts. Given this, stopping a project is an easy call for judges, since once you cut a tree you can't put it back. Bush's bill would provide balance. It would allow judges to ponder that not letting a project go forward could mean the end of a forest, too. The buildup of dead, dying or bug-infested trees could lead to catastrophic fires when lightning strikes. More damage.

The other change would direct courts to "give weight" to the agriculture secretary's findings on whether contested forest-management actions should proceed. That doesn't mean those findings would be binding on judges or on how much weight judges must give those findings. It simply says judges have to "give weight" to the secretary's findings. And, according to the law itself, they don't even have to do this if the finding is arbitrary or capricious. What's unreasonable about all this? Nothing -- unless you're happy with the status quo in our courts and forests or more worried about chain saws than catastrophic fires.

Are the changes needed? Consider these words from U.S. District Court Judge Ancer Haggerty in the Crane Prairie salvage-sale case: "If this Court had to consider this case without any reference to prior case law or with respect to the

National Environmental Policy Act] I think I would allow the sale to go forward." Given existing laws, he felt compelled to stop a salvage sale that included fuel reduction, though he seemed to be asking for congressional guidance. House Bill 1904 doesn't even go this far. It doesn't tell judges they have to consider the long-term consequences. It simply tells them they can consider the long-term consequences of stopping projects.

Are the forest bill's judicial-review provisions an assault on the separation of powers or an improper congressional intrusion on the courts? Is Congress micro-managing the courts by instructing them to "give weight" to the secretary's views? It might seem so from the caterwauling of some environmentalists and lawmakers. The fact is, however, that Congress does this all the time.

Congress sets deadlines for seeking judicial review (the Clean Water Act, Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978) and limits the duration of injunctions (the Federal Trade Commission Act, Consumer Product Safety Act, the Federal Judicial Code). Congress prohibits the issuance of injunctions (Clean Air Act, Emergency Energy Conservation Act of 1979) and establishes the findings and conditions courts can use to grant injunctions

(Americans With Disabilities Act, Trademark Act of 1946). And, yes, Congress even requires courts to "give weight" to certain findings when considering injunctions (Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978).

Land managers can reduce the fuel loads that lead to catastrophic fires but only if judges are allowed to weigh the short-term impact of doing something against the long-term impact of doing nothing. Our current system doesn't allow this balancing, and our unhealthy forests suffer as a result. This is good only if charred ruins are your idea of a natural environment. As Smokey Bearforest fires.

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PRESIDENT'S VISIT BRINGS OUT CRITICS AND BOOSTERS PAY TO SEE
YOUR PRESIDENT

Oregonian, The (Portland, OR)-August 21, 2003

Pay to see your president

The president of all the American people is coming to Portland today as one of his first steps in a 15-month campaign for a second term. This is probably a citizen's only chance to see George W. Bush without the mediation of stagecraft and the TV camera's eye.

But if a citizen wants to take advantage of this singular opportunity to see the president of We the People eyeball to eyeball, he mustn't forget to bring \$2,000. That's the price of admission to see the leader of this democracy.

TOM ROBINS Southeast Portland

Nothing but a headache

Well, President Bush is coming to town today for his \$2,000-a-plate luncheon. Considering that Oregon has the highest unemployment rate in the country, quite a few people should have the free time to attend the benefit.

Now I know what you're saying: \$2,000 is a bit steep for a lunch event. Well, perhaps donors can use that huge tax credit they got this year to get in the door and just brown-bag their meals? I know I'll use mine.

Wait a minute! I never got one.

Come to think about it, I haven't really gotten anything back from this administration except for this headache.

MATTHEW EAGLE WEBBER Northeast Portland

Bush should meet the public

Your editorial, "The price we pay" (Aug. 19), makes the mistaken assumption that President Bush is coming to Oregon. The fraidy-cat who is dropping in to collect some big money is not President Bush, he is Candidate Bush.

If he were President Bush, he would not be hiding on private property and meeting only with supporters. He would be meeting the public to talk about issues that concern all Oregonians, such as jobs, where the money will come from so we leave no child behind, the environment and the war.

Democracy means more than people getting a chance to express their opinions -- it means having leaders who actually listen to what the people say, even if they can't fork over \$2,000 for lunch.

SHELLEY LARKINS Northeast Portland

Welcome president to city

The "BOO" (Bush-haters Of Oregon) has apparently installed fresh batteries in its calculators and is working overtime to determine the city's expenses for the president's visit.

It's long been recognized that if you habitually create civil disruption during a presidential visit, the city will be forced to spend more tax dollars maintaining order. In other words, if demonstrations were historically uneventful, increased police presence would be significantly reduced.

As for the notion of invoicing political parties for police overtime, why not invoice the protest organizers for their fair share of the "security" expenses?

Disruption to city traffic? The president's visit is no more disruptive than the monthly Critical Mass demonstrations. Even disruption at the airport will be minimal.

Fortunately, adult supervision at The Oregonian's editorial board has prevailed as you wisely cast your calculators aside and properly welcomed the president to the Rose City (Aug. 19 editorial).

Portland is a beautiful city, and many of us, regardless of party affiliation, are proud to welcome the president of the United States to our fair city.

BILL JORGENS Wilsonville

Rabble-rousers debase selves

I welcome the right of people to demonstrate and your article about the police gearing up for President Bush's visit (Aug. 18). What I can't understand is this: When there is a gathering of common people, why do they have to act like riffraff by becoming rabble-rousers, defying the police, trampling citizens' rights to the streets, and so on?

In my view, they debase themselves and their cause for which they are demonstrating. I wonder sometimes if it is because they can't get the press coverage they want by being peaceful.

WAYNE H. PEW Gresham

For democracy, not oligarchy

Since we're paying for President Bush's Portland visit, it is only appropriate that we go and tell him he is wasting our money and resources to entertain the wealthy.

Does any working-class person have \$2,000 for one meal? Sure it's a fund raiser, but average Americans cannot afford that kind of money, even

with our suspiciously timed "tax relief" checks.

Bush's policies are based on waste, fraud and corporate giveaways, and despite his plain-folks appearance, he is a rich kid with little concern for the other 90 percent of our population.

If you believe in this expensive luncheon and his starving of our government services for the benefit of corporations, you are supporting an oligarchy.

A democracy is a system of government in which all people are responsible for electing leaders and laws, and if you want to maintain that system, you must voice your displeasure with the king's policies and work for change.

SCOTT ROZELL Southeast Portland

Be considerate of public

I think that many politicians are more concerned with seeing how large a crowd they can gather rather than focusing on the job that they were "hired" for. And I also think that they have total disregard for the everyday person's life patterns.

If I am wrong, then why don't they plan their visits (read: fund raising) with the X number of contributors to take place at a locale close to the airport, where they wouldn't inconvenience the XXXX number of non-attendees?

Inconveniences + huge traffic delays + extra police + an I-don't-care attitude add up come election time.

RON FRANKLIN Scappoose

Protest tactics backfire

Bush protesters just don't get it: He's the president. He travels the country. Portland, Oregon, is part of the country. He has every right to come here.

President Bush may not be perfect. You may not like his policies. If that is the case, don't vote for him.

Blocking freeways and building entrances and putting people in danger makes protesters look bad and prevents people from taking them seriously (not to mention the illegality of these activities).

We all have the right to free speech, but can you have an intelligent debate? Can you assess the facts and form your opinions based on hard data, or are you 100 percent emotionally driven?

I believe that demonstrators have every right to protest, but their insistence on breaking the law only proves one thing: They are childish.

MIKE BURKHEAD Oregon City

Not so good for us

George W. Bush came to Oregon to tell us that his "Healthy Forests Initiative" will be good for us.

His plan fails to prioritize fire protection near communities and homes. Drafted by the forest industry -- remember that Bush's assistant secretary of agriculture, in charge of the Forest Service, was the chief lobbyist for the logging companies -- the president's plan will allow our watersheds to be damaged without environmental reviews.

Bush's logging initiative will take away the right of citizens to appeal the decisions to log. But don't worry, he says, his plan will be good for us.

He told us that his war, his tax break for the rich, his energy plan subsidizing his big-oil buddies, and his budget-busting deficit would all be

good for us. Now he expects us to believe that his "Healthy Forest Initiative" will be good for us, too.

TIM PALMER Port Orford

Agenda will destroy future

When the leaders are disdainful of the people, we are correct to ignore them and place all of our energy into replacing such leaders.

President Bush has made it quite clear that he does not want to represent the people of the United States. He does not want to hear opinions, history or science that might educate him to a different path.

His agenda is decided, and it is an agenda of pure unbridled capitalism that will run the middle class, the backbone of this nation, into the ground.

Massive debt, service cuts, destruction of regulations, environmental degradation and worldwide distrust of our nation will destroy the future for many generations.

Protest is a waste of energy. Hopefully we can effect a regime change at home and save this great country.

KATHLEEN TOOKE Southwest Portland

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BUSH SAYS FOREST PLAN WILL AID ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS

Oregonian, The (Portland, OR)-August 22, 2003

Author: MICHAEL MILSTEIN - The Oregonian

Summary: The president's speech, echoing one delivered in Arizona, asserts the need to clear tinder that feeds fires

President Bush told Oregonians Thursday that anyone concerned about protecting endangered species and towering old-growth trees should embrace his plan to restore the health of Western forests by ridding them of mounting tinder that feeds catastrophic blazes.

He invoked the twin environmental issues of the Northwest after helicoptering over a section of the Deschutes National Forest rich in aged, golden ponderosa pines and beset by fire.

"The worst thing that can happen to old stands of timber is these fires," Bush told a supportive crowd of about 500 federal employees, local leaders and others at the Deschutes County Fairgrounds and Expo Center in Redmond. "They destroy the big trees. They're so explosive in nature that hardly any tree can survive. We saw that with our own eyes chopping in here."

Although his roughly 30-minute speech offered a few nods to the Northwest, it echoed forest talks Bush gave more than a week ago in charred southern Arizona. He insisted that Congress quickly pass a bill co-sponsored by Rep. Greg Walden, R-Ore., to accelerate thinning, saying it has already taken too long to bring "common-sense" management to federal forests.

"Nobody's to blame," he said, with brisk winds kicking up the same winds driving nearby fires. "The problem has existed for years. Let's be the ones who start solving it."

Compromise iffy

Democrats found few hints the president might compromise on controversial elements of the bill that scuttled forest thinning legislation last year. They are troubled by sections of the bill that would restrict environmental and court reviews of logging projects and its failure to specifically protect old growth trees from cutting -- all points that blocked a deal last year, too.

Decades of aggressive firefighting halted occasional blazes that historically cleared out smaller trees and brush. The White House says close to 190 million acres are now clogged with spindly trees that have little commercial value but offer ideal kindling for explosive, unpredictable blazes such as those burning near Redmond and the Biscuit Fire that raced across nearly 500,000 acres of southwest Oregon last year.

Bush announced his Healthy Forests Initiative last year in Medford as crews battled the Biscuit fire. The initiative has come to encompass forest thinning and other steps to ratchet up logging in the Northwest. Bush officials have taken administrative actions on their own, but they need Congress to approve key reforms in laws governing forest management.

Money is a problem, and the president made a plea Thursday for adequate funding.

This is likely to be the nation's third most expensive fire season after 2000 and 2002, with the U.S. Forest Service estimating total costs of nearly \$900 million. The Forest Service earlier this month exhausted the \$418 million the president and Congress had allocated for firefighting and began taking money from other programs including land purchases, recreation and research, as it did last year.

Battling fires gets first priority for money, although it often runs more than four times the price of culling overgrown forests so they withstand the flames.

Firefighting has gobbled about \$3 million aimed at clearing tinder-choked lands, but the Forest Service has shifted the balance of the money into other accounts in hopes of safeguarding it, said agency budget chief Hank Kashdan.

Critics say the administration will never make a dent in the billions of dollars worth thinning necessary when the Forest Service annually runs out of money for firefighting. Instead, they say, land managers will be forced to cut large, hardier trees to underwrite the work.

"They want to tout this huge new initiative to restore the forests, and it seems like a hollow promise," said Rep. Peter DeFazio, D-Ore. "They can harvest all the remaining old growth out there and they still can't begin to pay for the fuel reduction that needs to be done."

Bill sticks to U.S. lands

But the bill pending in Congress does not dedicate money to clear overgrown forests. And it limits projects to federal lands instead of state, tribal and private property often closest to fire-threatened Eastern Oregon communities such as Bend. Environmental groups, firefighters, Oregon religious leaders and others contend that will push cutting toward backcountry areas where bigger trees appeal to loggers.

"The president's bill permits logging of old growth under the guise of protecting lives," said John Hummel, a Bend city councilor.

Mae Lin Lantz, 27, an Eastern Oregon firefighter for the past five years, said one of the most dangerous jobs for fire crews is trying to protect homes encircled by dry pine needles and overly dense timber.

"It's a matter of common sense to prioritize these treatments where we have common ground," she said. "Instead, we have something guaranteed to generate controversy."

But Rex Storm, forest policy manager for Associated Oregon Loggers, said cutting some commercial timber in the course of thinning offers the only hope of attacking the overwhelming buildup of tinder. "There's just not enough money anywhere to pay for the amount of thinning that needs to be done, whether it's \$4 billion or \$40 billion," he said.

"The more value you can create from your activity, the more forest health work you can accomplish," Storm said.

Memo: President Bush's Visit Edition: SUNRISE Section: LOCAL STORIES Page: A04

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CENTRAL OREGON FIRES BURN UNCHECKED

Oregonian, The (Portland, OR)-August 23, 2003

Author: CAROL MCGRAW - Correspondent, The Oregonian, Correspondent Richard Cockle contributed to this report.

Summary: Rain and humidity give firefighters some help, but the Booth and Bear Butte fires still are blazing freely

Two Central Oregon wildfires remained untamed Friday, racing through 24,000 acres of timber and pristine wilderness, burning cabins and gnawing at the edges of other recreation areas.

Rain and high humidity aided 800 firefighters battling to contain the unpredictable blazes. Gov. Ted Kulongoski proclaimed a state of emergency, which will allow the National Guard to help fight the fires.

Fire officials said 26 Guard members were being sent to the fire, along with helicopters and other support personnel and equipment. The governor's order will remain in effect until the fire season ends.

The Booth fire, roaring through old-growth timber and downfall in a long, narrow arch north of U.S. 20 and Suttle Lake, has scorched more than 20,300 acres, officials said. The Bear Butte fire, 15 miles to the north in the Mount Jefferson Wilderness and on the Warm Springs Reservation, has burned 3,990 acres.

Eight cabins, an auditorium and a shower house have been burned by the Booth fire at the Round Lake Christian camp, one of several camping areas evacuated earlier this week, said Janelle Smith of the Central Oregon Interagency Dispatch Center. Round Lake is north of U.S. 20 and east of the Linn County line.

Firefighters were trying to slow the Booth fire's progress to the northeast, toward Camp Sherman, and to keep it from spreading southeast toward Black Butte Ranch. The fire is about 3-1/2 miles from both residential areas.

On Friday, the cooler weather allowed firefighters to work close enough to the blaze to build direct fire lines, said Don Ferguson, a spokesman for the fire management team.

The fires began Tuesday, two days before President Bush was to visit Camp Sherman and tout his healthy forests initiative. Because of the blazes, he instead flew over the area and then spoke in Redmond.

The cause of the fires is still under investigation, and the Central Oregon Arson Task Force has not ruled out arson, officials said. There had been no lightning in the area for 11 days before the fires started, officials said, although a lightning-caused fire can smolder for some time before taking off.

The Booth fire started about 100 yards from U.S. 20 near Square Lake, a wilderness area where mechanized vehicles, chain saws and other equipment are not allowed.

Camp Sherman residents were told that a cautionary evacuation ordered Thursday by Jefferson County Sheriff Jack Jones would remain in place for at least the next four days. More than 1,000 people fled summer cabins and homes in the area.

About 40 people stayed Thursday night at a Red Cross shelter set up at Sisters Elementary School.

Black Butte Ranch remains on pre-evacuation notice, and officials met with residents late Friday afternoon to update them.

A section of U.S. 20 is still closed over Santiam Pass.

In northeast Oregon, a fast-moving wildfire destroyed a historic cabin in the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area late Thursday or early Friday, despite efforts by an airborne fire crew to save it.

Steve Butterworth, a spokesman for an interagency firefighting team in Joseph, said a helicopter crew rappelled to the Salt Creek Cabin on Thursday night, dug a fire line and set a burnout fire.

"We had to get our people out of the area" because the 6,600-acre Two Corral fire was headed their way, Butterworth said. Fire commanders learned Friday that the cabin had burned, he said.

The cabin was thought to have been built in the 1890s by Arnold Hiltzley. It consisted of two small structures connected by a breezeway, according to the book "Snake River of Hells Canyon."

The Two Corral fire is one of four lightning-caused wildfires burning in the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area. It was burning west of the Snake River near Two Corral Creek, said Tom Fitzpatrick, a spokesman for the Northeast Oregon Interagency Fire Dispatch Center in La Grande.

Elsewhere in northeastern Oregon, the Hass Ridge fire has blackened 2,361 acres on a ridge between Horse Creek and Lightning Creek, he said. The nearby Grouse Creek fire charred 213 acres and the Butcher Knife fire burned 150 acres. Fitzpatrick said 315 firefighters were battling those blazes, and a fire camp has been set up at the rodeo grounds in Joseph.

Correspondent Richard Cockle contributed to this report.

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BUSH TALKS WOODS, NOT FORESTS, WHILE CHASING GREENS, NOT GREENBACKS

Oregonian, The (Portland, OR)-August 23, 2003

Author: JEFF MAPES - The Oregonian

Summary: The most powerful man in the world plays a round of golf with a college buddy in Central Oregon

How could a president visit Central Oregon and not find his way to a golf course?

That might have been what President Bush figured when he carved out time during his visit this week for a quick nine holes at one of the fancy new resorts that are turning the Bend area into a golf mecca.

After raising record amounts of campaign cash in Portland and decrying forest fires in a Redmond speech, Bush made a dash Thursday for the golf course at Crosswater, an exclusive, gated community south of Sunriver.

He spent two hours on the course -- named one of "America's 100 Greatest Courses" by Golf Digest in 1999 -- and then stayed overnight at a \$1 million home owned by Charlie Peck, one of his fraternity brothers from Yale University.

Bush reportedly didn't keep score, which might have been a good thing. A small group of reporters allowed to watch the presidential foursome tee off recorded that his first shot was a dribbler that went no more than 10 feet.

Nancy Devine, Sunriver's vice president for marketing and sales, said the president had high praise for the scenic vistas and was curious to know the names of the nearby peaks.

"He's a terrific golfer, by the way," she added, diplomatically insisting that she didn't think anybody in the foursome had a good first shot. She said the early evening golf conditions were perfect, with an overcast sky cooling temperatures and no hint of the wind that can sometimes bedevil Crosswater golfers.

In addition to the president and Peck, the group included the club's golf director, Brad Myrick, and another Crosswater resident, David Duersen.

After his round, Bush spent time signing autographs for Crosswater residents and golfers, Devine said.

Peck and his wife, Shawn, who split their time between homes in Colorado and Oregon, later dined with the president before clearing out of the four-bedroom residence for the night.

"He's very gracious, charismatic, and really knew how to put us at ease," said Shawn Peck, declining to discuss what they talked about over dinner.

Charlie Peck is a member of the limited partnership that owns Sunriver Resort -- which developed Crosswater and manages the golf course there -- and is president of Denver-based Destination Hotels & Resorts. Bush and Peck were members of Delta Kappa Epsilon when they were at Yale in the 1960s.

The presidential minibreak ended Friday morning when Bush's party drove back to the Redmond airport and lifted off at 8:30 a.m. en route to events in Eastern Washington and suburban Seattle.

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FOREST FIRES' TIMING SETS TONGUES WAGGING

Oregonian, The (Portland, OR)-August 27, 2003

Author: MICHAEL MILSTEIN - The Oregonian

Summary: Central Oregon's rumor mill is ablaze with talk of surprising smoke and presidential helicopters

An emerging whodunit in Central Oregon hovers amid the smoke draping the east side of the Cascade Range.

Can it be pure coincidence, locals are asking, that two wildfires sprang up in view of the spot where President Bush planned to promote his plan to thin forests for wildfire prevention?

And that they both appeared just as his plans emerged?

"I think everyone in the community here is wondering that," said Judy Wattier, who works at the KOA Campground just east of Sisters, where business is in the doldrums because of the blazes that have covered almost 40,000 acres in the nearby Deschutes National Forest. "Everyone I've mentioned it to can talk about it for hours."

There are whispered conspiracy theories, even rumors of mysterious black helicopters clattering over the forest shortly before the fires were spotted the afternoon of Aug. 19, two days before the president's visit.

But perhaps folks can be forgiven for that, because there really were black helicopters clattering over the forest.

"Typically the Secret Service does all kinds of aerial surveillance before the president comes in," said Don Ferguson, an information officer for what have become known as the B&B complex fires. "They pretty much know the location of every tree."

The president had planned to speak in Camp Sherman, but the fires forced the evacuation of the small resort town about the time he would arrive. He flew over the blazes in Marine One and spoke in Redmond instead.

U.S. Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth, Oregon Gov. Ted Kulongoski and White House press officers fended off questions from reporters at the speech about the curious timing of the fires. "It would be inappropriate for us to speculate about that," presidential spokesman Ken Lisaius said.

Ferguson said he's taken several calls from area residents saying they think the fires appear suspicious.

This much is known: No lightning that might have sparked fires had struck the area for at least 11 days before the twin blazes were sighted, according to the Northwest Interagency Coordination Center in Portland. The Central Oregon Dispatch Center in Prineville first suggested lightning had hit a few days before, but meteorologists checked records and dispelled that.

Trees or debris ignited by lightning may smolder for a few days before blooming into a blaze. But 11 days is an awfully long time to wait.

"It is unusual, but not unprecedented," Ferguson said. A lightning-caused fire near Ashland sputtered for 10 days before taking off earlier this year, he said.

The coincidences multiply considering the two fires erupted about 10 miles apart at almost the same time, although winds that whipped through the region might explain that. The Booth fire started near Round Lake, a camping spot next to the Mount Jefferson Wilderness, while the Bear Butte fire began in the wilderness, away from roads.

The Central Oregon Arson Task Force will investigate the blazes, but flames have kept officers from beginning their inquiry.

Lightning starts about 15 percent of wildfires, according to the National Interagency Fire Center.

People start the rest.

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BUILDING A FIRE LINE IN OREGON

Oregonian, The (Portland, OR)-August 17, 2003

Summary: Memo to President Bush: Western forests need a plan to thin trees and cut through the thicket of public distrust

Mr. President, when you visit the sick, fire-prone federal forests of Oregon this week, you will see they are as thick with distrust as they are with brush and small trees.

Your Healthy Forest Initiative, which soon will come to a vote in the U.S. Senate, would thin up to 20 million acres of the 190 million acres of public forests choked with this brush. We agree this work is badly needed in the forests of Oregon and throughout the West.

As written, though, the Healthy Forest legislation could seed even more public distrust across the land, draw more lawsuits and protests and ultimately leave our forests just as vulnerable to fire as they are today.

Mr. President, with some changes, your initiative, which is embodied in House Bill 1904, can be the legislation that helps Western forests, reduces the risks of wildfire to homes and people and begins to restore trust in the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management.

First, agree to amend the bill so that it reads clearly that no old-growth trees or roadless areas will be logged under the guise of fire prevention.

You and the House co-authors of HB1904, including Rep. Greg Walden, R-Ore., insist the bill is about healthy forests, not logging of old growth or opening up roadless areas. Once, such assurances would have been all the people of the Pacific Northwest needed to hear. Not now.

If this bill is not about old growth or roadless acres, it should say so.

Second, commit explicitly to doing most of this first round of forest treatments in the so-called urban interface, where homes and people are at risk, rather than the backcountry.

Mike Dombeck, former chief of the Forest Service, told us last week there is enough work around vulnerable communities to keep thinning crews busy for years. Dombeck persuasively argues that this could and should be the biggest local public works project since the Civilian Conservation Corps.

Mr. President, take a good look around when you fly in to Oregon for your photo opportunity. There will be sick forests as far as you can see, but the first acres treated should be around homes and people. That is where we stand and fight fires in this state.

Third, by all means streamline the Forest Service's from-here-to-eternity planning and administrative appeals' process, but do not go after the judicial process. This issue speaks directly to the public's shattered trust. The first step in creating a healthier political climate on public lands should not be to restrict the ability of people to challenge government decisions.

Finally, Mr. President, put real money behind your plan. Your administration knows it will cost billions of dollars to even begin to restore health to our thick and sick forests.

The way HB1904 is written, you are inviting criticism that you plan to pay for thinning the dog hair that covers public forests by logging big, mature trees. We share your frustration with the collapse of the Northwest Forest Plan and agree that the forests can stand more commercial logging, but this is not the bill to change that.

Right now, what Oregon needs is an agreement in the Senate on a compromise fire bill that will put people to work thinning our forests and protecting our communities.

Our forests are sick. The public trust in the government's ability to properly manage them is broken. Mr. President, Oregon needs a fire bill. It doesn't need any more damage to that public trust.

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BUSH SWOOPS INTO OREGON

Oregonian, The (Portland, OR)-August 22, 2003

Author: JEFF MAPES and MICHAEL MILSTEIN - The Oregonian< Joe Rose and Allan Brettman of The Oregonian staff contributed to this report.

Summary: The president uses fires in Oregon as a backdrop for his plea for Congress to act on legislation to thin out trees

After flying over a pair of Central Oregon forest fires that he described as a "holocaust," President Bush on Thursday again pushed Congress to adopt his plan to thin the national forests to reduce the risk of fires.

"Preserving and protecting our forests is not a political issue; it's not a partisan issue," Bush said in a speech in Redmond after his helicopter tour of the blazes in the Deschutes National Forest. "It's a practical issue we must come together and solve."

The twin fires -- still comparatively small by Western wildfire standards -- forced the White House to abandon plans to have Bush tour a demonstration forest-thinning site near the Metolius River.

"It's the holocaust. It's devastating," the president said. "We saw the big flames jumping from treetop to treetop."

While the president used the backdrop of the flames to promote his initiative, he offered no new ideas for breaking the gridlock that has blocked Senate action on forest-thinning legislation that has passed the House.

Senate Democrats say the president remains unwilling to address their concerns about ensuring that the legislation does not become a cover for extensive old-growth logging while doing little to protect communities threatened by catastrophic fires.

"I think we heard more of the same today," said Josh Kardon, chief of staff to Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore. "His troops have not heard a message that it's important to find common ground with the Democrats."

Gov. Ted Kulongoski, who went on the helicopter tour with Bush, said he told the president that Congress must pass a plan that "has broad agreement and political support."

Bush flew to Central Oregon after swooping into Portland to give a campaign speech that featured unusually tight security and a record take for this type of fund-raising in Oregon of at least \$1 million.

In a 16-minute speech to about 500 supporters at the University of Portland, Bush defended his record and pledged to continue working to lower an unemployment rate in Oregon that he said was too high.

He also promoted his forest-thinning initiative before an audience that included several people with timber industry ties.

Unlike the president's visit to downtown Portland a year ago -- which erupted into violence along the narrow streets outside the Hilton Portland -- only minor clashes occurred between demonstrators and police.

Officials deployed more than 400 police officers to secure an especially large perimeter around the university's Chiles Center. They also took the rare step of busing attendees to the event from a parking lot at the Rose Garden about six miles away.

Security for the event "was larger and different than in other places," said Patrick Donaldson, a Portland security consultant who helped work on arrangements for the visit. "But it's commensurate with what the threat is or is perceived to be."

Event draws 4,000 protesters

Police said the event drew about 4,000 protesters, including several who lined streets leading to the university and waved signs including such messages as, "He lied. They died."

About 10 protesters were arrested as police used pepper spray to clear a North Portland park.

The president, due at a similar fund-raiser today in Seattle, has raised at least \$50 million for his re-election campaign, expected to be the best-financed candidacy in U.S. history.

The \$1 million raised in Portland -- with a ticket price of \$2,000, the maximum allowed under federal law -- was the most collected in the state for an individual candidate's coffers.

Bush spoke at a May 2000 fund-raiser in Oregon that brought in more than \$1.3 million for Republican Party accounts that did not have any limits on the size of the donations. Several contributions were in \$100,000 checks from timber-industry sources.

The national parties now are prohibited from raising those large donations, putting a new premium on fund raising in increments of as much as \$2,000. Local Republicans pronounced themselves pleased at the turnout.

"I challenge any other candidate to raise a million bucks in this town, in this economy," said Craig

Berkman, a former Oregon Republican chairman, who helped sell tickets for the event.

Fund-raiser has critics, friends

Critics of the president's fund raising used the \$50 million mark to renew their attacks.

"It shows he is the best connected with special interests of any president we have," said Frank Clemente, executive director of Public Citizen's Congress Watch, a Washington, D.C., group pushing tighter campaign-finance limits.

"I think that's dangerous for our democracy, and it's harmful to the public because there is a payback" for these donations, he said.

Several donors at the president's fund-raiser countered that they simply like Bush's performance.

"I loved it," said Paul Mabie, owner of Cascade Auto Body in Vancouver, after shaking Bush's hand at the fund-raiser. "He's reflecting everything I've been for."

Bush, who gave his speech and left before donors began a lunch featuring Oregon salmon and wine, largely stuck to the script he has followed since he began an intensive series of fund-raisers in mid-June.

He praised his administration's fight against terrorism and said his two tax cuts were helping produce an economic revival.

At the same time, he said, "I understand there are a lot of people hurting in the state of Oregon. The unemployment rate is too high. I will continue to try to create the conditions necessary for job creation."

Oregon's jobless rate, now at 8.5 percent, has been the nation's highest several times during the past two years.

Kulongoski talks to Bush

In Redmond, the president also said he wanted to meet one promise laid out by his predecessor, President Clinton. Bush said he would work to meet the Clinton administration's goal of a Northwest federal timber harvest of 1 billion board-feet annually. Harvests have fallen short of that goal.

Kulongoski said he got a chance to talk to the president about reversing a decision by the Environmental Protection Agency to delay cleanup of a contaminated site along the Willamette River.

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The president was scheduled to spend Thursday night in a private home in a gated community next to Sunriver before leaving today for two events in Washington state.

Joe Rose and Allan Brettman of The Oregonian staff contributed to this report.

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BUSH LEAVES OREGON AFTER STRESSING HIS PLAN TO THIN OUT TREES

Oregonian, The (Portland, OR)-August 22, 2003

Author: JEFF MAPES and ALLAN BRETTMAN - The Oregonian, Michael Milstein and Joe Rose of The Oregonian staff contributed to this report.

About 100 people gathered in a rare August rain this morning at Redmond Municipal Airport to see President Bush off.

The rain stopped moments before Bush's arrival aboard a Marine helicopter, which shuttled him from a night spent at a private home near Sunriver south of Bend. The crowd cheered as Bush acknowledged their ovation with a wave

He departed for Pasco, Wash., and Ice Harbor Dam, where he gave a speech on salmon recovery efforts.

Darlene Anderson, 32, of Bend, said it was worth the wait in the rain with her three children. "I saw Ronald Reagan in Eureka, Ill., when I was a kid, and I wanted my kids to see the president," she said.

On Thursday, Bush flew over a pair of Central Oregon forest fires before delivering a speech in Redmond where he again urged Congress to adopt his plan to thin the national forests to reduce the risk of fires.

"Preserving and protecting our forests is not a political issue; it's not a partisan issue," Bush said in a speech in Redmond after his helicopter tour of the blazes in the Deschutes National Forest. "It's a practical issue we must come together and solve."

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BUSH DISPLAYS HIS KEY SKILL: FUND RAISING

Oregonian, The (Portland, OR)-August 22, 2003

Author: DAVID SARASOHN - The Oregonian

Sad to say, but there are actually those who wonder whether, right at this moment, the best thing President Bush could be doing is raising more money for his re-election campaign.

There are, it seems, currently some difficulties in Iraq and the Middle East, there is a hostility among traditional U.S. allies comparable to morning-after in-laws, there is a budget deficit rising to the point where the government needs to print additional numbers, and there is an economy that's considered to be advancing if it gets all the way to sluggish.

But in August, the president has been interrupting his 35-day vacation at his ranch -- to get that much time off, most people have to be pardoned by a governor -- mostly to drop by places like Portland to pocket another million or two.

These days, for him, it beats watching CNN. But there's another reason why addressing \$2,000-a-plate lunches, and posing with contributors for \$25,000 pictures, is the best use of the president's time these days.

In any job, you should concentrate on what you do best.

And considering all the other problems with the president's performance, what President Bush is good at is fund raising. So far, the Bush administration may have seen the loss of more American jobs than any presidency since Herbert Hoover's, but President Bush is raising a dazzling amount of money to try to keep his own.

As the group Public Citizen notes, the president's take in Portland on Thursday adds to more than \$50 million he's raised so far to spend before next year's Republican convention -- after which he's likely to accept public financing for the fall campaign. Friday, he's appearing in Seattle, and adding some more to the pile, although events in largest cities bring in considerably more.

"The Bush campaign," points out the not-easily-impressed Frank Clemente, director of Public Citizen's Congress Watch, "is a fund-raising juggernaut."

According to most estimates, the Bush-Cheney re-election campaign is likely to raise \$170 million to \$200 million.

Asked at a recent press conference how he could spend \$170 million in contributions in a primary

campaign with no primary opponent, the president said, "Bring 'em on."

(Whoops. To that particular question, President Bush actually said, "Watch me." He said "Bring 'em on" to a question about Iraqi terror attacks against American troops, but it's also clearly his attitude toward campaign contributions.)

For his \$1 million take in Portland, the president promised the crowd to do something about the state's unemployment situation, the highest in the country, declaring, "I'll try to make conditions for job creation as long as anybody is looking for work."

So far, that effort has been less successful than his fund raising.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 3.1 million private-sector jobs have been lost since the spring of 2001. This would not only place the Bush administration at levels not seen since the Great Depression, but it would make it the first administration since then to show any overall job loss. Even presidents not generally considered economic wizards -- Gerald Ford? Jimmy Carter? George Bush the Elder? -- had some job growth.

Oregon's situation may be extreme, but it fits into the national pattern.

Even Oregon Republicans were impressed at what the president raked in from the situation.

"When you think about the shape this state's economy is in," former state GOP chairman Craig Berkman told The Associated Press, "it's remarkable the president was able to raise as much money today as he did."

Clearly, fund raising, not economic policy, is the great strength of the administration. Portlanders disappointed at the schedule of President Bush's visit here Thursday -- land . . . pick up the cash . . . take off -- are failing to see the strategy involved:

People should focus on what they do best.

And if that's collecting contributions for the most expensive presidential campaign ever imagined in American history, bring 'em on.

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CAMP SHERMAN-AREA RESIDENTS BACK IN HOMES UNDER STRICT RULES

Oregonian, The (Portland, OR)-August 31, 2003

Author: MARK LARABEE - The Oregonian, BRENT WALTH of The Oregonian staff contributed to this report

Summary: The Saturday return comes as firefighters still are battling the Booth and Bear Butte fires

Camp Sherman residents were allowed back to their homes Saturday under tight controls as firefighters continued to battle the B&B Complex Fire 14 miles west of Sisters.

The Camp Sherman area was evacuated Aug. 21 as the fires burned in rugged timber with dense, dry ground cover.

Although the residents were allowed to go home beginning at 2 p.m. Saturday, the Jefferson County sheriff's office issued a curfew from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m., asking people to stay indoors because of dangerous road conditions at night.

The two fires that make up the B&B Complex -- the Booth and Bear Butte fires -- have burned more than 45,600 acres.

The Booth fire, the larger of the two, burned deeper into popular hiking areas in the Mount Jefferson Wilderness on Saturday. Marc Hollen, a spokesman for the Northwest Interagency Coordination Center in Portland, said the Booth fire moved northwest and crossed over the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail at Minto Pass, about two miles northeast of Three Fingered Jack.

The wilderness area has been closed to camping and hiking because of the fires.

Hollen said fire crews have the two fires about 40 percent contained. He said more than 2,200 firefighters are working to halt the two fires. The cost of fighting the fires so far: \$10 million.

U.S. 20 remained closed Saturday from Indian Ford Road to Junctions of Oregon 22 and U.S. 20. The American Red Cross continued to operate shelters in Sisters and Bend.

"They're still trying to get the road open," Hollen said. "There's just so much fuel in that area."

He said falling trees, rolling rocks and the potential for flames to jump the road are only some of the dangers.

Heavy smoke and firefighters traveling the road could also be a hazard.

"We understand the need to get the road open," Hollen said. "They don't want to put people on there unless it's safe."

Brent Walth of The Oregonian staff contributed to this report.

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BOOTH, BEAR BUTTE FIRES GROW TO 49,130 ACRES

Oregonian, The (Portland, OR)-September 1, 2003

Author: HOLLEY GILBERT - The Oregonian

Summary: About 200 residents of Camp Sherman leave voluntarily after checking on properties

The B&B complex fire continued to grow Sunday even as a somewhat smoky U.S. 20 reopened to traffic between Santiam Junction and Sisters.

The Booth and Bear Butte fires picked up more than 4,000 acres by Sunday and covered 49,130 acres in and around the Mount Jefferson Wilderness, 14 miles west of Sisters.

To the west, the Booth fire continued its spread into the Eight Lakes Basin within the area north of Three Fingered Jack.

Meanwhile, many of about 200 Camp Sherman-area residents who were allowed into their homes Saturday after being evacuated Aug. 21 voluntarily left again after getting personal belongings or checking their homes.

"We can't guarantee their safety," said Mick Mueller of the Northwest Interagency Coordinating Center.

If firefighters continue to keep the fire 40 percent contained, Camp Sherman vacation homeowners may be able to get into their homes in the next couple of days, Tuesday at the earliest, Mueller said.

Fire officials had expected difficulty at keeping the fire contained on the southeast margins because of shifting winds Sunday afternoon, but no difficulties had been reported by late evening.

New winds from the west will help contain the fires on the west sides, where they are spreading, but could become a problem in the southeast, when they are contained, he said.

Winds from the west also will help reduce fire-caused haze that moved into the Willamette Valley and over Portland on Saturday, said Marc Hollen, a spokesman for the center in Portland.

Mueller recommended that motorists use alternate routes and skip U.S. 20. Smoke has reduced visibility in places to "dozens of feet," and changing conditions could send trees or rocks onto the road, he said.

No problems were reported late Sunday.

Drivers on U.S. 20 are limited to 45 mph and are not allowed to stop except for emergencies, Mueller said. Only emergency vehicles are allowed to turn off the road between Santiam Junction and Sisters.

The complex fire grew over the weekend when the Booth fire, the larger of the two, "boomed out" and crossed the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail at Minto Pass, about two miles northeast of Three Fingered Jack, said Hollen.

The Bear Butte fire was moving more slowly through canyons and draws, he said.

A 50- to 100-acre spot fire also erupted when burning debris blown into the air landed about a quarter-mile from the north edge of the blaze, he said. Firefighters expected the Booth fire and spot fire to merge.

Spot fires are expected to crop up, Mueller said. Although this one is not critical, it will add more area to the uncontrolled western flank, he said.

Given the hot, dry conditions and rough, heavily timbered terrain, Mueller predicted that firefighters would need nature's help to extinguish the B&B complex fire. "It will burn until snow flies," he said.

The fires started Aug. 19.

Nearly 3,000 people are involved in the B&B complex fires.

Three of the 1,654 front-line firefighters have received minor injuries. Another 592 managers are overseeing firefighting efforts and about 60 others are operating residential camps.

Early on, the fires destroyed eight cabins and five out-buildings. On Sunday, the cost of fighting the fires topped \$10 million.

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B&B FIRES ERUPT - CAMP SHERMAN RESIDENTS FLEE

Oregonian, The (Portland, OR)-September 5, 2003

Author: WENDY OWEN - Correspondent, The Oregonian , Oregonian correspondent Matt Sabo contributed to this report.

Summary: Two fires, which forced the evacuation of the mountain hamlet for 10 days, may have merged, commanders say

The B&B complex fire in Central Oregon exploded Thursday, growing by nearly 20,000 acres and sending families who had returned to their homes just four days ago scurrying out of its path again.

"The fire has blown up and is making major runs to the east," said David Widmark, a spokesman for the Northwest Interagency Coordination Center in Portland.

Fire crews pulled back, and nearby campgrounds were evacuated, along with homes in the Camp Sherman area, Widmark said.

The Oregon Department of Transportation temporarily closed a 10-mile stretch of U.S. 20 to allow fire equipment and Camp Sherman residents to leave. The highway, a main route between the Willamette Valley and Central Oregon, reopened later.

About 300 residents of the mountain hamlet fled Thursday afternoon. They had returned home Sunday after a 10-day evacuation.

Megan Sweet, a year-round Camp Sherman resident since 1985, checked into a Sisters motel Thursday afternoon.

Sweet said she noticed a big plume of smoke to the north about 2:30 p.m. and called the fire camp in Sisters. The woman who answered told her, "Oh, you have to get out!" Sweet said.

"I got my papers out," she said. "If it burns, it burns. And it's time for the forest to burn."

The B&B complex is made up of the Booth and Bear Butte fires, which are burning about two miles apart west of Sisters. Fire commanders thought the two blazes had merged Thursday evening, but Widmark said officials wouldn't know for sure until today, when they fly over the area.

The fires had burned nearly 62,000 acres by Thursday morning, but a fire official estimated they had grown to nearly 80,000 acres, or 125 square miles, by evening.

"There's so much fuel on the ground, so much beetle damage, it's just like a blowtorch going through," Widmark said.

About 2,200 firefighters were working to hold the fire lines, but many had to be pulled back when the wind, low humidity and other factors combined to make the work too dangerous. Aircraft continued to douse the flames, Widmark said.

Fire commanders have asked the state fire marshal for help from structural fire crews, Widmark said.

In the Columbia River Gorge, firefighters fully contained the Herman Creek fire near Cascade Locks by 5:30 p.m., said Stan Hinatsu, a U.S. Forest Service spokesman.

But the fire is not controlled, Hinatsu said. Control means flames and hot spots are out, and there's little chance the fire could reignite.

Hinatsu said he wouldn't feel at ease until heavy rains fall in October.

"We're not going to get everything," he said. "Our concern is that in an east wind . . . those may reignite and could send embers over the line, and we're off to the races again."

The fire can smolder in the roots of trees and remain unnoticed until the wind revives it, Hinatsu said. "We just feel there is enough of a fire season left that we can't turn our backs on it yet."

Crews will monitor the area, once the fire is extinguished, until October, he said.

The blaze started about noon Tuesday when a dead tree fell across a power line and ignited dry grass 300 yards south of Interstate 84 on Herman Creek Road, about two miles east of Cascade Locks.

Pushed by gusting winds, it jumped the freeway and raced toward Cascade Locks, destroying a former bed-and-breakfast inn, a vacant home and a barn.

Fire crews stopped it at 370 acres. On Thursday, fire commanders revised their earlier estimate that 470 acres had burned.

The fast-moving fire forced the evacuation of about 200 homes, sending at least 60 people to a shelter overnight in Stevenson, Wash., across the Columbia River.

Oregonian correspondent Matt Sabo contributed to this report.

Wendy Owen: 541-296-0606; wowennews@aol.com

Photo by The Associated Press

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FIREFIGHTERS MUSCLE AGAINST GUSTS

Oregonian, The (Portland, OR)-September 7, 2003

Author: TOM QUINN - The Oregonian

Summary: Crews near Sisters manage to protect gains in the B&B complex fire, which is 40 percent contained, as winds whip flames

Firefighters battling the 89,000-acre B&B complex fire north of Sisters appeared to clear a hurdle Saturday, with most containment lines around the blaze holding during an afternoon windstorm that saw gusts up to 25 mph.

"We did have some activity, but they were very successful in holding the lines," said Hallie Edgmon, spokeswoman for the fire command center near Sisters. The fire did breach the Metolius River in spots, but firefighters were successful in limiting that blaze to three acres, Edgmon said.

The B&B complex fire includes two fires, the Booth and the Bear Butte. They merged Friday and are now being managed as one fire, which remains about 40 percent contained. Most of the fire is burning in the Deschutes National Forest about 15 miles north of Sisters. The second big swath is cutting through the Mount Jefferson Wilderness. Portions of the Warm Springs Reservation and Willamette National Forest are also in flames.

David Widmark, a spokesman for the Northwest Interagency Coordination Center in Portland, said wind gusts up to 25 mph were expected through the evening, followed by an advancing cold front forecast to hit the Oregon coast by midnight Saturday. Though less than one-tenth of an inch of rain is predicted for the western edge of the fire -- and none for the eastern portion -- "The cooler temperatures and higher humidity is what we're looking for," he said.

Widmark said 50 new wildfires from lightning strikes were reported in the Pacific Northwest in the past 36 hours, with most already contained. The Cove Road fire burning near Ashland is 600 acres, he said.

Near Sisters, the day started with favorable weather and guarded optimism.

U.S. 20 remained open. But approximately 300 residents of Camp Sherman remained evacuated from their homes as a precaution.

Though there's still no timetable for the residents' return, Bob Anderson, incident commander, said the fire advanced little Friday night. He planned to have 2,350 people working the blaze Saturday, including 10 structure task forces making sure the fire didn't torch any houses, 22 aircraft dropping

water and retardant, and "a significant amount of heavy metal," including bulldozers.

"We're feeling as good as we can considering the circumstances," Anderson said. "We think we can steer this thing off to the north and away from (homes)."

The cause of the fire remains under investigation. Officials estimate its cost at \$20.1 million.

On Friday, firefighters lighted a series of back burns to halt the blaze's march. Fearful of expected winds, much of the day work Saturday focused on building containment lines, particularly in the eastern section of the fire. By 2 p.m., strong gusts from the south uprooted tents at the fire command post near Sisters and helped whip up a towering column of white smoke into the blue Central Oregon skies. Most of the smoke came from sections of the fire burning the Mount Jefferson Wilderness between Mount Jefferson and Three Fingered Jack, officials said.

At the front lines to the east, firefighters were still optimistic they could ride out the "wind event," as officials termed it.

"The fire is finally allowing us to do something about it," said Rob Bullis, an engine boss. Bullis and his crew were mopping up flames in the southern portion of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation, trying to keep the fire from spreading to the Metolius River and beyond to Green Ridge.

"We expect to be quite heavily tested this afternoon," said Jerry Payne, Foxtrot's division supervisor. "But we're going to hold it from the river."

Some of Payne's firefighters were still recalling the fire's harrowing blowup Thursday.

"There was a wall of flames 200 feet high coming over the tops of the trees," firefighter Jeremiah Coburn said. "The ground was shaking and it sounded like a freight train or a jet plane -- or a jet plane crashing into a freight train."

In Sisters, Camp Sherman residents don't know when they can return to their homes, but their mood remains upbeat. During a morning briefing, they gave a standing ovation to Anderson, the incident commander for the Pacific Northwest team, who will hand off control of the fire at 6 a.m. today to the Rocky Basin management team.

They also took time out to thank each other.

"I have found people in my community who are so giving and wonderful -- there is a need, and the need is met," said Diane DeFord. "We didn't have enough money to eat out every meal and bang, they gave us money. We didn't have a place to stay and bang, they gave us a place to stay in an RV."

DeFord said that the local kennel is boarding her Doberman/Rottweiler mix, Logan, for free.

Arleen Dahl choked up addressing the fire management team during the meeting. She and her husband, Chuck, have a house eight miles outside Camp Sherman that's been in the family for 50 years. On Thursday, when the Booth and Bear Butte fires began to join, it stood in the path of a conflagration that Jefferson County Sheriff Jack Jones called "the mouth of the devil."

"We want to thank everyone who saved our house," Dahl said, choking back tears. "We want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts."

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BW photo by Associated Press

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BURDEN OF PROOF

Oregonian, The (Portland, OR)-September 8, 2003

Author: ANDY DWORKIN - The Oregonian

Summary: Activists haul a slice of old growth across the nation in opposition of Bush's forest bill

With a quarter-ton of wood and a half-ton pickup, two Oregon men are putting the stump back in political stumping.

Ashland residents Joseph Vaile and Derek Volkart spent the past week hauling across the country a 6-foot-wide slice of a Douglas fir tree estimated to be more than 400 years old. The two men, both former U.S. Bureau of Land Management employees, are using the prop to protest President Bush's Healthy Forests Initiative and a related bill for thinning fire-prone forests crafted by U.S. Rep. Greg Walden, R-Ore.

"The slab," as it's affectionately known, comes from a 200-foot fir felled by loggers who bought rights to a BLM timber sale. On the night of May 27, a band of political trespassers sawed a slice from the remaining stump and smuggled it from the forest.

Ever since, the slab -- proof, its escorts say, that rare old-growth trees are at risk of vanishing from forests -- has enjoyed an increasingly prominent political career. It marched in Ashland's July 4 parade, met a congressman, even saw the president during his brief trip to Oregon last month.

During the weekend, the circle of fir arrived in Washington, D.C., the most prominent wooden 6-footer to hit the capital since Al Gore.

Volkart and Vaile, on vacation from the two forest advocacy groups where they now work, were to display the slab near the Robert Taft Memorial and National Zoo through Tuesday.

Vaile, 28, may try to lobby some senators while he's in town. Volkart, 31, hopes the slab will weigh on legislators' minds as Congress discusses forest-fire prevention acts.

"It's easy to lose sight -- or not even get a picture -- of what's going on out West when you're all the way across the country," he said. "This gives you an image."

Quite an image. Both the Ashland natives are thin 6-footers, tall like their coniferous friend. That draws attention as they cruise the highway or haul the 500-pound slab in and out of the pickup bed (it takes a few strong friends to help).

"We're getting lots of interesting looks and talking to quite a few people," Vaile said by phone last week, as he traveled near the Ohio-West Virginia border.

Midwesterners seem especially curious, the men said, perhaps because they lack West Coast residents' familiarity with forestry.

"Most people don't realize our national forests are being logged at all," Vaile said. And "They've never seen a tree that diameter in their lives."

Added Volkart: "It's real common for people to think we've got a redwood. Or we've got a table."

What they do not have is a tree cut in the name of fire prevention, the very thing they are protesting.

Volkart -- who, like Vaile, left his government biology job to fight old-growth cutting -- said the friends are "as clear as we can be, from the start, that this tree is not a victim of the Healthy Forests Initiative."

But in their firside chats, the two argue that the initiative will spur foresters to log hundreds or thousands of trees of similar size and age.

Bill would allow thinning

Specifically, the two decry the Healthy Forest Restoration Act, the bill Walden helped draft to embody Bush's plan.

That bill, which passed the House on May 20, would ease some environmental regulations to let loggers thin brush and trees on as many as 20 million acres of federal lands, reducing fuel for forest fires. The sale of thinned trees for lumber would pay for some of the work. The Senate is expected to vote on the bill next month.

Many environmentalists dislike the act's limits on challenges to timber plans and are upset that it does not ban cutting old-growth trees. Vaile said he thinks the bill will encourage the logging of old-growth trees, the most profitable for timber sales, but will not promote needed brush clearing around private property that could be threatened by fires.

During trunk shows in five cities last week, Vaile and Volkart passed out postcards that listeners could send their senator, urging a "no" vote. Vaile said the duo stopped in states whose senators might be swayed: Montana, Minnesota, Illinois, Ohio and Virginia.

While the Oregonians' stump speeches are attracting some notice in those areas, critics say the two men are barking up the wrong tree.

"They're kind of mixing apples and oranges a little bit with this tree slice," said Jeanne Klein, a BLM spokeswoman in Medford. "This tree was not cut to promote Healthy Forests Initiative. It was cut for commodity production, which is part of what we do."

The Shakespeare Tree

Klein said the tree was in the BLM's "matrix," the roughly 20 percent of BLM timberland set aside for commercial sales under the federal Northwest Forest Plan. Specifically, the slab came from Douglas County's "Mr. Wilson" timber sale -- not, alas, named for Woodrow.

She added that it was illegal for the activists to have cut the slab without a permit but that the bureau decided not to pursue it. "It's definitely not something that happens often," she said.

After Mazama Forest Defense activists cut the slab, Volkart said, they started displaying it in Southern Oregon to protest logging. Upon counting rings, they decided the tree was born in 1564 -- the same year as William Shakespeare -- and dubbed it the Shakespeare Tree.

Fittingly, the slab debuted in Ashland, appearing at a food co-op two days after its cutting. Its local fame grew, capped by an appearance in the Independence Day parade.

Volkart said he first saw the slice at the food store, and was impressed "by the reaction of people to this giant." So he asked to take it to Medford, where Walden was scheduled to speak to the Rotary Club.

The congressman saw the slab as he left the luncheon.

"I went over and I talked to them," Walden said. "I think they are misrepresenting what (the bill) would do by using a slab of an old-growth tree taken under the Northwest Forest Plan."

Matter of definition

Walden said he explained that his bill aims to save such old-growth trees from dying in massive fires, such as the B&B complex fire now scorching Central Oregon.

He said the act doesn't expressly ban cutting old-growth trees for two reasons: Some dead or diseased old trees may need to be cut to prevent fires or disease outbreaks. And it's too hard to define "old growth" across 50 states -- a foot-wide Alaskan Sitka spruce might be 100, while a foot-wide Oregon Douglas fir could be 5 years old, he said.

Neither side, it appeared, was swayed. So the slab aimed higher.

When Bush spoke at the Deschutes County Fairgrounds on Aug. 21, activists stood the slab right

next to the fairgrounds' entrance, said James Johnston, who was slabside with the Cascadia Wildlands Project.

"The Secret Service thought it was a bomb and tried to get us to move it," Johnston said. "They said, 'We don't know what's inside of this, and we don't have a bomb-sniffing dog around.' "

Johnston said activists explained there was about 500 pounds of wood inside the slab, and the Secret Service let them stay. The presidential motorcade drove right by. Tinted windows kept Johnston from knowing if Bush and the slab locked eyes.

But "if he was looking," Johnston said, "he saw it."

The slab drew lots of compliments from Bush protesters — and some nasty remarks from backers leaving Bush's speech. The wood's ability to connect with an audience got Volkart thinking.

"The question was how to show this to people," Volkart said. "It's hard to bring the people to the forest to see this stump. So the next thing is to bring it to the people."

That's how Volkart and Vaile found themselves in a Ford F-150, speeding from Missoula, Mont., to Richmond, Va., on their way to the nation's capital.

Last week, they drove roughly 12 hours a day, staying with friends and stopping to discuss forests and firs for about three hours daily. Volkart said they have received "95 percent positive reaction," especially after leaving Montana's timber-country behind.

But can a softwood slab make a difference in the hard-knocks world of politics? Volkart is hopeful.

"The further we get away from the (Rocky) mountains and the really large, ancient forests of the Pacific Northwest, the more strongly people feel how wrong it is to log the small portions of old-growth forests that are left," he said. "I hope we can also reach the Senate."

One thing is clear: When the two friends load the slab in their truck Wednesday and head back to Ashland, they'll be hauling one heck of a story with them.

"I'm not getting paid to go on this tour," Vaile said. "It's just one of the weird things Derek and I do on our vacations."

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Photo - Larry Swisher courtesy photo

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DESPITE RAIN, B&B FIRES A THREAT UNTIL 'SNOW FLIES'

Oregonian, The (Portland, OR)-September 8, 2003

Author: TOM QUINN - The Oregonian, Laura Oppenheimer of The Oregonian contributed to this report.

Summary: Residents evacuated from Camp Sherman are told criteria for going home will be announced today

Cooler temperatures and rain showers answered many prayers Sunday, but officials said the 90,000-acre B&B complex fires north of Sisters remain among the most ominous wildland fires in years.

"I don't know if anyone has told you this yet, but you're going to see this fire until snow flies," incident commander Kim Martin told a crowd of Camp Sherman residents Sunday in the Church of Transfiguration in Sisters.

About 300 evacuated Camp Sherman residents aren't being allowed to return to their homes because of the fires' potential to change direction. Officials said there is a 20 percent chance the winds, mostly from the west and south during the past few days, could come from the north and drive the fires toward Camp Sherman.

Residents received some good news during the meeting. The fire management team plans to announce today the criteria it will use to determine when residents can go home.

Meanwhile, it was unclear when classes would start at Black Butte School. The school year for its 23 K-8 students was scheduled to begin Sept. 2. Officials hope to start classes this week in Camp Sherman. If that is not possible, officials hope classes can start Sept. 15 in Sisters.

The B&B complex is made up of two fires -- the Booth and the Bear Butte. Flames broke out Aug. 19, and the two fires merged Friday. They are being managed as one fire. Officials estimate the cost at \$20.1 million, with the U.S. Forest Service picking up most of the tab. The cause of the fire, which is about 40 percent contained, remains unknown.

Favorable weather and aggressive tactics during the past few days have allowed firefighters to make significant progress circling much of the blaze with containment lines built by hand and bulldozers. But the fires remain dangerous because years of suppression practices have left a forest crowded with dead and fallen limbs -- perfect fuel for a fire, said Bill Anthony with the Sisters Ranger District.

Martin told Camp Sherman residents that after surveying the fires by air Saturday, he worries that flames may jump the Metolius River, move east onto Green Ridge and spread through the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation, "where there's a lot of bug-killed trees."

Rugged terrain is making the fight difficult, Martin said on Sunday, his first day as incident commander.

The fires are most active in the Metolius River Basin north of Camp Sherman, part of the Deschutes National Forest. They are also burning in the Mount Jefferson Wilderness, where fire officials said flames have reached to 6,000-foot elevation.

Within the perimeter of the combined fires, the forest is "like a mosaic," officials said, with some badly charred areas, some lightly touched by back burns and others untouched.

As of Sunday, someone walking the Metolius River, treasured for its world-class fly-fishing, wouldn't know there's been a blaze, said Mark Foster with Jefferson County search and rescue. Officials expect to reopen Suttle Lake, a popular recreation area, sometime today.

David Widmark, a spokesman with the Northwest Interagency Coordination Center, said at 138 square miles, the B&B complex is now eight square miles larger than Portland.

Widmark said the forecast during the next few days calls for temperatures in the 70s with possible showers Tuesday and Wednesday.

Temperatures Sunday night were expected to dip below freezing as a cold front moves through.

"That's good for the fire," said Tom Berglund, a spokesman with the Oregon Department of Forestry, "but it's not good for the firefighters."

Crews continued to battle other blazes across the region, making inroads as temperatures dropped and rain fell, Widmark said.

A crew was being assembled Sunday to tackle the new Bullspring fire, a 600-acre blaze in the Umatilla National Forest, in north-central Oregon. Widmark expected the crew to be fully in operation today.

Laura Oppenheimer of The Oregonian contributed to this report.

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CASE STUDY FOR THE FIRE BILL

Oregonian, The (Portland, OR)-September 14, 2003

Summary: Metolius Basin has a careful thinning plan, an 11th-hour environmental appeal and a whopping wildfire

White House political adviser Karl Rove himself couldn't craft a better script for the president's Healthy Forests Initiative than the one seven environmental groups have now written in Central Oregon.

It's all there, in one neat story line to deliver to the U.S. Senate when it debates a fire bill this fall: a dangerously sick forest; a community plea for help; a long, inclusive planning effort; a broad agreement to thin the woods; a huge fire; and, even as trees go up in flames, environmental groups filing an appeal to bring everything to a screeching halt.

The seven groups led by the Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project waited until the last hours of the last day of the appeal period -- Sept. 2 -- to block the 12,500-acre Metolius Basin Forest Management Project. They object to the possible logging of white fir trees up to 25 inches in diameter and contend that some of the work will compact soils.

Never mind that as much as one-sixth of the forest to be thinned already has gone up in flames, consumed by the 91,000-acre B&B Complex fire.

Never mind that the Sisters Ranger District spent more than three years working with local people, including environmental groups, to carefully plan the thinning project.

Never mind that the environmentalists who know the landscape the best -- Friends of the Metolius, Sisters Forest Planning Committee and local representatives of the Sierra Club and Oregon Natural Resources Council -- signed off on the plan.

Never mind that the forest is such a tangle of dead and dying trees that the people of Camp Sherman and other rural neighborhoods have begged the Forest Service to act to protect their homes and improve the health of the forest:

These seven groups have put the brakes on a project that embodies the way the federal government must work with communities to restore healthy forests and reduce the risk of wildfire.

We have serious reservations about some details of the president's Healthy Forests Plan. But we have no lingering doubts about the need for Congress to approve fire legislation.

When years of careful planning and broad community support are not enough to permit thinning, even when a forest is so clearly sick and vulnerable to destructive fires, there is a problem that needs fixing.

The Senate should tighten and improve the Healthy Forests Initiative and then pass it into law. It should explicitly protect old-growth and roadless areas — a change that would not slow projects such as the one in the Metolius Basin. Real forest health projects, such as this one, are not about logging old-growth.

The Senate also must ensure that the top priority is protecting communities such as Camp Sherman, which was evacuated twice during the past two weeks as the B&B Complex fire roared nearby. The law should, however, retain flexibility to thin some distance from communities. After all, the B&B fires raced across some nine miles.

Finally, the new law must come with billions of dollars in new funding, and a guarantee that it is about thinning and fire prevention, not about creating an opening to send commercial loggers after large, mature trees.

In the Metolius Basin, the Forest Service, local residents and environmentalists have spent years building trust in proper forest management. A poorly written or executed fire bill will shatter that trust and ultimately leave the Metolius Basin and other Western forests just as they are today: thick, sick and ready to burn.

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BUSH ANGLES FOR FOREST PLAN

Oregonian, The (Portland, OR)-September 17, 2003

Author: TOM DETZEL - The Oregonian

Summary: The president suggests he might favor more cash for Democrat-backed thinning projects to advance his fire-prevention bill

President Bush signaled Tuesday that he might support higher spending on forest-thinning projects to help break a Senate logjam on his plan to ease the threat of catastrophic fires on millions of acres of federal land.

"We will work with the Senate to make sure we've got ample funding for thinning projects," the president said, suggesting there was room to negotiate with Senate Democrats who have called for spending billions more than the administration.

Bush's remarks, in a session with reporters from The Oregonian and other regional newspapers, came amid continuing efforts to find a compromise that could give the president a victory on one of his top environmental priorities.

Bush unveiled the forest plan in Medford two years ago, and he highlighted it again last month in a visit to Central Oregon while the fires that became the 90,000-acre B&B complex raged in the Deschutes National Forest.

The House passed a bill substantially similar to the president's plan in May, but it stalled in the Senate, where critics say it's short on money, threatens old-growth trees and would unnecessarily limit environmental appeals and lawsuits.

At the White House on Tuesday, an animated Bush thumped the conference table in the Roosevelt Room as he accused forest plan critics of playing politics with an issue that should boil down to good forest management.

Referring to his August visit to Oregon, he said, "I saw the signs when I went out to your part of the world, you know: 'Protect the large, old mature stands of trees.' That's precisely what we're trying to do."

Although Bush pledged to work with senators on funding for thinning projects, he was less clear about how far he might budge on the thornier issue of restricting the rights of citizens and environmental groups to file challenges.

The issue is the linchpin for talks involving half a dozen senators who are searching for a compromise that can get the 60 votes needed to block a filibuster. Asked whether he'd cut a deal, Bush seemed to open a door, but just a crack.

"I'm not going to negotiate with myself in your newspaper," he said, "but the people on the hill understand -- we want a bill."

At the same time, he complained, "Anytime there's a reasonable request made on any environmental matters, it ends up in the courts, in endless delays in the courts. So nothing gets done, and in this case the environment deteriorates, particularly our forests."

Three senators closely involved in the efforts to craft a middle-ground bill -- Oregon Democrat Ron Wyden and Idaho Republicans Larry Craig and Mike Crapo -- said Tuesday that they would welcome support from the White House for more money.

Combined thinning, firefighting funds

Craig said the thinning funds might be combined with money to pay for this year's firefighting and attached to an upcoming supplemental spending bill to cover Bush's \$87 billion request for the Iraq war and reconstruction.

The president's forest plan proposed spending \$230 million this year on forest cleanup projects. That would gradually increase, with some of the money for thinning coming from commercially valuable trees harvested during the projects.

By comparison, Democrats have pushed for much higher spending. A bill by Wyden and Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., would spend \$3.8 billion during five years on federal lands, while a measure by Sens. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., and Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., would spend \$5.5 billion on federal, state and private lands.

"My sense is the president was indicating openness today," Wyden said.

He warned that unless the government gets serious about paying for forest cleanup, "What's going to happen is a lot of rural communities in Oregon are going to become sacrifice zones -- you're going to see them just burn up."

Democratic, Republican bills differ

The forest health bill Bush and Senate Republicans are pushing would allow thinning and cleanup projects in more forest areas than Democratic versions, which make projects around wildland interface communities a priority.

To speed the appeals process, the Republican bill excludes projects as large as 1,000 acres, says lawsuits must be filed within 15 days of a project approval, limits court injunctions blocking a project to 45 days and requires judges to give weight to federal agencies opinions on the environmental impacts of a project.

The Wyden-Feinstein bill would exclude from administrative appeals only projects inside the wildland-urban interface. Craig said that Senate negotiators had agreed to produce a compromise bill by Thursday or Friday, or if not, agree to disagree. In that case, Republicans could bring their own version of the bill to the floor.

Crapo said judicial review was the key issue, but Wyden said protection for old-growth trees and funding were also central to a compromise.

Bill Arthur, the Sierra Club's Northwest regional director, said the main problem with Bush's plan is that it fails to dedicate what limited money there is to protecting areas around rural communities, where the needs are most urgent.

"Somebody's playing politics, but the president needs to look in the mirror," Arthur said. "Logging remote parts of the forest well away from communities neither protects communities nor makes healthy forests. They just simply make stumps out of trees and put profits in the hands of corporations."

Though he didn't cite environmentalists by name, Bush blasted "special interest groups" for blocking "good common-sense policy from going forward."

"For three summers I've seen old mature stands of trees go up in flames," he said. "You know what it's like to see these massive explosions. The truth of the matter is that some in the opposition think that forests can take care of themselves."

Not aware of adviser inquiry

On another Oregon topic, Bush said he didn't know that the Interior Department's inspector general was investigating whether his political adviser, Karl Rove, had improperly interfered with policy-making in the Klamath Basin.

Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., had asked for the inquiry this month after a story in The Wall Street Journal claimed that Rove had met last year with Interior employees to discuss releasing water for basin farmers. Rove emphasized that they were an important Bush constituency and referred to polls, the Journal said.

"I'm unaware of that," Bush said of the investigation. But he defended his record in the basin, saying the administration spent \$43 million last year to make more water available, promote conservation and protect endangered fish.

"Good policy sometimes makes good politics," he said.

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RAIN AND SNOW SEAL B&B FIRE'S FATE

Oregonian, The (Portland, OR)-September 18, 2003

Author: CAROL MCGRAW - Correspondent, The Oregonian

Summary: Forest rehabilitation will begin, and full containment of the Central Oregon blaze is expected by Friday

The B&B Complex fire is expected to be fully contained by Friday evening, fire officials said Wednesday.

The combined blaze that began a month ago has seared almost 91,000 acres and so far has cost more than \$30 million to suppress. It slowed last week with cooler weather and has come nearly to a standstill this week as rain and snow have fallen.

Firefighters will begin rehabilitating the forests, repairing damage caused by the fire and firefighting. About 80 percent of the trees within the fire perimeter were burned or "strongly affected" by the fire, said Jim Anderson, spokesman for the national fire incident management team.

Some of the area burned will take generations to reforest. Old-growth spruce and fir take 100 years to mature, and lodgepole pines some 40 years.

"Looking north from the chairlift at Hoodoo Ski Bowl, all you can see is black," Anderson added.

Degrees of intensity

Only 10 percent of the fire area, or about 8,900 acres, burned with high intensity, according to assessment by a fire science survey team. Another 30,500 acres, or about 33 percent of the area, sustained moderate-intensity damage. About 50,000 acres, or 54 percent, burned at low intensity, and about 2,500 acres, or 3 percent, did not burn.

The severity is determined by how badly the soil is affected, Anderson said. The soil condition determines how fast rehabilitation can take place and how erosion will affect the watershed, along with how soon trees, shrubs and grasses will recover.

The fire's demise is good news to area residents, especially those of Camp Sherman who were evacuated twice.

"I was so nervous, and now I am so relieved," said Waltraut Kindler Goertzen, who has lived in Camp Sherman for 35 years. "I'm hanging the family photos back on the wall." She was in Europe during three

weeks of the fire, and her sons stored her family heirlooms with a friend in Bend and placed sprinklers on her home's roof.

"When I left Camp Sherman it was beautiful, and when I returned it was beautiful," she added. "I just want to thank the firefighters. And everyone else. You know someone even watered my flowers while I was gone, and I don't even know who."

Goertzen runs a bed-and-breakfast and along with others in the area is trying to get back to business as usual. "I am telling my customers that we are still here."

Delays will persist

Motorists traveling U.S. 20 across Santiam Pass should expect delays for the coming days as crews continue to haul away hazardous dead trees along the roadside. Speed will be restricted, and pilot cars will be used at times to escort cars through the work area.

Recreational access is prohibited within the fire-closure area, including sections of the Pacific Crest Trail. Suttle Lake Resort is expected to open Friday.

Among the jobs still left, Anderson said, are picking up the last of 100 miles of hose that was laid during the fire and recovering the last 20 of 100 water pumps set in place.

The rehabilitation, which began Wednesday, entails healing soil that was exposed when the fire burned organic matter, Anderson said. Damage was also caused by firefighters who had to dig containment lines and backburn areas to prevent the fire from spreading.

Work to prevent erosion and spur regrowth will include building earth berms; mulching; moving dropped trees parallel to slopes so that runoff is diminished; covering exposed soil with branches, logs and brush; and the eventual reseeding.

Degrees of damage

Acreage is classified as high-intensity burn severity when ground vegetation including roots and seeds are cooked out of the soil or completely consumed. Trees are usually dead in those areas. Moderate intensity is when organic matter on the forest floor is partially burned with some areas completely consumed. In portions of such acreage, there could be both living and burned trees in which the cones have survived and eventually can spread seed. Grasses and brush in those areas probably will come back next spring because root systems were not scorched.

Light-intensity areas are those where trees may or may not be alive, but, compared to more severe areas, there will be trees alive to use as seed sources. The bulk of the soil cover is still there.

The highest intensity of burn occurred above and along portions of U.S. 20 in the Round Lake area, the southwest side of Turpentine Peak and on the west side of Three Fingered Jack.

Moderate burn occurred in the Abbot and Brush Creek areas and on a portion of the Willamette Forest north of Maxwell Butte. Low-intensity burn occurred in the Canyon Creek area west of Camp Sherman and at some lower elevations of the fire perimeter where ponderosa pine grows.

The fire's origins

The B&B Complex fire started out as two separate fires that began within 2-1/2 hours of each other: the Booth fire, eight miles northwest of Camp Sherman in the Deschutes National Forest; and the Bear Butte fire in the Mount Jefferson Wilderness, 14 miles to the north. They started Aug. 19, two days before President Bush was to appear at Camp Sherman to promote his Healthy Forest Initiative.

In all, 14 outbuildings, most in the Suttle Lake area, burned. There were no injuries.

Cause of the fires are under investigation. The arson task force, which investigates both natural and manmade fires, has not ruled out arson, officials said. There had been no lightning in the area for 11 days when the fires started. The Booth fire started about 100 yards off U.S. 20 near Square Lake, a wilderness area where equipment that could cause burning is not allowed.

During the fire's height, more than 2,400 firefighters and a team from the Oregon National Guard battled to keep Camp Sherman, Black Butte Ranch and a number of recreational camps safe. Camp Sherman residents were evacuated twice, first shortly after the blaze began and a second time on Sept. 4, when the fires, fueled by hot weather and wind, raced through more than 30,000 acres in less two days. The two fires combined and created a plume that rose 30,000 feet in the air and spewed embers a mile away.

The town of Sisters has asked the governor to request federal emergency loans for businesses that say they were financially harmed by fire's closure of U.S. 20 for two weeks during tourist season.

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Graphic -- Map by LYDIA CAMPBELL - The Oregonian -- B&B COMPLEX FIRE INTENSITY...

(LIBRARY NOTE: To view complete text see the bound volume, Oregonian microfilm or graphics notebook located in The Oregonian Library.)

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READ NATURE'S TEXTBOOK

Oregonian, The (Portland, OR)-October 2, 2003

Summary: Huge fires help raise literacy about natural resources

Last year's Biscuit Fire in Southern Oregon and this year's Booth and Bear Butte fires in Central Oregon have left behind on-the-ground chapters for a resource-management instruction book. The real-life texts picture the effects of past choices and advise on the likely results of decisions yet to be made.

These lessons ought to become part of Oregonians' survival literacy. We live in a forestland and rangeland environment, and it's always smarter to make informed choices than blind guesses on how to manage these resources.

At 400,000 acres Biscuit was the state's largest-ever recorded fire. It killed trees containing an estimated 4.2 billion board feet of timber, left fire-stressed trees containing 800 million feet of timber at risk of insect attack and cost \$150 million to contain. The 91,000-acre B&B Complex fire could still be growing if a rain-filled weather front hadn't damped its advance.

These fires and others bequeath public managers many weighty choices to make. Time is an urgent factor, because not to decide quickly often amounts to choosing, irreversibly, undesirable outcomes. Several examples:

- * Standing dead trees that are not removed -- an average of more than 160 trees per acre in the Biscuit area -- will begin falling soon, forest researchers say. They will increase ground-level fuel loads to maximum levels within 40 years, stoking fires that could sterilize soils and delay regeneration of conifer forests 50 to 100 years or more.

- * Failing to replant conifers (Ponderosas, Douglas firs, incense cedar and disease-resistant strains of sugar pines, white pines and Port Orford cedars) in areas where most seed trees have been killed will allow shrubs and hardwoods to dominate, changing the nature of the regenerated forest from what is desired.

- * Failure to deal with the moisture-stealing shrubs and hardwoods during conifers' vulnerable early years greatly reduces chances they will survive to produce old-growth-forest traits.

Oregon State University's College of Forestry and the Oregon Forest Resources Institute have been conducting valuable workshops around the state to help residents and public officials understand the likely results of different choices, including the forgone opportunities of failing to decide.

Far-ranging "teachable moments" could be gained if interpretive signs or low-frequency radio broadcasts were strategically placed along many of Oregon's highway corridors to explain to travelers what they are seeing. They could point out areas where thinning and small fires have reduced fuels so that flame lengths of future fires will be low and the heat won't sterilize soils. Signs could highlight areas where almost all trees were killed by very intense fires attributable to lack of thinning. Other signs might show areas where thinning or fires have eliminated laddered pathways by which killing fires climb to canopies. Still others might point out areas where crown densities have been thinned so that fires can't "crown out" and quickly and destructively travel high above the forest floor.

Why bother? To preserve forest values that they cherish, informed Oregonians, we believe, will support evidence-backed management choices.

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DON'T GET HOSED

Political Framing Influences Fire Policy

Les AuCoin

The House carefully chose the phrase "healthy forests" to characterize its effort to manage the public's national forests. It was a masterpiece of political "framing"—the art of creating a central organizing idea or context for an issue through use of selection, emphasis, and elaboration. "Healthy forests" evokes a sense of environmental protection and personal safety at a time of deep fear of wildland fire.

After essayist and public radio host, he coauthored the 1984 Oregon Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Oregon and California coasts, and was in the Oregon Cascades. Three political science and environmental studies is a resident of Ashland, Oregon.

"The fire is destroying Yellowstone—destroying it—and the Park Service is just sitting around letting it happen!" Congressman Ralph Regula, a senior Republican from Ohio, was flushed with rage in the hearing room of the House Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee in Washington, D.C., that morning in June 1988.¹

Then Regula delivered the coup de grâce—a fact so awful that it would surely seal his argument: "It's so bad, the park's rivers are running *black*!" A collective gasp filled the hearing room. Yellowstone Park—the crown jewel in the national park system, the world's first national park—was being "devastated."

But the Yellowstone fires were not destroying this fire-adapted landscape any more than similar conflagrations had done over millennia. Throughout history, fire has worked through western forests, giving them a chance to reset nature's clock and renew themselves. But it is a rare politician who understands wildfire ecology, and few if any scientists of any kind serve in the Congress. This may explain why politics tends to produce decision makers who, with several notable exceptions, seek to fireproof the forests—through thinning if they can, or, if they cannot, through salvage logging. At its core, American politics is anthropocentric—human centered, not nature centered. Worse for the environment, politics abhors a vacuum. Faced with a massive natural disturbance like a wildlands fire, politicians cannot just sit idly by. No sir, they've got to get out that good wrench and be seen as fixing the problem! This is especially true in the age of the modern media—the 24/7 "infotainment industry" that looks for drama and action and showers coverage on politicians who provide them.

In 1988, the national news media chased a perfect storm: five fires had erupted in Yellowstone while the Park Service operated under a 16-year-old policy of letting fires run their course in fire-adapted ecosystems. For the infotainment industry, this was as good as it gets: the equivalent of the burning of Rome and the discovery of covert pyromaniacs rolled into one. Unburdened by scientific knowledge, reporters and politicians pummeled the Park Service in an echo chamber of escalating criticism.² Montana senator Max Baucus, a Democrat, took the U.S. Senate floor to declare that the national fire policy was "responsible for much of the injury caused by this year's forest fires."³

Senator Malcolm Wallop, a Republican from Wyoming, demanded firing of National Park Service director William Penn Mohr, a fellow Republican, saying: "He continues to celebrate [the fires] while all the rest are suffering."

Park Service's fire policy, however, was based on peer-reviewed science. It showed how fire had shaped the Yellowstone landscape and its biota for millennia. Many of Yellowstone's plant species are fire adapted. The cones of lodgepole pine, a species that makes up nearly 80 percent of Yellowstone's trees, are a good example. Sealed by resin, they crack in the intense heat of fire and release seeds to begin life afresh.

But how to explain these facts to a television news reporter who operates on 10-second sound bites. Or to a congressman or senator who makes a political life out of them. On the tube, that great arbiter of modern American reality, Yellowstone scientists and managers came off as ostrich-headed bumblers wearing a language from another world.

In a rout. Science was mugged by politics as whipped-up TV viewers across the nation flooded the offices of their senators and representatives with one message: suppress the fires without further delay. On July 21, as the flames continued to expand rapidly, the Park Service lifted its natural fire policy. The director's decision was partly a capitulation to overwhelming political pressure, especially from western senators, who have disproportionate power in the Senate because senators are elected two to a state, regardless of a state's population. In fairness, the decision was also based on the intensity of the fire, racing across the crowns of trees, shooting out firebrands up to a mile from the front and threatening nearby human populations outside the park.

But the Park Service thought that its about-face would still its critics; it was not. Detractors refused to believe Interior Secretary Don Hodel when he announced that he had suspended the "let burn" policy. Meanwhile, Hodel's decision incited criticism from Park Service fire scientists,⁹ independent wildlife biologists, and environmentalists, who believe that bulldozers and other firefighting equipment cause more harm to a landscape than wildland fire.

In 2005, the Park Service's natural fire policy—long since reinstated and justified to better protect human populations and property—has worked splendidly on subsequent fires in Yellowstone. Nevertheless, the political damage caused by the 1988 fire gave a strong hand to logging advocates on all fronts, who make the argument that dead trees ought to be logged for "waste," although nothing in nature is ever wasted.

The lesson is unmistakable: the media thrive on drama, especially fear, while the financial marketplace almost always operates on the understanding that it can profit in satisfying the crowd.

17 years after the fire reset nature's clock, Yellowstone's plants are thriving with youthful vigor. Independent scientists report that although consumed aboveground parts of grasses and forbs, the belowground stems remained unharmed.¹⁰ Researchers Jay Anderson of Idaho State University, William Romme of Colorado State University, and other scientists commented the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem's remarkable but not hurried recovery.¹¹ Vegetation in most burned areas quickly regenerated. Flows have increased in many streams without causing the severe ero-

sion that some feared. Fish and other forms of aquatic life are abundant again. Mammal populations are still healthy—albeit reapportioned to conform to natural habitat changes.

Writing for the *High Country News* in October 1994, reporter Michael Hofferber described the park's incredible resiliency just six years after the fire:

Crouched over a metal screen like a gold rush prospector and peering through its grid at the forest floor, [researcher] Cindi Persichetty calls out what she sees through each square-inch opening: "Line four: moss, moss, litter, seedling, seedling, seedling." Another Idaho State University graduate student, Mike O'Hara, sits on a log recording the findings on a clipboard. The charred remains of lodgepole pine loom above them, groaning in the morning breeze that rises off the Madison River in Yellowstone National Park. The forest floor is carpeted with thousands of bright green seedlings, each less than a foot high.¹²

Findings of this kind prompt John Varley, director of the Yellowstone Center for Resources, to observe that a forest's rebirth after a fire disturbance can leave the ecosystem and its biodiversity healthier than they were before the flames erupted. Overwhelmingly, conservation biologists agree with him.

Yet, since the 1988 Yellowstone fires, the rush to "fix" the wildland fire problem has escalated across the West. Oregon's July 2002 Biscuit Fire showed that naïveté, lack of knowledge, and deception still underscore public debate. Although climate change, fire suppression, and logging are among the primary agents in transforming western forests into tinderboxes,¹³ the timber industry and the Forest Service's "solution" is to ramp up logging.¹⁴

The Biscuit Fire was the nation's largest in the summer of 2002 and the largest in Oregon's history. When, after 120 days, it finally died, its outer boundary encompassed nearly 500,000 acres, including the famed Kalmiopsis Wilderness and 160,000 acres of roadless areas.¹⁵ But the fire did not burn all of those acres. It left a mosaic of live and burned trees, and many forest stands inside the "burn" were untouched.

President George W. Bush cited the Biscuit Fire as an example of why he has given a green light to the timber industry to mow through forest stands across the West. Traveling to Medford, Oregon, in 2002 while the Biscuit blazed, the president announced a plan he said would reduce the number of conflagrations. He called it his "Healthy Forests Initiative." The program was enacted into law on December 3, 2003, as the Healthy Forest Restoration Act. It relies on the timber industry to "thin" forests in the deep outback and exempts this logging from the National Forest Management Act, the Appeals Reform Act, and the National Environmental Policy Act—laws that Congressman Mark Udall, among others, describes as the fundamental laws of sound forest management.¹⁶

A further, conspicuous problem with the Healthy Forest Restoration Act is that the timber industry is not exactly a philanthropic movement. When it "thins" trees, it expects to make a profit. Thus, it must cut big (commercially valuable) trees to offset the cost of thinning smaller ones. The president's plan, then, means loggers are taking large, fire-resistant trees and leaving smaller trees, which are more susceptible to fire. An examination of Oregon's 2002 Tillamook Fire demonstrated the shortcoming of this tactic: the most severely

previously logged tracts in which older, larger trees had plantations of smaller trees.¹⁴

noethered in the congressional debate on the president's 4 plan: the bill sailed through the House on a vote of 300-14. What political factors were at work? "Mr. Goodwrench" syndrome, in which pressured legislators act as problem solvers even though they may be ill-equipped?

need of environmental knowledge is one thing. A deliberate forest science is another. The Healthy Forests Initiative was duals who used fear of wildland fire to increase logging. Counting of President Bill Clinton's science-based 1993 plan.¹⁵ The Clinton plan reduced the public timber cut in 1993 to protect viable populations of the spotted owl and were threatened by logging and habitat loss.¹⁶

Fire "restoration" alone, the Bush administration's Final Record Statement (FELS) called for a "salvage" of 372 million—some 170 million board feet more than the normal year-amounts of Oregon and Washington combined. Leading biologists that postfire logging can be more harmful than fire.¹⁷ Images delicate, traumatized soils; log skidding creates erosion; and removal of fallen trees robs the soil of nutrients leached as a lifeline for dependent species until the begins to produce its own "new" large dead wood structure later.¹⁸ Logging trucks carry the seeds of noxious species of postfire competition, multiply rapidly and choke the Biscuit EIS also targeted 8,173 acres of inventoried aerial logging.

Undersecretary of agriculture, is President Bush's top political Forest Service and was responsible for overseeing the initiative. From the mid-1980s to the early 1990s, Rey was a member of the American Timber and Pulp Association, the largest timber industry in the nation.¹⁹ In that role he tried in vain to stop the plan for in the Northwest Forest Plan. Today, under the Clinton administration's roadless forest plan elsewhere.²⁰

ask, that legislation like the Bush administration's so-called Healthy Forests Initiative can sail through Congress when polls consistently support for a sound and healthy environment?²¹ "g"—the art of creating a central organizing idea or proposal and suggesting the issue through use of selection, and elaboration.²² This is why the Bush White House called the "healthy forests" to characterize its effort to increase logging of old-growth forests. A masterpiece of Orwellian doublespeak, it gives a sense of environmental protection and personal safety. (Remember, in Abraham Maslow's hierarchy, safety is a fundamental human requirement.)

Successful framing is a powerful tool in molding political opinion. An experiment described by Thomas E. Patterson, professor of political science at Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, illustrates this point:

Cognitive psychologists Daniel Kahneman and Amos Tversky told a group of subjects to imagine that an unusual disease was expected to kill six hundred people and then asked them to choose between treatment A, which was expected to save two hundred, and treatment B, which offered a one-third probability of saving all six hundred and a two-thirds probability of saving none of them. By 72 percent to 28 percent, the subjects preferred treatment A. A matched group of subjects was provided the same information about the disease and asked to choose between treatment A, under which four hundred were expected to die, and treatment B, which offered a one-third probability that nobody would die and a two-thirds probability that all six hundred would die. In this case, treatment B was preferred 78 percent to 22 percent. The choice given to both groups was identical, but one choice was framed in terms of the number of people who would live if the action were taken, and the second one was framed in terms of the number who would die. By altering the way in which the choice was framed, people's preferences were completely changed.²³

The broadcast media, which Americans depend on for most of their news,²⁴ play a major role in communicating politically framed issues. This has had an unfortunate impact on political discourse—in part because nuance and analysis are difficult to fit into an average 10-second sound bite. These media, especially television, tend to favor attention-getting political frames rather than ones that elucidate issues.²⁵ In the modern symbiosis between the media and elected officials, many politicians, needing attention for personal advancement, are loath to challenge political frames communicated by the media.

To be sure, past government policy on the land and its natural processes has produced some notable ecological achievements—the Wilderness Act; the Clean Air, Clean Water, and Alaska National Interest Land Conservation acts; the establishment of national parks; the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency; and many others. But much of today's sophisticated environmental framing is built atop a history of human domination of nature that Roderick Nash describes so well in his seminal book *Wilderness and the American Mind*. From the first light of time, through the mid-19th-century period of Manifest Destiny, the New Deal, and into the modern age, Nash describes American self-identity as forged in no small part by taming the frontiers and, when the chips were down, by placing humans above nature—not as a part of it.²⁶

In this spirit, wildland fire in the West—and the threat of it—seem to have created a reflexive impulse for logging, and to make the most of it, the Bush administration has lifted bedrock environmental laws that protect the health of the nation's forests. Perhaps the words of Alexis de Tocqueville, sharing his perspective on America some 170 years ago, best pertain to the agenda of politicians who seek to reverse many hard-won gains in the science of forest ecology: "They may be said not to perceive the mighty forests that surround them till they fall beneath the hatchet."²⁷

Will the Next Election Be Hacked?

By Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

Rolling Stone

Thursday 05 October 2006 Issue

Fresh disasters at the polls - and new evidence from an industry insider - prove that electronic voting machines can't be trusted.

Read Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s "Was the 2004 Election Stolen?" in the June 15th, 2006, issue of "Rolling Stone," his investigation into how Republicans prevented more than 350,000 voters in Ohio from casting ballots or having their votes counted - enough to have put John Kerry in the White House.

The debacle of the 2000 presidential election made it all too apparent to most Americans that our electoral system is broken. And private-sector entrepreneurs were quick to offer a fix: Touch-screen voting machines, promised the industry and its lobbyists, would make voting as easy and reliable as withdrawing cash from an ATM. Congress, always ready with funds for needy industries, swiftly authorized \$3.9 billion to upgrade the nation's election systems - with much of the money devoted to installing electronic voting machines in each of America's 180,000 precincts. But as midterm elections approach this November, electronic voting machines are making things worse instead of better. Studies have demonstrated that hackers can easily rig the technology to fix an election - and across the country this year, faulty equipment and lax security have repeatedly undermined election primaries. In Tarrant County, Texas, electronic machines counted some ballots as many as six times, recording 100,000 more votes than were actually cast. In San Diego, poll workers took machines home for unsupervised "sleepovers" before the vote, leaving the equipment vulnerable to tampering. And in Ohio - where, as I recently reported in "Was the 2004 Election Stolen?" [RS 1002], dirty tricks may have cost John Kerry the presidency - a government report uncovered large and unexplained discrepancies in vote totals recorded by machines in Cuyahoga County.

Even worse, many electronic machines don't produce a paper record that can be recounted when equipment malfunctions - an omission that practically invites malicious tampering. "Every board of election has staff members with the technological ability to fix an election," Ion Sancho, an election supervisor in Leon County, Florida, told me. "Even one corrupt staffer can throw an election. Without paper records, it could happen under my nose and there is no way I'd ever find out about it. With a few key people in the right places, it would be possible to throw a presidential election."

Chris Hood remembers the day in August 2002 that he began to question what was really going on in Georgia. An African-American whose parents fought for voting rights in the South during the 1960s, Hood was proud to be working as a consultant for Diebold Election Systems, helping the company promote its new electronic voting machines. During the presidential election two years earlier, more than 94,000 paper ballots had gone uncounted in Georgia - almost double the national average - and Secretary of State Cathy Cox was under pressure to make sure every vote was recorded properly.

Hood had been present in May 2002, when officials with Cox's office signed a contract with Diebold - paying the company a record \$54 million to install 19,000 electronic voting machines across the state. At a restaurant inside Atlanta's Marriott Hotel, he noticed the firm's CEO, Walden O'Dell, checking Diebold's stock price on a laptop computer every five minutes, waiting for a bounce from the announcement.

Hood wondered why Diebold, the world's third-largest seller of ATMs, had been awarded the contract. The company had barely completed its acquisition of Global Election Systems, a voting-machine firm that owned the technology Diebold was promising to sell Georgia. And its bid was the highest among nine competing vendors. Whispers within the company hinted that a fix was in.

"The Diebold executives had a news conference planned on the day of the award," Hood recalls, "and we were instructed to stay in our hotel rooms until just hours before the announcement. They didn't want the competitors to know and possibly file a protest" about the lack of a fair bidding process. It certainly didn't hurt that Diebold had political clout: Cox's predecessor as secretary of state, Lewis Massey, was now a lobbyist for the company.

The problem was, Diebold had only five months to install the new machines - a "very narrow window of time to do such a big deployment," Hood notes. The old systems stored in warehouses had to be replaced with new equipment; dozens of state officials and poll workers had to be trained in how to use the touch-screen machines. "It was pretty much an impossible task," Hood recalls. There was only one way, he adds, that the job could be done in time - if "the vendor had control over the entire environment." That is precisely what happened. In late July, to speed deployment of the new machines, Cox quietly signed an agreement with Diebold that effectively privatized Georgia's entire electoral system. The company was authorized to put together ballots, program machines and train poll workers across the state - all without any official supervision. "We ran the election," says Hood. "We had 356 people that Diebold brought into the state. Diebold opened and closed the polls and tabulated the votes. Diebold convinced Cox that it would be best if the company ran everything due to the time constraints, and in the interest of a trouble-free election, she let us do it."

Then, one muggy day in mid-August, Hood was surprised to see the president of Diebold's election unit, Bob Urosevich, arrive in Georgia from his headquarters in Texas. With the primaries looming, Urosevich was personally distributing a "patch," a little piece of software designed to correct glitches in the computer program. "We were told that it was intended to fix the clock in the system, which it didn't do," Hood says. "The curious thing is the very swift, covert way this was done."

Georgia law mandates that any change made in voting machines be certified by the state. But thanks to Cox's agreement with Diebold, the company was essentially allowed to certify itself. "It was an unauthorized patch, and they were trying to keep it secret from the state," Hood told me. "We were told not to talk to county personnel about it. I received instructions directly from Urosevich. It was very unusual that a president of the company would give an order like that and be involved at that level."

According to Hood, Diebold employees altered software in some 5,000 machines in DeKalb and Fulton counties - the state's largest Democratic strongholds. To avoid detection, Hood and others on his team entered warehouses early in the morning. "We went in at 7:30 a.m. and were out by 11," Hood says. "There was a universal key to unlock the machines, and it's easy to get access. The machines in the warehouses were unlocked. We had control of everything. The state gave us the keys to the castle, so to speak, and they stayed out of our way." Hood personally patched fifty-six machines and witnessed the patch being applied to more than 1,200 others.

The patch comes on a memory card that is inserted into a machine. Eventually, all the memory cards end up on a server that tabulates the votes - where the patch can be programmed to alter the outcome of an election. "There could be a hidden program on a memory card that adjusts everything to the preferred election results," Hood says. "Your program says, 'I want my candidate to stay ahead by three or four percent or whatever.' Those programs can include a built-in delete that erases itself after it's done."

It is impossible to know whether the machines were rigged to alter the election in Georgia: Diebold's machines provided no paper trail, making a recount impossible. But the tally in Georgia that November surprised even the most seasoned political observers. Six days before the vote, polls showed Sen. Max Cleland, a decorated war veteran and Democratic incumbent, leading his Republican opponent Saxby Chambliss - darling of the Christian Coalition - by five percentage points. In the governor's race, Democrat Roy Barnes was running a decisive eleven points ahead of Republican Sonny Perdue. But on Election Day, Chambliss won with fifty-three percent of the vote, and Perdue won with fifty-one percent.

Diebold insists that the patch was installed "with the approval and oversight of the state." But after the election, the Georgia secretary of state's office submitted a "punch list" to Bob Urosevich of "issues and concerns related to the statewide voting system that we would like Diebold to address." One of the items referenced was "Application/Implication of '0808' Patch." The state was seeking confirmation that the patch did not require that the system "be recertified at national and state level" as well as "verifiable analysis of overall impact of patch to the voting system." In a separate letter, Secretary Cox asked Urosevich about Diebold's use of substitute memory cards and defective equipment as well as widespread problems that caused machines to freeze up and improperly record votes. The state threatened to delay further payments to Diebold until "these punch list items will be corrected and completed."

Diebold's response has not been made public - but its machines remain in place for Georgia's election this fall. Hood says it was "common knowledge" within the company that Diebold also illegally installed uncertified software in machines used in the 2004 presidential primaries - a charge the company denies. Disturbed to see the promise of electronic machines subverted by private companies, Hood left the election consulting business and became a whistle-blower. "What I saw," he says, "was basically a corporate takeover of our voting system."

The United States is one of only a handful of major democracies that allow private, partisan companies to secretly count and tabulate votes using their own proprietary software. Today, eighty percent of all the ballots in America are tallied by four companies - Diebold, Election Systems & Software (ES&S), Sequoia Voting Systems and Hart InterCivic. In 2004, 36 million

votes were cast on their touch-screen systems, and millions more were recorded by optical-scan machines owned by the same companies that use electronic technology to tabulate paper ballots. The simple fact is, these machines not only break down with regularity, they are easily compromised - by people inside, and outside, the companies.

Three of the four companies have close ties to the Republican Party. ES&S, in an earlier corporate incarnation, was chaired by Chuck Hagel, who in 1996 became the first Republican elected to the U.S. Senate from Nebraska in twenty-four years - winning a close race in which eighty-five percent of the votes were tallied by his former company. Hart InterCivic ranks among its investors GOP loyalist Tom Hicks, who bought the Texas Rangers from George W. Bush in 1998, making Bush a millionaire fifteen times over. And according to campaign-finance records, Diebold, along with its employees and their families, has contributed at least \$300,000 to GOP candidates and party funds since 1998 - including more than \$200,000 to the Republican National Committee. In a 2003 fund-raising e-mail, the company's then-CEO Walden O'Dell promised to deliver Ohio's electoral votes to Bush in 2004. That year, Diebold would count the votes in half of Ohio's counties.

The voting-machine companies bear heavy blame for the 2000 presidential-election disaster. Fox News' fateful decision to call Florida for Bush - followed minutes later by CBS and NBC - came after electronic machines in Volusia County erroneously subtracted more than 16,000 votes from Al Gore's total. Later, after an internal investigation, CBS described the mistake as "critical" in the network's decision. Seeing what was an apparent spike for Bush, Gore conceded the election - then reversed his decision after a campaign staffer investigated and discovered that Gore was actually ahead in Volusia by 13,000 votes.

Investigators traced the mistake to Global Election Systems, the firm later acquired by Diebold. Two months after the election, an internal memo from Talbot Iredale, the company's master programmer, blamed the problem on a memory card that had been improperly - and unnecessarily - uploaded. "There is always the possibility," Iredale conceded, "that the 'second memory card' or 'second upload' came from an unauthorized source."

Amid the furor over hanging chads and butterfly ballots in Florida, however, the "faulty memory card" was all but forgotten. Instead of sharing culpability for the Florida catastrophe, voting-machine companies used their political clout to present their product as the solution. In October 2002, President Bush signed the Help America Vote Act, requiring states and counties to upgrade their voting systems with electronic machines and giving vast sums of money to state officials to distribute to the tightknit cabal of largely Republican vendors.

But according to recent e-mails obtained by Rolling Stone, Diebold not only failed to follow up on most of the recommendations, it worked to cover them up. Michael Wertheimer, who led the RABA study, now serves as an assistant deputy director in the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. "We made numerous recommendations that would have required Diebold to fix these issues," he writes in one e-mail, "but were rebuffed by the argument that the machines were physically protected and could not be altered by someone outside the established chain of custody."

In another e-mail, Wertheimer says that Diebold and state officials worked to downplay his team's dim assessment. "We spent hours dealing with Diebold lobbyists and election officials who sought to minimize our impact," he recalls. "The results were risk-managed in favor of expediency and potential catastrophe."

During the 2004 presidential election, with Diebold machines in place across the state, things began to go wrong from the very start. A month before the vote, an abandoned Diebold machine was discovered in a bar in Baltimore. "What's really worrisome," says Hood, "is that someone could get hold of all the technology - for manipulation - if they knew the inner workings of just one machine."

Election Day was a complete disaster. "Countless numbers of machines were down because of what appeared to be flaws in Diebold's system," says Hood, who was part of a crew of roving technicians charged with making sure that the polls were up and running. "Memory cards overloading, machines freezing up, poll workers afraid to turn them on or off for fear of losing votes."

Then, after the polls closed, Diebold technicians who showed up to collect the memory cards containing the votes found that many were missing. "The machines are gone," one janitor told Hood - picked up, apparently, by the vendor who had delivered them in the first place. "There was major chaos because there were so many cards missing," Hood says. Even before the 2004 election, experts warned that electronic voting machines would undermine the integrity of the vote. "The system we have for testing and certifying voting equipment in this country is not only broken but is virtually nonexistent," Michael Shamos, a distinguished professor of computer science at Carnegie Mellon University, testified before Congress that June. "It must be re-created from scratch."

Two months later, the U.S. Computer Emergency Readiness Team - a division of the Department of Homeland Security - issued a little-noticed "cyber-security bulletin." The alert dealt specifically with a database that Diebold uses in tabulating votes. "A vulnerability exists due to an undocumented backdoor account," the alert warned, citing the same kind of weakness identified by the RABA scientists. The security flaw, it added, could allow "a malicious user [to] modify votes."

Such warnings, however, didn't stop states across the country from installing electronic voting machines for the 2004 election. In Ohio, jammed and inoperable machines were reported throughout Toledo. In heavily Democratic areas of Youngstown, nearly 100 voters pushed "Kerry" and watched "Bush" light up. At least twenty machines had to be recalibrated in the middle of the voting process for flipping Kerry votes to Bush. Similar "vote hopping" was reported by voters in other states.

The widespread glitches didn't deter Secretary of State J. Kenneth Blackwell - who also chaired Bush's re-election campaign in Ohio - from cutting a deal in 2005 that would have guaranteed Diebold a virtual monopoly on vote counting in the state. Local election officials alleged that the deal, which came only a few months after Blackwell bought nearly \$10,000 in Diebold stock, was a violation of state rules requiring a fair and competitive bidding process.

Facing a lawsuit, Blackwell agreed to allow other companies to provide machines as well. This November, voters in forty-seven counties will cast their ballots on Diebold machines - in a pivotal election in which Blackwell is running as the Republican candidate for governor.

Electronic voting machines also caused widespread problems in Florida, where Bush bested Kerry by 381,000 votes. When statistical experts from the University of California examined the state's official tally, they discovered a disturbing pattern: "The data show with 99.0 percent certainty that a county's use of electronic voting is associated with a disproportionate increase in votes for President Bush. Compared to counties with paper ballots, counties with electronic voting machines were significantly more likely to show increases in support for President Bush between 2000 and 2004." The three counties with the most discrepancies - Broward, Palm Beach and Miami-Dade - were also the most heavily Democratic. Electronic voting machines, the report concluded, may have improperly awarded as many as 260,000 votes to Bush. "No matter how many factors and variables we took into consideration, the significant correlation in the votes for President Bush and electronic voting cannot be explained," said Michael Hout, a member of the National Academy of Sciences.

Charles Stewart III, an MIT professor who specializes in voter behavior and methodology, was initially skeptical of the study - but was unable to find any flaw in the results. "You can't break it - I've tried," he told The Washington Post. "There's something funky in the results from the electronic-machine Democratic counties."

Questions also arose in Texas in 2004. William Singer, an election programmer in Tarrant County, wrote the secretary of state's office after the vote to report that ES&S pressured officials to install unapproved software during the presidential primaries. "What I was expected to do in order to 'pull off' an election," Singer wrote, "was far beyond the kind of practices that I believe should be standard and accepted in the election industry." The company denies the charge, but in an e-mail this month, Singer elaborated that ES&S employees had pushed local election officials to pressure the secretary of state to accept "a software change at such a last minute there would be no choice, and effectively avoid certification."

Despite such reports, Texas continues to rely on ES&S. In primaries held in Jefferson County earlier this year, electronic votes had to be recounted after error messages prevented workers from completing their tabulations. In April, with early voting in local elections only a week away, officials across the state were still waiting to receive the programming from ES&S needed to test the machines for accuracy. Calling the situation "completely unacceptable and disturbing," Texas director of elections Ann McGeehan authorized local officials to create "emergency paper ballots" as a backup. "We regret the unacceptable position that many political subdivisions are in due to poor performance by their contracted vendor," McGeehan added.

In October 2005, the government Accountability Office issued a damning report on electronic voting machines. Citing widespread irregularities and malfunctions, the government's top watchdog agency concluded that a host of weaknesses with touch-screen and optical-scan technology "could damage the integrity of ballots, votes and voting-system software by allowing unauthorized modifications." Some electronic systems used passwords that were "easily guessed" or employed identical passwords for numerous systems. Software could be handled and

transported with no clear chain of custody, and locks protecting computer hardware were easy to pick. Unsecured memory cards could enable individuals to "vote multiple times, change vote totals and produce false election reports."

An even more comprehensive report released in June by the Brennan Center for Justice, a nonpartisan think tank at the New York University School of Law, echoed the GAO's findings. The report - conducted by a task force of computer scientists and security experts from the government, universities and the private sector - was peer-reviewed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology. Electronic voting machines widely adopted since 2000, the report concluded, "pose a real danger to the integrity of national, state and local elections." While no instances of hacking have yet been documented, the report identified 120 security threats to three widely used machines - the easiest method of attack being to utilize corrupt software that shifts votes from one candidate to another. Computer experts have demonstrated that a successful attack would be relatively simple. In a study released on September 13th, computer scientists at Princeton University created vote-stealing software that can be injected into a Diebold machine in as little as a minute, obscuring all evidence of its presence. They also created a virus that can "infect" other units in a voting system, committing "widespread fraud" from a single machine. Within sixty seconds, a lone hacker can own an election.

And touch-screen technology continues to create chaos at the polls. On September 12th, in Maryland's first all-electronic election, voters were turned away from the polls because election officials had failed to distribute the electronic access cards needed to operate Diebold machines. By the time the cards were found on a warehouse shelf and delivered to every precinct, untold numbers of voters had lost the chance to cast ballots. It seems insane that such clear threats to our election system have not stopped the proliferation of touch-screen technology. In 2004, twenty-three percent of Americans cast their votes on electronic ballots - an increase of twelve percent over 2000. This year, more than one-third of the nation's 8,000 voting jurisdictions are expected to use electronic voting technology for the first time.

The heartening news is, citizens are starting to fight back. Voting-rights activists with the Brad Blog and Black Box Voting are getting the word out. Voter Action, a nonprofit group, has helped file lawsuits in Arizona, New York, Pennsylvania, Colorado and New Mexico to stop the proliferation of touch-screen systems. In California, voters filed suit last March to challenge the use of a Diebold touch-screen system - a move that has already prompted eight counties to sign affidavits saying they won't use the machines in November.

It's not surprising that the widespread problems with electronic voting machines have sparked such outrage and mistrust among voters. Last November, comedian Bill Maher stood in a Las Vegas casino and looked out over thousands of slot machines. "They never make a mistake," he remarked to me. "Can't we get a voting machine that can't be fixed?" Indeed, there is a remarkably simple solution: equip every touch-screen machine to provide paper receipts that can be verified by voters and recounted in the event of malfunction or tampering. "The paper is the insurance against the cheating machine," says Rubin, the computer expert.

In Florida, an astonishing new law actually makes it illegal to count paper ballots by hand after they've already been tallied by machine. But twenty-seven states now require a paper trail,

and others are considering similar requirements. In New Mexico, Gov. Bill Richardson has instituted what many consider an even better solution: Voters use paper ballots, which are then scanned and counted electronically. "We became one of the laughingstock states in 2004 because the machines were defective, slow and unreliable," says Richardson. "I said to myself, 'I'm not going to go through this again.' The paper-ballot system, as untechnical as it seems, is the most verifiable way we can assure Americans that their vote is counting."

Paper ballots will not completely eliminate the threat of tampering, of course - after all, election fraud and miscounts have occurred throughout our history. As long as there has been a paper trail, however, our elections have been conducted with some measure of public scrutiny. But electronic voting machines are a hacker's dream. And today, for-profit companies are being given unprecedented and frightening power not only to provide these machines but to store and count our votes in secret, without any real oversight.

You do not have to believe in conspiracy theories to fear for the integrity of our electoral system: The right to vote is simply too important - and too hard won - to be surrendered without a fight. It is time for Americans to reclaim our democracy from private interests.

It's About Time...

We learn how our disconnect from nature has lead to our human "nature deficit disorder" that is the root cause for our environmental problems.

We need also to "speak truth to power" about the known connection between the 2003 B&B Fire in Oregon and the 2004 Bush Presidential Campaign.

Jim King PhD

2/29/2011

Chapter one – referred to as "Connecting the Dots" – details the 12 years saga of the author as he step by step comes to grips with politics of wildfire management and the arson that clearly caused the 2003 B&B Complex Fire in Central Oregon. This first chapter of an unfolding story of Bush/Cheney/Rove administrations dirty trick that was most likely pure political payback to Oregon Democrats who were successfully blocking the Republican version of the 2003 Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA). As the authors upcoming Deschutes County Court case will reveal; there are layers of Deschutes County, Oregon Department of Forestry and Federal Agency involvement in the arson and on-going cover-up of the truth about the B&B arson.

It's About Time - Chapter 1

It's About Time...

We learn the truth about the connection between the 2004 Bush presidential campaign and the 2003 B&B Fire in Oregon.

"Consciousness has enabled us to recognize that the world is alive and that we are part of it; this ancient vision is now illuminated and extended by the discoveries of modern science. If we can grasp that we are the world we depend on, then we will find where we truly belong and get on with seeking a way to live in harmony with a rich vibrant community of living things." From David Suzuki's Introduction to The Sacred Balance.

After "connecting the dots" that have proved, without a doubt, that the 2003 B&B Fire in Central Oregon was arson, the next question everyone was asking was "who did it and why?" Until the final witness testifies, there will be lots of speculation including the likelihood of purely political mischief; reaching the level of magnitude of Nixon administration's Watergate fiasco. In any case, this politically motivated arson shows a fundamental failure to understand and honor our connection with nature as spoken about so eloquently by David Suzuki.

While there are still things we do not know, there are important things we do know:

The timing of the fire was clearly connected to George Bush's re-election campaign and his speech two days later promoting the Republican version of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act.

The ignition sites of the two separate fires, 15 miles apart, were selected by the arsonists to create visual "bookends" to the scheduled speech site of Bush.

The House on the Metolius Resort which was the announced speech site was also the favorite fly fishing hideaway for Oregon's Democratic Governor John Kitzhaber and where he frequently met with Sylvia Hayes, his future first lady.

The teams of arsonists that started these fires were so brazen in their actions and obvious in their desires for to-the-second simultaneous ignitions, as to be seen by multiple witnesses without apparent concern.

Employees and/or elected officials of Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the United States Forest Service (USFS), the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) and Deschutes County (DC) have all committed illegal acts in attempting to create and maintain an absurd story that both these fires were caused by an 11 day old lightning storm.

The hotspots that theoretically would have existed in the root balls of the two trees for the 11 days did not show up on any of the heat sensors on the many surveillance flights over the area for the three days prior to the two fires.

The motives of the arsonist had something to do with the Healthy Forest Initiative (HFI) and the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA and spoken as "hefra").

I, as a vocal critic and community leader, successful recipient of HFRA grants, previous whistleblower of Federal, State and County corruption, had previously irritated County Commissioner Luke sufficiently that he forced the Deschutes County Sheriff Les Stiles to conduct an official investigation in 2004. Stiles confided to me he was irritated that Luke would waste his staffs time with such baseless charges and obvious political mischief.

Les Stiles was also riding with Commissioner Luke during the first hours of the fire when Ron Pugh (Special Agent with the USFS LE&I) prematurely announced "this is lightning caused".

Ron Pugh has supported for over a year the need to have the fire reinvestigated based on the information that has come out since his Investigatory Task Force finished its work in 2004.

In 2010, I have again apparently irritated Commissioner Luke sufficiently (by testifying to a Commission meeting he was chairing) to have him request the Sheriff's Department have me investigated and, this time, arrested on two counts of identity theft and two count of forgery.

My trial is scheduled to begin on March 7, 2011 (with widespread speculation that the State District Court Judges may be using my arrest to "set up" a local corruption investigation of Deschutes County elected officials and staff for their involvement in the B&B arson)

First, to understand this drama and be well enough educated to be credible at cocktail party speculation; you must first know something about the Healthy Forests Initiative which was legally backed by the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (P.L. 108-148). Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (HFRA) was proposed by President George W. Bush in response to the widespread forest fires during the summer of 2002 including the Biscuit Fire in Southern Oregon which had also generated speculation about being arson set by local logging interests ¹¹. Bush and the supporters of the Act claimed the primary purpose of the law was to reduce fire dangers on the National Forests and nearby private properties (called the wildland urban interfaces) by providing funds to reduce the hazardous fuels that had accumulated from decades of mismanagement of these forests. The mismanagement that had led to overcrowding of forests was due to the suppression of low intensity fires, which had been previously been the natural way of thinning small trees and clearing vegetative debris. The resulting build up of ladder fuels and trees weakened by overpopulation posed a serious threat in many stands because they could no longer be treated with prescribed burnings and had become increasingly dangerous over the previous decade. The HFI also requires that nearby communities within the "wildland urban interface" create "community wildfire protection plans" and could compete for National Fire Plan grants that were made available through HFRA. Community wildfire protection plans designate areas adjacent to communities that should be thinned so that crown fires will not directly burn into communities.

This type of fire risk was precisely what had motivated me to get engaged with this issue in 1999 soon after I retired to the Sunriver, Oregon area. I lived on the Deschutes River near the confluence with the well known fly fishing Fall River where I was previously determined to spend

most of my retirement. Instead, I got drawn into organizing a local effort to reduce fire risk as my property was across the street from several square blocks of vacant lots so thick with high risk ladder fuels as to be impassible. The entire Upper Deschutes watershed had been designated as high and extremely high fire risk by the Oregon Department of Forestry and yet had been virtually ignored by the Federal, State and Deschutes County fire prevention funding. This neglect had been caused by the combined neglect of the US Forest Service of their federal forests, the State of Oregon's gross under-response to the severity of the problem, the Deschutes County government inappropriately approving unbuildable lots for decades which lead absentee land owners to careless about reducing fire risk and lastly, home owners associations that lacked education and/or adequate funding in most cases to address the fire risk problem.

After growing up with civic minded and highly involved parents, a professional career that included improving Peace Corps training, protesting the drafting of Peace Corps Nepal volunteers for service in Viet Nam, reforming teacher and counselor education, a workshop with THE Saul Alinsky, a leadership stint with the Beyond War movement, and a decade of high end organizational development consulting, I knew that "sitting this one out" was not an option and that my new "cause" was fire risk reduction (with the local trophy trout getting less of my attention). My first action was to call the dedicated president of my home owner association, Al Zupo, to offer my services on the association's fire committee but was sickened to learn there was no such fire committee. Soon after watching the local kids walk by the fire trap across the street smoking and carelessly ditching their cigarettes every time a car approached, I decided to convene a Fire Subcommittee and called a local Fire Management resource person,-----, and Oregon Department of Forestry's Stu Otto who provided me models, motivation and personal support to write a decent fire risk reduction proposal for our neighborhood and USFS Interface. I received my Neighborhood Association's buy-off and thank you and in September 2001 submitted it to the local USFS District Ranger Walt Schloer sent copies to anyone and everyone imaginable. When I heard nothing by January, not even a token note from someone to acknowledge our work or, at least, their official receipt of our proposal; I knew my next move would be to increase the size of the "community" and resultant clout. By the following summer (2002) I had submitted another proposal this time including the 3-4 adjacent neighborhoods which resulted in a little more than excuses by the public agencies about their lack of funds (pure BS, of course).

Increasingly frustrated at the government agencies elitist neglect of our "less than well healed" neighborhoods; I spent the next six months interviewing and agitating all the 13 neighborhood leaders in the Upper Deschutes River Watershed by asking two questions: #1 - What are the most significant problems you face as a neighborhood leader and #2 - Would you be willing to meet with other neighborhood leaders to organize and address mutual problems. The answers were predictably consistent: the problems were fire risk on adjacent Forest Service lands, fire risk on the vacant lots of absentee owners, frustrated by being ignored by public agencies and about getting together with the other neighborhood leaders to build some "political muscle"; they answer was the sooner the better.

On a cold rainy night in October we had our first ever watershed wide meeting at the local fire hall. I was amused at my ODF friend Stu Otto's worry that I might get discouraged if only a few folks showed up. Since I had called to remind the neighborhood leaders, I was confident that

even the bad weather would not trump the fears I had heard about for months. I was curious about the paid staff from the "well healed" neighborhoods like Sunriver, Crosswater, and Vandervert Ranch who were covering for their elected leaders. I had met with all the staff and elected leaders who all strongly supported the idea of larger group representing the entire watershed and were generous sharing the lessons from their fire risk reduction efforts.

As he did several times a week, Stu Otto drove the 80 miles round trip from the Prineville Office of ODF and on this particularly miserable night; to help me set up the chairs and ready the handouts for the meeting. Until about 15 minutes before the meeting when the parking lot began to fill, he continue to worry out loud that I might quit my efforts if too few showed. Little did Stu know at the time that I, like he, would have only been more motivated, not less if the elected neighborhood leaders had "no showed". As I expected, none of the staff or officers from the "well healed" neighborhoods showed that night but were quick to join and work hard once the watershed group organized. Stu explained the human resources and small grants available to their neighborhoods and voiced support for the watershed coalition to address our collectively fire dangers. We had struck a nerve based our collective fears and organized for monthly meetings that continue 8 years later.

By early 2003, Bush's Healthy Forest Initiative had been announced by Oregon's pro-logging Congressman Greg Walden and the seeds for the political showdown with the "green groups" in Oregon were sewn. Rumors had surfaced that the 2002 Biscuit Fire in Southern Oregon had been set for political reasons related to the HFI and to promote passage of HFRA.

The Bush administration claimed broad support for HFI, stating on their official website: "The Administration and a bipartisan majority in Congress supported the legislation and are joined by a variety of environmental conservation groups." This statement blatantly ignored the growing opposition to HFI by national conservation groups such as the Sierra Club ^[2], the Natural Resources Defense Council ^[3], The Wilderness Society ^[4] and the John Muir Project ^[5], along with some of us from our Upper Deschutes River Coalition. The supporters included some members of the Society of American Foresters (ASF) ^[6], local fire protection agencies like the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) and Deschutes County Department of Forestry, and some of the hunting and fishing advocacy groups. ^[7]

Proponents of HFI claimed that fires in the Western United States had increased in intensity and size, largely a result of fire suppression, which had created a buildup in fuels and ladder fuels, as well as climate change. Supporters believed this act was needed since it would simplify the NEPA process for projects which are meant to reduce the susceptibility of National forests to forest fires; reducing the risk of conflagrations that endanger human lives, destroy valuable forests, and reduce the quality of habitat for several wildlife species. The act is specific, that projects under the act should focus on small tree removal, and maximize retention of large trees. Furthermore, supporters of the act point to the fact that projects under the act must, before going through NEPA, be approved by a collaborative group like our Coalition, which include all interested and effected parties (including adjacent land owners, special use permit holders in the area, and environmental groups). The intent of NEPA is to allow the public to have input on projects, influence the topics of analysis for projects, and develop alternatives for projects. Collaborative groups like our Coalition allow for more input and influence on projects from the

public than the normal NEPA process, despite the fact that projects under the act had to go through an expedited NEPA process.

Opponents of the Act, nicknamed it the "No Tree Left Behind" Act, point out that logging companies will be allowed to unnecessarily cut large diameter trees under a false pretense, while neglecting the greater issue of ladder fuels (such as brush and small trees) and possibly leaving debris that would add to extremely volatile ground fuels. Furthermore, forest fires occur naturally and are critical to the long-term survival of many forests, since many trees will only grow once they detect that a fire has occurred since this gives them access to sunlight. Some opponents also criticize the blanket prescription of thinning to forests where low intensity fires did not historically play a pivotal role.

In addition, some opponents consider the use of the term, "Healthy Forests Initiative" (similarly to the Clear Skies Initiative), to be an example of administration Orwellian doublespeak, using environmentally friendly terminology as a "cover" for a give-away to business interests.^[8] Retired Oregon Congressman Les AuCoin wrote an article on this very point called Don't Get Hosed: How Political Framing Influences Fire Policy. This article appears in a critically important book edited by George Wuerthner: Wildfire: A Century of Failed Forest Policy which is considered "the bible" by us environmentalists on the mismanagement of forests and wildfires over the last several decades.

In March 2006, it was reported in the news section of the US journal Environmental Science & Technology that timber interests created a front group called Project Protect to help pass the Healthy Forests legislation.^[9]

In 2004, the Sierra Club and Sierra Forest Legacy (formerly named Sierra Nevada Forest Protection Campaign) brought a lawsuit challenging one aspect of HFI. The National Environmental Policy Act requires preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS) for agency actions. Under HFI, the Forest Service had promulgated a "categorical exclusion" that eliminated the EIS requirement for timber sales up to 1,000 acres (4.0 km²) and prescribed burns up to 4,500 acres (18 km²). On December 5 2007, in Sierra Club v. Bosworth^[10], the Ninth Circuit held that the Forest Service's promulgation of the categorical exclusion "was arbitrary and capricious". However, by 2007 our Coalition had received hundreds of thousands of dollars of National Fire Plan funds for reducing private land fire risk within our neighborhoods and witnessed many hundreds of acres of "good faith" fuels reductions projects by the USFS on their adjoining lands. Both private and public lands projects had been broadly discussed by neighborhoods leaders and the Forest Service and included in our precedent setting Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Even though we followed both the spirit and the letter of the HFRA law; the County and State fire protection staff whined and cheated (*see below of details of ODF falsifying a federal grant) because the "good old boys" were not longer in charge of all the fire risk reduction programs.

My first involvement with HFRA was as Chair of a consortium of neighborhoods of the Upper Deschutes Watershed when I received a note from David Blair who was, at that time, working with Deschutes County on Fire Prevention efforts. David's note introduced the purpose of and the potential funding available through HFRA and his note further suggested that those of us

representing groups in south Deschutes County should consider applying for National Fire Plan grants funded through HFRA. These funds would be used ladder fuels reduction - the term used for dangerous flammable materials resident in a particular location.

After a couple phone calls to my contacts to check out whether our consortium - The Upper Deschutes River Natural Resources Coalition – had “standing” to compete for these National Fire Plan grants; our Coalition decided to pursue it. I subsequently meet with David for lunch about the details of HFRA and his prior experience working with Senator Ron Wyden, and additionally his impending and unhappy departure from the half time position with Deschutes County fire prevention program. I was struck by his incredible background on the HFRA and other related issues....and that it was Commissioner Dennis Luke who was primarily responsible for David leaving his forestry related County job.

Our research into the past grants that Deschutes County had given out for fire risk reduction (that Dennis Luke managed) led us to be concerned and publically criticize their grant and general fund efforts at fire risk reduction. There was an undeniably clear pattern of Luke managed funds being steered away from the “most needy” Democratic voting areas to much “less needy” and heavily Republican neighborhoods.

Commissioner Luke had every reason to dislike my leadership of our non-profit organization because we were winning grants in direct competition with his leadership of the County’s efforts. It was easy to “eat their lunch” in head to head competitions because we were a group of neighborhood volunteers representing the highest fire risk areas of the County, watershed based, our neighborhoods were all in a State and Federally protected Wild and Scenic River Corridor and with little or no overhead. This compared with the State and County applications that including hefty percentages (25%) for indirect costs.

When I was investigated by Deschutes County Sheriff Les Stiles and his deputies for nothing more than zeroing the signature page of our previous years planning document, it became obvious that the good old boys and their elected representative, Commissioner Luke for one, were still intent on hanging onto and getting back control of the “easy” federal grant money to which they had become addicted. It also seemed clear there may have been some “male egos” holding onto their illusion of control and along with their need for funds to grow their influence in the public agencies within which they were employed.

Another example of the good old boys cheating to get their own way “no matter what” was a Oregon State Department of Forestry (ODF) claiming our Coalition’s Community Wildfire Protection Plan their own on a \$600,000 National Fire Plan federal application administered by the Western States Governors Association. A tip from a woman friend of mine inside the fire management bureaucracy suggested I look in. I was shocked to find that their application made no mention of our Upper River Coalition (which at the time was receiving national notoriety for having Oregon’s first community with a Community Wildfire Protection Plan) nor Senator Wyden’s appearance and speech at the High Desert Museum to unveil and initiate the Plan. to the ODF Application for Western States Governors Grant funds The sad part of this deception is that both of the ODF administrators involved – Bob Young and George Ponte (remember this latter name too) –had attended the celebration and speech by Senator Ron Wyden who was

specifically and exclusively honoring our grass roots group's implementation of Oregon's very first Community Wildfire Protection Plan. These State Officials -Young and Ponte – were actually in attendance at the High Desert Museum event and still chose to try to lie and cheat to get the so-called "easy money" from National Fire Plan federal sources rather than complete with other State Agencies before the State legislature to get funding. It is always galling for me to overhear these same State and/or County officials criticize the federal government for its handling of grant funds with which they were clearly misusing.

The upshot of the Oregon Department of Forestry's false claims on their Western States Grant application – that was funded – was for our Upper Deschutes River Coalition to demand and for them to turn over to us the \$400,000 portion of the \$600,000 of that grant that was earmarked for clearing ladder fuels. We thereafter dubbed this grant as our "hush money grant" since we agreed not to publicize their criminal behaviors. I now wonder if we had "called them out" on such illegalities if they would have been gutsy enough to be involved in the B&B arson.

This leads us closer to the 2003 Fire Season and the scheduled Presidential visit to Camp Sherman. However, subsequent to the Bush visit, Oregon's own Representative Greg Walden with likely help from Oregon's then Senator Gordon Smith, had offered proposed amendments to the HFRA renewal legislation to include the building of logging roads in wilderness areas (a no-no to environmentalists) and harvesting of burnt old growth trees (an even greater no-no to environmentalists) which would have changed the core nature of HFRA.

Here are the three most likely thought patterns of the arsonists: #1) if the Democratic members of Oregon's congressional delegation had to face more under-employed constituents with freshly blackened timber on tens of thousands of acres in Central Oregon; they might be forced to support our pro-logging amendments to HFRA or the possibly even darker thinking: #2) if they – Oregon's "blue" dominated congressional delegation doesn't want our version of forest restoration legislation; then, fine, let them live with our version of a forest fire and #3- we'll still get some of our buddies in the fire industrial complex a shot at some post fire salvage logging. Until we know the actual architects, and their arson plans and have them under oath; we'll not know which of these three erroneous thought processes prevailed. I'm betting on a possible combination of the three.

One additional bit of interesting trivia that I expand on elsewhere in the book is Oregon's Department of Forestry's attempt to thwart my efforts to get B&B re-investigated. Again, you'll need a bit of "context" to appreciate it: viz. at the beginning of my efforts to educate a citizen oversight committee for the B&B re-investigation; I scheduled an evening meeting in Camp Sherman to orient possible committee members to some of the issues. I had lined up to attend the known "expert", Tom Andrade, who was the local ODF employee most knowledgeable about USFS fire investigations and, by everyone's account, also the most knowledgeable person about the actual B&B Fire of any person who was not a member of one of the investigatory committees. I had previously had lunch with Tom at which time he explained how lightning could have simultaneously started both of these fires and that he was motivated by his sincere personal concern that I not get embarrassed by the backlash that was inevitably going to come in response to my efforts. Much to my surprise; I also got that he was still clinging to his hope that

B&B had maybe actually been caused by two lightning strikes weeks after the last lightning had been reported even close to the two B&B ignition sites.

I had shared, as a conversation starter, my conversation years earlier with my USFS District Ranger, Walt Schloer, who when I asked the probability of B&B really being lightning caused, said "about a billion to one". Tom sparked with anger and blurted out "Walt doesn't know what he is talking about!" I asked Tom what he thought was a better probability estimate but he dodged the question as we found our way to our table at one of Tom's favorite Sister's Mexican Restaurants. I appreciated the intellectual rehearsal Tom put me through as he explained how lightning strikes sometime sit in roots of the struck tree only to be fanned into open flames when a breeze would later visit the tree. I had myself found such a site years earlier near Salmon Bay Lake on the Tongass National Forest in SE Alaska.

I grew so upset by the loss of confidence of my long time "kindred spirit", I had to excuse myself early from lunch and pace the sidewalk outside the restaurant until he was finished eating and could join me in the fresh Central Oregon air. (Ironically, also in full view of the devastated 142,000 acres charred by the B&B fire).

But I digress..... I was therefore floored just days before our B&B Fire Truth and Reconciliation Committee orientation meeting in Camp Sherman when Tom's boss, George Ponte calls me and screams Tom would not be attending our meeting because the issue (I assumed he meant the B&B Fire) had been resolved. When I explained that the public's confidence into the cause of the fire was anything but resolved and that I thought, as a public employee, Tom could do whatever he wanted with is "off duty" time; my old nemesis George that I would be calling the Governor's office as soon as I hung up; he assured me he didn't care what the hell I did when I hung up and that I shouldn't expect Tom to attend our evening meeting. After a minute or two of deep breathing to calm myself, I made the promised call to the Oregon Governor's office that did what I expected i.e. dodge the issue of State employee's rights, and instead refer me to the Salem Offices of the head of the Department of Forestry. With my previous dealings with "ODF Central" over ODF's cheating on a National Fire Grant; I knew pretty much what to expect viz: anything but straight talk about any issue. I think I talked to some assistant somewhere deep within that bureaucracy who had to struggle to keep up with the issue and my notoriously intense style of communication, especially when arguing about some administrators totally silly position on an issue.

And speaking of silly, I later received the following on official State of Oregon stationery:

Dear Mr. King,

"February 8, 2010

Thank you for your phone calls and stopping by my office yesterday to visit regarding your efforts to revisit the B&B Fire investigation.

I'm following up with this letter to confirm our conversation yesterday (That had related to my receiving the astonishing call from George Ponte). The Oregon Department of Forestry is satisfied with the current US Forest Service investigation and do not feel our employees should allocate any more time to the issue either on or off duty.

Thank you for your interest in Oregon's forests and your work to make them and adjoining community's fire safe.

Sincerely,

Paul Bell, Associate State Forester

Chief, Fire Protection Division"

(Paul – who I found to be very nice and respectful when we met and did also admit he didn't want to write the letter he was getting cornered by me and George Ponte into writing - is quite clever to admit in this letter that their comfort with the investigation is only "current" and is making sure to assign responsibility to some other agency, in this case the USFS, any possible problems with the investigation. I cynically guess this is why we tax payers should be satisfied at how our tax dollars are being spent on such clever letter writers.)

At this point without federal resources (the lead investigator Tom Lyons stonewalling all my phone calls) and now the head of the State's Fire Protection Division telling me that State resources were also being withheld (by withdrawing Tom Andrade's expertise); I was tempted to give it up and get back to my "expected" retirement of playing golf, fly fishing, riding around my National Forest backyard on my new mountain bike. However, was I quickly redirected to an Naomi Tutu speech in Bend that, once I read about it, I knew I had to attend and I knew also would propel me to my next level. I was so excited I misread the announcement and drove the 35 miles to the Church location on the announcement only to find the parking lot empty. My heart sank since I was so sure I was suppose to meet Naomi and she would somehow steer me to my new assignment. When no one arrived at the appointed time I began to wonder if maybe I was the one who had made a mistake and soon figured out that she was scheduled two days later. When I thought about my being off by two days I was relieved that the mistake was in my favor and I began to also if this wasn't maybe a "sign" of something greater which lead me to the nearby Barnes and Noble Bookstore for my afternoon double shot, no fat, no whip moca. With my coffee in hand I poured over the many books by her father, the Archbishop Desmond Tutu, and one edited specifically by Naomi. Needless to say, my two day mistake cost me a very healthy addition to my visa balance but I drove back to Camp Sherman excited about having two days to begin reading about the "Arch" as he is called and Naomi's speech on Saturday.

By the time I arrived on that Saturday I had a pretty good grasp of "the Arch's" work in South Africa and also Naomi's many projects since she had moved to Nashville to teach at Tennessee State. I was delighted to read she was deeply involved in domestic violence prevention since I had helped establish the domestic violence program in Silverton Oregon where I had moved after ending my marriage to my second wife Sara. I was also blown away that my spiritual teacher, Catherine Ingram, had dedicated a chapter in her book, In The Footsteps of Gandhi that included reference to a precocious daughter who kept interrupting Catherine's interview with The Arch. Even though not named, I was sure I was about to meet that very same precocious daughter. I scoped out the large Church auditorium and was glad to see they were planning to video her presentation. As she was being introduced I watched, almost in wonder, as she came down a side aisle dressed in a magnificent African robe and head dress.

She spoke for about 90 minutes about Ubuntu - an African concept about our core responsibilities toward to all fellow human beings – and brought her audience to tears with one funny self revealing story after another about her learning those lessons from her grandmother in South Africa. The one story I most related to was her admission that she “baited” a white South African boy who had routinely stopped her at one of the many checkpoints. Because she knew her having a car was unusual for a young black African woman she knew the young man was already confused and afraid. She spoke about her realization that because he was so afraid that he too was “oppressed” by his fear she was about to call in hundreds of angry blacks who would chop him up with their machetes. Such an awesome example of the fear based crazy world we live in today that leads hate inspired young men to start shooting at some campaign even in Arizona. I was so taken by Naomi’s description of how she “softened” once her empathy helped her see that she was “one” with this white South African whose training had been to shoot first and sort out later any confrontation with a black person. She said he too softened when she queried him about being stuck on checkpoint duty on a Friday night when his buddies were probably out somewhere having fun without him. I knew I was going to go back to the Barnes and Noble Bookstore and get a copy of In the Footsteps of Gandhi. for her to autograph.

When I stood to thank her for her comments, I mentioned her comments had “spoken” to me because of some heaviness I was dealing with and went on to ask why she thought there were no young people present that Saturday afternoon in Bend Oregon; (a town where every third person on the street was under 25 and very much like the college campuses where I’d spent most of my professional life). She was very quick not to let me take her audience away from the many positives she had so artfully created: “Oh, they are all down at the ski carnival and I should go there if wanted to talk to young people”. I said I was hoping to take her up on her offer for coffee after the speech and I’d go skiing tomorrow.

After discovering the In The Footsteps of Gandhi book was out of print; I returned to the church to have the conversation that I already knew would be special. And special it was as she quickly went past my compliments to “So what was the “heaviness” you spoke about earlier?” Since all the other audience had left; I felt comfortable letting her control how much of this story she wanted to hear. We talked and talked and she asked me to join her the next day for a radio interview so we’d have more time to talk and take even longer if I could drive her to the Redmond airport. I was, of course, excited and vowed to read further. Our closing at the airport involved mutual vows to that we needed to work together and that she was willing to come back to Central Oregon to help us with our closure issues (ie forgiveness and reconciliation). She gave me permission to paraphrase something from her writing “When we don’t question this kind of thing, we have given up our humanity, and when we give up our humanity, we have become an oppressed people”. I’ve used this quote in our Committee’s brochure which has received several criticisms from the local Camp Sherman “sideline sitters” as I now call them.

I, like Robert F. Kennedy suggests in his Rolling Stones article, have come to be more bothered by the sideline sitting of politicians, the press, the law enforcement community and the green groups than the event itself. His rationale is that the Country can survive one fixed election, as he has shown the Ohio and presidential election in 2004 to be, but the Country and our democracy will not survive if the regulatory functions of these four groups all sit on the sidelines. So frightening because the perpetrators of these acts, the fixing of the 2004 election and the

setting our B&B Fire in 2003 have exactly that calculation; namely, no one will be able to do anything about it. It is perversely interesting to me that the same handful of individuals in the Bush administration were likely involved in both of these crimes. I think this fact is felt in the guts of many of us who struggle to get one of these groups to address our B&B arson and it is precisely why several of us refuse to let it be. As the Dixie Chicks so powerfully sing in Truth #2, "I don't think I am afraid anymore and I'd rather die trying" which is exactly how I've come to feel. Kennedy's personal note to me suggesting I'll need lots of resources and lots of courage has come to be a treasured memento. I wrote back I was good on the courage part but short on the coinage.

To address this "sideline sitting" while our Country goes down the drain, I mockingly put together a fund raising campaign that involves a pool among Camp Sherman residents that wagers on which of these four groups, the politicians, the press, the law enforcement community or the green groups, will be the last one standing on the sidelines. I got a "clever but biting" comment from Brian Clem, a State Representative from Salem, whom I recently met in the Capital building in Salem on one of my many trips to Salem to beg involvement from our State elected officials. Brian was largely responsible for shepherding the Metolius Protection Bill through the last Oregon State legislature and is now a true hero to the Central Oregon community that loves the Metolius basin with its truly unique significance to Oregon. So far, only the law enforcement community has moved into the game by "working the case" while the entire Oregon Congressional delegation (now all men), the entire set of Oregon media outlets (all edited by men), and the entire contingent of green groups (most men lead) are still stuck in their fear based "wait and see" mode. I mention the gender issue because I was stunned recently at my realization that men and women react very differently to this problem. As good friend of mine, Tim Lillebo, who coordinates Oregon Wild's Central Oregon activities said recently "I know you wouldn't lie about any of this, but I can't bring myself to believe that your Connecting the Dots Report is true. I practically came out of my chair as I sat across from Tim in his office in the Environmental Center in Bend realizing that most men can't, not won't, get it while most women can and do get it. As a psychologist and amateur philosopher, this seems as significant as Kennedy's statement about our Country and democracy being on the line. When Tim later apologized over the phone for his possible betrayal of an old friend; I interrupted and thanked him profusely for his insight and honesty as I finally had an explanation of this phenomenon and excitedly can't wait to share and discuss it with my green group women friends and Kennedy as well.

As someone who has tracked gender differences over the years in order to avoid getting chewed up by my college feminist friends, I have come to realize that there are profound differences and when we ignore or are ignorant of them, we risk missing the fundamental metaphysics of what is going on. My sense of this is that most men with their need to control and fix things; simply can't get their heads around this problem and so they psychologically can't hold it. Women, on the other hand, approach problems from an emotional and healing perspective and instinctively cradle the problem and nurture me as I tell this story. Now that Tim has helped me get my head around the "sideline sitting" as being gender based; I can now go forward working exclusively with the many strong women I am so blessed to be associated with.

Metaphorically, I recently benched the good old boys team and replaced it with an all women's team for the second half of this "the game of chicken" we are apparently engaged in. The game, as I see it, is the male politicians, the male editors of all major Oregon newspapers, the male dominated county, state, and federal law enforcement offices and the male controlled state and national green groups; are all hoping their head in the sand on the sidelines strategy will get them through this showdown, while my freight train mostly engineered by women, is speeding down the tracks about to overrun them. The image that comes to my creative mind is that this impending train wreck will more of a haircut, or head cut more accurately framed, than an actual train wreck in that this movement will likely not even be slowed as it cuts off the heads of all these men with their heads still stuck in the sand. I've felt some responsibility for these guys as some are friends and most have been helpful to my understanding of this problem; but, I can only warn them that this train is unstoppable, the disclosure of B&B as being government coordinated arson as inevitable, and the collision of the two positions will be bloody.

A recent very interesting twist on this gender issue is the good old (law enforcement) boys showing their ignorance by thinking that their fear based strategies would shut me up; and they have actually arrested me, not once but twice for totally bogus charges. The first round was for identity theft and after the then DA, Mike Dugan, made it go away, only to morph into four charges when he went way when his term ended. The second arrest was by the Canadians when they were erroneously told I was trying to enter Canada under false pretenses and a forged document. Since I had talked to Mike Dugan personally and hear his type out the document while we talked about my case over the phone; I knew what I had and I knew it was not forged. The five Canadians stood around me in the border crossing waiting room with their hands ominously near their pistols as they shouted instructions to do one thing, then another as if I were somehow a threat to them with my hands cuffed behind my back. As is my habit, sometimes to my peril, I was shouting back to them that they had NOT talked to Dugan and if they would they'd owe me an apology and commendation from the Canadian government; even though I knew not to expect either during this trip.

Interestingly, it was a younger woman's face I read as acknowledging that if I was right that they had not talked to Dugan ;that maybe, just maybe, I was telling the truth about the other issues before us on the cement floor of my cell. Not being excited about spending the next day or two in their holding facility at the border and know I wasn't about getting help from my government; I directed my influence toward this one gal who had show what we therapists call the "recognition reflect". She softened as I softened with my apologies for being such an aggressive asshole male in the incident earlier that evening. I was not surprised when it was she who came in 20 minutes later to thank me for my cooperation and to tell me "you are free to go". I still felt incensed about my plight in Oregon, being going bankrupt from 9 months of hiding from thr Dark Lord in Camp Sherman, and knowing it was likely Deschutes County Commissioner Dennis Luke's final act of retribution to mess with my freedoms. I said I didn't want out, I wanted the government appointed attorney and deportation hearing that was offered earlier in the incident. She said that couldn't happen until the following morning and that my problems were with Deschutes County down in Oregon. I conceded her wisdom and softer style so I agreed to have my cuffs removed and appreciated that she walked me the 50 yards to the US Customs officers who had only electronic information on their computers about what had just happened on the Canadian side of the border.

After 90 minutes of processing – “it’s the patriot act you know” – they let me access my car which had been ransacked by someone checking for God only knows what. Being upset and a bit short of cash, I decided to make an all-nighter of it as I had a month earlier to get to a Obama rally for Kitzhaber in Portland and knowing the highway was open and would be pretty with the high desert under the full moon.

My two Court appearances were also a bit stressful since it made no sense to me as why it was me that was facing 12 potential years in prison for being the good citizen who was insisting on accountability from my government. I first appeared in Sullivan’s Court who suggested I was taking this 12 years too lightly and refused to release me until I had signed an agreement to be represented with legal counsel at my next hearing scheduled for 3 weeks later. When I mentioned – out of order I could tell – that I was ready to plea “Not ready to make nice” borrowed again from the Dixie Chicks ; he smiled, sorta, and told me that was not happening and urged me to apply for a court appointed attorney since I was inclined to bravely fly solo with the potential of 12 years in prison. When I asked if it was legal to be bound to having to have an attorney – again out of order – he was quick and amused to point out that in his courtroom, he was the law. I knew my law classes from 40 years ago seem to support his position on that point; so I politely acquiesced and left his courtroom after signing the agreement to appear next time with an attorney.

However, obtaining an attorney in Bend proved to be difficult after my attorney, Susan Daly Stearns, announced she was leaving Bend to accept a new job out of the area. She did recommend Tom Spears who I noticed from his website had attended Lewis and Clark Northwest Law School where Oregon AG John Kroger and US Attorney Dwight Holdon now teach as adjunct professors. Tom and I had traded phone calls but had not met as my new trial date approached. I come from the “there are no accidents” philosophy of life so I was not surprised when the Court appointed Tom as my temporary attorney for my first appearance.

At the January appearance I was allowed to submit an application for a Court appointed Attorney (subsequently denied) and set a trial date for March 7th. Seeing the month between first and second Court appearances as ample time to make political gains; it seemed like I’d just been given the ace of trump and, along with the king I had previously, knew it was time to up the ante. I scheduled a B&B Truth Conference in Sister’s beautiful Five Pines Resort for the weekend before my trial date to take maximum advantage of the situation. The Truth Conference would allow the many witnesses to appear simultaneously (or have submitted sworn anonymous testimony) in order to minimize exposure to crazies who might be threatened by exposing the arsonists.

My hope is to get Robert F. Kennedy Jr. to keynote the March 5th event since his 2004 book - Crimes Against Nature: How George W. Bush and His Corporate Pals Are Plundering the Country and Hijacking our Democracy has so dramatically documented the many other Bush era misdeeds. Since I have worked for years to have people “get it” that Bush administration operatives could have really done this sort of thing and get FBI help covering it up; I use Kennedy’s work as background reading for persons with enough courage to read about it.

Additionally I hope to have Naomi Tutu return to Central Oregon and begin to help us all with our "closure issues" of forgiveness and reconciliation and possibly stay a day or two to help initiate a long overdue intimate violence prevention program in the Sisters. The Sisters community is a lot like Silverton, where I previously helped to launch a Domestic Violence Program years ago; namely uncomfortable with having to admit the awful truth about our problem of increased drug use and naming the problem between men and women that plays out most nights as violence against women. My thought is that a Sisters group could be called the Sisters for Sisters Sisters Yes! (a clever link to my favorite Yes! magazine) or SASSY for short. My question is always "How could you not care enough to admit this problem and quote a favorite quote "Without a sense of caring, there can be no sense of community". Wake up Sisters

I'd like to close this first draft of the first chapter of It's About Time with some wisdom from a time long ago. My friend and colleague sandy Lonsdale recently share these words from Ansel Adams The Meaning of the National Parks, 1950 (now includes National Forests). Sandy is one of those unsung heroes who has poured his heart (had a heart attack at age 46) and soul into effort after effort to save the planet and help organized the highly regarded Central Oregon Sierra Club Juniper Group.

Walt Whitman spoke in To Foreign Lands about how man mirrors nature and man in nature as well. Truly he is a poet of tremendous faith; faith in himself, in his country, and faith in the earth itself.

The earth never tires, the earth is rude, silent, incomprehensible at first,

Be not discouraged, keep on, there are divine things well enveloped in it,

I swear to you there are divine things more beautiful than words can tell"

It is in this quality of faith which we must have in America today. Not the petty platitudes and protestations, not the cynical depreciations and escapism, but the deep soul searching beliefs, transcending pride and self-interest, that will create and perpetuate the concepts of an advanced society.

The National parks are, indeed, a phenomenon of an advanced society; James Bryce once said that the concept of the national parks was America's unique contribution to the democratic idea. In fact, it is difficult to conceive of American without them; one fifth (much more today) of our people experience the national parks and monuments within a single year.with almost the suddenness of a nova's burst to glory we have entered a new dimension of thought and awareness of nature. The earth promises to me more than a beautiful battlefield or hunting ground; we dream of the time when it shall house one great family of cooperative beings.

I must agree with another friend and colleague, Tim Hermack who heads up the Eugene based Native Forest Council, that this dream seems to be fading with each wildfire that dumps massive amounts of CO2 into the atmosphere repeatedly searing the lungs of our mother earth. When she can no longer breath, we die. Wake up America!

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File Code: 6270
Date: November 1, 2019

Brian R. Metke
26311 SW Metke Lane
Camp Sherman, OR 97730

Dear Mr. Metke:

This letter is my response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated October 7, 2019, you are requesting a copy of the satellite maps of the lightning strikes covering central Oregon occurring 3 weeks (inclusive) prior to the ignition of the B & B Complex fire.

In response to your request, we conducted a search for responsive electronic and hard copy records, in the following physical office locations: Deschutes National Forest Supervisor's Office in Bend, Oregon, and the Sisters Ranger District Office in Sisters, Oregon. Within those offices, we searched in every place where a reasonably knowledgeable professional could expect to find records pertaining to your request. Due to the B&B Complex fire occurring in 2003 (16 years ago) we are past the file retention period for these records and they have been shredded. Fire Package – Incident Administrative Records (File Code 5180) have a retention period of 7 years and Law Enforcement Investigation (File Code 5320) have a retention period of 10 years. The original map you are requesting is no longer available; however, we do have a more recently created map displaying the same data. Enclosed in entirety is 1 page of records responsive to your request. I believe this fully satisfies your request.

If you have any questions please contact Sasha Fertig (FOIA Coordinator) at sasha.fertig@usda.gov. Please identify your request by the assigned control number 2020-FS-R6-00141-F.

Sincerely,

HOLLY JEWKES
Forest Supervisor

Enclosure



Lightning Occurrence 07/23/2003-08/19/2003 Booth and Bear Butte Fires

Legend

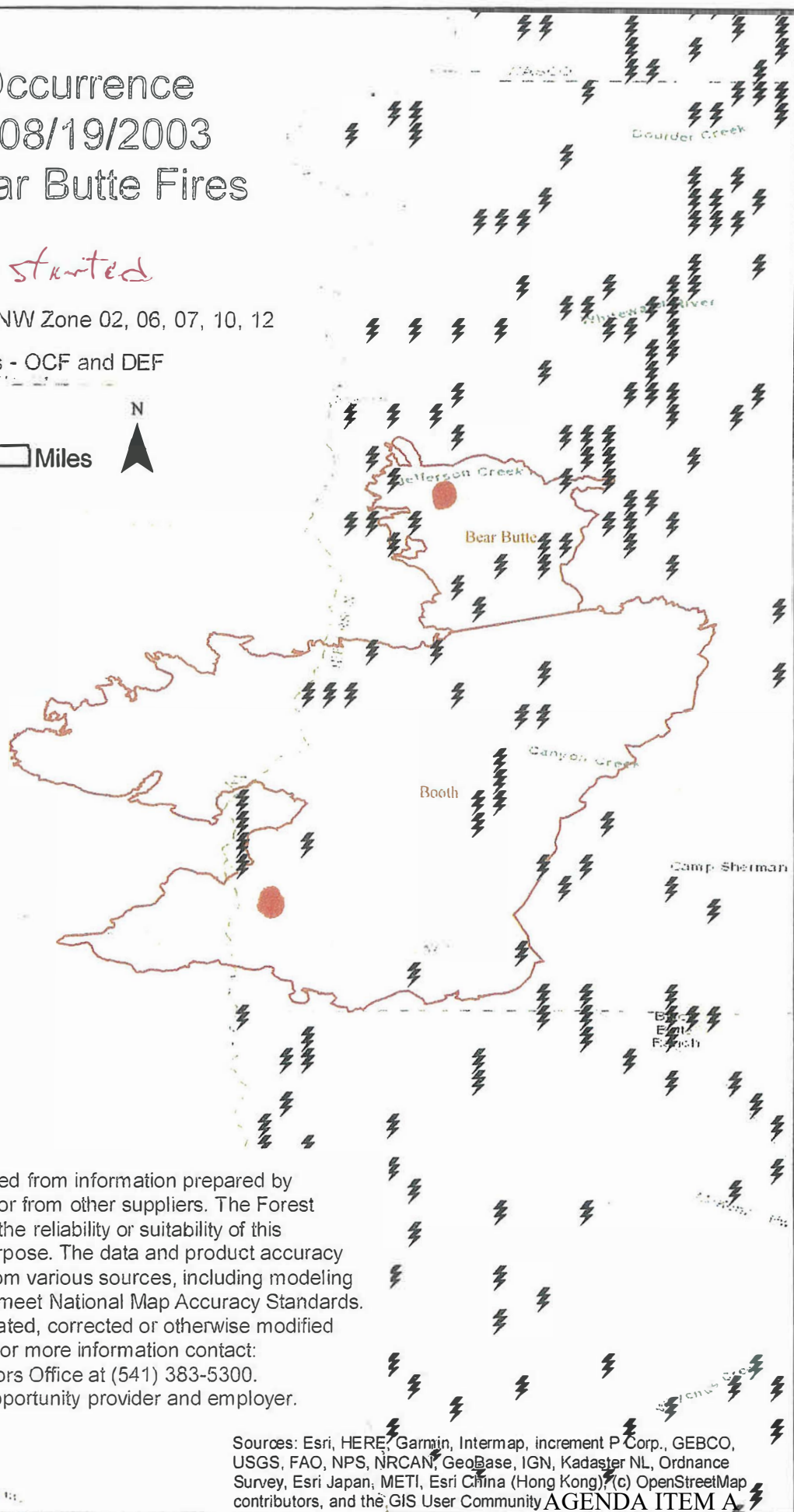
● *Fire started*

⚡ Lightning Detections NW Zone 02, 06, 07, 10, 12

□ Large Fire Perimeters - OCF and DEF

10

Miles



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Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

January 15, 2020

"Human beings suffer, they torture one another, they get hurt, they get hard. No poem, nor play nor song can fully right the wrong that is suffered and endured. History says don't hope for justice on this side of the grave. But then, once in a lifetime the longed for wave of justice can rise up and believe hope and history rhyme. So hope for a great sea change on the far side of revenge and that the farthest side of the shore is reachable from here. Believe in miracles and cures and healing wells. Cole calls self healing the ultimate self revealing double take of feeling. So if there is fire in the mountain and God speaks from the sky, it means that someone is hearing that outcry and the birth cry on it's own terms and that for once in a lifetime, hope and history can rhyme."

From "Across the Bridge of Hope Album" to Aid the Omaha Fund - a Northern Ireland Peace Initiative.

Memo to: Fellow Activists*

From: Jim King PhD

Re: The need for new strategy

Based on the lack of "progress" on getting B&B issues clarified, prosecutions pursued, lawsuits on behalf of spouses of person who died, wide spread publicity, etc.; it has become necessary we up our game and begin to actualize the huge potential resident in the B&B case. With your expertise, you don't need me to explain the opportunities that are before us IF we can capture the "political turf" with conversations related to policy changes, and the legitimate debates that will inevitably follow. Right now the criminals - both in D.C. and locally - who were involved in the B&B arson, corruption, and cover-up are winning the battle to maintain a strict code of silence. I am amazed that even after Brian Metke's very significant break through with hacked satellite photos showing that the 177 lightning strikes "missed" the B&B ignition sites; we have accomplished nothing to capture any of the field. This has to change and soon before the B&B again goes underground and we get distracted by impeachment hearing and the 2020 elections.

I have spent time talking to some of you for ideas and we have decided to launch a new offensive of writing Op-Eds, guest opinions, and letters to editors. This is the perfect counter to their silence because they have no way to stop us. The only thing they will probably do is have surrogates and/or paid lobbyists try to raise doubts and attack the messenger. I've misplaced it; but Ron Pugh (of USFS law enforcement) wrote a blistering character assassination to which I offered, with copies to the long list of people he copied, to fund a lie detector test for him or any of his co-conspirators (Bob Young, George Ponte of ODF) or Dennis Luke (of Deschutes County Commission). Note that I always use their names and agency affiliation to try to bait them into suing me for slander or something. So far no takers; they are at least smart enough to know my goal is to get them under oath so I could question their involvement.

I have also enclosed a copy of my plea to John Kitzhaber, Robert F Kennedy, Van Jones, and Mary Mitsos of NFF who are folks I do have good connections with and who will be joining this campaign. I, personally, have come to prefer ghost writing since the bad guys don't know who wrote what and are less apt to threaten me again or break into my house in Camp Sherman over and over. THE only thing they got that I value is my bamboo fly rod made by my deceased uncle Al Bellinger. I am unquestionably biased; but my goal is to be honored - as Van Jones suggested - by being included in the next edition of "Speaking Truth to Power". If you haven't read it, check out Van's piece in the first edition.

*Activists alphabetically: Jaslow Allison (Democratic National Committee, Washington DC) Tom Andrade (unknown), John Beer (Dayton Nevada), Jim and Char Sheldrew (LaSalle Florida) Larry and Rachel Baker,(Bend Oregon) Joan Barton, (Salem, Oregon), Mike Beaver, (Salem Oregon) Larry and Peggy Bellingerr (Eugene Oregon) David Blair, (Bend Oregon). Rob and Kathy Bourdage,(Bend, Oregon) Kim Clark, (Bend Oregon) Lisa Clark (Prinville Oregon) , Jim and Jane Crest (Sisters Oregon), Sara Dinsdale (Salem Oregon) Stevie Fitzgerald (Corvallis Oregon), Jim Friedman and Lin Spellman, (Gig Harbor Washington), Mark Foster, (Camp Sherman Oregon) Doug and Lori Hancock (Camp Sherman Oregon), Tim Hermack (Oregon Forrest Council Eugene Oregon), Allen Hilles, (Bend Oregon) Russ Hoefflich (1000 Friends, Portland Oregon), Catherine Ingram (Melbourne Australia), Betsy Johnson OSU and Camp Sherman), Rod and Kathy Bourdage, Trevor Kano, (Sierra Club National San Francisco),and Al and Kathy King (Tollgate Oregon) Alan and Ethyl King, Midway Utah), Heidi and Brock King (Portland Oregon), Shelley King (Portland Oregon) Ron and Anita Larson (Eugene Oregon), Troy Leedy, (Bend Oregon) Sandy Longsdale (West Linn, Oregon) Eyrca McCartin (Salem Oregon). Angela Mercer's (ACLU Portland, Oregon), MK Moen, (Portland Oregon), Mark and Jane Morris (Salem Oregon), Terry and Chelsea Morris (Eugene Oregon), Jet Olivia, (Brooklyn, New York), Stu Otto, (Prinville, Oregon) Dan and Kathy Putnam, (Salem, Oregon), Ron and Sib Radabough (Tumalo Oregon). Lee and Marilyn Rengert (Salem, Oregon), Walt Schloer,Bend Oregon, Jim and Char Sheldrew, (LeSale,, Florida), Rebecca Sokol, (Sisters's Oregon), Nathaniel Turner, (Bend Oregon), Amanda Valerio (Sierra Club), Jason Williams, (Sister, Oregon), Jaliisa Washinton-Price (Chief of Staff of Sierra Club National) George Wuerthner, (Bend Oregon), Al and Sharon Zupo, (Sunriver, Oregon)

January 15, 2020

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Based on the lack of "progress" on getting B&B issues clarified, prosecutions pursued, lawsuits on behalf of spouses of person who died, wide spread publicity, etc.; it has become necessary we up our game and begin to actualize the huge potential resident in the B&B case. With your expertise, you don't need me to explain the opportunities that are before us IF we can capture the "political turf" with conversations related to policy changes, and the legitimate debates that will inevitably follow. Right now the criminals - both in D.C. and locally - who were involved in the B&B arson, corruption, and cover-up are winning the battle to maintain a strict code of silence. I am amazed that even after Brian Metke's very significant break through with hacked satellite photos showing that the 177 lightning strikes "missed" the B&B ignition sites; we have accomplished nothing to capture any of the field. This has to change and soon before the B&B again goes underground and we get distracted by impeachment hearing and the 2020 elections.

I have spent time talking to some of you for ideas and we have decided to launch a new offensive of writing Op-Eds, guest opinions, and letters to editors. This is the perfect counter to their silence because they have no way to stop us. The only thing they will probably do is have surrogates and/or paid lobbyists try to raise doubts and attack the messenger. I've misplaced it; but Ron Pugh (of USFS law enforcement) wrote a blistering character assassination to which I offered, with copies to the long list of people he copied, to fund a lie detector test for him or any of his co-conspirators (Bob Young, George Ponte of ODF) or Dennis Luke (of Deschutes County Commission). Note that I always use their names and agency affiliation to try to bait them into suing me for slander or something. So far no takers; they are at least smart enough to know my goal is to get them under oath so I could question their involvement.

I have also enclosed a copy of my plea to John Kitzhaber, Robert F Kennedy, Van Jones, and Mary Mitsos of NFF who are folks I do have good connections with and who will be joining this campaign. I, personally, have come to prefer ghost writing since the bad guys don't know who wrote what and are less apt to threaten me again or break into my house in Camp Sherman over and over. THE only thing they got that I value is my bamboo fly rod made by my deceased uncle Al Bellinger. I am unquestionably biased; but my goal is to be honored - as Van Jones suggested - by being included in the next edition of "Speaking Truth to Power". If you haven't read it, check out Van's piece in the first edition.

*Activists alphabetically: Jaslow Allison (Democratic National Committee, Washington DC) Tom Andrade (unknown), John Beer (Dayton Nevada), Jim and Char Sheldrew (LaSalle Florida) Larry and Rachel Baker,(Bend Oregon) Joan Barton, (Salem, Oregon), Mike Beaver, (Salem Oregon) Larry and Peggy Bellingerr (Eugene Oregon) David Blair, (Bend Oregon). Rob and Kathy Bourdage,(Bend, Oregon) Kim Clark, (Bend Oregon) Lisa Clark (Prinville Oregon) , Jim and Jane Crest (Sisters Oregon), Sara Dinsdale (Salem Oregon) Stevie Fitzgerald (Corvallis Oregon), Jim Friedman and Lin Spellman, (Gig Harbor Washington), Mark Foster, (Camp Sherman Oregon) Doug and Lori Hancock (Camp Sherman Oregon), Tim Hermack (Oregon Forrest Council Eugene Oregon), Allen Hilles, (Bend Oregon) Russ Hoefflich (1000 Friends, Portland Oregon), Catherine Ingram (Melbourne Australia), Betsy Johnson OSU and Camp Sherman), Rod and Kathy Bourdage, Trevor Kano, (Sierra Club National San Francisco),and Al and Kathy King (Tollgate Oregon) Alan and Ethyl King, Midway Utah), Heidi and Brock King (Portland Oregon), Shelley King (Portland Oregon) Ron and Anita Larson (Eugene Oregon), Troy Leedy, (Bend Oregon) Sandy Longsdale (West Linn, Oregon) Eyrca McCartin (Salem Oregon). Angela Mercer's (ACLU Portland, Oregon), MK Moen, (Portland Oregon), Mark and Jane Morris (Salem Oregon), Terry and Chelsea Morris (Eugene Oregon), Jet Olivia, (Brooklyn, New York), Stu Otto, (Prinville, Oregon) Dan and Kathy Putnam, (Salem, Oregon), Ron and Sib Radabough (Tumalo Oregon). Lee and Marilyn Rengert (Salem, Oregon), Walt Schloer,Bend Oregon, Jim and Char Sheldrew, (LeSale,, Florida), Rebecca Sokol, (Sisters's Oregon), Nathaniel Turner, (Bend Oregon), Amanda Valerio (Sierra Club), Jason Williams, (Sister, Oregon), Jaliisa Washinton-Price (Chief of Staff of Sierra Club National) George Wuerthner, (Bend Oregon), Al and Sharon Zupo, (Sunriver, Oregon)

Jan. 10, 2020.

Memo to: Friends of Environmental Justice related to the B&B Arson/Corruption/Crimes
Jon Kitzhaber, Former Governor of Oregon
Robert F Kennedy, Pace Law School Professor
Van Jones, CNN Commentator and Former Obama Environmental Advisor
Mary Mitsos, National Forest Foundation CEO

From: Jim King PhD,
Friends of the Metolius Fire Committee

Re: Closure to Oregon's Worst Kept Secret - The Cause of the B&B Fire was Arson

After consulting with the Friends Committee and other environmental activists in Oregon about the lack of response from Oregon's congressional delegation, law enforcement, and any Oregon press; we've realized it's time for a new strategy to get closure to the corruption by the National and Central Oregon Republicans to apparently "pay Oregon back" for its failure to support President Bush's "Healthy Forest Restoration Act" (HFRA) or as we Oregonians facetiously called the "Leave No Tree Left Behind Act" (LNTBA).

Recent disclosure of USFS satellite images (see 11/1 enclosures from the USFS) which shows 177 lightning strikes from weeks before through the day that the B&B fire started that NONE of the strikes were even close to the known B&B ignition sites. Obvious to any observer of this situation is that the political, legal, and fiscal consequences are enormous and will likely take decades to resolve.

Our new strategy has several modest goals: 1) breakthrough the denial and obscuration of the true cause of the fire (too big to admit?) 2) obtain USFS disclosure of the official cause of the fire (needed in order to settle the upcoming lawsuits by the families of the three people who died because of the B&B fire, 3) proper prosecution by Deschutes and Jefferson County Sheriff's Departments of the four individuals known to have coordinated the Central Oregon initiation of the B&B fire (Ron Pugh of the USFS, Bob Young and George Ponte of ODF, and Dennis Luke of the Deschutes County Commission), 4) get passed three federal policies to prevent the recurrence of these arson fires/crimes.

Our Committee first proposed these policy changes within weeks of the fire; yet they have received no attention in 16 years by any of Oregon's elected officials in Oregon.

The help we need from the four of you (who our Committee refer to as "high influence persons with well known names") is simply that you write - alone or preferably jointly - OpEds or letters to the editors of Oregon media requesting the above four goals.

As context you may need to mention the history of the B&B fire, its cause of three deaths (Doug Sokol, Toni Foster, Chris Dahl), the devastation of 92,000 acres of federal, state, and tribal forests including every old growth tree on the Deschutes National Forest. The 11/1 satellite images and admission by the USFS of the accuracy of those images might also be of interest of your readers.

It is our belief that mere exposure in Oregon's (and maybe national) media mentioning the history, the loss of three lives, destruction of our forests, defiance of the law, and the 16 year cover-up will be sufficient to bring about our four goals and other needed changes.

I personally want to thank each of you for the very substantial assistance you have provided me which has helped me to maintain my safety and sanity while keeping up this effort. You can't possibly know the degree to which your advice and support has kept me going. As you may know from reading what I've written during this ordeal; I am also writing a book (It's About Time) within which I am amplifying each of your roles. I hope that will, in some small but public way, communicate my full appreciation. I am also now asked frequently to speak publicly about the B&B fiasco at which I always mention the roles you played in making it happen.

Cc Friends of the Metolius Fire Committee: Brian Metke, Pete Schay, and Roger White

To: General Public, Law Enforcement Agencies, Elected Officials, and Media Contacts
From: Jim King, Convener, B & B Truth and Reconciliation Committee
Re: **Status Report # 6 (November 1, 2010) on Re-Investigation of B&B Fire**

Re-Statement: Who We Are and Our Rationale for Insisting on the Re-Investigation:

Inspired by Tony Foster's under-celebrated efforts to protect our Metolius Watershed, a recent speech in Bend by Naomi Tutu about the African concept of Ubuntu and President Obama's comments that: "Change won't happen if we wait for another person or another time, this is our moment, this is our time!", a group of local leaders has organized to insist on and monitor the re-investigation of the 2003 B & B Fire in Central Oregon. A favorite saying of Camp Sherman residents is "Our Church is the Woods" and have collectively decided to refuse to let the authorities (whomever "they" are) to burn down our "Church" expecting to cover it up with the ludicrous claim that 2 separate fires, that both ignite simultaneously 15 miles from one another, were caused by a lightning storm that passed over the area 11 days before. The motive is obvious to anyone who considers that these ignitions were "bookends" (equal distance from and within full view of President's Bush's scheduled speech 2 days later. It is even more telling that the President's speech writer has already prepared his remarks about the need for logging under the guise of thinning under the so-called Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA). If you plot the ignitions sites on the Mt Jefferson Wilderness Map (or see our website www.bandbfirerevisited.org) you'll see the "bookends" are defiantly set/sited to make a statement to Oregon Democrats who were blocking the HFRA.

Our B & B Truth and Reconciliation Committee has established these goals:

1. Obtain a credible external re-investigation of the cause(s) of the B & B Fires.
2. Educate the community through meetings, status reports, college guest appearances, government agency testimony and a website about the issues, and the progress of the re-investigation. (www.bandbfirerevisited.org)
3. Re-establish credibility in the local land management agencies involved in the cover-up: the United States Forest Service, the Oregon Department of Forestry and various law enforcement entities.
4. Heal the Community's sense of betrayal from what happened in 2003 and 2004 and how it has been mishandled by our government agencies.
5. Restore the Bend, Sister and Camp Sherman Community's trust in these agencies and personnel working in our forests and communities.
6. Rededicate ourselves to better stewardship of our local forests and sacred planet.
7. Increase our community's capacity (more courage and fierceness!) to better respond to similar situations in the future.

Important additional information such as FOIA requests, Official Fire Report/Responses to FOIA Requests, Status Reports 1-5 and all pertinent correspondence is available at the Sisters, Redmond and Bend Public Libraries (Reference Desk).

History of the fire:

The Bear Butte and Booth Lake Fires (subsequently known as B & B or B & B Complex Fire) started as separate fires within hours of one another on August 19th 2003 as then President Bush prepared to speak in Camp Sherman about the congressional extension of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act. Both of the "parent" fires of the B & B started on August 19th, and sadly before the resultant B & B Complex Fire was contained on September 26th, it burned 90,769 acres, and \$38 million in suppression costs, the largest ever in Central Oregon history. The fire was a huge conflagration, crowning and leaping, and burning for over a month, stripping more than 100 square miles of some of the most beautiful pristine areas of the Cascades - your public land - down to bare soil and scorched rocks.

Separate teams from an Interagency Task Force, chaired by U.S. Forest Service employee (Special Agent Ron Pugh), studied each fire and concluded that both were "likely" (his word) lightning caused "although the specific cause could not be determined....by evidence at the scene" (again his words). The previous lightning storm over the area had been 11 days prior to

these ignitions which lead to the public's universal disbelief in the conclusion of the investigation. Mr. Pugh – who now supports our call for an external re-investigation - did admit the timing of the fires fueled intense public speculation that the fires were set to make a political point about the Bush administration's proposals for thinning forests to alleviate fire threats, which was the single stated purpose of the President's visit to the Camp Sherman area. The official report combined the two fires into one fire even though they were investigating the beginning (not the end) of 2 separate fires that started over 15 miles apart (and later burned together).

Our Committees "connecting of the dots":

Pre-Fire Related

- The "curious" flight path of an unmarked secret service surveillance helicopter which, in addition to harassing a hiker on the side of Maxwell Butte, repeatedly flew over the Booth Lake ignition site (the pilot's excuse was he was scouting for deer).
- Two individuals seen camping at Fish Lake and then later seen walking toward the Booth Lake ignition site.
- The lack of any evidence on the super-sensitive heat sensors on the three helicopters (that made multiple passes over these areas for days before the fires) of any "hotspots" that would have been residual from the previous lightning strikes that allegedly stood up eleven days later.

Booth Lake Related

- The radio call from up on the Santiam pass reporting that "we found an incendiary device at one of the ignition sites" (We assume the Tamarack site but it could have also been the Bear Butte site since Booth Lake was still exploding and unapproachable for days). This radio call was "overheard" in the Sister Ranger District office and also all over Camp Sherman – which should substantiate the report and who made it. The official reports claims this referred to the safety flare they found on the side of the road; but, why then did they reference to "at one of the ignition sites".
- The conversation between Tony Foster, Dennis Luke, Les Styles and Ron Pugh in a SUV driven by Sheriff Styles in which Ron Pugh's twice declared (reportedly as fact) "this is a lightning caused fire" within a couple hours of the start of the fire and long before he began to investigate.

Bear Butte Related

- An oddly dressed (pretending to be USFS) group who were caught at the launch site (likely close to the Jefferson Lake trail head) by a local first responder crew who arrived at that scene of the "launchers" only to be told (oddly) to leave.
- The reports from the same group of local "first responders" of "something heavy being carried on a stretcher, under a tarp with a barrel shape", (likely an "avalanche buster") that was being loaded into a pick-up truck. It is, of course, significant since this happened at a time equipment would have been unloaded to be deployed into the Bear Butte area.
- The Warm Springs Tribe helicopter crew report that the first location of a fire at Bear Butte was in the top half of a tree. A smoldering lightning struck tree would, of course, had the fire in the bottom half of the tree.

Post Fire Related

- The immediate transfer (from the Sisters R.D. to Alaska) of a US Forest Service employee who knew of the "sophisticated detonation device(s)" at one or more of the ignition sites and who insisted that the fires should be investigated as arson.
- Pugh investigatory committee's reported struggle (I've heard the committee was nearly evenly split on this issue) not to extend their investigation for 2 additional weeks in order to look into the unlikely deer scouting story concocted by the National Guard Officer who piloted the helicopter.
- The hour long conversation between the lead investigator and author of the official report, Ron Pugh, and the B & B Truth and Reconciliation Convener which lead to Ron Pugh agreeing the Fire should be re-investigated in light of the information that has come forward since his committee finished its work early in 2004.
- Mr. Pugh's comment related to the \$31,000 needed to obtain the 53 tubs of documents that make up the complete report of fire that you don't need the \$31,000, you only need

- my closing statement to the Committee "We should leave no stone unturned, now or in the future. And it sounds, Mr. King, you have found a few stones that need to be turned".
- As of this date, none of the following public officials have responded (in writing) to our Committee's requests for help: Tom Lyons who is the new USFS Lead Investigator and "Special Agent in Charge". (360 891-5270), David Ferrell who is the Director of US Forest Service Law Enforcement, Hank Kashdan who is the Deputy Chief of the US Forest Service and reportedly in charge of the USFS Law Enforcement and Investigation unit. Mr. Kashdan has been helpful in other ways., Doug Larson who is the Oregon State Police Arson Investigator in Bend, John Kroger who is Oregon's Attorney General , Ted Kulongowski who is Oregon's Governor, Paul Bell who is the Chief of Fire Protection in the Oregon Department of Forestry. Who has acted to protect a supervisee who has "obstructed" our efforts by denying our access to the most knowledgeable resource persons and freedom of information expected to elected officials, Jim Atkins who is the Jefferson County Sheriff, Larry Blanton who is the Deschutes County Sheriff, and Rhonda Schantz, who is the FBI agent involved (but denies so) in gathering evidence, for example: confiscating and refusing to return the private party's photos from the top of the Middle Sister of the start of both fires that show simultaneous ignitions with very little wind at the moment of ignition.

Motivational Issues:

Our Committee expects and can appreciate the risk adverse behaviors and "conflict avoidance" of almost everyone responsible for investigating the B & B Fire). However, the fact that there is now ample evidence of arson as the cause from testimony of many witnesses, Oregon State Department of Forestry's blatant efforts to obstruct staff cooperation and information sharing with policy makers, along with multiple retirements in key positions in the USFS; clearly suggests the time has arrived for all the Federal, State, and County law enforcement agencies to henceforth end their harassment and minimizing of B&B leaders for their courage to speak up and instead serve the "publics" that funds their salaries by beginning an externally monitored, authentic and transparent re-investigation of the 2003 B&B Fire.

Toward that end, there are **several significant developments**;

1. The voluntary changes in leadership, a less combative tone of dialogue and committee demands and dropping of any mention of the rumored local homicide, and the prior administration officials by name.
2. The on-going, informal negotiations with senior officials in the USFS/Undersecretary of Agriculture offices regarding the overdue change to, and benefit from, having all major federal lands wildfires investigated externally (preventing any future administration official or political operatives to order arson and/or fictitious reporting about fire causes).
3. Cooperation from Senator Wyden and specifically his staff's recent request for "best practice" models for conducting external investigations AND his current assignment on the Senate Subcommittee overseeing the Forest Service that ideally positions him to request the General Accounting Office (GAO) review of current wildfire investigations, in general and the 2003 B&B Fire in particular.
4. Comments by Van Jones (the former environmental advisor to President Obama) that "Your case (in Oregon) has become a widely watched challenge to the previous administration officials' blatant level of disrespect and disregard for your personal safety, our precious natural resources, and the American rule of law". Based on the recommendations of Mr. Jones, all the pertinent documents have been forwarded to both President Obama (who expressed appreciation) and Attorney General Eric Holder along with the current Governor and Attorney General of the State of Oregon, along with all the conservation groups who collect dues and claim to defend our waters, wild lands, and forests.

To: Interested Public and Press

Sept. 18, 2010

From: Jim King PhD, Convener
B&B Truth and Reconciliation Committee

Re: **Status Report # 5** => Significant new developments with 2003 B&B Fire!

As some of you may know, this is the fifth of what I had hoped would be a few monthly updates leading to an official re-opening of the investigation into the causes of the 2003 fire. It's now been nine months and we still have no official response.

On December 18th I wrote to the senior managers with the US Forest Service detailing the need for an additional investigation. Since the lead investigator from 2003 – Ron Pugh - agreed that the new information justified a second look, I assumed it would be forthcoming within a month or two. He and I talked for an hour and I learned a lot.

On May 10th, after receiving the official documents that admitted there was no physical evidence that an eleven day old lightening storm had caused the simultaneous ignitions which formed "bookends" to a speech by then President Bush a few hours later; we held a meeting in Camp Sherman to force the re-investigation issue.

Stemming from that one meeting and our setting up a hotline, website and PO Box; we now have many reports -- all consistent -- indicating exactly how both the Booth Lake and Bear Butte Fires were set. The most damning rebuttal of their "lighting as the cause" theory is the government's inability to produce any evidence from their state-of-the-art heat sensing helicopters that there were hotspots at the base of trees anywhere near the ignition sites. The obvious implication is; while these were arson caused fires -- re-investigating and holding those responsible was going to be another matter.

On May 20th, based on the growing evidence that the death of a young Sisters man (who repeated called the fires arson and claiming to know that the arson went high into the Bush administration) was possibly a homicide; I have been asked by Deschutes County Deputies to make myself "scarce" since they couldn't protect me in Camp Sherman.

On one brief visit back home in July to try to correct the financial freefall of not getting any mail (electronic or otherwise), I received confirmation that Doug Sokol "would have never taken his own life". As any good citizen would do; I contacted the FBI but was "dished and discounted" by a local agent. My irate response to the FBI agent Schantz is attached along with the documentation you might need to decide for yourself.

This week I am scheduled to talk to the head of the Forest Service (maybe in DC) ; hope to talk with Ron Pugh again and the folks from Oregon's quarterly magazine 1859; who have expressed interest in pursuing the story and cover-up. After finding an animal head in my driveway and repeated threats, I have decided it's probably wise to leave the area; but will NEVER give up insisting on the truth about B&B arson and some sort of justice. To paraphrase Van Jones whom I met in SF in May: "Your case in Oregon comes down to not letting the Bush era authorities get away with that level of disregard and disrespect for your safety, our natural resources, and the rule of law!" He also insisted I get all the information to the President and US Attorney General along with the other local and State law enforcement agencies; which I have done.

I did get a "thank you" letter from President Obama; but again, it is without an official re-opening to the investigation and/or promises to arrest those responsible.

What's next is anyone's guess. The lightening theory is totally discredited but no agency - County, State, or Federal - has yet to step forward. As Robert Kennedy Jr. recently worried after discovering the 2004 Ohio elections were "fixed": "I am concerned about the future of our country; our democracy may be at stake." Sadly, he's not alone.

July 15, 2010

From: Jim King, Convener
Phone 541 595-0240 or car phone 503 367-8993

Re: Follow-up to our phone conversation about the cause of death of Doug Sokol and B&B arson.

I was shocked and disappointed by your absolute certainty "we will not be opening an investigation" when the purpose of my phone call was to report significant new evidence of Doug Sokol's apparent murder. I guess I shouldn't be surprised when you've managed to maintain the 2003 B&B Fire was lightning caused in spite of the mountain of evidence to the contrary.

So what would it take for you to declare an official investigation into his cause of death and the cover up of the arson? Let's admit the obvious; it's only a matter of time and your agency's posturing around appearance.

Related to Mr. Sokol's death:

How about if both his mother and widow deny that he would have taken his own life? How about the related transfer of a USFS employee who, like Doug, insisted publicly that B&B was arson?

Pre-B&B Fire Related

1. How about if Ron Pugh (the leads investigator in B&B) were to come forward to tell what he knows?

Booth Lake (& Camp Tamarack?) Related

2. How about if we have a witness who heard the radio call from somewhere up on the Santiam pass reporting that "we found an incendiary device at one of the ignition sites"?
3. How about if Dennis Luke and/or Les Styles are deposed and admit they too heard Ron Pugh's twice repeated declaration (reportedly as fact) "this is a lightning caused fire" at the start of the fire and long before he began his investigation?
4. How about if the National Guard pilot, put under oath, were to admit he was scouting the Berley/Booth Lakes area for people and not for deer as his later lame excuse claims?
5. How about if the (soon to be released) records show that none of the heat sensing devices on the three helicopters involved showed any heat emanating from the ignition sites the government later claimed were the lightning caused "hot spots" which supposedly got fanned into flames by the non-existent winds that day?

Bear Butte Related

6. How about if one of our witnesses testifies under oath about discovering the oddly dressed (pretending to be USFS) individuals at the launch site about their involvement in fire causing launches into the Bear Butte area? These launches account for the fact that the initial flames at the Bear Butte site (that were sighted and reported by the Warm Spring helicopter pilot) were in the upper half of the first tree that ignited.
7. How about the first responders crew boss's testimony that he and his crew were told to leave and recognized none of the individuals involved in that operation? Were they FBI?
8. How about the testimony from that same group of local "first responders" about the exact description of what was under the tarp (with a barrel and likely an "avalanche buster") that was being loaded into a pick-up truck at a time equipment would be more likely be seen being unloaded to be deployed into the Bear Butte area?

Post Fire Related

9. How about the testimony of one or more of the Pugh investigatory committee about why their committee voted not to extend their investigation for two additional weeks in order to look into the silly deer scouting story concocted by the National Guard Officer who piloted the helicopter?
10. How about testimony from a former prominent Bend attorney about the fact that USFS agent Ruiz did not accurately reflect his actual testimony during their interview?
11. How about if USFS agent Ruiz (who investigated and reported on certain aspects of the fire) were to admit some of what he wrote to Pugh was not accurate?

I remain impressed but dismayed with my government's ability to stonewall the public's interest in the likely murder of a vocal critic of your lightning story and your cover-up of the \$164 million B&B arson (\$38 million in suppression and \$126 million in timber values). Here's our data related to the duration of government stonewalling:

- It has now been 2549 days since some government operators set two or three fires in our (Camp Sherman's) backyard. Camp Sherman is probably the greenest community in the country and Oregon one of the bluest states.
- It has now been 220 days since I sat in Senator Wyden's office in DC to plea for help in addressing this issue.
- It has now been 210 days since I notified Hank Kashdan and Tom Tidwell in writing of the problems here and specifically suggested they quietly open an investigation of the B&B problem.
- It has now been 150 days since I notified the local USFS offices of our request for information on the incendiary devices, launch crew that target Bear Butte, and the radio broadcast about the discovery of such a device at one of the ignition sites. This broadcast heard by many outside USFS "circles", said ignition sites not on the road which is what Pugh put in his report about the topic.
- It has now been 120 days since I asked the local Oregon Department of Forestry expert, Tom Andrade, to attend our initial planning meeting of the Truth and Reconciliation Committee. Tom, teaches this stuff at COCC's, and by everyone's assessment is the most knowledgeable person about fire prevention. Tom's prior work experience with USFS law enforcement was also expected to help us understand how fire investigations are normally supposed to work. However, after he said he had the evening free and would be able to attend the meeting in Camp Sherman; I had his boss, George Ponte, call me and scream at me about how Tom was not authorized to attend anything I was doing related to B&B. After trying to help George appreciate the legal problems he, George, was into by prohibiting what a non-exempt Oregon State employee could do with his off duty time; (never mind the obstruction of justice). He further sealed his career change by apparently pressuring a superior, Paul Bell, to back-up his illegalities with a letter on State of Oregon stationery. The ODF's apparent complicity in the B&B arson now gets mixed up with my confronting Mr. Ponte several years ago for falsifying a \$600,000 Federal Fire Plan grant application (Western States Governors Association).
- It has now been 100 days since I left messages with the USFS "Special Agent in Charge", Tom Lyons, to call me back with an update on his role and their plans prior to our May 10 community meeting.
- Lastly, as I'm sure you remember, it has now been 60 days since I met with you in your Bend office when you pretended not to know anything even though I knew the Deschutes County Deputies had left documents marked "urgent" on your desk 3 days before. At least, you are consistent in your improper responses.
- All these delays should surprise no one, since we all now suspect that it was the Central Oregon "good old (fire) boys" (part of what is now called the "Fire Military Industrial Complex") that were responsible for the fire and possibly a murder as well.

I should probably apologize for my "attitude" yesterday but since you likely have an old file on me from the Nixon years (which was supposedly purged but probably wasn't); you can research the lies you made up about me which earned me a spot on Nixon's infamous "hit list". It's this history that causes my "attitude problem" with your agency. The file will tell of your agency sending an agent out to my University in Oregon with totally bogus information in a failed attempt to get me fired and of the months of illegal tapping our phone to simply harass my wife and me after our return from two years of State Department service in Nepal. We assumed that it was President Nixon's awkward way of thanking us for our years of service; during which I was held hostage twice and nearly lost my life. My hope is our current President views things differently. I guess you and I get to wait and see. In the meantime, I look forward to a written response.

Cc: law enforcement contacts

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Sokol family, friends dedicate memorial

by Jim Cornelius
News Editor

Friends and family of Doug Sokol gathered on Tuesday, September 7, to dedicate a memorial to the Sisters man.

The stone memorial, fountain and viewing bench located at the southwest corner of Pine Meadow Village, the development that grew from Sokol's creative vision.

Doug died in a fall in the forest south of Sisters in June 2008.

"Pine Meadow Village, as you all know, was Doug's vision — his amazing vision," said his sister Cris Converse. "He put his heart and soul



PHOTO BY JIM CORNELIUS

Dorro Sokol cut the ribbon on a memorial to her son Doug.

into this place. He really cared about everyone who lived here; he wanted everyone to be happy."

Doug's sister Evangeline Sokol took the lead in

See SOKOL on page 24

SOKOL: Sister took the lead in creating a memorial

Continued from page 1

creating the memorial.

"There was no question in my mind what this memorial would be like," she said. "It just came to me: First, the three stones floating on top of the water; then the inscriptions to engrave on them. The verse on the south rock is Doug's interpretation of Psalm 139, which he used in a song that he wrote."

Sokol, flanked by another sister, Mary Sokol Chavin, described the months-long effort:

"From the brilliant help of Ripple Effect owner Brian O'Keefe (or 'fountain man' as I called him) we came up with the plan as to how to engineer the water feature and stone placement; to the talent of Golden Eagle Enterprises owner Steve Mastrud (or 'engraver guy')

who carved the stones; to the invaluable help of Casey Negus, the onsite Pine Meadow Village Manager and 'Dan-the-Man' Garrison of Pine Meadow Ranch who were always available to do the necessities (including how are we going to tame (the water) flow to create the final effect of swirling water. We thank them all so much."

The family donated the memorial to the homeowner of Pine Meadow Village with a sense that the water feature that Doug had envisioned was now complete.

Doug's mother Dorro Sokol, marking her 84th birthday, cut a ceremonial ribbon and the crowd dispersed to inspect the memorial and appreciate its setting against the landscape of ranch land and the cloud obscured Three Sisters.

Doug's wife Rebecca noted that the memorial was now part of a legacy that Doug left in Sisters.

"You see his imprint," she said.

AGENDA ITEM A

Attachment 1

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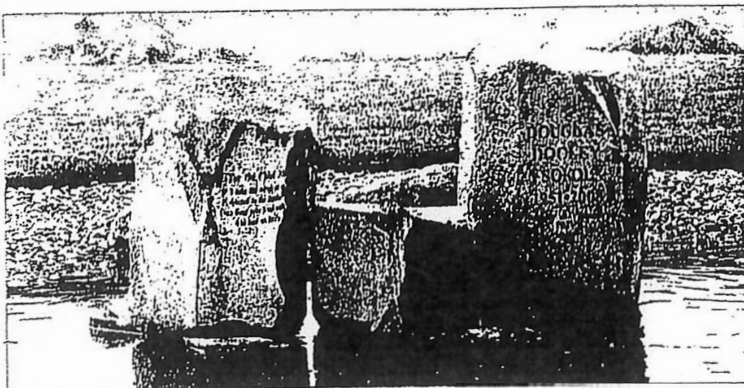


PHOTO BY JIM CORNELIUS

The Doug Sokol Memorial looks out over one of Sisters' most picturesque views at Pine Meadow Village.

Press Conference on Re-Investigation of 2003 B&B Fire

Thursday July 1, 12-1 at The Environmental Center in Bend (Kansas Ave)

From: Jim King PhD, Convener, B & B Truth and Reconciliation Committee

Context:

All of this craziness stems from one simple yet profoundly tragic mistake: the human ignorance of our true nature. The fundamental failure to see ourselves as a part of nature and blinded by this illusion of separateness; we continue to do crazy and violent things to nature...and to each other. My personal favorite articulation about our nature is by David Suzuki in his beautiful book Sacred Balance: "Consciousness has enabled us to recognize that the world is alive and that we are a part of it; this ancient wisdom is now illuminate and extended by the discoveries of modern science. If we grasp that we are the world we depend on, then we will find where we truly belong and get on with seeking a way to live in harmony within a rich, vibrant, community of living things!"

Enclosures:

1. July 1 Press Release
2. June Status Report #4
3. May Status Report #3
4. April Status Report #2
5. March Status Report #1
6. May 28 Letter from Mary Wagner, Regional Forester, USFS (w/ amount of timber lost)
7. ODF log price data
8. February 8, 2010 Letter from Paul Bell, ODF Protection Chief blocking access to ODF resources
9. Original proposal to Friends of Metolius about meeting with Ron Pugh (Lead Investigator)
10. March 19, 2010 Cover letter from Tom Lyons, New Investigator,
11. Synopsis of Ron Pugh's Report

Press Conference on Re-Investigation of 2003 B&B Fire

Thursday July 1, 12-1 at The Environmental Center in Bend (Kansas Ave)

From: Jim King PhD, Convener, B & B Truth and Reconciliation Committee

Rationale for Insisting on the Re-Investigation:

Inspired by our memories of decades of Tony Foster's under-celebrated efforts to protect our Metolius Watershed and a recent speech in Bend by Naomi Tutu about the responsibilities of being human, a group of local leaders has organized to oversee the re-investigation of the 2003 B & B Fire in Central Oregon. We in Camp Sherman have a saying that "My Church is the Woods" and we have collectively decided hold accountable those who dared to burn down our Church and expected to cover it up with the ludicrous claim that the 2 (maybe 3) separate fires, that started within 5 minutes of one another, and within hours of President Bush's fire related speech were caused by a lightning storm that passed near here 11 days before. The motive should be obvious to anyone who considers that these ignitions were within full view of the site where President Bush was scheduled speech (at the Republican owned House on the Metolius Resort) about his administration's proposals for thinning forests. It is also significant that local timber industry officials had been intensely lobbying for, and had the support of, Oregon's Senator Gordon Smith and Representative Greg Walden, to amend the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA); ostensibly changing it from successful restoration legislation into a logging bill. It is also important to remember that these amendments were being opposed at that time by Oregon's Democratic delegation and Oregon's Democratic Governor.

Our group - B & B Truth and Reconciliation Committee - has established these 7 goals:

1. Obtain a credible re-investigation of the real cause of the B & B Fire.
2. Educate the community through meetings, status reports and a website about the issues, and the progress of the re-investigation. (www.BandBFireRevisited.org)
3. Re-establish credibility in the local land management agencies involved i.e. the Oregon Department of Forestry and the United States Forest Service.
4. Restore the Sister's and Camp Sherman Community's trust in these agencies and personnel working in our forests and communities.
5. Heal the Community's sense of betrayal from what happened in 2003 and 2004 and how it has been mishandled by our government agencies.
6. Rededicate ourselves to better stewardship of our local forests and sacred planet.
7. Increase our community's capacity (more courage and fierceness!) to better respond to similar situations in the future.

Additional information is available on our website bandbfirerevisited.org. and the information from our FOIA request is also at the Sisters, Redmond and Bend Public Libraries.

History of the fire:

* 2003
The Bear Butte and Booth Lake Fires (subsequently known as B & B or B & B Complex Fire) started as separate fires within minutes of one another on August 19th 2003 and within hours of President Bush's speech in Camp Sherman about the congressional extension of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act. Tragically, before B & B was contained on September 26th, it burned 91,915 acres, the largest ever in Oregon history. The fire was a huge conflagration, crowning and leaping, and burning for over a month, stripping more than 100 square miles of the most beautiful pristine areas of Oregon's wilderness, down to bare soil and scorched rocks.

Separate teams from an Interagency Task Force studied each fire and claimed that both were lightning caused, according to the U.S. Forest Service Special Agent Ron Pugh. The previous lightning storm over these areas had been, at least, 11 days prior which has lead to the public's universal disbelief in the conclusion of the investigation. Mr. Pugh - who now supports the re-investigation - did admit the timing of the fires fueled intense public speculation that the fires were set to make a political point about the Bush administration's proposals for thinning

forests to alleviate fire threats, which was the specific purpose of the president's visit to the Camp Sherman area. The official report combined the two fires into one fire even though they were investigating the beginning (not the finish) of 2 separate fires that started over 15 miles apart (and then later burned together). The Report also hedged (page 2 of Synopsis) on the cause of Booth Lake fire "the cause of fire ignition was likely the result of lightning although the specific cause could not be determined solely by the physical evidence at the scene."

Our cost estimate for the losses of timber on the 86,945 acres of National Forest, 3,799 acres of Warm Springs Tribal land, 1,089 of private land and 82 acres of State land **is approximately \$126 million** (using USFS figures of 180 million bd ft estimated lost and ODF average log values of \$700/thousand bd ft.) plus the \$38 million in suppression costs. However, since federal law prevented logging in wilderness areas; assigning value to the loss of timber has to be understood in that context. It is also important to understand that much of the \$38 million in suppression costs was incurred fighting fire on, near, or from protected wilderness areas. Lastly, there has been no cost figure yet assigned for our losses of our wildlife, scenery and recreation.

"Connecting of the dots" which shifts the onus of explanation to the Lighting Theorists:

Pre-Fire Related

- The "curious" flight path of an unmarked secret service surveillance helicopter which, in addition to harassing a hiker on the side of Maxwell Butte, repeatedly flew over the Booth Lake ignition site (the pilot's lame excuse was he was scouting for deer).
- Two individuals seen camping at Fish Lake, repeatedly reported as acting "suspicious" in and around Camp Sherman, and later seen walking toward the Booth Lake ignition site.
- In spite of having the most sophisticated heat sensing devices on board, none of the surveillance helicopters reported any "heat" at the sites of the later ignitions.

Booth Lake (& Camp Tamarack) Related

- The radio call from up on the Santiam pass reporting that "we found an incendiary device at one of the ignition sites" (We assume the Tamarack site but it could have also have been either the Bear Butte site or the Booth Lake site except it was still expanding and unapproachable for days): This radio call was "overheard" in the Sister Ranger District office and also all over Camp Sherman – which should make it easy to substantiate the report and who made it. The official reports claims this referred to the safety flare they found on the side of the road; but, why then did they reference to "at one of the ignition sites".
- Someone near Camp Tamarack who was reported to have discovered a fire at that location that they were apparently able to put out....even though this site has not been mentioned as a 3rd ignition in the Pugh Report.
- The conversation between Tony Foster, Dennis Luke, Les Styles and Ron Pugh in a SUV driven by Sheriff Styles in which Ron Pugh's twice declared (reportedly as fact) "this is a lightning caused fire" within a couple hours of the start of the fire and long before he began to investigate.

Bear Butte Related

- An oddly dressed (pretending to be USFS) group who were caught at the launch site (likely close to the Jefferson Lake trail head) by a local first responder crew who arrived at that scene of the "launchers" only to be told (oddly) to leave.
- The reports from the same group of local "first responders" of "something heavy being carried on a stretcher, under a tarp with a barrel shape", (an avalanche buster?) that was being loaded into a pick-up truck. It is, of course, significant since this happened at a time equipment would have been being unloaded to be deployed into the Bear Butte area.
- The Warm Springs Tribe helicopter crew report that the first location of a fire at Bear Butte was in the top half of a tree. A smoldering lightning struck tree would, of course, had the fire in the bottom half of the tree while a projectile would hit the top of a tree.

Post Fire Related

- The immediate transfer (from the Sisters R.D. to Alaska) of a US Forest Service employee who knew of the "sophisticated detonation device(s)" at one or more of the ignition sites and who insisted that the fires should be investigated as arson.

- Pugh investigatory committee's reported struggle (I've heard the committee was evenly split on this issue) not to extend their investigation for 2 additional weeks in order to look into the silly deer scouting story concocted by the pilot of the helicopter.
- The hour long conversation between me and Ron Pugh (the lead investigator/author of the official report); in which he agreed (in December) that the Fire should be re-investigated in light of the information that has come forward since his committee finished its work early in 2004.
- Mr. Pugh's comment (related to the \$31,000 needed to obtain the 53 tubs of documents that make up the complete report of fire) "You don't need the \$31,000, you only need my closing statement to the Committee: We should leave no stone unturned, now or in the future...and it sounds, Mr. King, you have found a few stones that need to be turned".
- The refusal to respond to our Committee's requests for help from:
 - a) Tom Lyons who is now the Lead Investigator and "Special Agent in Charge".
 - b) David Ferrell who is the Director of US Forest Service Law Enforcement.
 - c) Hank Kashdan* who is the Deputy Chief of the US Forest Service and the Deputy Chief in charge of the USFS Law Enforcement and Investigation unit.
 - d) Paul Bell who is the Chief of Fire Protection for the Oregon Department of Forestry who has also acted to "obstruct" our efforts by denying our access to the most knowledgeable local resource (ODF's Tom Andrade in Sisters).
 - e) Doug Larson who is the Oregon State Police Arson Investigator in Bend.
 - f) John Kroger who is Oregon's Attorney General
 - g) Ted Kulongowski who is Oregon's Governor
 - h) Jim Atkins who is the Jefferson County Sheriff.
 - i) Larry Blanton who is the Deschutes County Sheriff.

*Hank Kashdan has been helpful but has refused to officially reopen the investigation which is something he could do or direct David Ferrell to do.

Motivational Issues:

Our Committee appreciates the "conflict avoidance" of almost everyone responsible for investigating the B & B Fire with the inescapable link to the Bush-Cheney environmental legacy (while Dick Cheney's unregulated BP oil destroys our gulf coast). However, the fact that there are rumors that a recent death ("ruled" a suicide but may have been a homicide) being linked to an individual who was very vocal about the high level of Bush Administration complicity in the B & B arson and cover-up should motivate or obligate some level of law enforcement involvement to protect the many whistle blowers in Central Oregon who have had the courage to come forward with this testimony.

There are several additional things that have been motivation for us to demand change:

1. The failure of most people to realize that all of this stems from the mistaken notion that we are somehow separate from nature. This illusion of separateness leads BP to drill a mile deep to fulfill their limitless greed and/or that the Bush Administration/timber industry to burn 92,000 acres of Oregon's pristine wilderness for purely political purposes.
2. Van Jones (the former environmental advisor to President Obama) recent comments to me in San Francisco that "Your case (in Oregon) has become a question of not letting the authorities get away with this level of wholesale disrespect and disregard for human life, our natural resources, and the rule of law".
3. Barack Obama's comments on Super Tuesday "Change won't happen if we wait for another person or another time, this is our moment, this is our time, we are the people we have been waiting for, and we (those with the courage to speak truth to power) are the change we seek".

DON'T GET HOSED

How Political Framing Influences Fire Policy

Les AuCoin

The Bush White House carefully chose the phrase “healthy forests” to characterize its effort to increase logging in the public’s national forests. It was a masterpiece of political “framing”—the art of creating a central organizing idea or context for an issue through use of selection, emphasis, exclusion, and elaboration. “Healthy forests” evokes a sense of environmental protection and personal safety at a time of deep fear of wildland fire.

Les AuCoin is a frequent Oregon newspaper essayist and public radio commentator. A retired U.S. congressman, he coauthored the 1984 Oregon Wilderness Act and the 1988 Oregon Omnibus Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, wrote the first ban on oil drilling off the Oregon and California coasts, and appropriated funds to purchase Rock Mesa in the Oregon Cascades' Three Sisters Wilderness. A retired professor of political science and environmental studies at Southern Oregon University, Les is a resident of Ashland, Oregon.

“The fire is destroying Yellowstone—destroying it—and the Park Service is just sitting around, letting it happen!” Congressman Ralph Regula, a senior Republican from Ohio, was flushed with rage in the hearing room of the House Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee in Washington, D.C., that morning in June 1988.¹

Then Regula delivered the coup de grâce—a fact so awful that it would surely seal his argument: “It’s so bad, the park’s rivers are running *black!*” A collective gasp filled the hearing room. Yellowstone Park—the crown jewel in the national park system, the world’s first national park—was being “devastated.”

But the Yellowstone fires were not destroying this fire-adapted landscape any more than similar conflagrations had done over millennia. Throughout history, fire has worked through western forests, giving them a chance to reset nature’s clock and renew themselves. But it is a rare politician who understands wildfire ecology, and few if any scientists of any kind serve in the Congress. This may explain why politics tends to produce decision makers who, with several notable exceptions, seek to fireproof the forests—through thinning if they can, or, if they cannot, through salvage logging. At its core, American politics is anthropocentric—human centered, not nature centered. Worse for the environment, politics abhors a vacuum. Faced with a massive natural disturbance like a wildlands fire, politicians cannot just sit idly by. No sir, they’ve got to get out that good wrench and be seen as fixing the problem! This is especially true in the age of the modern media—the 24/7 “infotainment industry” that looks for drama and action and showers coverage on politicians who provide them.

In 1988, the national news media chased a perfect storm: five fires had erupted in Yellowstone while the Park Service operated under a 16-year-old policy of letting fires run their course in fire-adapted ecosystems. For the infotainment industry, this was as good as it gets: the equivalent of the burning of Rome and the discovery of covert pyromaniacs rolled into one. Unburdened by scientific knowledge, reporters and politicians pummeled the Park Service in an echo chamber of escalating criticism.² Montana senator Max Baucus, a Democrat, took the U.S. Senate floor to declare that the national fire policy was “responsible for much of the injury caused by this year’s forest fires.”³

¹ Capitol building, Washington, D.C.

Then-senator Malcolm Wallop, a Republican from Wyoming, demanded the firing of National Park Service director William Penn Mott, a fellow Republican, saying: "He continues to celebrate [the fires] while all the rest of us are suffering."

The Park Service's fire policy, however, was based on peer-reviewed science, which showed how fire had shaped the Yellowstone landscape and its biota for millennia. Many of Yellowstone's plant species are fire adapted. The cones of lodgepole pine, a species that makes up nearly 80 percent of Yellowstone's forests, are a good example. Sealed by resin, they crack in the intense heat of fire and release seeds to begin life afresh.

But try to explain these facts to a television news reporter who operates on 10-second sound bites. Or to a congressman or senator who makes a political living off of them. On the tube, that great arbiter of modern American reality, Yellowstone scientists and managers came off as ostrich-headed bumbleresque, uttering a language from another world.

It was a rout. Science was mugged by politics as whipped-up TV viewers across the nation flooded the offices of their senators and representatives with one message: suppress the fires without further delay. On July 21, as the flames began to expand rapidly, the Park Service lifted its natural fire policy. The agency's decision was partly a capitulation to overwhelming political pressure, especially from western senators, who have disproportionate power in the Congress because senators are elected two to a state, regardless of a state's population. In fairness, the decision was also based on the intensity of the fire, which raced across the crowns of trees, shooting out firebrands up to a mile ahead of the front and threatening nearby human populations outside the park.

But if the Park Service thought that its about-face would still its critics, it was wrong. Detractors refused to believe Interior Secretary Don Hodel when he told Congress that he had suspended the "let burn" policy. Meanwhile, Hodel's decision incited criticism from Park Service fire scientists,⁵ independent wild-fire biologists, and environmentalists, who believe that bulldozers and other firefighting equipment cause more harm to a landscape than wildland fire.

Today, in 2005, the Park Service's natural fire policy—long since reinstated and adjusted to better protect human populations and property—has worked successfully on subsequent fires in Yellowstone. Nevertheless, the political storm caused by the 1988 fire gave a strong hand to logging advocates on all federal lands, who make the argument that dead trees ought to be logged instead of "wasted," although nothing in nature is ever wasted.

The lesson is unmistakable: the media thrive on drama, especially fear,⁶ while the political marketplace almost always operates on the understanding that there is profit in satisfying the crowd.

Today, 17 years after the fire reset nature's clock, Yellowstone's plants are brimming with youthful vigor. Independent scientists report that although flames consumed aboveground parts of grasses and forbs, the belowground root systems remained unharmed.⁷ Researchers Jay Anderson of Idaho State University, William Romme of Colorado State University, and other scientists have documented the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem's remarkable but not unexpected recovery.⁸ Vegetation in most burned areas quickly regenerated. Water flows have increased in many streams without causing the severe ero-

sion that some feared. Fish and other forms of aquatic life are abundant again. Mammal populations are still healthy—albeit reapportioned to conform to natural habitat changes.

Writing for the *High Country News* in October 1994, reporter Michael Hofferber described the park's incredible resiliency just six years after the fire:

Crouched over a metal screen like a gold rush prospector and peering through its grid at the forest floor, [researcher] Cindi Persichetty calls out what she sees through each square-inch opening: "Line four: moss, moss, litter, seedling, seedling, seedling." Another Idaho State University graduate student, Mike O'Hara, sits on a log recording the findings on a clipboard. The charred remains of lodgepole pine loom above them, groaning in the morning breeze that rises off the Madison River in Yellowstone National Park. The forest floor is carpeted with thousands of bright green seedlings, each less than a foot high.⁹

Findings of this kind prompt John Varley, director of the Yellowstone Center for Resources, to observe that a forest's rebirth after a fire disturbance can leave the ecosystem and its biodiversity healthier than they were before the flames erupted. Overwhelmingly, conservation biologists agree with him.

Yet, since the 1988 Yellowstone fires, the rush to "fix" the wildland fire problem has escalated across the West. Oregon's July 2002 Biscuit Fire showed that naïveté, lack of knowledge, and deception still underscore public debate. Although climate change, fire suppression, and logging are among the primary agents in transforming western forests into tinderboxes,¹⁰ the timber industry and the Forest Service's "solution" is to ramp up logging.¹¹

The Biscuit Fire was the nation's largest in the summer of 2002 and the largest in Oregon's history. When, after 120 days, it finally died, its outer boundary encompassed nearly 500,000 acres, including the fabled Kalmiopsis Wilderness and 160,000 acres of roadless areas.¹² But the fire did not burn all of those acres. It left a mosaic of live and burned trees, and many forest stands inside the "burn" were untouched.

President George W. Bush cited the Biscuit Fire as an example of why he has given a green light to the timber industry to mow through forest stands across the West. Traveling to Medford, Oregon, in 2002 while the Biscuit blazed, the president announced a plan he said would reduce the number of conflagrations. He called it his "Healthy Forests Initiative." The program was enacted into law on December 3, 2003, as the Healthy Forest Restoration Act. It relies on the timber industry to "thin" forests in the deep outback and exempts this logging from the National Forest Management Act, the Appeals Reform Act, and the National Environmental Policy Act—laws that Congressman Mark Udall, among others, describes as the fundamental laws of sound forest management.¹³

A further, conspicuous problem with the Healthy Forest Restoration Act is that the timber industry is not exactly a philanthropic movement. When it "thins" trees, it expects to make a profit. Thus, it must cut big (commercially valuable) trees to offset the cost of thinning smaller ones. The president's plan, then, means loggers are taking large, fire-resistant trees and leaving smaller trees, which are more susceptible to fire. An examination of Oregon's 2002 Tillamook Fire demonstrated the shortcoming of this tactic: the most severely

burned places were previously logged tracts in which older, larger trees had been replaced with plantations of smaller trees.¹⁴

These facts were smothered in the congressional debate on the president's misleadingly named plan; the bill sailed through the House on a vote of 256–170 and cleared the Senate by 80–14. What political factors were at work? Mainly the “Mr. Goodwrench” syndrome, in which pressured legislators feel compelled to act as problem solvers even through they may be making matters worse.

Ignorance or avoidance of environmental knowledge is one thing. A deliberate frontal attack on forest science is another. The Healthy Forests Initiative was developed by individuals who used fear of wildland fire to increase logging and mask their dismantling of President Bill Clinton's science-based 1993 Northwest Forest Plan.¹⁵ The Clinton plan reduced the public timber cut in the region by 75 percent to protect viable populations of the spotted owl and other wildlife, which were threatened by logging and habitat loss.¹⁶

For the 2005 Biscuit Fire “restoration” alone, the Bush administration's Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) called for a “salvage” of 372 million board feet of timber—some 170 million board feet more than the normal yearly cut on the public lands of Oregon and Washington combined. Leading biological experts contend that postfire logging can be more harmful than fire.¹⁷ Heavy equipment damages delicate, traumatized soils; log skidding creates erosion and river siltation; and removal of fallen trees robs the soil of nutrients and destroys woody debris needed as a lifeboat for dependent species until the regenerating forest begins to produce its own “new” large dead wood structures, typically a century later.¹⁸ Logging trucks carry the seeds of noxious weeds that, in the absence of postfire competition, multiply rapidly and choke natural vegetation. The Biscuit EIS also targeted 8,173 acres of inventoried roadless areas for industrial logging.

Mark Rey, the U.S. undersecretary of agriculture, is President Bush's top political appointee for the Forest Service and was responsible for overseeing the Healthy Forests Initiative. From the mid-1980s to the early 1990s, Rey was a top lobbyist for the American Timber and Pulp Association, the largest timber industry trade association in the nation.¹⁹ In that role he tried in vain to stop logging curtailments called for in the Northwest Forest Plan. Today, under the rubric of “forest health,” he has succeeded where he failed throughout the 1990s. He has also weakened the Clinton administration's roadless forest protections in Oregon and elsewhere.²⁰

How is it, one might ask, that legislation like the Bush administration's so-called Healthy Forests Initiative can sail through Congress when polls consistently show strong public support for a sound and healthy environment?²¹ The answer is “framing”—the art of creating a central organizing idea or context for an event or proposal and suggesting the issue through use of selection, emphasis, exclusion, and elaboration.²² This is why the Bush White House chose the phrase “healthy forests” to characterize its effort to increase logging in the public's national forests. A masterpiece of Orwellian doublespeak, “healthy forests” evokes a sense of environmental protection and personal safety at a time of deep fear of wildland fire. (Remember, in Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of human needs, safety is a fundamental human requirement.)

Successful framing is a powerful tool in molding political opinion. An experiment described by Thomas E. Patterson, professor of political science at Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, illustrates this point:

Cognitive psychologists Daniel Kahneman and Amos Tversky told a group of subjects to imagine that an unusual disease was expected to kill six hundred people and then asked them to choose between treatment A, which was expected to save two hundred, and treatment B, which offered a one-third probability of saving all six hundred and a two-thirds probability of saving none of them. By 72 percent to 28 percent, the subjects preferred treatment A. A matched group of subjects was provided the same information about the disease and asked to choose between treatment A, under which four hundred were expected to die, and treatment B, which offered a one-third probability that nobody would die and a two-thirds probability that all six hundred would die. In this case, treatment B was preferred 78 percent to 22 percent. The choice given to both groups was identical, but one choice was framed in terms of the number of people who would live if the action were taken, and the second one was framed in terms of the number who would die. By altering the way in which the choice was framed, people's preferences were completely changed.²³

The broadcast media, which Americans depend on for most of their news,²⁴ play a major role in communicating politically framed issues. This has had an unfortunate impact on political discourse—in part because nuance and analysis are difficult to fit into an average 10-second sound bite. These media, especially television, tend to favor attention-getting political frames rather than ones that elucidate issues.²⁵ In the modern symbiosis between the media and elected officials, many politicians, needing attention for personal advancement, are loath to challenge political frames communicated by the media.

To be sure, past government policy on the land and its natural processes has produced some notable ecological achievements—the Wilderness Act; the Clean Air, Clean Water, and Alaska National Interest Land Conservation acts; the establishment of national parks; the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency; and many others. But much of today's sophisticated antienvironmental framing is built atop a history of human domination of nature that Roderick Nash describes so well in his seminal book *Wilderness and the American Mind*. From the first light of time, through the mid-19th-century period of Manifest Destiny, the New Deal, and into the modern age, Nash describes American self-identity as forged in no small part by taming the frontiers and, when the chips were down, by placing humans above nature—not as a part of it.²⁶

In this spirit, wildland fire in the West—and the threat of it—seem to have created a reflexive impulse for logging, and to make the most of it, the Bush administration has lifted bedrock environmental laws that protect the health of the nation's forests. Perhaps the words of Alexis de Tocqueville, sharing his perspective on America some 170 years ago, best pertain to the agenda of politicians who seek to reverse many hard-won gains in the science of forest ecology: “They may be said not to perceive the mighty forests that surround them till they fall beneath the hatchet.”²⁷

To: General Public, Elected Officials, Law Enforcement Agencies, and Media Contacts
From: Jim King, Convener, B & B Truth and Reconciliation Committee
Re: Status Report # 4 on Re-Investigation of B&B Fire – June 15, 2010

The Rationale for the Re-Investigation:

As Van Jones said in Speak Truth to Power: "(Your) case has become a question of not letting authorities get away with that level of wholesale disrespect and disregard for human life, (natural resources), and the rule of law". Reminded of the decades of Tony Foster's under-celebrated efforts to protect our Metolius Watershed and inspired by a recent speech by Naomi Tutu in Bend about the responsibilities of being human; a group of local leaders has organized to insist on and oversee the re-investigation of the 2003 B & B Fire in Oregon.

In Camp Sherman we have a saying "My church is the Woods" which speaks to the spiritual truth that the world is alive and we humans are an inseparable part of it. It is the illusion of separateness from nature that allows us to think it is a sustainable practice to drill for oil miles underwater and to burn down Oregon's most pristine wilderness for political purposes. It is also the height of arrogance to expect educated people to accept the government's ludicrous claim that the 2 (more likely 3) separate fires, that started within 5 minutes (and 15 miles) of one another, were caused by a lightning storm that passed over the area 11 days before. As a further insult our intelligence, they arrogantly expect us to believe that the 2 or 3 ignitions occurred just hours before President Bush was scheduled to speak about fire risk reduction through an amendment to the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA) that would have allowed building of more roads into road less areas and logging of old growth timber. In the name of the "progressive populism" movement, it is also important to point out that local timber industry officials had been intensely lobbying for, - with the support of Oregon's Senator Gordon Smith and Representative Greg Walden - this amendment to HFRA.

Our group - B & B Truth and Reconciliation Committee – has been guided by these 7 goals:

1. Obtain a credible re-investigation of the cause of the B & B Fire.
2. Educate* the community through meetings, status reports like this and a website about the issues, and the progress of the re-investigation.
(www.bandbfirerevisited.org)
3. Re-establish credibility in the local land management agencies involved: i.e. the Oregon Department of Forestry and the United States Forest Service.
4. Restore the Community's trust in these agencies and personnel working in our forests and communities.
5. Heal the Community's sense of betrayal from what happened in 2003 and 2004 and how it has been mishandled by our government agencies.
6. Rededicate ourselves to better stewardship of our local forests and sacred planet.
7. Increase our community's capacity (more truth seeking, courage and fierceness) to better respond to similar situations in the future.

*Our Committee's information is available on our website [www: bandbfirerevisited.org](http://www.bandbfirerevisited.org). And also in hard copy at the Sisters, Redmond and Bend Public Libraries. A book, It's about Time, which will be a fictional account (to protect the innocents) of this true story will also be available late this fall.

Requests:

Even though we already have lots of testimony that refutes the lightning story and has all been turned over to appropriate law enforcement agencies; we are still asking anyone with Information about the fires to submit it to: PG-Box-423, Camp Sherman, Or. 97730 or on our Website or leave a phone message on our hotline's new number 541-595-0120. Since we currently are in debt over \$10,000; we also need financial support to continue these efforts and to bring Naomi Tutu back to Central Oregon to help us with appropriate closure and reconciliation.

History of the Fire:

The Bear Butte and Booth Lake Fires (subsequently known as B & B or B & B Complex Fire) started as separate fires within 5 minutes of one another on August 19th 2003 as then President Bush made his final preparations to speak in Camp Sherman about the congressional extension of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act. Both of the "parent" fires of the B & B that started on August 19th, and tragically before they joined and were contained on September 26th, they burned 90,769 acres, and consumed \$31 million just in suppression costs, and ended up the largest ever in Oregon history. The fire was a huge conflagration, crowning and leaping, and burning for over a month, stripping more than 100 square miles of some of the most beautiful pristine areas of the Cascades - your public land - down to bare soil and scorched rocks. As Governor John Kitzhaber has been quoted as saying, "It burned the heart out of Oregon". But those of us who live in Central Oregon have good news; namely, the "Heart of Oregon" has survived and we are going to hold accountable, those responsible for burning our "Church".

There were separate teams from an Interagency Task Force (made up of mostly of Federal, State, and maybe local fire experts) that studied each fire and incredibly claimed that the fires were caused by a lightning storm that passed nearby 11 days before. Even the U.S. Forest Service Special Agent Ron Pugh who lead the investigation (remember he was then an employee of the Bush Administration), and who now supports the re-investigation, did admit the timing of the fires fueled intense public speculation that the fires were set to make a political point about the Bush administration's proposals for thinning forests to alleviate fire threats. The official USFS report also hedged on the cause of Booth Lake fire "the cause of fire ignition was (only) likely the result of lightning although the specific cause could not be determined solely by the physical evidence at the scene."

This means that since there wasn't any physical evidence of lightning at that site that political arson could logically have been an equally plausible explanation for the fire. Our logic and evidence (outlined below) leads to an obviously very different conclusion.

"Our Connecting of the Dots":

Pre-Fire Related

- The "curious" flight path of an unmarked secret service surveillance helicopter which, in addition to harassing a hiker on the side of Maxwell Butte, repeatedly flew over the Booth Lake ignition site (the pilot's excuse for his illegal flight was he was scouting for deer).
- Two individuals seen camping at Fish Lake, repeatedly observed acting "suspiciously around the Camp Sherman Community, and then were later seen walking toward the Booth Lake ignition site just before an explosion was heard and the start of the fire.

Booth Lake (& Camp Tamarack) Related

- The radio call from up on the Santiam pass reporting that "we found an incendiary device at one of the ignition sites" (We assume the Tamarack site but it could have also been the Bear Butte site since Booth Lake was still exploding and unapproachable for days). This radio call was "overheard" by others in the community which should, therefore, be easy to substantiate the broadcast and who made it.
- There are others who report hearing about a sophisticated detonation device found at another ignition site. The official reports claims this referred only to the safety auto flare they found on the side of the road; but, what about the reference to "at one of the ignition sites"?
- The director and/or staff on the Camp Tamarack site finding a fire start at their location that they apparently put out....even though this site was not investigated as a 3rd ignition.
- The conversation between Tony Foster, Dennis Luke, Les Styles and Ron Pugh in a SUV driven by Sheriff Styles in which Ron Pugh's twice declared (reportedly as fact) "this is a lightning caused fire" at the start of the fire and long before he could begin to investigate.

Bear Butte Related

- An oddly dressed (pretending to be USFS) group who were caught at the launch site (likely close to the Jefferson Lake trail head) by a local first responder crew who arrived at that scene of the "launchers" only to be told (oddly) to leave.

To: General Public
From: Jim King, Convener, B & B Truth and Reconciliation Committee
Re: **Status Report # 3 (May 2010)** of Re-Investigation of B&B Fire

May 9, 2010

Public Meeting: 7 pm May 10th at Camp Sherman Community Hall

This will provide the background and progress to date on our efforts. As you have requested, correspondence from the USFS is now available at the Sisters, Redmond and Bend libraries. The lead investigator for the re-investigation – Tom Lyons and his assistant, Barb Severson, - have both been invited they are not expected. We will likely have additional meetings in Sisters and Bend.

Rationale:

A major goal and effort of the B & B Truth and Reconciliation Committee is to inform the public about this call for a re-investigation and the status of the government agencies response. This is the third of a series of reports from our Committee to fulfill that goal. Other information will also be available on our website www.bandbfirerevisited.org and is also available at the Sisters, Redmond and Bend Public Libraries.

Requests:

We are asking **anyone** with information, even if it was considered during the original investigation, to submit it to: ~~PO Box 423, Camp Sherman, OR. 97730~~ or report it to us on our website (www.bandbfirerevisited.org) or ~~leave a short message @ hotline (541-595-0120)~~.

We're currently over \$1000 in debt and need financial support to continue these efforts.

History of the fire:

The Bear Butte and Booth Lake Fires (subsequently known as B & B or B & B Complex Fire) started as separate fires within hours of one another on August 19th 2003 as then President Bush prepared to speak in Camp Sherman about the congressional extension of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act. Both of the "parent" fires of the B & B started on August 19th, and sadly before the resultant B & B Complex Fire was contained on September 26th, it burned 90,769 acres, and \$31 million in suppression costs, the largest ever in Oregon history. The fire was a huge conflagration, crowning and leaping, and burning for over a month, stripping more than 100 square miles of some of the most beautiful pristine areas of the Cascades - your public land - down to bare soil and scorched rocks.

Separate teams from an Interagency Task Force studied each fire and claimed that both were lightning caused, according to the U.S. Forest Service Special Agent Ron Pugh. The previous lightning storm over these areas had been weeks prior to these ignitions which has lead to the public's universal disbelief in the conclusion of the investigation. Mr. Pugh – who now supports the re-investigation - did admit the timing of the fires fueled intense public speculation that the fires were set to make a political point about the Bush administration's proposals for thinning forests to alleviate fire threats, which was the specific purpose of the president's visit to the Camp Sherman area. The official report put the two fires together into one Report even though they were investigating the beginning (not the end) of fires that started over 15 miles apart (and then later burned together). The Report also hedged (page 2) on the cause of Booth Lake fire: "...the cause of fire ignition was likely the result of lightening although the specific cause could not be determined solely by the physical evidence at the scene." We have evidence of arson.

Our basis for demanding this re-investigation:

1. Within hours of the start of the fires and BEFORE the start of the investigation, reports have emerged that Ron Pugh (lead investigator with USFS Law Enforcement) stated, as fact, "this fire is lightning caused" to Les Styles, Deschutes County Sheriff at the time and Dennis Luke, current Deschutes County Commissioner.
- The "curious" flight path of an unmarked secret service surveillance helicopter which, in addition to harassing a hiker on the side of Maxwell Butte, repeatedly and illegally low flew over the Booth Lake ignition site (the pilot's excuse was he was scouting for deer even though professionals who fly this area dispute his "deer" explanation).
- Two individuals seen camping at Fish Lake and walking toward the Booth ignition site.
- Can of "accelerant" found along with an explosion heard at the Booth Lake ignition site.

To: General Public
From: Jim King, Convener
B & B Truth and Reconciliation Committee
Re: **Status Report # 2 (April 2010)** of Re-Investigation of B&B Fire

April 2010

Rationale:

A major goal and effort of the B & B Truth and Reconciliation Committee is to inform the public about this call for a re-investigation and the status of the government agencies response. This is the second of a series of reports from our Committee to fulfill that goal. Other information will also be available on our website www.bandbfirerevisited.org. and at the Sister Public Library.

Requests:

We are asking anyone with information, even if it was considered during the original investigation, to submit it to: ~~PO Box 423, Camp Sherman, OR. 97730~~ or report it to us on our web site (www.bandbfirerevisited.org) or ~~leave a short message @ hotline (1-541 595-0120).~~

We also have a growing need for financial support to continue these efforts and are seeking a volunteer secretary/treasurer along with your contributions. NBG

History of the fire:

The Bear Butte and Booth Lake Fires (subsequently known as B & B or B & B Complex Fire) started as separate fires within hours of one another on August 19th 2003 as then President Bush prepared to speak in Camp Sherman about the congressional extension of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act. Both of the "parent" fires of the B & B started on August 19th, and sadly before the resultant B & B Complex Fire was contained on September 26th, it burned 90,769 acres, the largest ever in Oregon history. The fire was a huge conflagration, crowning and leaping and burning for over a month, stripping 100 or more square miles of some of the most beautiful pristine areas of the Cascades - and your public land - down to bare soil and scorched rocks.

Separate teams from an Interagency Task Force studied each fire and claimed that both were lightning caused, according to the U.S. Forest Service Special Agent Ron Pugh. The previous lightning storm over these areas had been weeks prior to these fires which has lead to the public's universal disbelief in the conclusion of the investigation. Mr. Pugh - who now supports the re-investigation - did admit the timing of the fires fueled intense public speculation that the fires were set to make a political point about the Bush administration's proposals for thinning forests to alleviate fire threats, which was the specific purpose of the president's visit to the Camp Sherman area. The official report even hedged on the cause of Booth Lake fire: "...the cause of fire ignition was likely the result of lightening although the specific cause could not be determined solely by the physical evidence at the scene."

Basis for re-investigation:

Within days of the fire (and periodically ever since), reports have emerged about:

- The "curious" flight path of an unmarked secret service surveillance helicopter which, after harassing a hiker on the side of Maxwell Butte, repeatedly and illegally low flew over potential ignition sites (the pilot's excuse was he was scouting for deer season!?!).
- Two individuals seen camping at Fish Lake and walking toward the Booth ignition site.
- Cans of "accelerant" found at ignition site(s).
- A USFS employee transferred from the area after insisting arson caused the fire.

Developments with our efforts:

We have studied the abridged report which raises more questions than it answers. A copy of what we receive will always be available within a few days at the Sisters Public Library.

Based on our reading of the parts of the Report that we are not blacked out; it appears that the Bear Butte fire MAY, in fact, have been lightning caused; but, even the report admits to no such evidence at the Booth Lake site! Which means that political arson was just as likely??

We are going to schedule presentations at local boards and commissions to seek their leadership on two issues #1- improving government and #2- funds to have Naomi Tutu return. We hope to be able to afford Naomi Tutu's return at the appropriate time to discuss the needed healing, forgiveness, possible amnesty, and reconciliation as appropriate closure to this extremely dark chapter in Oregon history.

To: General Public

March 2010

From: Jim King, Convener
B & B Truth and Reconciliation Committee

Re: **Status Report # 1** of Re-Investigation of B&B Fire

Rationale:

One goal of the B & B Truth and Reconciliation Committee is to inform the community of the issues, status of the investigation and any prosecutions coming out of the re-investigation. This will be the first of a series of reports from our Committee to fulfill that goal. Information is also available on our website www.bandbfirerevisited.org. Anyone with information that might not have been considered during the original investigation is asked to submit it to: PO Box 423, Camp Sherman, OR. 97730 or report it to us on our hotline 541 595-0120.

History of the fire:

The Bear Butte and Booth Lake Fires (subsequently known as B&B or B&B Complex Fire) started as separate fires within hours of one another on August 19th 2003 as then President Bush prepared to speak in Camp Sherman on the extension of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act. Both of the "parent" fires of the B and B started on August 19th, and before the resultant B and B Complex Fire was contained on September 26th, it burned 90,769 acres, the largest in Oregon history. The fire was a huge conflagration, crowning and leaping and burning for over a month, stripping 100 or more square miles of some of the most beautiful pristine areas of the Cascades down to bare soil and scorched rocks.

Separate teams from an Interagency Task Force studied each fire and reported that both were lightning caused, according to the U.S. Forest Service Special Agent Ron Pugh who chaired the original investigation. The previous lightning storm over these areas had been 3 weeks prior to these fires which has lead to the public's universal disbelief in the conclusion of the Pugh investigation. Mr. Pugh – who now supports the re-investigation - did admit the timing of the fires fueled intense public speculation that the fires were set to make a political point about the Bush administration's proposals for thinning forests to alleviate fire threats, which was the purpose of the president's visit to the Camp Sherman area. However, the President did find time for several rounds of golf with close friends at Crosswater before flying back to Washington.

Basis for re-investigation:

- Within days of the fire (and periodically ever since), reports have emerged about:
- The "curious" flight path of an unmarked secret service surveillance helicopter which, after harassing a hiker on the side of Maxwell Butte, flew over the two ignition sites (many miles from the site of Presidents speech).
 - Two individuals seen in "flight suits" and military boots walking toward the ignition sites.
 - Cans of "accelerant" found at both ignition sites
 - A USFS employee transferred from the area after insisting arson caused the fire.
 - A gas station attendant who overheard a secret service agent "pressing hard and repeatedly about local fire suppression capabilities" one week before the fire.

Additionally, in December 2009, after I filed the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, (which would cost \$31,000 for 53 tubs of information); I requested and received a phone call from Mr. Pugh who talked openly for over an hour about the investigation and the inaccuracies in some of the information I had received. He suggested I did not need the \$31,000 for an FOIA request; but rather his closing comments to the Committee that "we should leave no stone unturned" and that it now "seems that there a few new stones that need to be turned".

Moreover, our Committee was recently blessed by input from Naomi Tutu (daughter of Nobel Peace Prize winner Archbishop Desmond Tutu) who spoke in Bend in February about her father's work with forgiveness. She's agreed to help us and return to speak (we'll need \$!) to the community about forgiveness and reconciliation; which will inevitably become major issues for us to grapple with.

- The reports from the same group of local "first responders" of "something heavy being carried on a stretcher, under a tarp with a barrel shape", (likely an "avalanche buster") that was being loaded into a pick-up truck. It is, of course, significant since this happened at a time equipment would have been in the process of being unloaded to fight the fire at the Bear Butte ignition site.
- The Warm Springs Tribe helicopter crew report that the first view of the fire start at Bear Butte was in the top half of a tree. A smoldering lightning struck tree would, of course, had the fire in the bottom half of the tree.

Post Fire Related

The immediate transfer (from the Sisters R.D. to an Alaskan USFS position) of a US Forest Service employee who knew of the "sophisticated detonation device(s)" at one or more of the ignition sites and who insisted that the fires were arson and should be investigated as such.

- Pugh investigatory committee's reported struggle (I've heard the committee was nearly evenly split on this issue) not to extend their investigation for 2 additional weeks in order to look into the silly deer scouting story concocted by the National Guard Officer who piloted the helicopter.
- My hour long conversation with Ron Pugh, the lead investigator and author of the official report, in which, among other things he agreed the Fire should be re-investigated in light of the information that has come forward since his committee finished its work and adjourned.
- Mr. Pugh's comment to me related to the \$31,000 that was needed to obtain the 53 tubs of documents that make up the complete report of fire: "You don't need the \$31,000, you only need my closing statement to the Committee; namely, we should leave no stone unturned, now or in the future...and it sounds, Mr. King, you have found a few stones that need to be turned".
- The delays and refusal to respond to our Committee's requests for help and a new investigation by:
 - a) Tom Lyons who is the new USFS Lead Investigator and "Special Agent in Charge". Mr. Lyons works out of Vancouver Washington.
 - b) David Ferrell who is the Director of US Forest Service Law Enforcement and Investigation. Mr. Ferrell works in Washington DC.
 - c) Hank Kashdan who is the Deputy Chief of the US Forest Service and reportedly in charge of the USFS Law Enforcement and Investigation unit. Mr. Kashdan now works in Washington DC but was the previous Supervisor of the Willamette National Forest in Oregon that, along with the Deschutes National Forest, was partially destroyed by the B & B Fire.

Motivational Issues:

Our Committee can appreciate the "conflict avoidance" reaction of almost everyone responsible for investigating the B & B Fire (with the link to the Bush-Cheney administration and its reputation for "dirty tricks"). However, the rampant local stories about a recent homicide (rumored to be covered up as suicide) of someone very vocal about the high level of Bush Administration complicity in the B & B cover-up and also very knowledgeable of the timber industry efforts to support the 2003 changes to Healthy Forest Restoration Act; it ought to obligate or compel some level of law enforcement involvement to protect the many people in Central Oregon who have had the courage to come forward with the above testimony.

While there are many motivations that have "moved" us (which you'll be able to read about in It's About Time) among them is to remind all of us about our deeper connection to nature and to insist on a new independent investigation of our fire; President Obama probably said it best on Super Tuesday: **"Change won't happen if we wait for another person or another time, this is our moment, this is our time, we are the people we have been waiting for, and we (those of us with the courage to speak truth to power) are the change we seek!"**.



File Code: 6270-1-1
(R6-10-092)

Date: May 28, 2010

Mr. Jim King
26326 Metolius Meadows Drive
Camp Sherman, OR 97730


Dear Mr. King:

This letter responds to your May 6, 2010, fax to our Regional Law Enforcement and Investigations office. You requested an estimate of the value of timber burned within and without of wilderness by the B&B Fire and Ron Pugh's fax number. Your request has been processed under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). 7 C.F.R. § 552

Enclosed is one page containing excerpts from the Metolius Watershed Analysis and B&B Fire Recovery Project Environmental Impact Statement. The excerpts discuss acres and board feet lost to the fire. We have no estimate of the value of the timber lost. We do not have a fax number for retired employee Ron Pugh. If we did have the fax number, it would be withheld under FOIA Exemption 6. We do not release private citizens contact information except in limited special situations. Because no record of timber values lost to the B&B Fire exists, and Ron Pugh's fax number cannot be provided, you are entitled to the following appeal rights:

The FOIA provides you the right to appeal my no records determination. Any appeal must be made in writing, within 45 days from the date of this letter, to the Chief, USDA, Forest Service: 1) by email to wo_foia@fs.fed.us; 2) by regular mail to Mail Stop 1143, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-1143; 3) by Fed Ex or UPS to 201 14th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20250-1143; 4) by fax at 202-260-3245. The term "FOIA APPEAL" should be placed in capital letters on the subject line of the email or on the front of the envelope. To facilitate the processing of your appeal, please include a copy of this letter and/or the FOIA control number assigned to your FOIA request R6-10-092.

Sincerely,


for MARY WAGNER
Regional Forester

Enclosure



Page Veg-25

Potential for Salvage Harvest

The recent fires of the last two years have presented large blocks of dead and dying trees that could be salvaged to reduce future fuel loads, provide funding for fire related restoration projects, provide economic value to local communities and provide timber resources to help meet the national demand for wood products and as suggested by Berlik and others (2002) lessen the national demand for wood products internationally (i.e., on a global scale). Using aerial photo interpretation data, it is estimated that approximately between 4,500 to 9,200 acres involved in stand replacement wildfire, and between 2,700 to 4,300 acres involved in mixed severity wildfire, may be economically viable for salvage harvest. These figures are tentative and are likely to change over time as more site-specific information becomes available. The actual acres available are also likely to decrease because riparian buffers and other sensitive resource area/issues have not been factored into these estimates.

Page Veg-26

Potential salvage exists on 4,500 acres to 16,200 acres. Final acres being dependent on more site-specific information and potential acres removed because of resource concerns.

The B&B Fire Recovery Project (EIS) (2005):

Vegetation mortality is discussed in this document between pages 3-109 and 3-118. Of particular interest to Mr. King might be the following from page 3-116:

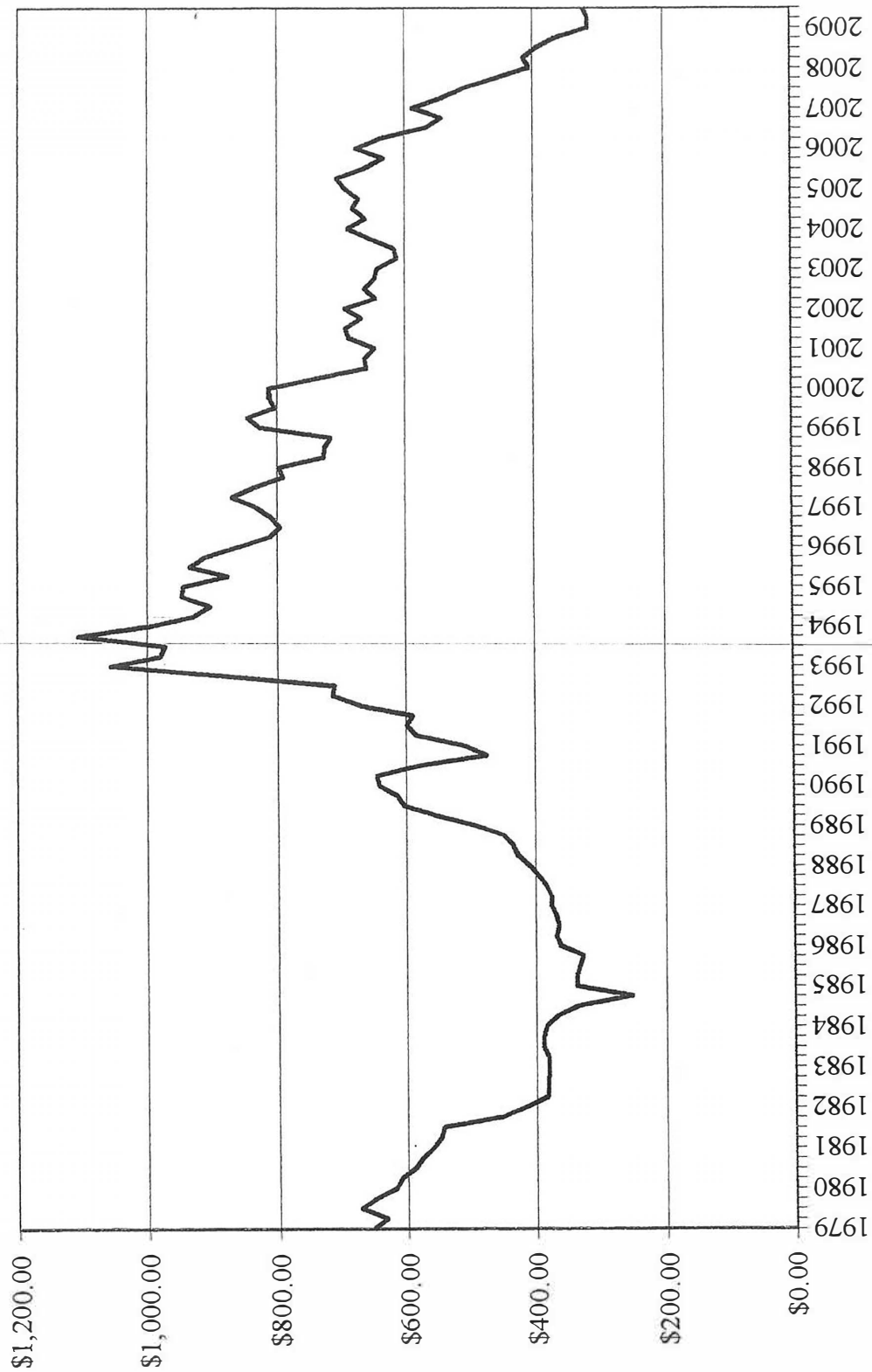
Stand Mortality and Timber Resources Affected by Fire

The estimated timber resource killed of trees 12" DBH or larger within the B&B Fire Recovery Project area and within all recent fires within the Metolius 5th field watershed was estimated at approximately 130 and 180 million board feet, respectively.

No estimates of timber value lost were made for areas burned by the B&B fire in wilderness.

6/21/2009

Oregon Log Price Index, 1979-2009
in 2009 dollars





Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Department of Forestry

State Forester's Office

2600 State Street

Salem, OR 97310

(503) 945-7200

FAX (503) 945-7212

TTY (503) 945-7213 / (800) 437-4490

<http://www.odf.state.or.us>

February 8, 2010



"STEWARDSHIP IN FORESTRY"

Jim King

26326 SW Metolius Meadows Dr.

Camp Sherman, OR 97730

Dear Mr. King,

Thank you for your phone calls and stopping by my office yesterday to visit regarding your effort to revisit the B&B Fire investigation.

I'm following up with this letter to confirm our conversation yesterday. The Oregon Department of Forestry is satisfied with the current US Forest Service investigation and do not feel our employees should allocate any more time to the issue either on or off duty.

Thank you for your interest in Oregon's forest and your work to make them and adjoining communities more fire safe.

Sincerely,

Paul Bell, Associate State Forester
Chief, Fire Protection Division

Cc Ken Snell, Director, Region 6 Fire, Fuels and Aviation Management
John Allen, Deschutes National Forest Supervisor
Cliff Liedtke, Eastern Oregon Area Director



To: Tom Andrade, Citizen of Central Oregon and ODF
Doug Hancock, Citizen of Central Oregon and Friends of Metolius
Pete Schay, Citizen of Central Oregon and Friends of Metolius

From: Jim King, "Just" another Citizen of Central Oregon

Re: Our complicity in the coming demise of planet earth?.....unless we act!

THE PLAN/PROPOSAL: We, the Friends, (1) request a meeting (fairly soon..like February) with Mr. Pugh and as many of the B&B Fire Investigation Team as can make it to Camp Sherman, (2) have Bill Anthony "host" it as he does so well, (3) invite Tom Andrade, ODF coordinator of Oregon's "Interface" clearing", to talk about local efforts needed to prevent fires, (4) request the USFS appoint a investigator to examine the many things that have emerged since the investigation was completed (I alone have several but we should not allow them to put the onus on us to become the fact finding group responsible to make the case) (5) request they install a special 1- 800 number to gather new or revised input and (6) set up a locally populated group (I'd like to volunteer) to monitor the process (vs the renewed investigation of facts) .

THE MOTIVATION: You'll like (although maybe not totally comfortable with.....) the attached poems about the "mental models" (Peter Senge's terminology) we apply in difficult times. My goal here is, respectfully but nevertheless very intentionally, to make all of us as uncomfortable as I can. You may rightfully question my right to do so; but, we do share the same watershed and the same planet. These poems – The Cold Within, Can I Make a Difference? and Networking – were some of my favorites. Saul Alinsky who was a mentor of mine in the sixties; would say that folks (who are not hungry) will almost always be more comfortable not acting on things, even things that should be changed. It is, therefore, our role as community organizers/leaders to make them more and more uncomfortable until it becomes..... more comfortable to act.

1st- You first must read The Cold Within....then proceed by realizing that.....

- I'm not sharing my stick because I can't get experts within the forestry field (namely Tom and Pete), community leaders (Doug) or the senior managers within USFS (John on Deschutes or Kashdan in DC) to agree with my strategy/sense of urgency.
- Pete's not sharing his stick because he's "just the vice-president" of Friends.
- The President of the Friends of the Metolius (Doug Hancock) is not sharing his stick because he is worried about the "image" of the Friends.
- Tom is not sharing his stick because he believes an reinvestigation must be "objective" and "non-political"....or maybe his rapidly fading belief in the Report?
- Kashdan is not sharing his stick because the new Regional Forester is not yet fully "in place"...
- Candidate Kitzhaber is not sharing his stick because doesn't want to be "too far out front on this issue"
- Senator Wyden may not be sharing his stick because he wouldn't want to be "out front of the current Governor and the USFS on this issue"
- And so on and so on and so on.....ad nauseum!

I personally like what Barrack Obama said on Super Tuesday: **"Change will not happen if we wait for another person or another time. This is our moment, this is our time! We are the people we have been waiting for, and we (those standing and speaking up) are the change we seek".** Good yes...off my 2010 Calendar with his speeches!!

So my motivational question to all of us is simply this: Is there any chance in hell IF people who **know what's right and wrong** (like us) **AND** are being **asked by their President** to speak up about it, **can't act** (share their sticks); what chance do we have (even with Obama as President) of turning this country around....or surviving on this planet for that matter. I'd suggest none....how 'bout you? I can not imagine ANYTHING worst than having to look back 10 years from now and regretting we did not fully act on our issue at our time. I know I could not deal with it....at least, not without being even more "grumpy" than I already am.

2nd Poem Can I Make a Difference is a totaling different (choice of) perspectives about this issue. My students and I always loved this one!

3rd Poem Networking is simply about the needed passion and persistence, In short supply for a lot of people, I fear. I should try to figure out how to transfer some of mine.

4th- I've also attached my modified FIOA request to John Allen (whom I've never met) because the complete request would cost me \$31,250. Obviously I'd rather not turn over my effort to the Sierra Club because of the inevitable damage to the USFS. Sierra would be able to boost their membership by bullying the local Forest Service but at what long-term price? Since the largest timber theft ever happened right here (& just 10 years ago) in river city; they'll be only too happy to again hammer our Deschutes National Forest.

I've also attached an article from the Riverkeeper magazine that includes a rather inarticulate attempt on my part to explain why I am now involved in organizing around "place" and no longer around "interest"; even though I'll always be a "card carrying" member of the Sierra Club, TNC and on and on. Mary Mitsos of the National Forest Foundation taught me this distinction years ago which has changed my life considerably.

As a clinician (who is planning to establish a local private counseling practice) I'd also suggest it is NOT healthy (John Kitzhaber would also make this point really well) to ask anyone to "live a lie" who grew up (as many of us did) in family dynamics involving lies (eg. my family lying that everything was OK and that Mom wasn't really an alcoholic). This whole community has been living this lie - B&B was lightning caused – for 6 years! I can tell you it's neither healthy nor fair to a retirement community seeking peace of mind in their last years. Have ANY OF US ever met ANYONE who really believes in the "Forest Service lightning story"? I know haven't. Just yesterday I visited with Rico Burgess - USFS Law Enforcement – about it. He did try, as does Tom Andrade. I do always appreciate the intellectual exercise with Tom on many subjects; but really, come on!! Who are we trying to kid here?? Ourselves? To resolve the cognitive dissonance?! Come on, get real!

Attached : The Cold Within

CC: ,

Fax to: NW Media

May 17, 2010

From: Jim King, Convener
B&B Fire Truth and Reconciliation Committee

Re: Emerging evidence of the cover-up to the political arson with 2003 B&B Complex Fire

Attached is the evidence we - the B&B Truth and Reconciliation Committee in Camp Sherman - have gathered so far to substantiate arson as the real cause for 91,250 acre B&B Fire in Central Oregon. As former Governor Kitzhaber put it: "It burned the heart out of Oregon". After \$38 million was spent putting it out, it has left a huge whole in all of our hearts; physically, emotionally, and most especially spiritually! It's like they burned down our church to punish us for our pro-conservation views and support for environmentally sensitive elected officials.

We've attached:

- 1. The community's struggle (memo from King to Andrade, Hancock, Schay) related to asking for fire information (+poem)*
- 2. The March 19, 2010 response cover letter from the new Chief Investigator Tom Lyons and pages 1-12 of the Pugh Report admitting there is no evidence of lightning at Booth Lake Ignition site.*
- 3. May 14, 2010 Fax to Sheriffs with 10 items summarizing recent information from website, hotline, PO Box and personal contacts.*
- 4. The modified FOIA request targeting information based on our leads and testimony.*

Since I am negotiating a book deal related to Oregon's significant Metolius watershed protection legislation from the last session and this effort insisting on "truth telling" related to the B&B Fire and subsequent investigation; I will not be a source of information beyond this set of documents. I will, however, be writing monthly updates and holding public meetings in June, July? and beyond if needed. I will also be initiating a major fund raising campaign to have Naomi Tutu return to Central Oregon to help us with appropriate closure to this dark chapter in Oregon history.

Cc Hank Kashdan and Tom Lyons - USFS Law Enforcement
Anthony and Allen - Sisters RD and Deschutes NF

The Cold Within

James Patrick Kinney

*Six humans trapped by happenstance
In dark and bitter cold,
Each possessing a stick of wood
Or so the story is told.*

*Their dying fire in need of logs
The first woman held hers back,
For, of the faces around the fire
She noticed one was black.*

*The next one looked cross the eay
Saw one not of his church,
And could not bring himself to give
The fire his stick of birch.*

*The third one sat in tattered clothes
He gave his coat a hitch,
Why should his log be put to use
To warm the idle rich*

*The rich man just sat back and thought
Of the wealth he had in store.
And how to keep what he had in store
From the lazy shiftless poor.*

*The black man's face bespoke of revenge
As the fire passed from sight
For all he saw in his stick of wood
Was a chance to spite the white.*

*The last one of this forlorn group
Did not except for gain,
Giving just to those who gave
Was how he played the game.*

*The logs held tight in death's still grasp
Was proof of human sin,
They didn't die from the cold without
They died from the cold within!*



File Code: 6270-1

R6-10-034

Date: March 19, 2010

Mr. Jim King
26326 Metolius Meadows Drive
Camp Sherman, OR 97730

Dear Mr. King:

This letter responds to your December 24, 2009, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request submitted to the Deschutes National Forest. You requested the investigation report for the B & B fire. The B & B fire was two separate fires, namely the Booth Fire and the Bear Fire.

You also requested the following items:

Item 2 – Any subsequent communication to or from Mr. Pugh.

Item 3 – Any information/communication about the local law enforcement person who "rode along" on the Secret Service helicopter doing surveillance the day of the ignition.

Item 4 – any information about the 2 men in flight suits and military boots who were sited walking into the ignition sites.

Items 2 through 4 have no responsive documents. The Reports of Investigation and the Cause and Origin reports for each fire are enclosed. Personal and private information has been withheld from the reports as explained below.

The FOIA provides that all Federal Government records be made available to the public unless they fall within one of several exemptions. Exemption 6 permits me to withhold all information about individuals in "personnel and medical files and similar files" where the disclosure of such information "would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy." 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(6). Exemption 7(C) similarly protects information compiled for law enforcement purposes where release "could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy." 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(7)(C). Unless outweighed by a public interest in the personal privacy information, I am entitled to withhold it.

The burden of establishing that disclosure would serve the public interest is on the requester. See Carter v. Department of Commerce, 830 F.2d 388, 391 nn.8 & 13 (D.C. Cir. 1987). Your request did not identify any public interest in this information. If you were to identify a public interest, it would have to meet the definition in the landmark case Dept. of Justice v. Reporters Comm. for Freedom of the Press, 109 S. Ct. 1468 (1989). The U.S. Supreme Court sharply limited the concept of "public interest" under the FOIA to the "core purpose" for which Congress enacted it, to "shed[] light on an agency's performance of its statutory duties." 109 S. Ct. at 1481. Personal private information, such as names or information that would identify an

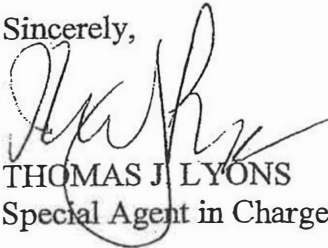


individual, does not directly reveal the operations or activities of the Government and falls outside the ambit of the public interest FOIA was enacted to serve.

After weighing the privacy interest of individuals who may not wish to have their privacy violated and the lack of public interest in disclosure, I have redacted all personal private information pursuant to Exemptions 6 and 7(C).

The FOIA provides you the right to appeal this decision. Any appeal must be made in writing to the Chief, USDA Forest Service, Mail Stop 1143, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-1143, and be received by the Chief's office within 45 days from the date of this letter. The term "FOIA APPEAL" should be placed in capital letters on the front of the envelope or on the subject line of an email to wo_foia@fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,



THOMAS J. LYONS
Special Agent in Charge

Enclosures



USDA
Forest Service

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION
(Reference FSH 5309.11)

Case/File Number

[Redacted] (u)

Controlling Office R6 – Law Enforcement and Investigations	Investigating Office R6 – Regional Investigative Unit
Case Type Wildfire	Investigative Period From: August 18, 2003 To: September 24, 2003
Case Status Closed/Substantiated	Report Type Final
Case Name Booth Fire	Investigated By Special Agent [Redacted]

SYNOPSIS

This investigation was conducted to determine the cause of the Booth Fire, which was part of the B&B Complex Fire that burned on the Sisters Ranger District, Deschutes National Forest (DNF) on August 19, 2003.

On August 19, 2003 @ 3:23 PM the Central Oregon Interagency Dispatch Center (COIDC) at Prineville, OR received the first report of a wildland fire from the Oregon Department of Forestry, Henkle Lookout located northeast of Sisters, OR. At 3:28 PM COIDC received a second wildfire report from the US Forest Service, Black Butte Lookout located northeast of Sisters, OR.

The fires (Booth Fire) area of origin was determined to be in Township 13 South, Range 8 East, Section 19, northeast ¼ of the northwest ¼.

Cause and origin investigators from the Central Oregon Arson Task Force (COATF) and the Forest Service Law Enforcement and Investigations Unit concluded that the Booth Fire was a result of lightning activity.

As of September 24, 2003 the B&B Complex Fire was determined to be 98% contained. The fire was estimated to have burned 91,915 acres. National Forest Lands burned totaled 86,945, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs totaled 3,799, State Lands totaled 82, and Private lands totaled 1,089.

As of October 1, 2003 US Forest Service (FS) fire suppression costs totaled \$38,740,000.

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NOTE: This document is for OFFICIAL USE ONLY. It and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency, nor duplicated, without prior approval of the USDA, Forest Service, Law Enforcement and Investigations.



USDA
Forest Service

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION
(Reference FSH 5309.11)

Case/File Number

Introduction

As an initial responder to the Booth Fire, Forest Service Law Enforcement Officer (LEO) [REDACTED] reported (Exhibit 1) the following:

On 08/19/03 at approximately 3:30 PM he was requested by the COATF to respond to the Booth Fire. He arrived at the Round Lake Trailhead located on the Sisters Ranger District, DNF at 5:00 PM to assist in evacuation. He also spoke with hikers who described hearing and seeing a fire breakout on the southwest ridge above Square Lake.

LEO [REDACTED] later departed to FS road 1210 to assist individuals at dispersed campsites.

At approximately 7:45 PM LEO [REDACTED] along with COATF investigators [REDACTED] [REDACTED] hiked into the west side of the fire from the Pacific Crest Trailhead at Santiam Pass/Highway 20. From a vantage point the officer's observed active upslope fire approximately 200 yards north off the Square Lake Trail, torching and severe burning across the Square Lake trail.

Due to extreme fire conditions the officer's were, on that date, unable to continue an origin and cause investigation.

Details

On 08/19/03 at 3:23 PM the Central Oregon Interagency Dispatch Center (COIDC) at Prineville, OR received the first report of a wildland fire from the Henkle Lookout and a second fire report at 3:28 PM, from the Black Butte Lookout. The Black Butte Lookout reported that the fire was north of Santiam Pass, that it was torching, and that winds were in excess of 30 MPH.

Exhibit 2 is a copy of the COIDC Interagency Dispatch Record for the Booth Fire.

Evidentiary findings of the fire investigation team

Findings concluded that the cause of fire ignition was likely the result of lightning although the specific cause could not be determined solely on the physical evidence at the scene. The fire investigation team was however, was able to form an opinion that the fire was caused by lightning based on all the available information including, lightning activity reports, fire reports from adjacent fires, and witness statements.

Exhibit 3 is the fire's Origin and Cause report prepared by [REDACTED]

Witness Interviews

Agents Note: The following interviews were conducted as a result of information obtained by federal and local law enforcement officers, Forest Service and other government employees concerning citizen observations or information concerning the Booth Fire.

Information supplied by [REDACTED]

On 08/20/03 [REDACTED] reported (Exhibit 4) he was camping at Big Lake (on the DNF) on 08/18 and 08/19/03. At about 2:45 PM he was on the lake with his wife when he saw a small round puff of smoke that "appeared to be a ground level". The smoke was immediately followed by a tall conifer torching from the lowest branches to the tip in a matter of seconds. He said that he saw a second tree torch, which was next to the first. The fire then quickly grew and he could tell that it would head over the ridge. He estimated that they were over 3 line of sight miles from their position to the fire. When [REDACTED] and his wife returned to their home in Corvallis, OR he decided to report their observations.



Interview of Ronald DILBECK

On 08/22/03 [REDACTED] was interviewed (Exhibit 5) by LEO [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] said that on 08/19/03 he and [REDACTED] were on Big Lake around noon. From the southeast side of the Lake, near the Youth Camp, noticed a wisp of smoke north of the Lake. The smoke quickly turned into flames. He called 911 but because of confusion, he ended up calling his wife who in turn notified COIDC.

[REDACTED] supplied LEO [REDACTED] with photographs taken by [REDACTED] And written documentation of his [REDACTED] observations.

Agents Note: Page 2 of Exhibit 5 is a copy of [REDACTED] written observations.

Interview of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

On 08/22/03 [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) employees were interviewed (Exhibit 6) by LEO [REDACTED] They responded to the Booth Fire on 08/19/03 and arrived approximately 3:15 to 3:20 PM. They observed the fire running east down the ridge parallel to highway near milepost 82. They estimated the wind at about 15-20 mph out of the west. The fire was actively crowning and [REDACTED] said that he requested air resources.

Interview of [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

On 08/25/03 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were interviewed (Exhibit 7) by Special Agent (SA) [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] wildfire investigator.

They stated that on 08/18/03 they hiked in on the Pacific Crest Trailhead (PCT), DNF, northeast of Hoodoo ski area. That night they camped at the south end of Square Lake. On the morning of the 19th at about 8:00 AM they saw a helicopter flying from due west to the east. At about 1:00 PM saw a helicopter flying the same route from east to west. At about 3:10 PM as they were preparing to depart back to the PCT they saw the ridge above them (due southwest) in flames. They departed along the Pacific Crest trail to the north side of Square Lake. At that area they were met by a firefighter who escorted them out along the trail to Round Lake.

The women had no direct knowledge as to the cause of the forest fire although they were able to give investigators some descriptions of individuals they saw during their hike.

Agents Note: Included along with the Memorandum of Interview, in Exhibit 7, is e-mail with an attachment of [REDACTED] account of what transpired on 08/19/03 delivered to LEO [REDACTED]

Interview of [REDACTED]

On 08/27/03 [REDACTED] was interviewed (Exhibit 8) by [REDACTED]. She said that on 08/19/03 on or about 11:00 AM she drove her Uncle [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] to the PCT, located northeast of Hoodoo ski area. [REDACTED] and the others were to go on a 10-day hike on the Pacific Crest Trail. On or about 4:00 PM upon arriving back to her home in Bend, OR she had a telephone message on her answering machine from [REDACTED] [REDACTED] tell her a message that said that they were in the middle of some fires, was trying to contact 911, and would try to reach her in about half an hour.

Subsequently [REDACTED] contacted the "Wildfire Dispatch Office" in Prineville who later contacted [REDACTED] and gave him directions to the safest way out.

[REDACTED] and the others continued hiking north on the PCT and eventually exited the White Water Creek Trailhead.

[REDACTED] gave [REDACTED] the physical description of two males that were exiting the PCT on 08/19/03 on or about 11:00 AM before [REDACTED] and the others departed on their journey.



Interview of [REDACTED]

On 09/02/03 WINCH, was interviewed (Exhibit 9) by [REDACTED]. He said that on 08/19/03 he was hiking on Maxwell Butte. On or about 2:15 PM he estimated he was at the 5500-foot elevation on the south side of the Butte (the Butte's Summit is at the 6229 foot elevation). While at that location, he saw a helicopter flying between where he was and below the Butte's Summit. Described he helicopter as dark blue or green in color without any markings and flying from the northeast and going around the Butte to the west.

He arrived at the Summit about 2:50 PM and within a few moments saw smoke to the North of his position (Bear Butte Fire). At that time he did not notice any smoke from the Booth Fire. As he was preparing to depart the area, no later than 3:10 PM, he said he saw a "considerable amount of smoke" to the Southeast (Booth Fire). At about 3:25 PM he then saw flames and smoke traveling in an Easterly direction.

Interview of [REDACTED]

On 09/04/03 [REDACTED] was interviewed (Exhibit 10) by [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] said that because of the current situation (B&B Complex fire), he wanted to report an incident that occurred on July 4, 2003 that could be related to the previous Link and Cache Mountain Fires.

He said that on 07/04/03 he was at the Big Lake PCT to do some scouting for the upcoming elk season. He described for [REDACTED] an individual who he termed suspicious, primarily because the male was driving on a very rough road with a sedan he described as a white 4-door Toyota, Tercel. The individual was driving east of the Big Lake PCT (on the Santiam Wagon Road). He later witnessed the same individual at the Big Lake PCT filling out what seemed to be a Wilderness Use Permit.

Interview of [REDACTED]

On 09/04/03 [REDACTED] was interviewed (Exhibit 11) by [REDACTED]. He said he was a firefighter for Honer Timberland located in Coos Bay, OR. His crew was on initial attack on 08/19/03 for the Booth Fire. Initially, the crew was staged directly east of the Mt. Washington Viewpoint on Highway 20. At the location where he was standing (along the guardrail of Highway 20) he noticed what he thought was a fusee. He picked it up, placed it in his belt weather pouch, and forgot about it until 09/03/03 when he saw it again inside his pouch.

He then showed the fusee to his Squad Boss and was subsequently, on 09/04/03, collected by Oregon State Police Detective [REDACTED] Explosives Section.

[REDACTED] also accompanied [REDACTED] and LEO [REDACTED] and showed officers the spot where he had found the fusee.

On 09/06/03 [REDACTED] traveled to the area where [REDACTED] had found the fusee and searched the embankment along Highway 20 for approximately a quarter mile. No additional fusees were neither found nor any other items of interest or concern.

Interview of [REDACTED]

On 09/13/03 [REDACTED] was interviewed (Exhibit 12) by [REDACTED]. She said that on 08/19/03 around 2:45 PM to 3:15 PM she was driving west on Highway 20 (along the area of the Booth Fire) when she noticed what she described as a large dust cloud to the right of the road. She just said it almost seemed like maybe somebody was there driving around. She said within 30 seconds of seeing the dust cloud, she then saw smoke, which was a small funnel type cloud. It appeared that the fire was only about the size of a campfire.

Interview of [REDACTED]

On 09/14/03 RALL was interviewed (Exhibit 13) by [REDACTED]. He stated that he did not observe the Booth fire and that



he only had second-hand information.

He said that [REDACTED] the owner of a fly-fishing shop in Sisters were cycling in the area of the Booth Fire area and saw a group of people riding "ATV's" in the vicinity shortly before the fire started.

Interview of [REDACTED]

On 09/14/03 [REDACTED] was interviewed (Exhibit 14) by [REDACTED] [REDACTED] indicated that around 3:15 p.m. he was standing on his porch at Camp Sherman when he observed a small plume of smoke coming from between Square Lake and Long Lake. To get a better look, he drove his vehicle to Jack Lake Rd. (FS Road #12), to the "Upper 4 Corners Rd" that crosses Rd. 12, and turned right then left, coming in on the south side of Round lake.

[REDACTED] said that he was parked on a flat when he saw a vehicle coming toward his location. [REDACTED] said that he talked to a white male who stated that the fire had started about ½ hour ago and that there were still campers in the area.

[REDACTED] stated that he was not suspicious of the male but thought that he might be informative since he had been in the area. As a result, [REDACTED] took the license plate number of the vehicle and described the male as being in his late 50's, driving a 98-99 Chevy ¾ ton pickup.

Interview of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

On 09/14/03 [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were interviewed (Exhibit 15) by [REDACTED] [REDACTED] said that she and her 15-year-old daughter, [REDACTED] were driving from Eugene towards Sisters on the 08/19/03 around 3:00 PM. Perhaps a mile past Hoodoo Ski area traveling east on Highway 20 she noticed that toward the north a "puff" or column of black smoke. Seconds later she witnessed, "one tree torching" that was located "towards the summit of the ridge".

Just a short distance down the road [REDACTED] noticed a black colored motorcycle, Harley-Davidson type, at about the 93 mile-marker (she believed it was the 93 mile-marker). She did not see anyone on or around the motorcycle.

After unsuccessful attempts to reach authorities [REDACTED] called her boyfriend, [REDACTED] who was able to report the fire.

Interview of [REDACTED]

On 09/14/03 [REDACTED] was interviewed (Exhibit 16) by [REDACTED] [REDACTED] said her brother, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] wife [REDACTED] were hiking in the Jack Lake on 08/19/03. They traveled from the Jack Lake Trailhead to Wasco Lake on the PCT over to Porcupine Peak and back to Wasco Lake and the Jack Lake Trailhead.

While at Wasco Lake they heard a helicopter flying low but could not see it.

[REDACTED] said they returned to the trailhead around 3:30 p.m., and talked to a couple that had asked them if they had seen the two fires. She said they had not seen any forest fires and was surprised because she had not seen them. What bothered her was that the couple seemed very insistent in talking about the fires. The couple knew that there were two fires and their locations. [REDACTED] said that after thinking about it, it seemed odd that the couple seemed to know so much about the Booth fire, yet it had only been about 15 minutes or so from the time it had been reported.

[REDACTED] said the male was around 35 years old, had ginger colored hair, a small mustache, wearing olive green pants and maybe a khaki colored shirt. She said the female was probably about the same age, and they had a dog with them.

Interview of [REDACTED]

On 09/14/03 [REDACTED] was interviewed (Exhibit 17) by SA CHOLI [REDACTED] stated that he and [REDACTED]



██████████ stated that he and his wife left before ██████████ also said that ██████████ was talking on his cell phone while he was there. ██████████ said that it was strange that ██████████ would be up at the Lookout at that time.

Interview of ██████████

On 09/20/03 ██████████ was interviewed (Exhibit 23) by ██████████. He said that on 08/19/03 he drove from Albany, OR to Sisters, OR to see if he could locate Pine-Marten, a fur-bearing animal that he traps for business.

He estimated that around 2:00 PM he drove onto the road that goes to the Pacific Crest Trailhead (PCT) located a short distance from the Hoodoo Ski area turnoff. He drove to the trailhead and looped back toward Hi-way 20.

Right before getting to the Hi-way he stopped and walked around looking for Pine-Marten. At time he saw a white male walking from the trailhead towards the highway. ██████████ described the man as being "homeless" looking. The man looked like he was about 35-40 years old, small build, 5'9", 140 pounds. ██████████ remembered that the clothing the man was wearing was all the same color. He described it as faded army green color and he was carrying a "greenish" duffel bag.

After several minutes ██████████ drove out and the male was standing on the North side of Hi-way 20. ██████████ assumed that he might be waiting for a vehicle headed west and that he was going to attempt to hitchhike.

██████████ turned east and headed toward Sisters. After driving a few hundred feet he came upon vehicles stopped along Hi-way 20 looking at the fire. Further on down he saw firefighters by the side of the road who were putting fire cloths on.

██████████ said that after reading about the fire and remembering about the homeless looking male he had seen he thought that he had better report his observations.

The following witness were identified through Wilderness Use Permits collected at trailheads that accessed the areas of the B&B Complex fires.

Interview of ██████████

On 09/16/03 ██████████ was interviewed (Exhibit 24) by ██████████. ██████████ stated that she was currently the DNF botanist. On 08/19/03 she, along with some seasonal botanists arrived at the Jack Lake Trailhead around 11:00 to 11:30 AM, hiked to the meadow, then to Wasco Lake, and back to the trailhead by about 3:00 p.m.

██████████ said that while hiking, almost back to the trailhead entrance, she saw a black helicopter "whizzing by", close to the wilderness boundary. She said she thought maybe there was a fire or emergency situation since it was flying so low.

She said there were a few families out hiking, but could not remember any specifics. She also said that there were a few vehicles at the trailhead, some Subaru Outback or Legacy's.

██████████ said they didn't see any fire or smoke while they were out hiking. She said they learned of the fire when they returned to the Sisters Ranger District around 3:15 to 3:30 p.m.

Interview of ██████████

On 09/16/03 ██████████ was interviewed (Exhibit 25) by ██████████. ██████████ said that he arrived at the Jack Lake trailhead around 11:00 to 11:30 a.m., hiked to the meadow, then to Wasco Lake, and was back at the trailhead by about 3:00 p.m. He said he saw one person at the trailhead going the opposite direction. It appeared that the person was going to stay overnight. ██████████ said he also saw three ladies having lunch in the meadow; they appeared to be in their mid-70's.

Miller stated there were about four other people that had passed him while he hiked to Wasco Lake. On his return from



Wasco Lake to the Trailhead, [REDACTED] said there were three adults and one teenager that were hiking. He said he also saw a man and son hiking in with backpacks and fishing poles.

While at the trailhead parking lot, [REDACTED] said he saw quite a few other vehicles and one Forest Service vehicle parked there. He said he observed a helicopter to the northwest of him, and could see that it was going in that direction (northwest). [REDACTED] stated that he didn't know that a fire had occurred, and he arrived at his home in Sisters around 3:30 or 4:00 p.m.

Interview of [REDACTED]

On 09/17/03 [REDACTED] was interviewed (Exhibit 26) by SA [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] said that he had hiked the Jack Lake trail, to Three Fingered Jack and back to the trailhead. He said there were not a lot of people out that day, but he did remember that a group of about five women (around the ages of 35-45 years old) had passed them. He said they met them later at the base of Three Fingered Jack around 10:30 AM.

[REDACTED] stated that he did not observe anything odd or suspicious, and did not see any smoke or fire while he was hiking or upon his return to the trailhead. He stated it wasn't until about 2:30-2:45 PM when he was with friends at Suttle Lake that he observed a "giant plume" of very white smoke in the direction he had come from. [REDACTED] stated he was driving a green Toyota Landcruiser, license plate [REDACTED].

Interview of [REDACTED]

On 09/17/03 [REDACTED] was interviewed (Exhibit 27) by SA [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] stated that he and his brother had arrived at the Jack Lake trailhead on Monday the 18th, around 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. He said they hiked to Wasco Lake and stayed the night there. He said they ran across maybe four parties that day, one was a group of two horseback riders. He said the sky was clear with only a few clouds and it was warm. He said during the middle of the night there might have been some "rumbling" from thunder and maybe some lightning, but it seemed like it was 20-30 miles away, quite a distance away.

[REDACTED] said the next day they hiked around the base of Three Fingered Jack, then back to Wasco Lake, arriving at the Jack Lake trailhead around 2:30 to 3:00 p.m. He said on that day he saw two different groups of older middle-aged females; one single male with a dog; one dad with two teenagers; two groups camped at Wasco Lake; and another single male. [REDACTED] said he did not see anything out of the ordinary or suspicious while hiking in/out of the trail, while at the trailhead, or while driving to/from the trailhead or on the highway.

[REDACTED] stated that they left the trailhead and headed to Sisters to get gas. Upon their drive back on Highway 20 westbound, around 4:00 p.m., he observed smoke from a fire. He said it looked small at first, maybe the size of a campfire but less than a field burning, then grew larger as they got closer to the (Santiam) pass.

Interview of [REDACTED]

On 09/24/03 [REDACTED] was interviewed (Exhibit 28) by SA [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] said that she arrived at the Jack Lake trailhead around 10:30 AM. Her purpose that day was to pick huckleberries. [REDACTED] stated there were not many people out that day. There were about five cars parked when she arrived. Around two miles in or so, still just before the lake, she met about six backpackers, sitting in a meadow eating lunch.

She got to her patch of huckleberries and left the area at 11:30 AM, arriving back to the trailhead around 12:10 PM. During her hike out she met two males hiking in with fishing rods.

After arriving back home at Camp Sherman she saw a plume of smoke in an area that had to have been close to Square Lake. She said she called her husband (a firefighter in Sisters) to see if a fire had been reported which it had. She said she was very surprised there was a fire in that area as she had not seen or smelled any smoke or fire and there was no lighting.



Airborne Operations / Observation Interviews

Interview of [REDACTED]

On 09/22/03 [REDACTED] was interviewed (Exhibit 29) by SA [REDACTED]. He said that on 08/18/03 he was traveling westbound on Highway 20 to the west side of the Cascades when he observed two dark-colored military helicopters to his left. One helicopter was in front of the other and they were approximately 1 mile apart headed "roughly parallel to the highway" and traveling in a northwest direction. The helicopters were approximately 2-5 miles to the south or west of highway 20. He first noticed the helicopters before Sisters, OR but he kept seeing them off to the west of the highway.

The last place he observed the two helicopters was in the vicinity of the Black Butte Ranch but they could have been close to Scout Lake or Suttle Lake.

Interview of [REDACTED]

On 09/03/03 [REDACTED] Major, US Marine Corps was interviewed (Exhibit 30) by Assistant Special Agent in Charge (ASAC) [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] coordinator for Marine Helicopter Squadron One said that on 08/18/03.

There was only one time when a helicopter from their unit flew as a "single." That was on August 18th, 2003, when one of the H-60 green and white helicopters flew from Black Butte Ranch to the Metolious landing zone and returned.

His aircraft never flew west of USFS Road 14 (Metolious Road).

Information supplied by [REDACTED]

On 08/27/03 [REDACTED] supplied information (Exhibit 31) wherein he stated that on 08/19/03 he was camped at Craig Lake (approximately 2.5 northwest of the Booth Fire area of origin). On or about 9:30 AM, while still in the Craig Lake area he saw a helicopter approaching him from the east-northeast. He said the helicopter appeared to have a "military paint job".

[REDACTED] said the helicopter eventually headed southeast in the general direction of the trailhead for the PCT. He did not see the helicopter again.

Interview of [REDACTED]

On 09/03/03 and 09/23/03 [REDACTED] was interviewed (Exhibit 32) by SA [REDACTED]. He stated that he was a pilot with the Army National Guard in their "Raid" division. On 08/19/03 he worked with the Secret Service during President Bush's visit to Central Oregon. On the morning of August 19, 2003, he left his office in Salem, OR at approximately 8:00 AM to pick up Secret Service agents in Bend, OR at 10 AM.

While he was flying his military OH-58 helicopter from Salem to Bend, he flew over Square Lake, Lost Lake, and Craig Lake in the Mt. Jefferson Wilderness Area and circled the area a couple of times. He proceeded to Redmond, OR and then Bend, OR where he picked up Secret Service agents and then performed a reconnaissance of the Black Butte Ranch, Metolious River, Camp Sherman, and Sunriver areas. When they were finished with the reconnaissance, he dropped off the Secret Service agents in Bend, OR and flew back to Salem, OR.

He left Bend, OR at approximately 1:50 PM and arrived in Salem, Oregon at approximately 3:00 PM. His route of flight was the same as before although he did not circle over the lakes.

Each time he landed at the different locations, Redmond, Bend, and Sunriver, he performed a post flight inspection of the helicopter and found no deficiencies. [REDACTED] said there was nothing that came out of or off his helicopter during his flight. In addition, he said that nothing in his helicopter would start a fire.



Interview of [REDACTED]

On 08/23/03 [REDACTED] FS, Redmond Air Center was interviewed (Exhibit 33) by LEO [REDACTED] regarding his observations of the Booth Fire. [REDACTED] stated that he was flying air attack 63 Fox Trot over the Bear Fire when his aircraft was diverted to the Booth Fire. [REDACTED] stated there were four retardant drops over the Booth Fire Origin, three coming in from the northwest direction and one load coming from the north. [REDACTED] stated there was "lots of wind" out of the west, so he would be surprised if more than one load hit the ground. He said that he was up in the air for a total of about 3 hours. [REDACTED] said that he would put the Booth fire origin due south of the south ridge of Square Lake and estimated the fire size at 5-10 acres

Additional "holdover" wildfires investigated

Interview of [REDACTED]

On 08-22-03 [REDACTED] Willamette National Forest, Forest Fire Technician, was interviewed (Exhibit 34) by LEO [REDACTED] regarding holdover fires in the area of the Booth Fire. [REDACTED] stated that on 08/18/03 there were two fires suppressed by the McKenzie District, one southwest of the Big Lake area, and another due west of Mt. Washington Peak. [REDACTED] stated that the Incident Commander, [REDACTED] determined those fires as obvious lightning strikes.

[REDACTED] provided two 5100-fire reports (Exhibit 35) describing the fires. He also said that the District "jumped" multiple lightning strikes on 08/4-5/03 north of Hog Rock. [REDACTED] stated there were lightning strikes in the vicinity of Big Lake, about 4 miles away on 08/05/03. He also said that there were lightning strikes approximately 2.5 miles north and south of Square Lake on 08/06/03.

* * * * *

SUSPECTS OF INVESTIGATION

Not Applicable

JUDICIAL ACTION

Not Applicable

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

Not Applicable

* * * * *

May 14, 2010

Cc Fax Jim Cornelius, The Nugget Newspaper 541 549-9940

From: Jim King, Convener
B & B Truth and Reconciliation Committee
Camp Sherman, Or.
541 595-0240

Re: Clarification of new developments with the B&B cover-up.

I've attached my recent Fax to my contact with the US Forest Service Law Enforcement Office in which I clarify how we will behave in the future with them and why. It's important enough stuff so I urge you to study it and ask me for any of the antecedents I reference you don't fully understand.

Since I'm not a lawyer (thank God right?), my description of the legal case for what is wrong with the Pugh Report is my "take" and my language. I've tried to sequence these items according to my engagement with them:

1. Why was this Report - which should be on the beginning causes of these fires - only be about the finish of the fires i.e. after it joined and became the combined B&B Complex Fire? My obvious guess is that by doing so it enabled Ron Pugh and whoever was directing him with the cover-up, to try to focus our attention on the one piece (the Bear Butte Fire) that could be made to most look like it was lightning caused. I think most people with any background on this sort of thing will realize that Pugh fully expected this story would eventually unravel but he was hoping to be enough of a "good soldier" to be allowed to finish his duties and get his federal retirement package and retire to Sunriver. (from which and about which he and I visited in December when we first talked - for about an hour - about this mess. He did not say anything directly about my theory here but our conversation did help me quickly "connect the dots" when I received and read the information they sent (March 19, 2010) in response to my FOIA Request. I will request they hereafter be forced to deal with the three fires (Tamarack, Booth Lake and Bear Butte) as totally separate (legal) events about which they now must account.
2. What was the committee dialogue around their committee's apparent struggle (I've heard the committee was nearly evenly split on this issue) not to extend their investigation into the silly story concocted by the National Guard Senior Officer pilot about his scouting for deer that day? It always gets a great laugh when I ask groups rhetorically "Would you - on potentially the most controversial assignment of your (soon to be ending) career, risk spending this time scouting for deer against all State, Federal FAA regulations, knowing it was all being witnessed by dozens of people who would later wonder about the connection to the President's speech just a few miles to the East? As background, it was one such witness that first shared with me his experience right after the Fire which absolutely convinced me the "fix was on". I begged him to come forward suggesting how he might do so anonymously, and it was his duty to do so; but he refused citing his family's security along with the credibility of his professional law practice in Bend. Having been the target many years ago of Nixon's illegal "hit list" of those of us who were succeeding in our anti Vietnam War activities, I knew he was right and would be opening himself up to harassment from both public and official government sources so I asked he contact me if he ever changed his mind and that I would help him get out his story. He did so after selling his practice in Bend and was literally driving his rental truck to Portland when he called me in Camp Sherman to amplify on his experience. After which I was knew I would be forever "locked in" my warrior role (with courage and fierceness) in defense of Mother Earth and to do something about these political hacks presumption that they could get away with symbolically torching my back yard to send their disgruntled message about the Democratic resistance to Greg Walden's failed attempt to re-direct the Healthy Forest Restoration act into a logging bill.

3. The early in day one radio call from up on the pass reporting that an incendiary device had been found at one of the (I assume Tamarack but could be Booth Lake) ignition sites.
4. What information is there about the third Camp Tamarack ignition?...Including any interview(s) with the director and/or staff on site Camp Tamarack about the fire start at their location.
5. Ron Pugh's twice repeated declaration (reportedly as fact) "this is a lightening caused fire" long before he even began to investigate. This likely happened soon after #3 above and in an interaction with Dennis Luke, Les Styles and others.
6. The oddly dressed (pretending to be USFS) crew at the launch site for fire causing launches into the Bear Butte area. These launches account for the initial flames at the Bear Butte site were midway up a tree.
7. Testimony of the local first responders who arrived at that scene of the "launchers" only to be told to leave. I'd like to be deputized and sit in on all of your interviews of anything related the situations I've brought forward in this document.
8. Was there an incendiary devise reported over your radios and/or found at Booth Lake site? How about the Camp Tamarack site?
9. Has the National Guard pilot who was scouting the Berley/Booth Lakes area ever been questioned under oath? If so, I want the full transcript for a bit of comic relief in my book i.e. about his claim to be scouting for his fall deer hunt. Did you guys think to question him or the State about his hunting permits for that High Cascades hunt that Fall?
10. The employment debrief of Ron Pugh upon his retirement from the USFS

As mentioned in my communication to the USFS Law Enforcement folks, I will continue to put everything I receive related to the fire on our website www.bandbfirerevisited.org and on reserve at the city libraries in Sisters, Bend, and Redmond. Let me know if you, your Department staffs would like me to come to a meeting? As you know, we expect to have our fund raising completed (maybe by Fall?) to have Naomi Tutu back in Bend to help us all with "closure" on this whole mess: so don't be shy about suggesting that people contribute to our group

Feel free to call me anytime (really!) at 541 595-0240 if you have any questions, comments on my status reports or concerns about the politics that are inevitably going to be involved here.

Fax to: Tom Lyons (360 891-5275)
Barb Severson

May 16, 2010

From: Jim King, Convener
B & B Truth and Reconciliation Committee
Camp Sherman, Or.
541 595-0240

Re: Clarification of new FOIA Request

I'd refer you again to my May 6th Fax in which I think I made a reasonable and timely request for information prior to my May 10th meeting. My hope was that I'd be informed about dealing with your credibility problem. Based on my lifetime of experience dealing with this stuff, I knew the questions would come up and they did. Since you refused my offer to attend and then stonewalled a plea for help, I was stuck covering for your failure to update me on the status of your work on your problem. I looked bad and your agency looked worse, much worse.

You may find some comfort, although I suspect not much for long, in knowing you and your agency are not alone in trying to frustrate our efforts to expose the truth about the B&B Fire. George Ponte from the Oregon Department of Forestry made a similar ludicrous attempt not long ago by yelling at me over the phone about my request to have Tom Andrade from ODF's Sister's office (the undeniable and only independent expert on the B&B Fire) help my B&B Truth and Reconciliation Committee understand how these investigation usually function and how the Pugh investigation might have "strayed". He then compounded the problem tenfold by having that Paul Wells (Chief of Fire Protection, Oregon Department of Forestry) back up his mistake in writing: "Oregon Department of Forestry is satisfied with the current US Forest Service investigation and do not feel our employees should allocate any more time to the issue either on or off duty". Ouch! I've learned through this process that the "good old boys" network of managers of fire fighting systems are really "clueless" about the world has changed right under their boots and will stick together regardless of reality in their attempts to void being intellectually exposed.

Since of our Committee's goals are to re-establish your (USFS) credibility and restore the community's trust in your agency (see #3 & # 4 below), your poor performance in this last week makes our task much harder. Lest you continue to underestimate our goals, let me remind you of our intentions:

1. Obtain a full and complete re-investigation of the cause of the B&B Fire.(i.e. until we – the public – are satisfied with the results!)
2. Educate the community through meetings, status reports and a website about the issues, and the progress of the re-investigation.(www.BandBFireRevisted.org)
3. Reestablish credibility in local land management agencies: the Oregon Department of Forestry and the US Forest Service. (apparently in spite of yourselves)
4. Restore the Sister's and Camp Sherman Community's trust in these agencies and personnel working in our forests and communities.(regrettably, now virtually impossible)
5. Heal the Community's sense of betrayal from what happened in 2003 and 2004 and how it was handed by our government agencies.
6. Rededicate ourselves to better stewardship of this special place on our sacred planet.
7. Build community capacity (more courage and fierceness!) to better respond to similar situations in the future. In my judgment, as a 60's leader, the local leadership has been weak.

Now, as the tips on our hotline continue to come in documenting that several officials (Ron Pugh, Dennis Luke, Les Styles, and others) may have been a party to these attempts to cover up that arson was the cause of three fire ignitions, my/our trust in you has "headed south" and will likely continue there for the duration of this project.

Since you and Barb have "taken a pass" on cooperating and communicating, I am henceforth forced to shift my collaborative efforts to working with, and seeking protection from, Jefferson and Deschutes County Sheriffs and their deputies. As you probably know Jim Adkins and Larry Blanton are the Jefferson and Deschutes County Sheriffs respectively and Mark Mills and Dave Bland work for them. They (and in most cases, the press) will hereafter be getting

everything you do from me/us. Your refusal to collaborate cost your agency any chance to have it be otherwise.

Since I'm not sure the status of the lawsuit against George Bush and his dirty tricks consultant Karl Rove over these Fires; I expect the process outlined here will remain in place here after. So also because of the book deal I'm negotiating (to share our very special Metolius story and why Karl may have finally miscalculated the power of the people); I'll likely be incommunicado with you much of the time. I think you "government types" have seriously missed the new paradigm about folks like us now being "guided" by spirit about how we need to be better stewards of our places in nature. For me, David Suzuki may have said it best in his wonderful book – The Sacred Balance "Consciousness has enabled us to recognize that the world is alive and that we are part of it: this ancient wisdom is now illuminated and extended by the discoveries of modern science. If we can grasp that we are the world we depend on, then we will find where we truly belong and get on with seeking a way to live in harmony within a rich, vibrant community of living things." (And hopefully without having the on-going exposure to the criminally insane paradigm of the Karl Rove types on Fox news!)

You will find helpful the upcoming dialogue about this disconnect stemming from the research findings to be reported (on May 20th in Bend by Adam Davis of Davis, Hibbits, and Midghall Inc.) about the growing gap between what citizen's expect from leaders and the actions and directions of our leaders. This research will show that the public's attitudes about the quality of the government (in this case Oregon's) leadership continues to deteriorate with questions about whether trust can be restored. You guys and Paul Bell could be cited as examples of this kind of disconnect and your typical "ostrich approach" when challenged.

So absent any communication from you suggesting anything different, I assume I still need to direct these future FOIA requests to you. So here's the next set of FOIA requests: (in addition to my request for periodic updates on the official status of your work and some specific guidance about how do you want us to report out the future tips from our hotline?):

1. What's the availability of the separate FBI investigation done on the Fire?
2. What information is there about a possible third Camp Tamarack ignition?
3. Was there an incendiary device reported over your radios and/or found at Booth Lake site? How about the Camp Tamarack site?
4. Has the National Guard pilot who was scouting the Berley/Booth Lakes area ever been questioned under oath? If so, I want the full transcript for a bit of comic relief in my book i.e. about his claim to be scouting for his fall deer hunt. Did you guys think to question him or the State about his hunting permits for that High Cascades hunt that Fall?
5. The complete set of records from Warm Springs staff and, if not included, the verbatim description of the initial observation of flames (near Bear Butte) being seen mid level in a tree rather on the ground as would have been the case of an actual hold over from a long smoldering (11 day old) lightning strike site.

We'll continue to put everything from you on our website www.bandbfirerevisited.org. and on Reserve at the city libraries in Sisters, Bend, and Redmond. Let me know if you or anyone from the USFS Law Enforcement stovepipe might want time on our June 10th Sisters meeting agenda and our (probable "biggie") Bend meeting on July 10th? As you know, we expect to have our fund raising completed (maybe by fall?) to have Naomi Tutu back in Bend to help us all with "closure" on this whole mess. I hope by then your professionally appropriate paranoia about being in public will have been sufficiently "managed" for you to attend.

Cc Hank Kashdan, USFS Law Enforcement, Washington DC
Jefferson and Deschutes County Sheriffs
Bend Office of the FBI
NW Media outlets

To: Tom Andrade, Citizen of Central Oregon and ODF
Doug Hancock, Citizen of Central Oregon and Friends of Metolius
Pete Schay, Citizen of Central Oregon and Friends of Metolius

From: Jim King, "Just" another Citizen of Central Oregon

Re: Our complicity in the coming demise of planet earth?.....unless we act!

THE PLAN/PROPOSAL: We, the Friends, (1) request a meeting (fairly soon..like February) with Mr. Pugh and as many of the B&B Fire Investigation Team as can make it to Camp Sherman, (2) have Bill Anthony "host" it as he does so well, (3) invite Tom Andrade, ODF coordinator of Oregon's "Interface" clearing", to talk about local efforts needed to prevent fires, (4) request the USFS appoint a investigator to examine the many things that have emerged since the investigation was completed (I alone have several but we should not allow them to put the onus on us to become the fact finding group responsible to make the case) (5) request they install a special 1- 800 number to gather new or revised input and (6) set up a locally populated group (I'd like to volunteer) to monitor the process (vs the renewed investigation of facts) .

THE MOTIVATION: You'll like (although maybe not totally comfortable with.....) the attached poems about the "mental models" (Peter Senge's terminology) we apply in difficult times. My goal here is, respectfully but nevertheless very intentionally, to make all of us as uncomfortable as I can. You may rightfully question my right to do so; but, we do share the same watershed and the same planet. These poems – The Cold Within, Can I Make a Difference? and Networking – were some of my favorites. Saul Alinsky who was a mentor of mine in the sixties; would say that folks (who are not hungry) will almost always be more comfortable not acting on things, even things that should be changed. It is, therefore, our role as community organizers/leaders to make them more and more uncomfortable until it becomes..... more comfortable to act.

1st- You first must read The Cold Within.....then proceed by realizing that.....

- I'm not sharing my stick because I can't get experts within the forestry field (namely Tom and Pete), community leaders (Doug) or the senior managers within USFS (John on Deschutes or Kashdan in DC) to agree with my strategy/sense of urgency.
- Pete's not sharing his stick because he's "just the vice-president" of Friends.
- The President of the Friends of the Metolius (Doug Hancock) is not sharing his stick because he is worried about the "image" of the Friends.
- Tom is not sharing his stick because he believes an reinvestigation must be "objective" and "non-political"....or maybe his rapidly fading belief in the Report?
- Kashdan is not sharing his stick because the new Regional Forester is not yet fully "in place"...
- Candidate Kitzhaber is not sharing his stick because doesn't want to be "too far out front on this issue"
- Senator Wyden may not be sharing his stick because he wouldn't want to be "out front of the current Governor and the USFS on this issue"
- And so on and so on and so on.....ad nauseum!

I personally like what Barrack Obama said on Super Tuesday: "**Change will not happen if we wait for another person or another time. This is our moment, this is our time! We are the people we have been waiting for, and we (those standing and speaking up) are the change we seek**". Good yes...off my 2010 Calendar with his speeches!!

So my motivational question to all of us is simply this: Is there any chance in hell IF people who **know what's right and wrong** (like us) **AND** are being **asked by their President** to speak up about it, **can't act** (share their sticks); what chance do we have (even with Obama as President) of turning this country around....or surviving on this planet for that matter. I'd suggest **none**....how 'bout you? I can not imagine ANYTHING worst than having to look back 10 years from now and regretting we did not fully act on our issue at our time. I know I could not deal with it....at least, not without being even more "grumpy" than I already am.

2nd Poem Can I Make a Difference is a totaling different (choice of) perspectives about this issue. My students and I always loved this one!

3rd Poem Networking is simply about the needed passion and persistence, In short supply for a lot of people, I fear. I should try to figure out how to transfer some of mine.

4th- I've also attached my modified FIOA request to John Allen (whom I've never met) because the complete request would cost me \$31,250. Obviously I'd rather not turn over my effort to the Sierra Club because of the inevitable damage to the USFS. Sierra would be able to boost their membership by bullying the local Forest Service but at what long-term price? Since the largest timber theft ever happened right here (& just 10 years ago) in river city; they'll be only too happy to again hammer our Deschutes National Forest.

I've also attached an article from the Riverkeeper magazine that includes a rather inarticulate attempt on my part to explain why I am now involved in organizing around "place" and no longer around "interest"; even though I'll always be a "card carrying" member of the Sierra Club, TNC and on and on. Mary Mitsos of the National Forest Foundation taught me this distinction years ago which has changed my life considerably.

As a clinician (who is planning to establish a local private counseling practice) I'd also suggest it is NOT healthy (John Kitzhaber would also make this point really well) to ask anyone to "live a lie" who grew up (as many of us did) in family dynamics involving lies (eg. my family lying that everything was OK and that Mom wasn't really an alcoholic). This whole community has been living this lie - B&B was lightning caused - for 6 years! I can tell you it's neither healthy nor fair to a retirement community seeking peace of mind in their last years. Have ANY OF US ever met ANYONE who really believes in the "Forest Service lightning story"? I know haven't. Just yesterday I visited with Rico Burgess - USFS Law Enforcement - about it. He did try, as does Tom Andrade. I do always appreciate the intellectual exercise with Tom on many subjects; but really, come on!! Who are we trying to kid here?? Ourselves? To resolve the cognitive dissonance?! Come on, get real!

Attached : The Cold Within

CC: ,

The Cold Within

James Patrick Kinney

*Six humans trapped by happenstance
In dark and bitter cold,
Each possessing a stick of wood
Or so the story is told.*

*Their dying fire in need of logs
The first woman held hers back,
For, of the faces around the fire
She noticed one was black.*

*The next one looked cross the eay
Saw one not of his church,
And could not bring himself to give
The fire his stick of birch.*

*The third one sat in tattered clothes
He gave his coat a hitch,
Why should his log be put to use
To warm the idle rich*

*The rich man just sat back and thought
Of the wealth he had in store.
And how to keep what he had in store
From the lazy shiftless poor.*

*The black man's face bespoke of revenge
As the fire passed from sight
For all he saw in his stick of wood
Was a chance to spite the white.*

*The last one of this forlorn group
Did not except for gain,
Giving just to those who gave
Was how he played the game.*

*The logs held tight in death's still grasp
Was proof of human sin,
They didn't die from the cold without
They died from the cold within!*

CAN I MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Author Unknown

The little boy made his way slowly but deliberately down the long stretch of beach littered with starfish left by the receding tide. With each step, the boy bent down, gently lifting one of the helpless creatures from the sand and tossing it into the ocean.

Noticing this peculiar approaching the boy and doing. The lad made no continued to make his way bending and tossing as he

behavior, an elderly man asked him what he was reply. He simply along the beach, went.

Soon the man surmised doing.

for himself what the boy was

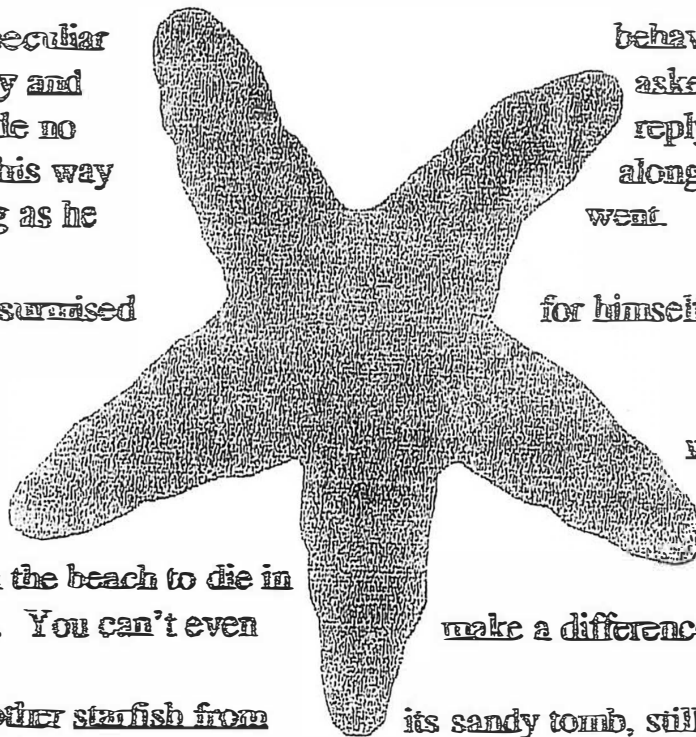
"You're you know," he boy. "There must starfish left here on the beach to die in can't save them all. You can't even

wasting your time, admonished the be millions of the sun. You make a difference."

Lifting yet another starfish from paused and gazed at it tenderly for a

its sandy tomb, still alive, the boy moment

Then, as he pitched it into the life-giving surf, he said quietly. "It makes a difference to this one."



Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate,
our deepest fear is that we are powerful
beyond measure.

It is our light, not our darkness,
that most frightens us.

We ask ourselves, Who am I to be brilliant,
gorgeous, talented, fabulous?

Actually, who are you not to be?

You are a child of God.

Your playing small doesn't serve the world.
There's nothing enlightened about shrinking
so that other people
won't feel insecure around you.

We are all meant to shine, as children do.

We were born to make manifest
the glory of God that is within us.

It's not just in some of us;
it's in everyone.

As we let our own light shine,
we give other people permission
to do the same;

as we're liberated from our own fear,
our presence automatically liberates others.

Maryann Williamson Current
Candidate for President

Networking

Decide to Network

Use every letter you write

Every conversation you have

Every meeting you attend

To express your fundamental beliefs and dreams.

Affirm to others the vision of the world you want.

Network through thought

Network through action

Network through love

Network through spirit.

You are the center of the world.

You are a free, eminently powerful source of life and goodness.

Affirm it. Spread it. Radiate it.

Think day and night about it

And you will see a miracle happen:

The greatness of your own life.

In a world of great power, media,

Monopolies, and 4½ billion individuals,

Networking is the new freedom

The new democracy

A new form of happiness.

Robert Mueller

To: General Public, Law Enforcement Agencies, Elected Officials, and Media Contacts
From: Jim King, Convener, B & B Truth and Reconciliation Committee
Re: Status Report # 6 (November 1, 2010) on Re-Investigation of B&B Fire

Re-Statement: Who We Are and Our Rationale for Insisting on the Re-Investigation:

Inspired by Tony Foster's under-celebrated efforts to protect our Metolius Watershed, a recent speech in Bend by Naomi Tutu about the African concept of Ubuntu and President Obama's comments that: "Change won't happen if we wait for another person or another time, this is our moment, this is our time!", a group of local leaders has organized to insist on and monitor the re-investigation of the 2003 B & B Fire in Central Oregon. A favorite saying of Camp Sherman residents is "Our Church is the Woods" and have collectively decided to refuse to let the authorities (whomever "they" are) to burn down our "Church" expecting to cover it up with the ludicrous claim that 2 separate fires, that both ignite simultaneously 15 miles from one another, were caused by a lightning storm that passed over the area 11 days before. The motive is obvious to anyone who considers that these ignitions were "bookends" (equal distance from and within full view of President's Bush's scheduled speech 2 days later. It is even more telling that the President's speech writer has already prepared his remarks about the need for logging under the guise of thinning under the so-called Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA). If you plot the ignitions sites on the Mt Jefferson Wilderness Map (or see our website www.bandbfirerevisited.org) you'll see the "bookends" are defiantly set/sited to make a statement to Oregon Democrats who were blocking the HFRA.

Our B & B Truth and Reconciliation Committee has established these goals:

1. Obtain a credible external re-investigation of the cause(s) of the B & B Fires.
2. Educate the community through meetings, status reports, college guest appearances, government agency testimony and a website about the issues, and the progress of the re-investigation. (www.bandbfirerevisited.org)
3. Re-establish credibility in the local land management agencies involved in the cover-up: the United States Forest Service, the Oregon Department of Forestry and various law enforcement entities.
4. Heal the Community's sense of betrayal from what happened in 2003 and 2004 and how it has been mishandled by our government agencies.
5. Restore the Bend, Sister and Camp Sherman Community's trust in these agencies and personnel working in our forests and communities.
6. Rededicate ourselves to better stewardship of our local forests and sacred planet.
7. Increase our community's capacity (more courage and fierceness!) to better respond to similar situations in the future.

Important additional information such as FOIA requests, Official Fire Report/Responses to FOIA Requests, Status Reports 1-5 and all pertinent correspondence is available at the Sisters, Redmond and Bend Public Libraries (Reference Desk).

History of the fire:

The Bear Butte and Booth Lake Fires (subsequently known as B & B or B & B Complex Fire) started as separate fires within hours of one another on August 19th 2003 as then President Bush prepared to speak in Camp Sherman about the congressional extension of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act. Both of the "parent" fires of the B & B started on August 19th, and sadly before the resultant B & B Complex Fire was contained on September 26th, it burned 90,769 acres, and \$38 million in suppression costs, the largest ever in Central Oregon history. The fire was a huge conflagration, crowning and leaping, and burning for over a month, stripping more than 100 square miles of some of the most beautiful pristine areas of the Cascades - your public land - down to bare soil and scorched rocks.

Separate teams from an Interagency Task Force, chaired by U.S. Forest Service employee (Special Agent Ron Pugh), studied each fire and concluded that both were "likely" (his word) lightning caused "although the specific cause could not be determined....by evidence at the scene" (again his words). The previous lightning storm over the area had been 11 days prior to

these ignitions which lead to the public's universal disbelief in the conclusion of the investigation. Mr. Pugh – who now supports our call for an external re-investigation - did admit the timing of the fires fueled intense public speculation that the fires were set to make a political point about the Bush administration's proposals for thinning forests to alleviate fire threats, which was the single stated purpose of the President's visit to the Camp Sherman area. The official report combined the two fires into one fire even though they were investigating the beginning (not the end) of 2 separate fires that started over 15 miles apart (and later burned together).

Our Committees“connecting of the dots”:

Pre-Fire Related

- The “curious” flight path of an unmarked secret service surveillance helicopter which, in addition to harassing a hiker on the side of Maxwell Butte, repeatedly flew over the Booth Lake ignition site (the pilot's excuse was he was scouting for deer).
- Two individuals seen camping at Fish Lake and then later seen walking toward the Booth Lake ignition site.
- The lack of any evidence on the super-sensitive heat sensors on the three helicopters (that made multiple passes over these areas for days before the fires) of any “hotspots” that would have been residual from the previous lightning strikes that allegedly stood up eleven days later.

Booth Lake Related

- The radio call from up on the Santiam pass reporting that “we found an incendiary device at one of the ignition sites” (We assume the Tamarack site but it could have also been the Bear Butte site since Booth Lake was still exploding and unapproachable for days). This radio call was “overheard” in the Sister Ranger District office and also all over Camp Sherman – which should substantiate the report and who made it. The official reports claims this referred to the safety flare they found on the side of the road; but, why then did they reference to “at one of the ignition sites”.
- The conversation between Tony Foster, Dennis Luke, Les Styles and Ron Pugh in a SUV driven by Sheriff Styles in which Ron Pugh's twice declared (reportedly as fact) “this is a lightning caused fire” within a couple hours of the start of the fire and long before he began to investigate.

Bear Butte Related

- An oddly dressed (pretending to be USFS) group who were caught at the launch site (likely close to the Jefferson Lake trail head) by a local first responder crew who arrived at that scene of the “launchers” only to be told (oddly) to leave.
- The reports from the same group of local “first responders” of “something heavy being carried on a stretcher, under a tarp with a barrel shape”, (likely an “avalanche buster”) that was being loaded into a pick-up truck. It is, of course, significant since this happened at a time equipment would have been unloaded to be deployed into the Bear Butte area.
- The Warm Springs Tribe helicopter crew report that the first location of a fire at Bear Butte was in the top half of a tree. A smoldering lightning struck tree would, of course, had the fire in the bottom half of the tree.

Post Fire Related

- The immediate transfer (from the Sisters R.D. to Alaska) of a US Forest Service employee who knew of the “sophisticated detonation device(s)” at one or more of the ignition sites and who insisted that the fires should be investigated as arson.
- Pugh investigatory committee's reported struggle (I've heard the committee was nearly evenly split on this issue) not to extend their investigation for 2 additional weeks in order to look into the unlikely deer scouting story concocted by the National Guard Officer who piloted the helicopter.
- The hour long conversation between the lead investigator and author of the official report, Ron Pugh, and the B & B Truth and Reconciliation Convener which lead to Ron Pugh agreeing the Fire should be re-investigated in light of the information that has come forward since his committee finished its work early in 2004.
- Mr. Pugh's comment related to the \$31,000 needed to obtain the 53 tubs of documents that make up the complete report of fire that you don't need the \$31,000, you only need

my closing statement to the Committee "We should leave no stone unturned, now or in the future. And it sounds, Mr. King, you have found a few stones that need to be turned".

- As of this date, none of the following public officials have responded (in writing) to our Committee's requests for help: Tom Lyons who is the new USFS Lead Investigator and "Special Agent in Charge". (360 891-5270), David Ferrell who is the Director of US Forest Service Law Enforcement, Hank Kashdan who is the Deputy Chief of the US Forest Service and reportedly in charge of the USFS Law Enforcement and Investigation unit. Mr. Kashdan has been helpful in other ways., Doug Larson who is the Oregon State Police Arson Investigator in Bend, John Kroger who is Oregon's Attorney General, Ted Kulongowski who is Oregon's Governor, Paul Bell who is the Chief of Fire Protection in the Oregon Department of Forestry. Who has acted to protect a supervisee who has "obstructed" our efforts by denying our access to the most knowledgeable resource persons and freedom of information expected to elected officials, Jim Atkins who is the Jefferson County Sheriff, Larry Blanton who is the Deschutes County Sheriff, and Rhonda Schantz, who is the FBI agent involved (but denies so) in gathering evidence, for example: confiscating and refusing to return the private party's photos from the top of the Middle Sister of the start of both fires that show simultaneous ignitions with very little wind at the moment of ignition.

Motivational Issues:

Our Committee expects and can appreciate the risk adverse behaviors and "conflict avoidance" of almost everyone responsible for investigating the B & B Fire). However, the fact that there is now ample evidence of arson as the cause from testimony of many witnesses, Oregon State Department of Forestry's blatant efforts to obstruct staff cooperation and information sharing with policy makers, along with multiple retirements in key positions in the USFS; clearly suggests the time has arrived for all the Federal, State, and County law enforcement agencies to henceforth end their harassment and minimizing of B&B leaders for their courage to speak up and instead serve the "publics" that funds their salaries by beginning an externally monitored, authentic and transparent re-investigation of the 2003 B&B Fire.

Toward that end, there are several significant developments:

1. The voluntary changes in leadership, a less combative tone of dialogue and committee demands and dropping of any mention of the rumored local homicide, and the prior administration officials by name.
2. The on-going, informal negotiations with senior officials in the USFS/Undersecretary of Agriculture offices regarding the overdue change to, and benefit from, having all major federal lands wildfires investigated externally (preventing any future administration official or political operatives to order arson and/or fictitious reporting about fire causes).
3. Cooperation from Senator Wyden and specifically his staff's recent request for "best practice" models for conducting external investigations AND his current assignment on the Senate Subcommittee overseeing the Forest Service that ideally positions him to request the General Accounting Office (GAO) review of current wildfire investigations, in general and the 2003 B&B Fire in particular.
4. Comments by Van Jones (the former environmental advisor to President Obama) that "Your case (in Oregon) has become a widely watched challenge to the previous administration officials' blatant level of disrespect and disregard for your personal safety, our precious natural resources, and the American rule of law". Based on the recommendations of Mr. Jones, all the pertinent documents have been forwarded to both President Obama (who expressed appreciation) and Attorney General Eric Holder along with the current Governor and Attorney General of the State of Oregon, along with all the conservation groups who collect dues and claim to defend our waters, wild lands, and forests.

PETER DAUGHERTY, STATE COUNCIL
Memo to: Oregon Board of Forestry Rewritten after testimony at March 3rd meeting
From: Jim King PhD, Chair
B&B Fire Committee (Jim King, Brian Metke, Pete Schay and Roger White)
Camp Sherman, Oregon
Re: Key Fire Matters before the ODF Board (revisited after lack of response)

In testimony and documentation provided at March 3rd meeting, we provided:

- 1) Proof the 2003 B&B Complex Wildfire was not lightning caused. (Jewkes Letter to Metke)
- 2) Evidence of ODF involvement in the arson that started the Wildfire
- 3) Evidence that Chris Dahl death was the result of cruel correspondence from ODF staff
- 4) Evidence of, at least, one fraudulent applications to Western States Governors Association
- 5) Evidence that ODF managers (George Ponte and Bob Young) were involved in coordinating the arson that started the fire and in the cover-ups of evidence from B&B the Fire Committee and other groups after the fire (Friends of the Metolius)
- 6) Evidence that ODF was directly responsible for the death of Chris Dahl and the denial of financial responsibility for his loss (2.2 million) of 160 acres of timber because of mistakes made by ODF employee trying to "backlight" a fire to stop the advance of the B&B fire.

Given that two (George Ponte and Bob Young) of the four persons responsible for the B&B fire were ODF managers; our committee demands that ODF:

- a) Publicly acknowledge that the USFS position that the B&B fire was NOT caused by lightning is valid and should guide actions of all land management agencies in the future.
- b) Provide written apology to, and settle the financial dispute with Trish Dahl. Chris Dahl wrote a detailed explanation for the 2.2 million owed for ODF negligence in managing fire suppression efforts nears their property in Camp Sherman.
- c) Provide written apologies to the spouses and families of the three persons who died because of B&B, (Rebecca Sokol, Mark Foster, and Trish Dahl)
- d) Publicly admit that, at least one grant application by Bob Young and George Ponte to Western States Governors Association was fraudulent in that Young and Ponte knowingly omitting data regarding fire risk dangers and the celebrated leadership of the Upper Deschutes Natural Resource Coalition (UDRNRC) in addressing fire risk of neighborhoods in the Upper Deschutes River watershed. ODF, under pressure from various fire managers from USFS and BLM, redirected \$400,000 of the \$600,000 to the UDRNRC (which had 0% indirect costs and 100% of the funds went to fire risk reduction activities). Yet even after being challenged in a meeting that the ODF 25% indirect cost was "ludicrous"; ODF retained it's 25%.

Our Committee urges ODF to join the other land a management agencies:

- I) In efforts to restore credibility of USFS and BLM in communities served by those agencies.
- II) Pursue prosecutions of persons known to be guilty of crimes.
- III) Demanding the federal elected officials pass legislation that will prevent future arson, cover-ups, and mismanagement of public forest resources: 1) The USFS (and ODF) cannot investigate it's own fires, 2) That protections on a particular forest (eg, Wilderness, Wild and Scenic River Protection, etc.) remain in place even after a wildfire to eliminate the current incentives to use arson to get around those protections, and 3) Funds for fire prevention and suppression go directly to the Ranger Districts to eliminate the current "gaming" that goes on at the Regional Offices.

As mentioned to the Board, your agency's history of deny and delay on this matter will not go unpublicized and unchallenged.

Cc. Oregon media, Senators Wyden and Merkley and Oregon Congressional delegation and State Legislators whose districts were burned by the B&B arson.



File Code: 6270
Date: November 1, 2019

Brian R. Metke
26311 SW Metke Lane
Camp Sherman, OR 97730

Dear Mr. Metke:

This letter is my response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated October 7, 2019, you are requesting a copy of the satellite maps of the lightning strikes covering central Oregon occurring 3 weeks (inclusive) prior to the ignition of the B & B Complex fire.

In response to your request, we conducted a search for responsive electronic and hard copy records, in the following physical office locations: Deschutes National Forest Supervisor's Office in Bend, Oregon, and the Sisters Ranger District Office in Sisters, Oregon. Within those offices, we searched in every place where a reasonably knowledgeable professional could expect to find records pertaining to your request. Due to the B&B Complex fire occurring in 2003 (16 years ago) we are past the file retention period for these records and they have been shredded. Fire Package - Incident Administrative Records (File Code 5180) have a retention period of 7 years and Law Enforcement Investigation (File Code 5320) have a retention period of 10 years. The original map you are requesting is no longer available; however, we do have a more recently created map displaying the same data. Enclosed in entirety is 1 page of records responsive to your request. I believe this fully satisfies your request.

If you have any questions please contact Sasha Fertig (FOIA Coordinator) at sasha.fertig@usda.gov. Please identify your request by the assigned control number 2020-FS-R6-00141-F.

Sincerely,

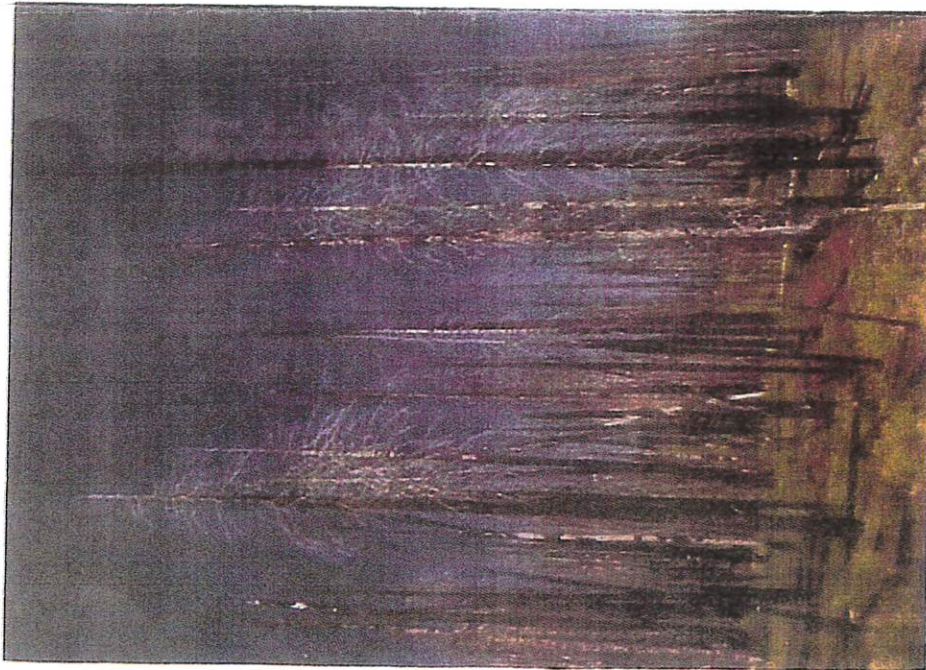
HOLLY JEWKES
Forest Supervisor

Enclosure



Attachment 1
Page 171 of 173

Your
Deschutes National Forest
after the B&B Fire!



Educate yourself on

www.bandbfirevisited.org

Read Oregonian articles

Les AuCoin's "Don't Get Hosed"

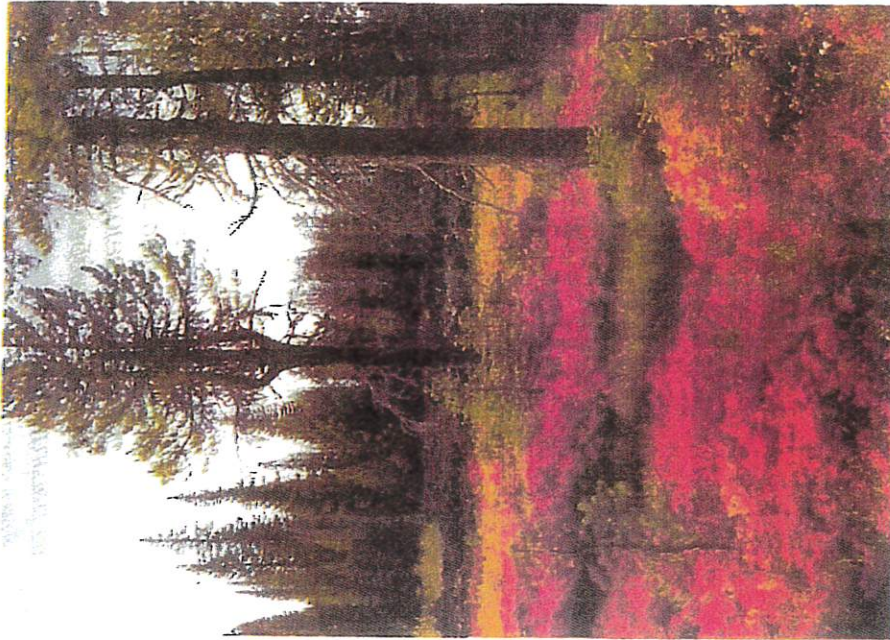
Robert F. Kennedy's Rolling Stone Article,

B&B Committee's Connecting The Dots

Dr. King's It's About Time: The 12 Year Saga

B and B Truth Convention--Sisters, Oregon- March 5 & 6
Save a Seat (Only 200) at www.bandbtruthconvention.webs.com
Donations at Door at Camp Sherman Community Hall

Your
Deschutes National Forest
before the B&B Fire!



We Need Your Help
to Prevent Another
B&B Arson!

*Ric Eigenbright Photography

AGENDA ITEM A

Attachment B

Page 172 of 173

How You Can Help:

First, by contacting Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley to support policy changes:

- 1) To require all future wildfires on federal lands to be investigated externally
- 2) Fire suppression funding be returned to federal land management agencies.
- 3) All pre-fire protections on a particular forest remain in place after fires to avoid incentivizing arson.

Secondly, by contributing to our committee's efforts. It is estimated over a million dollars has been spent to hide or suppress the truth about the B&B arson and much more is expected to be spent to discredit our efforts. Such "mischief" has already occurred by arresting Dr. King. By contrast, our Committee is in debt and needs your donation in order to continue our efforts to pressure the authorities to deal with the cover-up and make the policy changes to prevent a recurrence.

You can contribute on-line (with PayPal or credit card) at our website (www.bandbfirevisited.org), or mail it to:

Our Website (that can accept testimony):

www.bandbfirevisited.org

Our Phone (that can take recorded messages):

541 595-0120

Our Post Office Box:

PO Box 423,

Camp Sherman, OR 97730

Pertinent Quotes and Comments:

"They burned the heart out of Oregon... and we have to heal it."

Governor John Kitzhaber (Whose beloved Metolius area was specifically targeted by arsonists).

"When we don't question this kind of thing, we have given up our humanity, and when we give up our humanity, we have become an oppressed people." Nelson Tutu (Who recently spoke in Bend about her father - Desmond Tutu's struggles in South Africa).

"There is no god higher than truth," Mahatma Gandhi (Whose life and writings still serve to inspire many of us).

"We should leave no stone unturned, now or in the future," Ron Pugh (Who led the original U.S.F.S investigation and now supports the re-investigation of B & B in light of the new information that has surfaced since his group completed its work).

"Your case in Oregon comes down to not letting the authorities get away with such disrespect and disregard for your personal safety, our natural resources, and the American rule of law," Van Jones (Who was the environmental advisor to President Obama).

"I was shocked that people were willing to live with this obvious lie. As a therapist and change consultant, I know nothing ever changes if we don't speak the truth about the current reality," Dr. Jim King (Who has led the B&B effort).

Our Goals:

1) A policy change requiring all future wildfires on federal lands to be investigated externally.

2) A policy change returning fire suppression funding to the federal agencies.

3) A policy change ensuring all pre-fire protections remain in place after fires to eliminate incentives for arson.

4) Obtain a credible external re-investigation of the B&B Fire.

5) Educate the community about the issues, re-investigation and the progress of the policy changes.

6) Re-establish credibility in the land management agencies, the Oregon Department of Forestry and the US Forest Service.

7) Restore Oregonians' trust in personnel from these agencies working in our forests and communities.

8) Heal the sense of betrayal that grew out of what happened and how it has been mishandled by our government agencies.

9) Rededicate ourselves to be better stewards of our sacred planet.

10) Build community and leadership capacity (more courage and fierceness!) to better respond to these situations in the future.

To: Oregon Board of Forestry
2600 State Street
Salem, Oregon 97310

Date: March 5th, 2020

From: Thomas D. Andrade
64715 Hunnell Rd
Bend, Oregon 97703

Re: Public Comment, March 4th, 2020 (Jim King)

My name is Thomas D. Andrade I am retired from the Oregon Department of Forestry and the US Forest Service. Currently, I am a part time instructor at Central Oregon Community College in the School of Forestry.

It has come to my attention that on March 4th, 2020 an individual by the name of Jim King appeared before you during the public comment period of your agenda.

Mr. King referred to me personally in four separate statements, all of which would lead one to believe that I support his theories concerning the origin of the B & B fire that occurred in 2003.

Nothing can be further from the truth.

Like many fire and law enforcement personnel in Central Oregon I have had contact with Mr. King and in particular his theories regarding the origin of the B & B fire. He has the propensity to change and /or manufacture facts to fit his theories and in doing so incorporate names of those he has either contacted and or knows in some manner.

Please be aware that I do not support his theories or opinions concerning the B & B fire I never have and I never will.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas D. Andrade". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Thomas" being the most prominent part.

THOMAS D. ANDRADE

PS. If possible, please read this letter into your official record.

Board of Forestry Work Plans

Climate Change and Forest Carbon Work Plan	2020					2021						2022		
	Apr	Jun	Jul	Sep	Nov	Jan	Mar	Apr	Jun	Jul	Sep	Nov	Jan	Mar
Issue: Assess Statutory Authority														
Milestones														
• Identify primary questions of interest		d												
• Request DOJ analysis			x											
• Receive legal analysis and report					i									
Issue: Establish Climate Change and Forest Carbon Strategic Goal														
Milestones														
• Review Goal G in Forestry Program for Oregon		d												
• Determine public input for goal revision		d												
• Conduct public input														
• Board workshop to revise goal				i										
• Establish new goal					D									
Issue: Analyze Existing Policies to Achieve Outcomes in face of Climate Change														
Milestones														
• Establish sequence to conduct full analysis of statutes and administrative rules			d											
• Identify priority for initial analysis			i	d										
• Interim report on initial analysis							TBD							
• Final report on initial analysis										TBD				
• Initiate second priority analysis										TBD				
Issue: Identify Gaps in Current Policy														
Milestones														
• To be determined following assessment of statutory authority and analysis of existing policies												i		
Issue: Mitigation and Adaptation Efforts														
Milestones														
• Harvested Wood Products and Sawmill Energy Report				i										
• Annual Update on Mitigation and Adaptation Efforts				i										
• Scenario Planning Model Review						i					AGENDA ITEM A			
• Update on Scenario Planning with focus on Management and Utilization Strategies										i	Attachment 3			
• To be determined											Page 2 of 4			

Overarching Issues Workplan	2020					2021							2022	
	Apr	Jun	July	Sep	Nov	Jan	Mar	Apr	Jun	July	Sep	Nov	Jan	Mar
Revise Board’s Strategic Plan														
Strategic Plan Values Statements														
• Review current Value statements		i												
• Determine public input process for revision of Values		d												
• Conduct public input														
• Adopt new Values statements for the Board’s strategic plan				i	D									
Climate Change Goal														
• Revise Goal G relating to climate change		(see Climate Change and Forest Carbon workplan)												
Dashboard for Strategic Plan														
• Review previous indicators and current status				i										
• Develop list of potential dashboard measures						d								
• Review potential sources and time responses of underlying data for potential measures								i						
• Adopt Dashboard										D				
Revise Remainder of Strategic Plan														
• Establish process to complete revision									i			D		
Ecosystem Services Valuation														
• Review potential uses and determine prioritiiy policy use of Ecosystem Services (e.g., future 714 Analyses, State Forest Management Plan, etc.)			i		d									
• Board review and selection of services to include in future analyses, including assessment of feasibility			i			i			D					
• Methodology Development										TBD when specific policy analysis requires valuation				
• Valuation														

AGENDA ITEM A

Attachment 3

AGENDA ITEM A

Attachment 3

Private Forests Division Work Plan	2020					2021							2022	
	Apr	Jun	Jul	Sep	Nov	Jan	Mar	Apr	Jun	Jul	Sep	Nov	Jan	Mar
Issue: Water Quality Topics														
Milestones														
❖ Siskiyou Streamside Protections Review	i	i	D											
❖ Western Oregon Streamside Protections Review				i							i			D
❖ ODF-DEQ Sufficiency Review Alignment		i		i		i	i		i		i			
Issue: Forest Practices Act (FPA) Rule Policy Review														
Milestones														
❖ Specified Resource Sites Rule Analysis: Marbled Murrelet					i									
❖ Specified Resource Sites Rule Analysis: Coho Salmon			i											
❖ Specified Resource Sites Policy Review							i							
❖ Implementation Study: Review/Reforestation				i							i			
Issue: Implement Legislative Direction														
Milestones														
❖ HB 3013 Wildlife Food Plots			D											
Issue: Board Updates														
❖ Operator of the Year						i							i	
❖ Committee for Family Forestlands Report and Appointments			D											
❖ Forest Practices Agency Meeting Report							i							i
❖ Forest Health Report				i							i			
❖ Forest Practices Monitoring Report				i							i			
❖ Urban and Community Forestry Report				i							i			
❖ Non-industrial Forest Landowner Report				i							i			
❖ Regional Forest Practices Committee Appointments				D							D			

2019 Operators of the Year



Gahlsdorf Logging Inc.
Pacific Forest Contractors, Inc.
Steve Jackson Logging


GOALS

- Recognize operators
- To improve public understanding of the Forest Practices Act



Authority

- **ORS 527.630** [E]ncourage economically efficient forest practices that assure the continuous growing and harvesting of forest tree species
- *Forestry Program for Oregon's Goal D*






Oregon Forest Practices Act:

Adaptable and informed by sound science

The Oregon Forest Practices Act reflects Oregonians' desires to use and enjoy Oregon's forests and protect its natural resources. It was the first law of its kind in the U.S. when the state Legislature passed it in 1971, and the Act and its rules have been changed many times in response to new scientific findings and evolving public needs and interests.

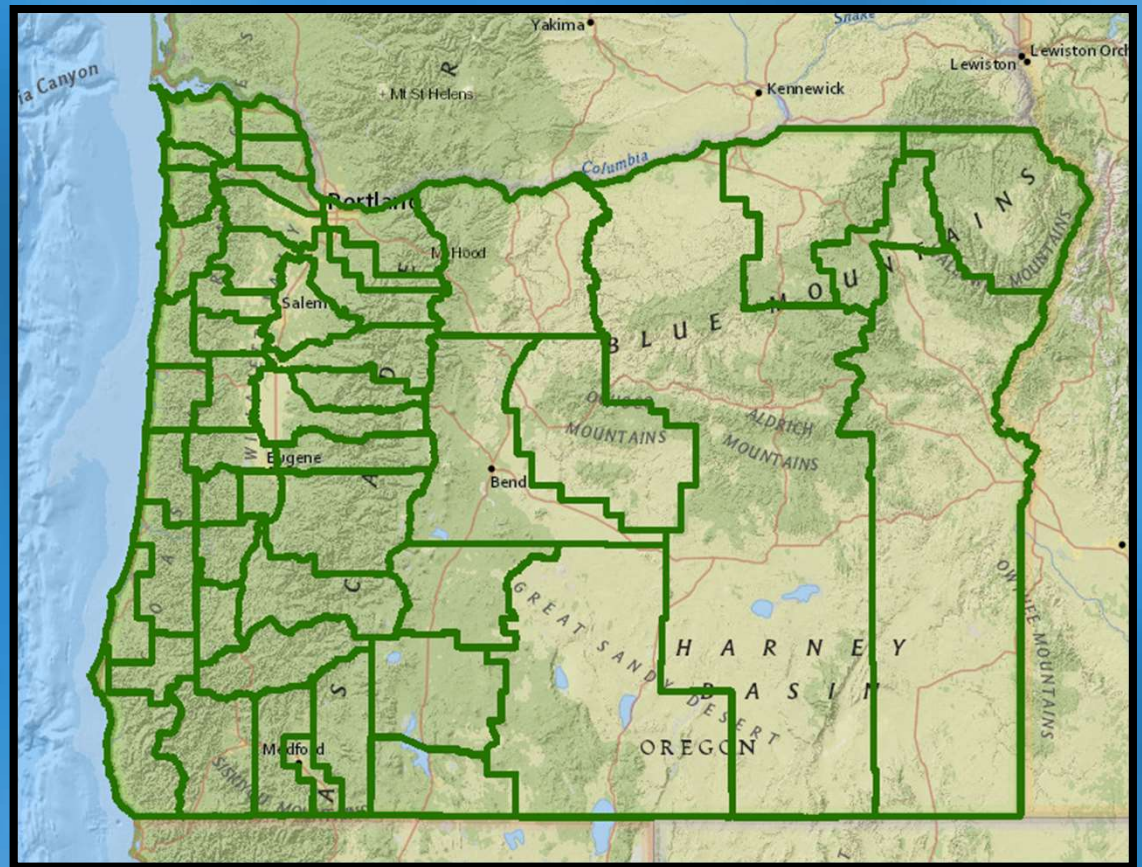
In a process that incorporates public input, the Board of Forestry – a seven-member citizen board appointed by the governor and confirmed by the state Senate – approves detailed rules to implement the Act's requirements. Here is a list of significant changes in the Act and its rules, which regulate forestry on private and state-owned lands.



Sept. 2017	Changed bald eagle rules revised to match their successful recovery!
July 2017	Increased streamside buffers around salmon, steelhead, and bull trout streams north of the Siskiyou region and west of the Cascades.
Jan. 2016	Set a minimum aerial pesticide no-spray buffer around homes and schools. This adds another pesticide law to existing state and federal laws for protecting people.
Mar. 2015	Improved wildlife food and habitat conditions by allowing landowners to change small forested areas to plants that can substantially contribute to wildlife food supply.

Honoring Work that Exceeds Natural Resource Protection Requirements

- Operators of the Year
- Merit Awards
- Commendation Letters



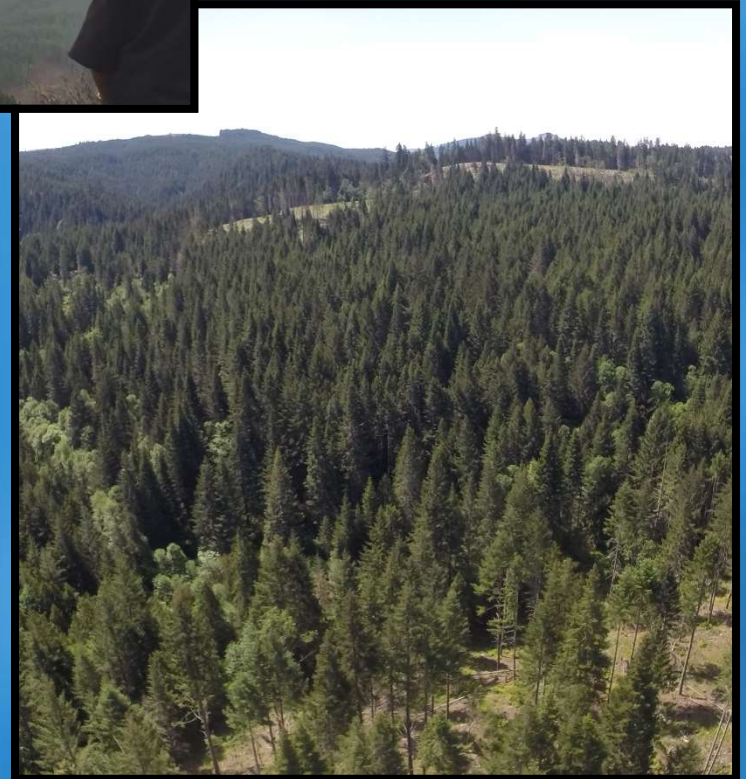
Who nominates?

- ODF Stewardship Foresters
- Logging Association Members
- Industry Members
- Communities
- Watershed Councils
- Anyone



Criteria

- Consistency
- Difficulty
- Results
- Innovation and extra effort
- Financial risk to operator



Selecting

Regional Forest Practices Committees

- Tour sites
- Review written nominations and videos
- Deliberate



Recognizing Quality

- Media
- Associated Oregon Loggers
- Oregon Logging Conference
- Oregon Small Woodlands Association
- Board of Forestry
- ODF outreach venues



Merit Award – NW Oregon C & C Logging, LLC



Frank Chandler
Co-owner
C + C Logging

C & C Logging (Kelso, WA)



Questions



Gahlsdorf Logging Inc.

Northwest Operator of the Year



Jim Gahlsdorf
Owner, Gahlsdorf Logging



Pacific Forest Contractors, Inc. Southwest Operator of the Year



Alex Davis
Co-owner, Pacific Forest Contractors



Steve Jackson Logging Eastern Operator of the Year



STEVE JACKSON LOGGING



AGENDA ITEM A

Attachment 4

Page 13 of 15

Questions



Thank You!



Jackson Logging, LLC



2019 Operators of the Year



Thank you Board of Forestry for letting me speak, I am Will Tucker, one of the Linn County Commissioners.

I serve on the Council of Forest Trust Lands Advisory Committee, I was voted in last November to continue to represent Benton, Lincoln, Polk, Marion and Linn Counties. I would like to speak in response to the questions of Commissioner Yamamoto at the January Board of Forestry meeting.

First I want to express my support of Chair Yamamoto, and his attempts to speak for the diversity of opinions of the Counties. He has the majority support of the voting members. As I believe I represent the will and wishes of the counties I represent. I am on occasion, at odds with one or two counties. As issue come up, I will on occasion test the counties I represent to make sure I am speaking for them. I take the time to always read drafts of the proposed comments and to make sure they are in line with the voice of my region. Chair Yamamoto has always accepted and considered my comments and issues in his testimony. He is often much softer spoken on an issue than I would be.

So I ask your indulgence as I respond now, not as a member of the FTLAC board, but as a County that has a contract with you for the management of lands in my county. I don't come to all of these meetings, but I am always interested in the action of the BOF and watch the recordings. I ask that you consider the rulings of multiple courts over the years, yes the most recent case is likely to be appealed, but until then, the rulings made in previous court case have set forth our understanding of the relationship between Counties and the BOF, as a special relationship, that has been expressed as a contract. An offer, an acceptance and performance

The contract is to manage the forest, for the benefits of the counties, taxing district and the ODF. When asking Chair Yamamoto about responding at the local level on climate change, I believe I represent Linn County when I say that cutting tress, in a sustainable manner that includes reforestation, compliance with Federal Laws and the Oregon Forest Practices Act is one of the ways Linn County works continually to convert carbon to trees, sequestering it in timber, producing clear air and forest products with our lands managed by the BOF.

Today, tomorrow and into the future, I believe I can tell you Linn County is considering doing the right things for the economy, the ecology and citizens of Linn County and Oregon.

Thank you.

Oregon Smoke Management Update

Board of Forestry

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

Doug Grafe, Chief of Fire Protection

Doug.Grafe@oregon.gov

**Michael Orman, Air Quality Planning Section
Manager**

michael.orman@state.or.us

Nick Yonker, Smoke Management Program Manager

Nick.J.Yonker@Oregon.gov

**Gabriela Goldfarb, Section Manager,
Environmental Health, Center for Health Protection**
gabriela.g.goldfarb@dhsosha.state.or.us

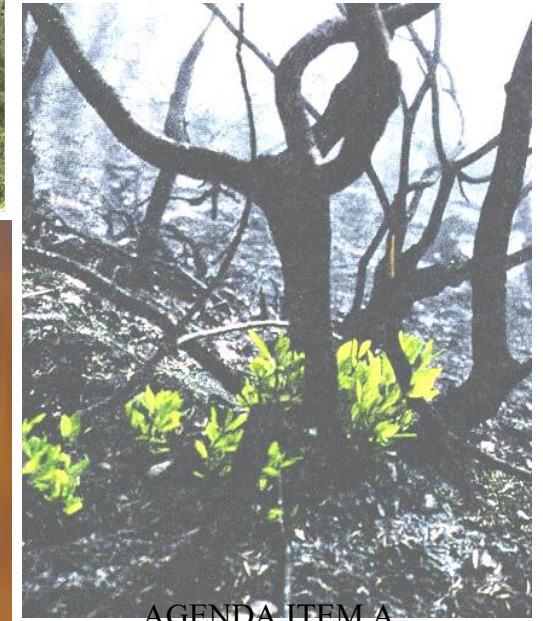
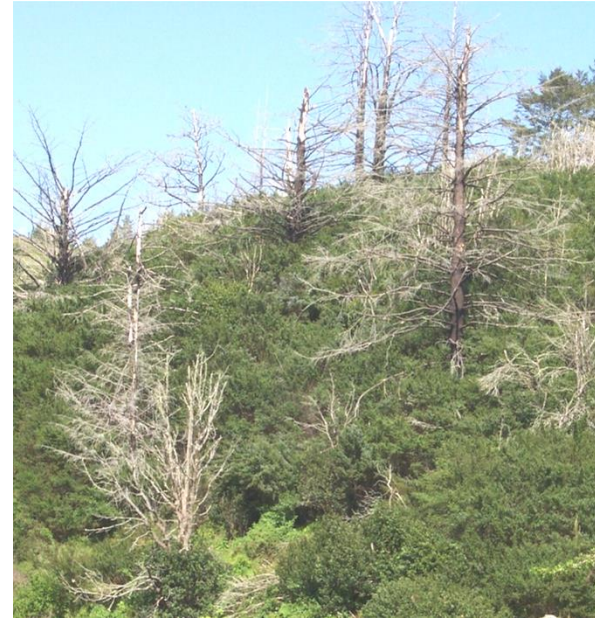


Goals of the Smoke Management Rules 2019 - Update

- Create more opportunity for the use of prescribed fire
- Preserve public health protection, including vulnerable populations
- Encourage timely and comprehensive communications



Prescribed Fire Use - Effective & Responsible



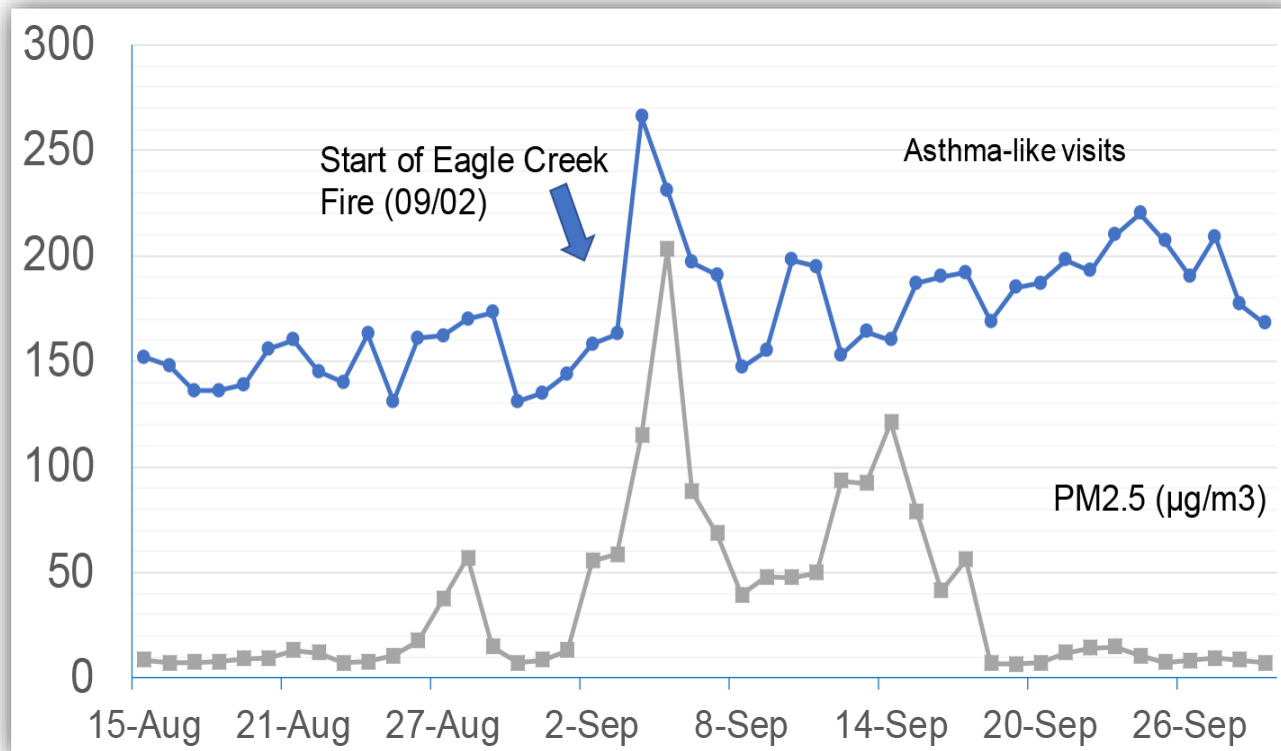


Community Response Plan



What do we know about health impacts from smoke events?

The Eagle Creek Wildfire example...



E.D. visits for asthma-like symptoms and PM2.5 maximum daily concentrations before and during the 2017 Eagle Creek Fire.

2020 Smoke Mitigation and Community Response Grants

Lakeview
Oakridge
Ashland
Enterprise / Wallowa County
Baker County



Alternatives to Pile Burning



Torrefied wood



Biofuels Facility



Biochar



Pellets Manufacturer



Export Pellets



Hog Fuel



ROI Carbonator

AGENDA ITEM A

Questions & Thank You!



Doug Grafe, Chief of Fire Protection

Doug.Grafe@oregon.gov

Nick Yonker, Smoke Management Program Manager

Nick.J.Yonker@Oregon.gov

Michael Orman, Air Quality Planning Section Manager

michael.orman@state.or.us

Gabriela Goldfarb, Section Manager,

Environmental Health, Center for Health Protection

gabriela.g.goldfarb@dhsosha.state.or.us

From: [Christina Lynn Martin](#)
To: [ODF DL Board of Forestry](#)
Subject: Public Comment for March 4th Meeting
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2020 1:05:07 PM
Attachments: [Public Testimony for March 4th.doc.docx](#)

Dear Board of Forestry,

We include in this email our public comment statement for your March 4th meeting regarding concerns about the current Smoke Management Rules, a photograph of Smoke that blanketed Williams on December 15th-18th. Also included here is a link to the burning of Slash Piles under current Rules filmed by our daughter and neighbors who were greatly effected by three days of thick smoke in December.

We appreciate you reviewing this and feel free to call us with any questions.

Sincerely,

Butch and Christina Martin
Grants Pass, OR
Applegate Valley
(541) 292-7829

Link to Youtube Video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RysXMysn_Sw

Board of Forestry Meeting of March 4th

Subject: Smoke Management Rules

3/3/2020

From: Butch and Christina Martin

Board of Forestry,

We first wanted to express our support for your efforts to reduce wildfire risk through fuel reduction, a goal we all agree on. It is fair to say that prescribed burns in rural yet populated areas have never been done on the scale that they are about to be conducted, therefore with estimated acreage to be treated annually, between 300,000 and 5.6 million, representing millions of slash piles to be burned, we ask you to reevaluate the current Smoke Management Rules. We believe that in order to ensure that the techniques being employed are safe, Smoke management rules must align with the Clean Air Act which was created based on scientific study of what is safe for human health. Because the current Smoke Management Rules are not aligned with the Clean Air Act, and lift the ceiling on safe limits, they represent a great danger to Oregonians, and we have experienced this first-hand in Applegate Valley. We recently documented in photography and video heavy smoke that blanketed the community of Williams, OR for three full days on December 16-18th of 2019. Clearance was given to the BLM, whose contractors were directed to burn on days of inadequate ventilation with clearance by the Oregon Department of Forestry. There were additional numerous days where smoke was thick, and visible in the Applegate Valley and Grants Pass from Forest Service and BLM burns of Slash on such days. We and many others believe that the following rules need to be changed, if we are to move forward while protecting human health. Additional statutes related to forecasting and inventories that allow for the exceeding healthful standards.

1. 629-048-0210 4. Large scale burning of Polyethylene Plastic PE on slash piles, does not take into account the double VOC emissions data for plastic covered dry piles over dry piles uncovered prior to burning. Plastic debris and melted plastic remains are all over the forest floor. Use of Kraft paper or plastic removal prior to burning should be the best practice.
2. 629-048-0180 3. This rule encouraging communities to exempt themselves from clean air standards set by the Clean Air Act and Cleaner Air Oregon, not only violates said acts but is in violation of 629-048-0010 of the Smoke Management Rules that calls for maintaining air quality while maximizing burning.

Complicating the burning of slash on days where emissions will exceed healthful standards, the smoke involved in most slash pile burns has twice the amount of volatile compounds when plastic is not removed prior to burning, as was the previous best practice. The 2016 ODF/EPA study incorrectly concluded that “there is no significant difference between dry plastic covered piles and dry piles uncovered prior to burning”. There is only no significant difference between both dry piles when contrasted on a graph next to wet piles which have highest emissions and must never be burned. In fact their study data showed double the amount of volatile compounds for plastic covered piles, which is very significant when you consider millions of piles will be burned per year.)Study Link: See Table’s 3 and 4). Just over our fence line on the BLM, we have between 7,000 and 10,000 piles which with the

plastic on is like burning 14,000-20,000 in emissions, which is a very significant difference. When asked about the test results and why they didn't make it into the study conclusion, Nick Yonker of Oregon Department of Forestry first spoke to me on the phone about the labor cost of removing the plastic, which led me to believe that financial feasibility was a driving factor in the VOC test results of the plastic covered dry piles and their double VOC emissions not being included in the study conclusion. The DEQ and EQC both signed off on the rules trusting that conclusion. Officially the study author Brian Gullet responded to explain that the VOC test did not run the 30-60 minutes they claimed it had in the methods section of the study, but only 12 minutes so it may not have represented the entire event. The study cost over 84,000 and yet we either have a VOC test that ran the 30-60 minutes as originally claimed, or we have an invalid VOC test and so either way, how can we forge ahead and expose Oregonians to large scale plastic burning around their homes. We believe we are on the verge of a public health crisis with a much greater cost in human suffering if we forge ahead and burn these larger sheets of plastic in huge management projects without proving this practice is safe.

The Smoke Management Rules fail to align with Cleaner Air Oregon and are in opposition to DEQ's and OHA's efforts to reduce exposure to harmful air pollutants through the Cleaner Air Oregon process. ODF and DEQ must not continue to circumvent the purpose and goals of Cleaner Air Oregon by allowing higher levels of air toxics caused by intentional burning, particularly in rural communities that are located near forest land.

The previous Smoke Management statutes (OAR 629-048-0230 1(e), set a goal of "avoiding" a situation where smoke pollution enters into a Smoke Sensitive Receptor Area (SSRA). The rules omitted the original word "avoid" and substituted the word "minimize." This is not a subtle word change. The word "avoid" has a very clear meaning akin to avert or circumvent, However the word "minimize" more closely aligns with words like lessen or reduce. Substituting the word "minimize" assumes that exposure to dangerous amounts of air pollution is now acceptable. The Smoke Management rules legalizes harmful and dangerous exposures to particle pollution and poor air quality. We urge the DEQ and ODF to return to Oregon's original intention to make avoidance the goal of Smoke Management. The DEQ and EQC should not continue to allow this increase of the public's exposure to higher levels of PM 2.5 and air toxics in wood smoke.

Community Response Plan and Exemption Request. 629-048-0180, encourages to County Governments to create community response plans and for County Commissioners to request an exemption from the one-hour smoke intrusion threshold allowing for prescribed burning emissions to exceed healthful standards and putting the burden on communities to protect themselves somehow against unhealthful air. Communities should not have to go into emergency mode in response to prescribed burning. The exemption designed to provide maximum opportunities for prescribed burning raises the ceiling for dangerous emissions to unhealthful levels. Rural communities cannot rely on "sheltering at home" as an emergency response plan. In their guidance document cited previously, the US EPA states that even sheltering at home is not a fully successful means of avoiding smoky air. It depends on how well a house limits smoke from coming in from outdoors. "Staying indoors works best in a tightly closed, air-conditioned home in which the air conditioner re-circulates indoor air ... newer homes are "tighter" and keep ambient air pollution out more effectively than older homes." For

communities with older homes and without air conditioning, the US EPA states that indoor concentrations of fine particles can approach 70 to 100 percent of the outdoor levels.” In very leaky homes and buildings, outdoor particles can easily infiltrate indoors, so that staying inside may offer little protection. It follows that, in poorer rural communities with older homes, sheltering indoors is not helpful, which may constitute inequities and greater health impacts and those who are forced to work outdoors and cannot afford to take off work are being adversely affected. The rule changes have particularly harmful to children living in rural areas or SSRA’s. Some communities like Applegate Valley which are very populated have not been designated SSRA’s and are completely unprotected. There is nothing in this plan to protect young children and school children from exposure to dangerous levels of fine particulate and general poor air quality from smoke intrusions. The lack of attention to childhood health is at cross purposes with Cleaner Air Oregon. It is very troubling that the rules seem to ignore the evidence of respiratory vulnerability of children, the elderly or infirmed, and pregnant women. Children, even those without any pre-existing or chronic conditions, are considered a sensitive population because their lungs are still developing, making them susceptible to air pollution. For example, the DEQ air pollution website states that exposure to fine particulate air pollution increases the risk of death from heart and lung disease as well as lung cancer. The DEQ also states that childhood asthma, triggered and exacerbated by fine particulate air pollution, is the most common chronic illness in children and the cause of most school absences. The Smoke Management rules must be more health protective and support the avoidance of smoke inhalation and its associated health impacts to children.

In conclusion, we agree that protecting communities from wildfire through prescribed burning is critical, that piles should be kept dry and covered, that communities should make response plans in case of wildfire and smoke from prescribed burning but that the Smoke Management Rules should insure that all forecasting and burning should be planned as to avoid unhealthful levels of smoke. The rules should call for use of Kraft paper or plastic removal prior to burning. (new heavier plastic seems to not break up and may have a second use).

In order for fuel reduction to meet clean air standards and still move forward, there would need to be alternative methods used in more cases in tandem with burning such as chipping and the creation of biochar, and/or adjusting the timeline on projects, which is where protecting human health becomes costly. There is no price that you can put upon saving people especially children from experiencing cancer. As the mother of a cancer survivor (Hodgkin’s Lymphoma), I know first-hand the heartbreak of watching a son or daughter go through chemo and have to live with the fear of if the cancer will return, or worse yet many lose their fight. I also have had a son and grandson who suffers asthma which can also be deadly in unhealthful air.

We believe in your ability to swiftly suppress wildfire and believe in ODF’s approach on this, and this is critical to give us time to accomplish fuel reduction at a pace that will not jeopardize rural resident’s health. We ask you to realign the Smoke Management Rules with the Clean Air Act, and Cleaner Air Oregon. We ask you to create best practices that do not include burning plastic that may contain twice the VOC’s as dry piles without and litters the forest floor. We believe that if you keep air within safe limits, that you have the tools within your war chest to go back to your contractors and combine methods of material disposal and still accomplish the goals you have set to minimize wildfire risk.

Changing the rules to meet these standards will not be difficult and implementation less difficult than you may think as contractors will help you respond with healthy solutions, even if it makes their job more challenging, that is how true innovation and best practices are created, because it will be in their best interest to keep good forward moving contracts that comply with Smoke Management rules that honor human health. In conjunction with other concerned citizens and environmental groups we intend to bring a rule making petition to this effect but hope you beat us to these changes.

In choosing to prioritize human health, as you accomplish fuel reduction, Oregonians will not suffer on the way to the worthy goal of preventing catastrophic wildfire. I have included a video that my daughter and her neighbors took of the burn in Williams and a photograph of the smoke that lay over her home for three days in December.

Sincerely,

Butch and Christina Martin

Applegate Valley Residents

(541) 292-7829



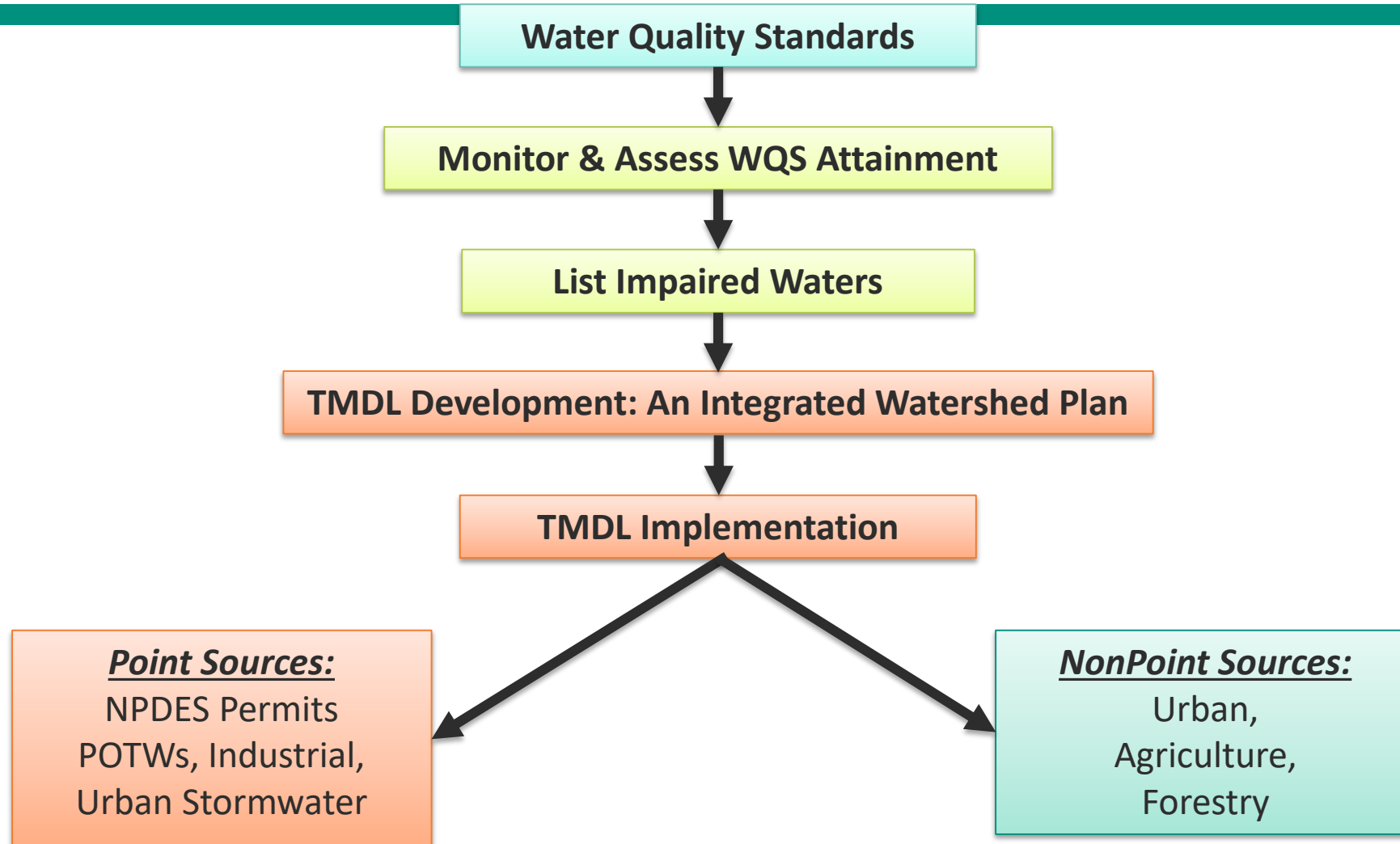
Overview: DEQ's Water Quality Framework, Data, and Information

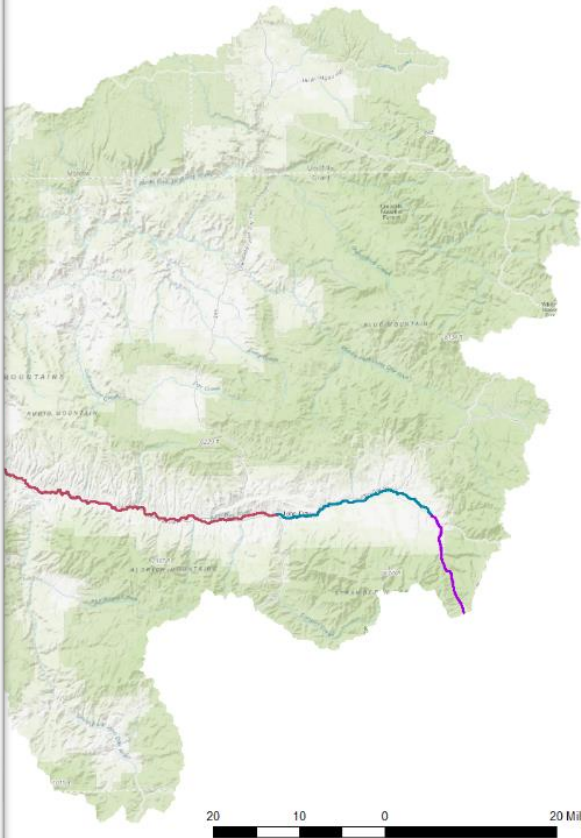
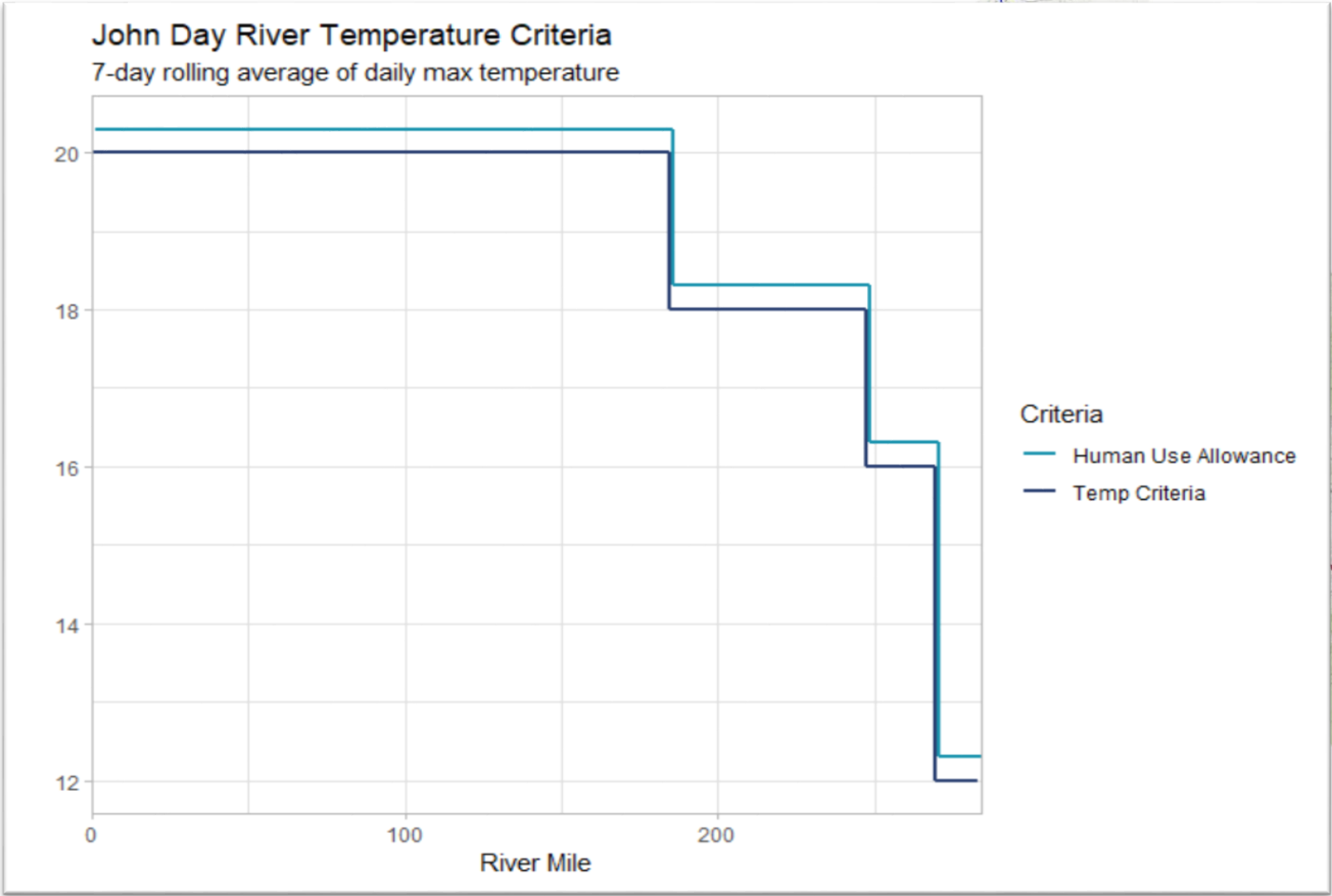
Agenda Item #7

Oregon Board of Forestry
March 4, 2020

Jennifer Wigal
WQ Deputy Administrator

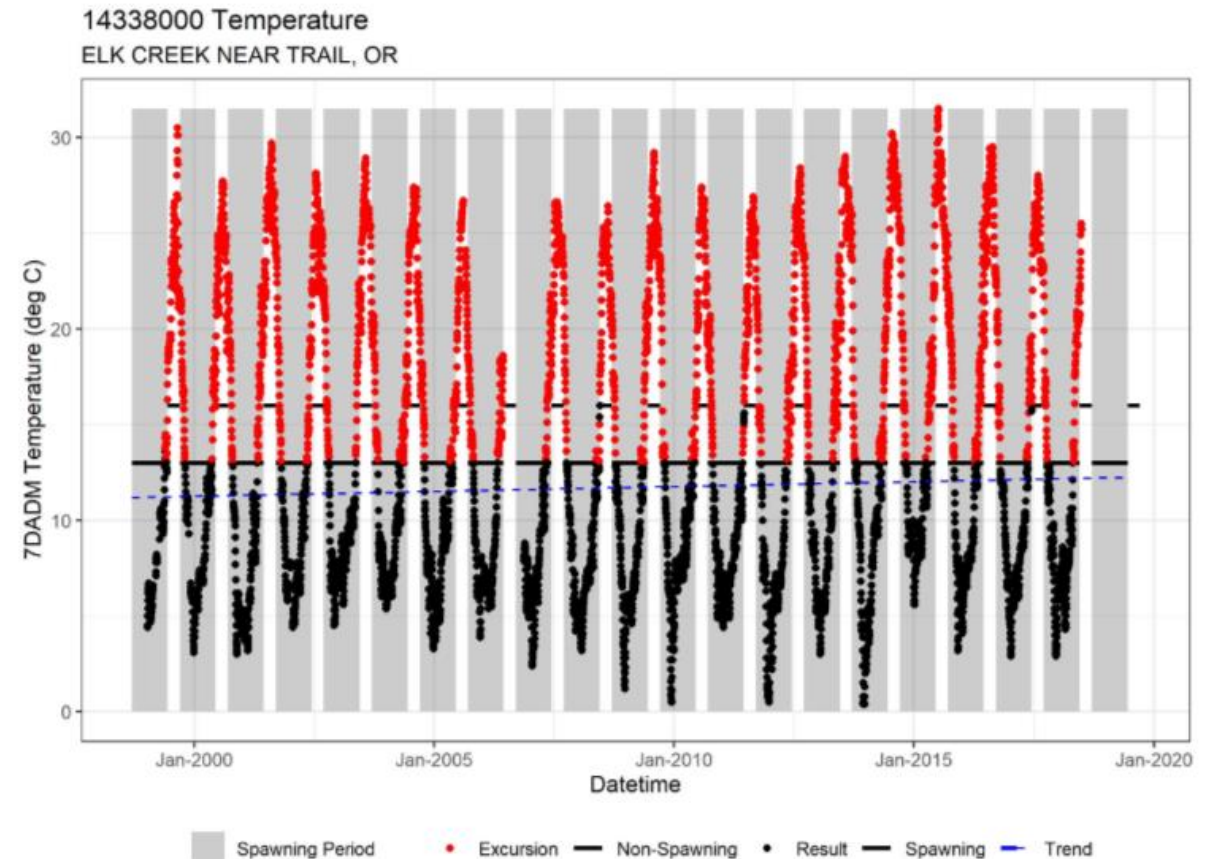
Clean Water Act Framework








Identifying waters as impaired

- Conduct “Call for data”
- 10 year window
- Review of data for quality
- Temperature: continuous data only


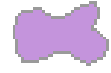



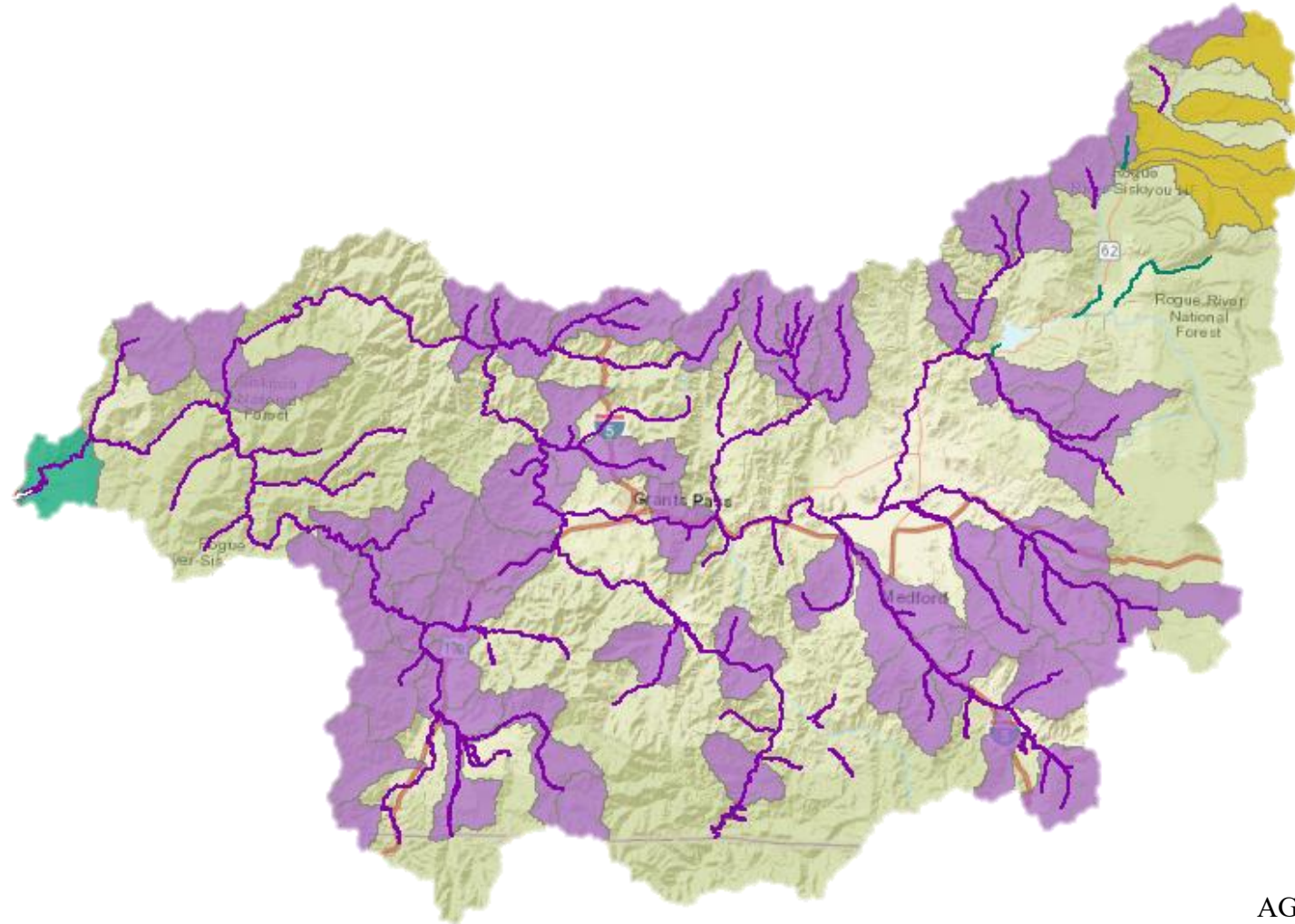
Rogue Basin Draft 2018/2020 Integrated Report Temperature Findings

Assessment Unit Status

-  Attains Temp Criteria
-  Impaired for Temperature
-  Insufficient Data- Temperature

Watershed Unit Status

-  Attains Temp Criteria
-  Impaired for Temperature
-  Insufficient Data- Temperature

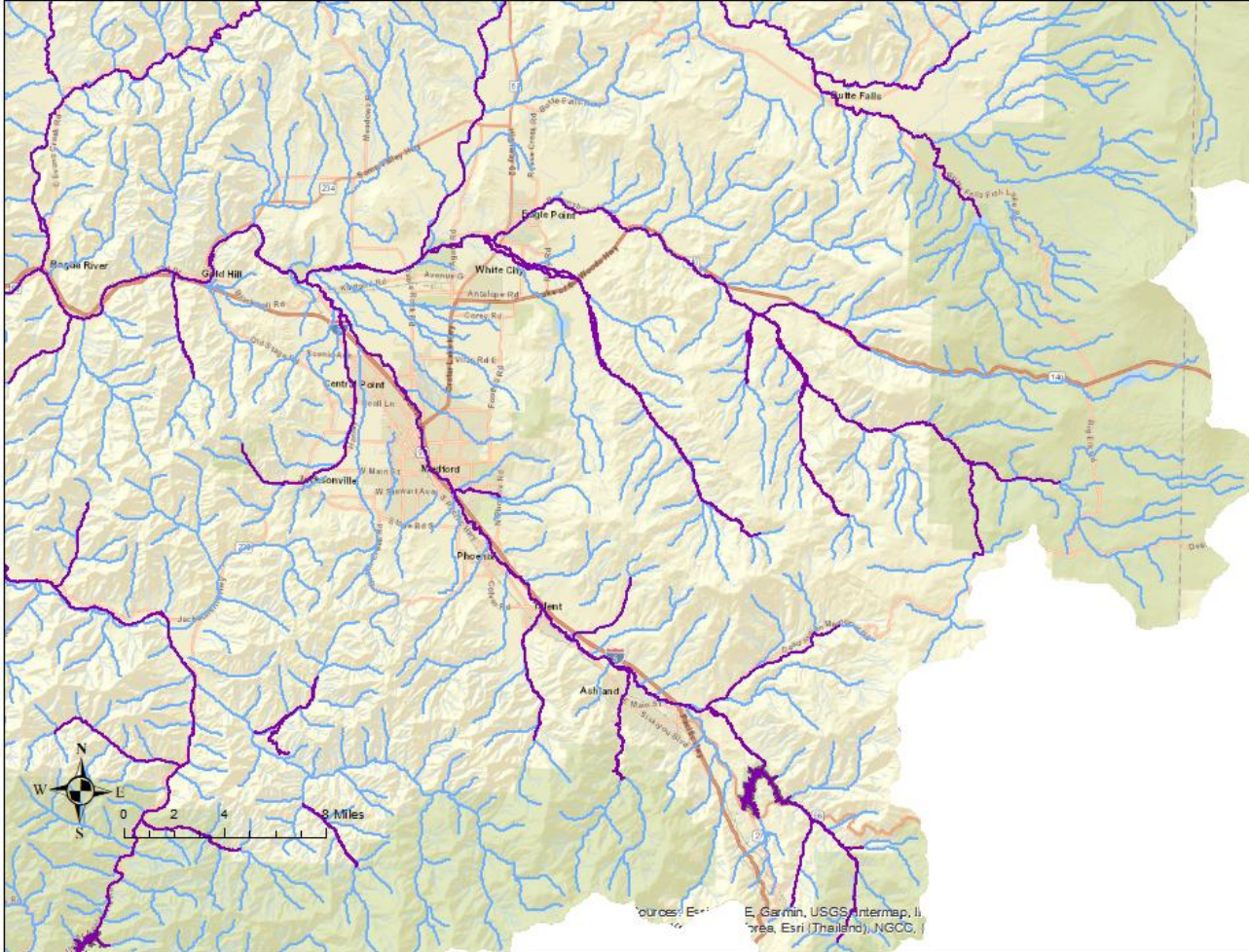


TMDL Development

Data and sources of data:

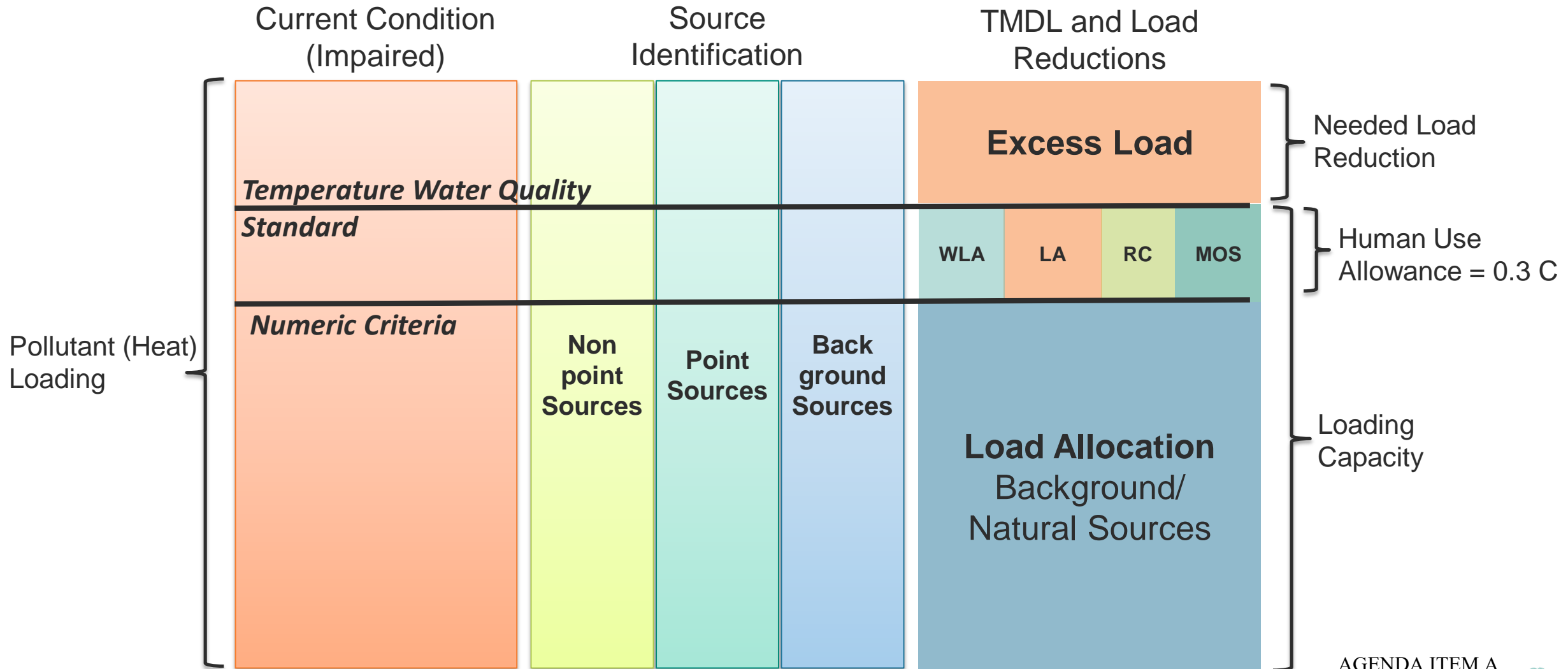
- Field collected data
 - Continuous in-stream temperature data, flow, habitat, effective shade
- Remote sensing information
 - LiDAR, aerial photography, etc.
- Literature
 - Journal articles, agency reports, etc.
- Local knowledge

Scale of TMDLs

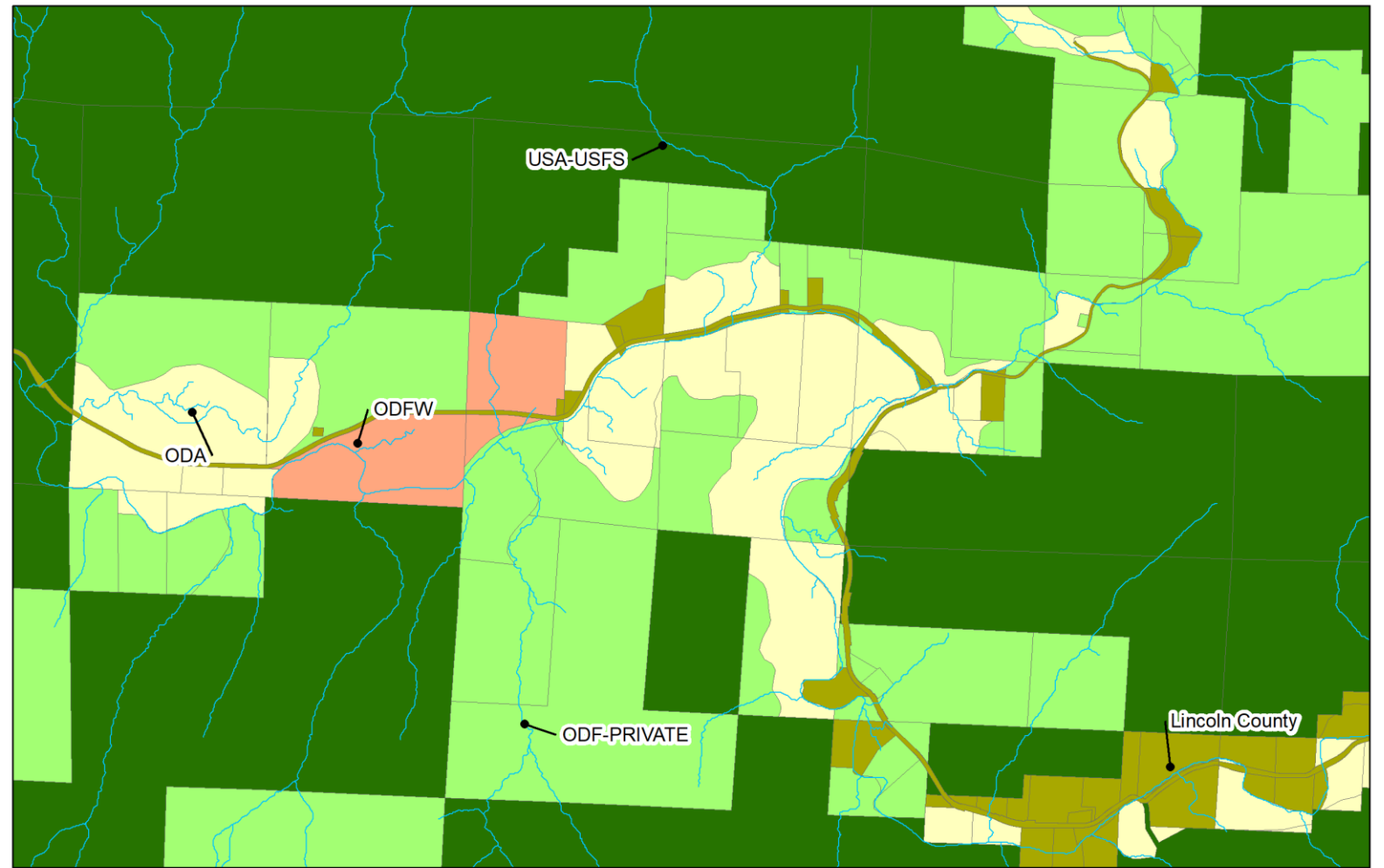


- TMDLs developed at subbasin scale
- Impaired streams + upstream
- Perennial and intermittent streams

Development of Temperature TMDLs



- Identifying areas of adjacent land by responsible entity
- Use this information in analysis to understand
 - Source of heat
 - Who's responsible
 - Inform allocations



Legend

Streams

Designated Management Agencies

- City of Yachats
- Lincoln County
- ODA
- ODF-PRIVATE

- ODFW
- ODOT
- OPRD
- OR-DSL
- USA-USFS

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles



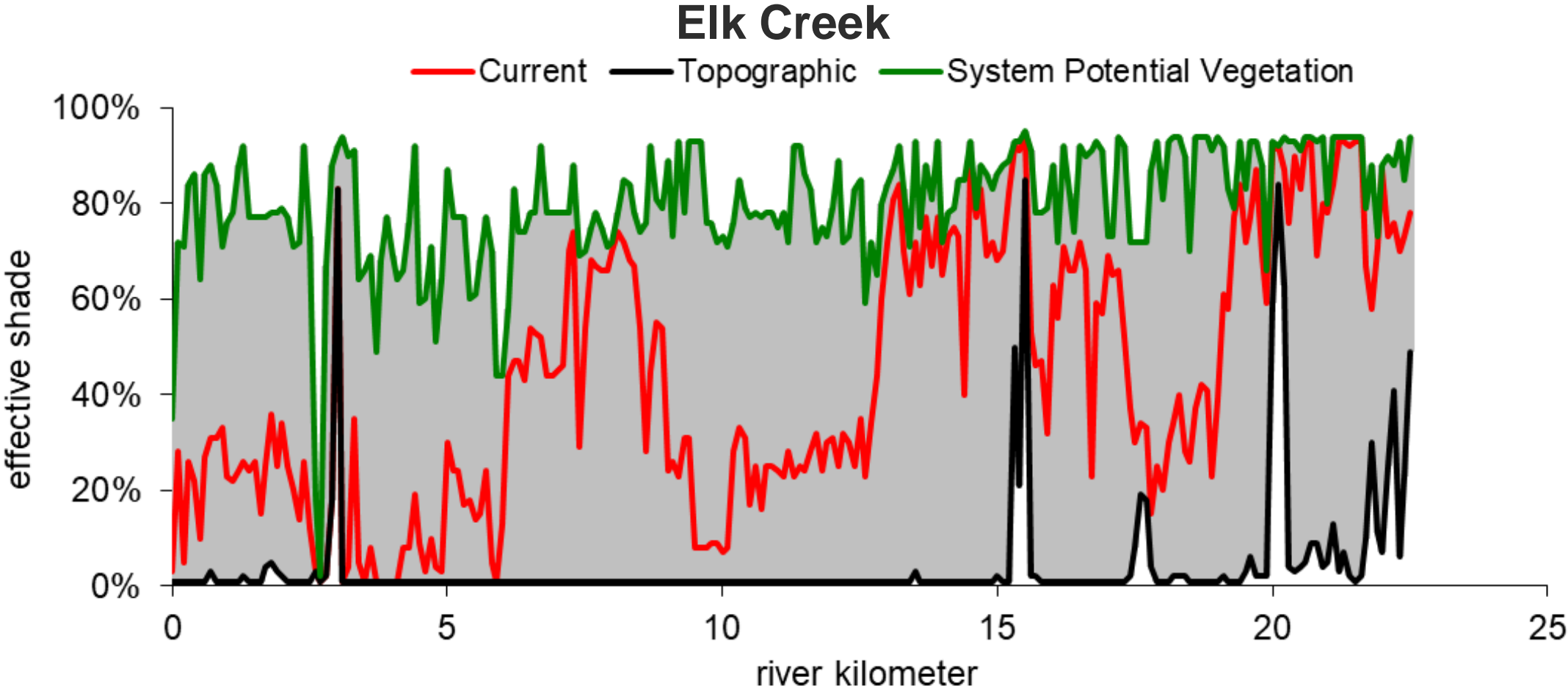
AGENDA ITEM A

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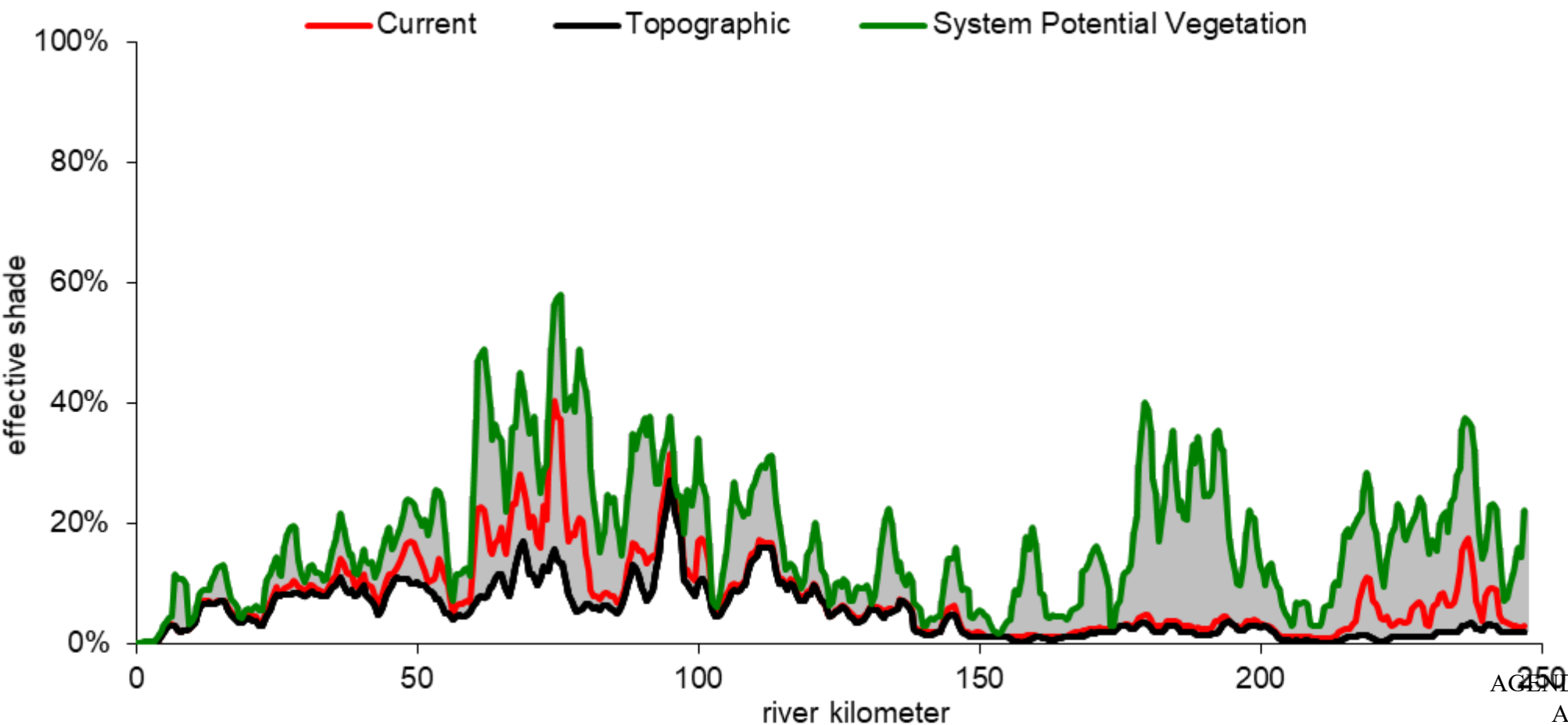


Elk Creek Mean Effective Shade		
Current (2001)	Topographic	System Potential
45%	7%	81%



Rogue River Mean Effective Shade		
Current (2003)	Topographic	System Potential
8%	5%	17%

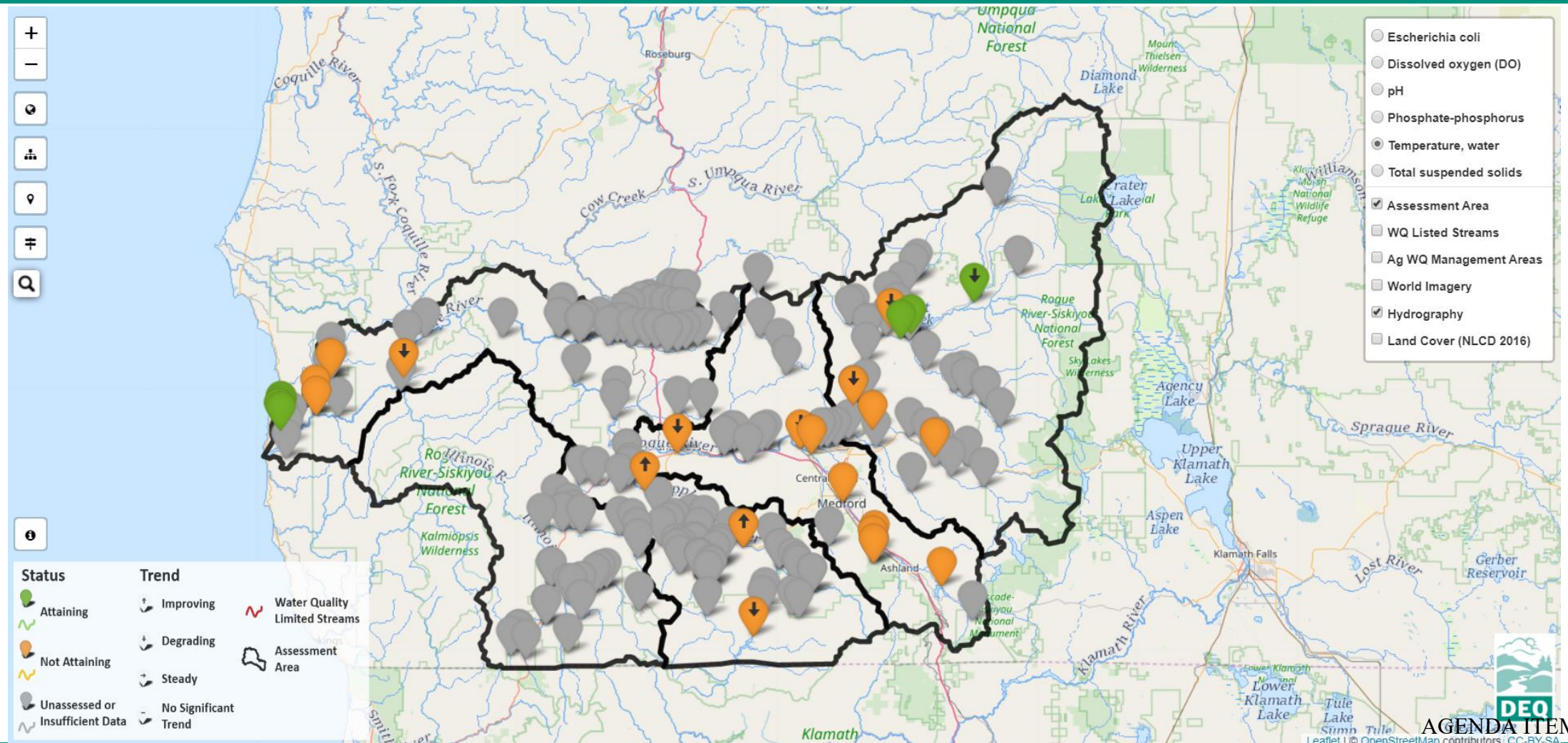
Rogue River



Implementing Allocations

- TMDL describes future state needed to achieve water quality standards
- General approach—
 - milestones and adaptive management
 - DEQ brings data to these conversations with entities responsible for nonpoint source reductions
- How forestry achieves outcomes is focus of this process

Status and Trend Information



https://deq15.deq.state.or.us/SC/WQWebReporting/wqst_2019/rogue/rogue_map.html

AGENDA ITEM A

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Status update on the Oregon Marbled Murrelet Project

Drs. Jim Rivers and Matt Betts, College of Forestry, OSU



Jaymi Heimbuch

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Attachment 9
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Oregon State University
College of Forestry

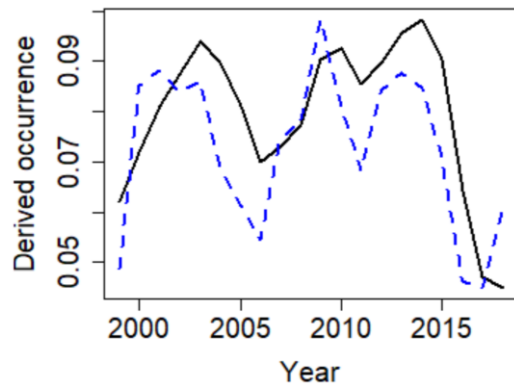
Three components for today's presentations



Critical knowledge gaps for Oregon murrelets



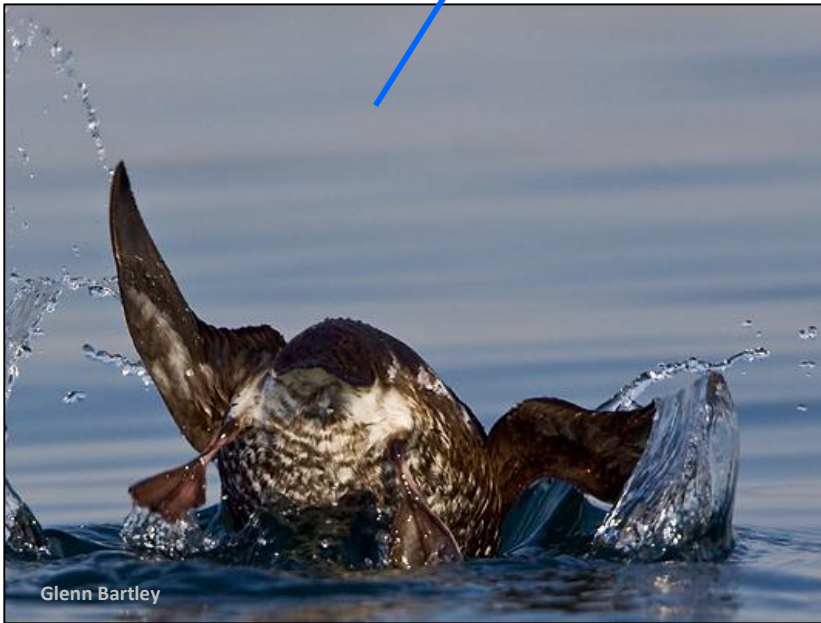
Update on demographic monitoring project



Modeling work regarding murrelet occupancy and changing ocean conditions

Murrelets are unique among North American seabirds because they require two distinct ecosystems

Generalists that obtain all food from the ocean



Nesting occurs within older coastal forests





Nesting data are limited, yet critical for recovering Oregon murrelet populations

~775,000 acres of higher suitability habitat (Raphael et al. 2018)

Only 29 active nests located prior this study



OREGON MARBLED MURRELET PROJECT



Jaymi Heimbuch



Mid-day provisioning of forage fish

OSU Bird Cam #5 Recording in progress. Camera Temperature 74.9 09/15/2018 11:08:21



Unexpected afternoon nest visitor

05U Bird Cam #5 Recording in progress. Camera Temperature 83.1 08/15/2018 16:05:46



Successful fledging from the nest

05U Bird Cam #6 Recording in progress. Camera Temperature 85.9 09/07/2018 06:25:57

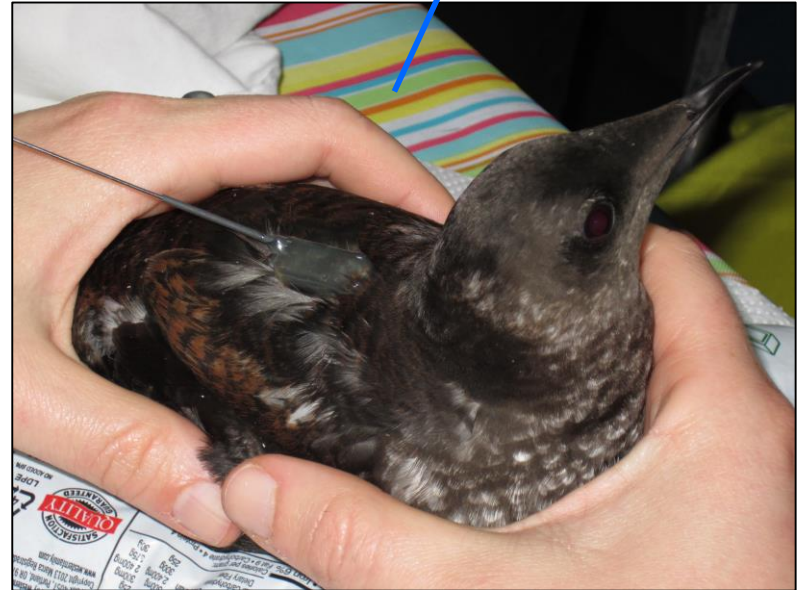


The number of individuals tagged in 2019 was reduced relative to previous years

Captures restricted to 39%
(13/33) of scheduled nights

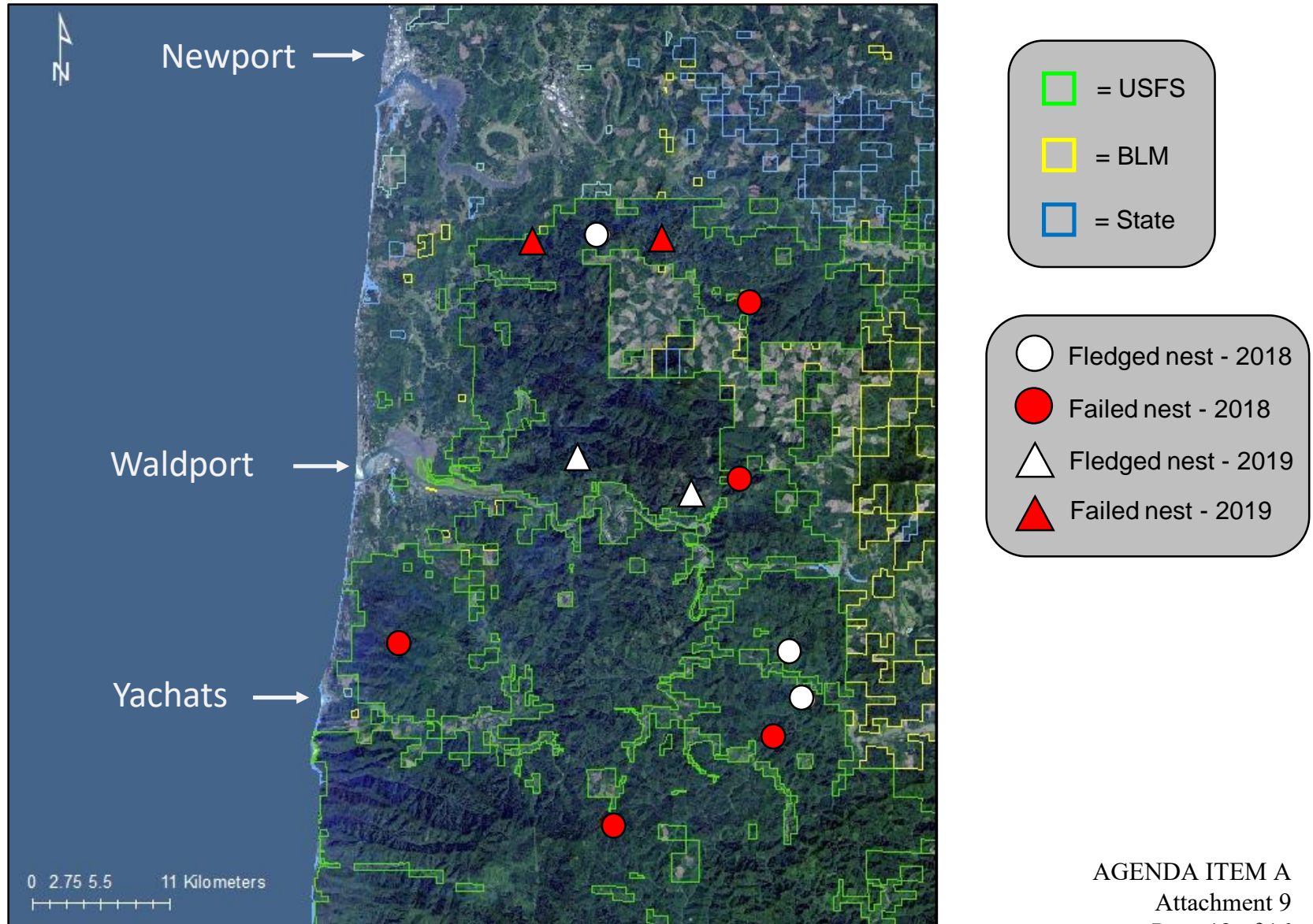


Radio-tagged 74% of the
individuals captured (53/72)

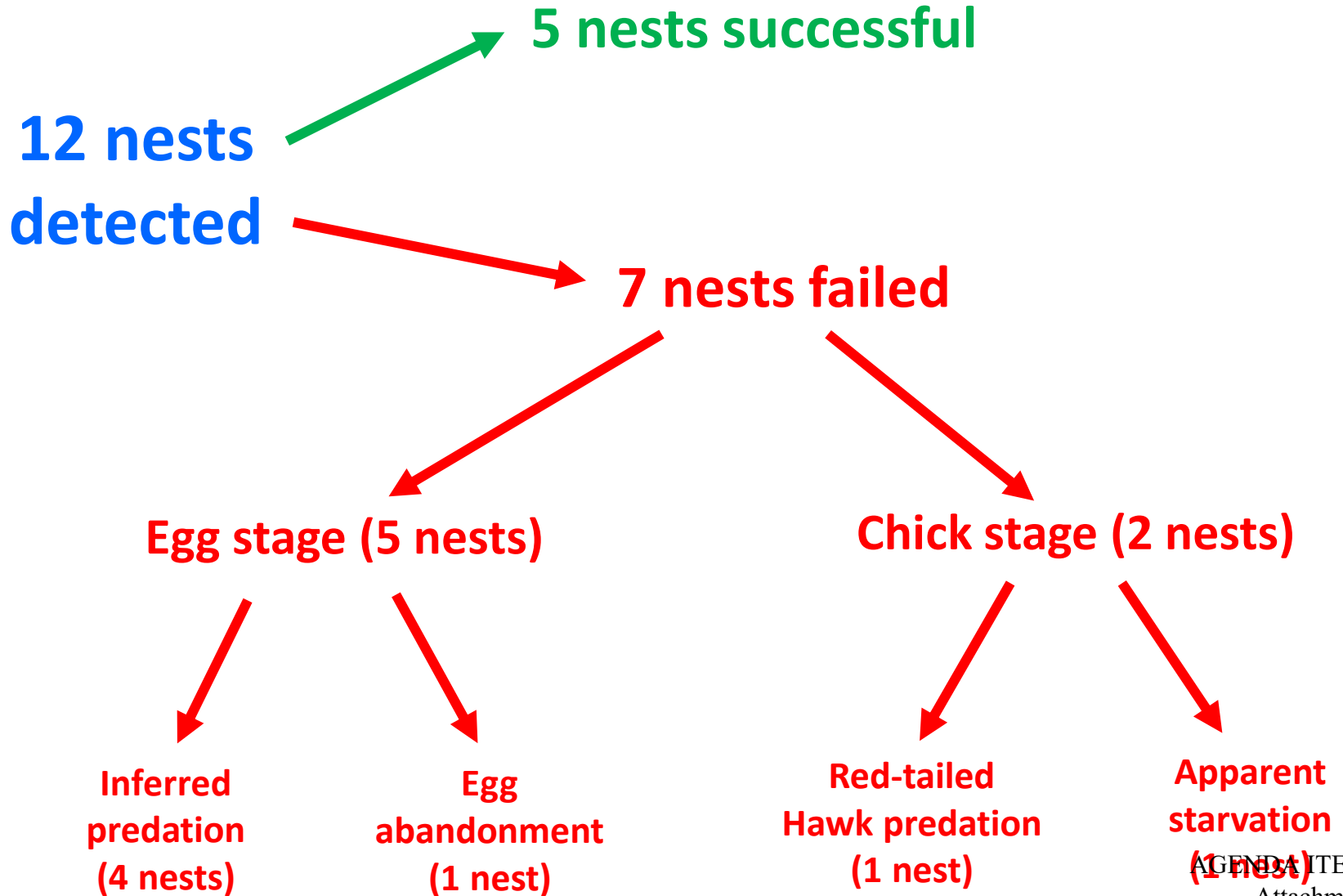




4 active nests detected in 2019; total increase of >40%

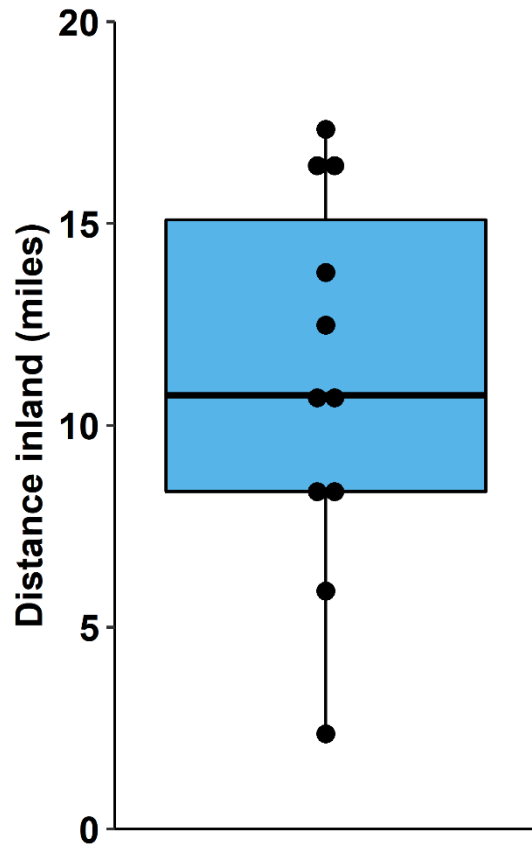


Summary of nest fate for 12 nests in 2018–2019

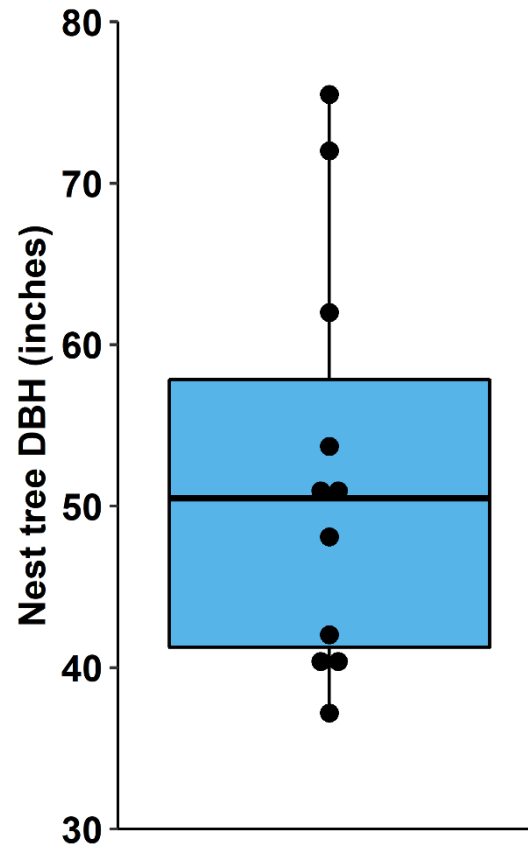


Nest-site characteristics from 11 nests in 2018–2019

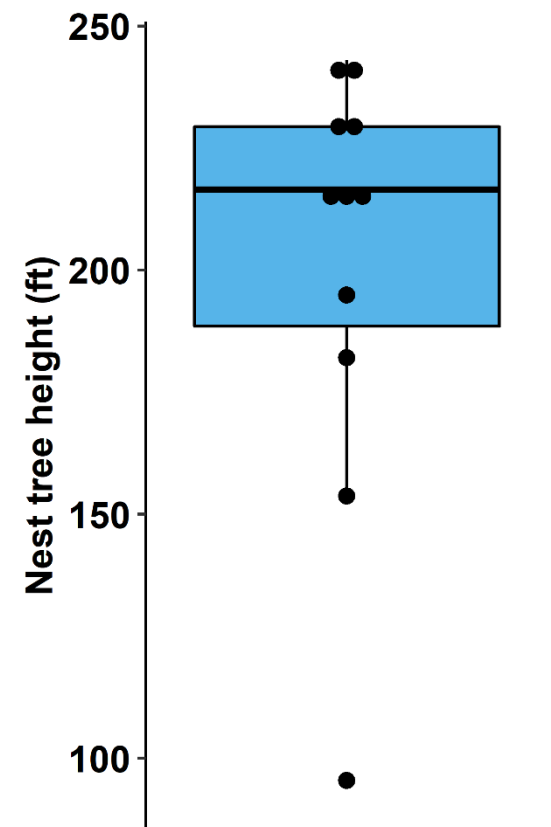
Distance inland



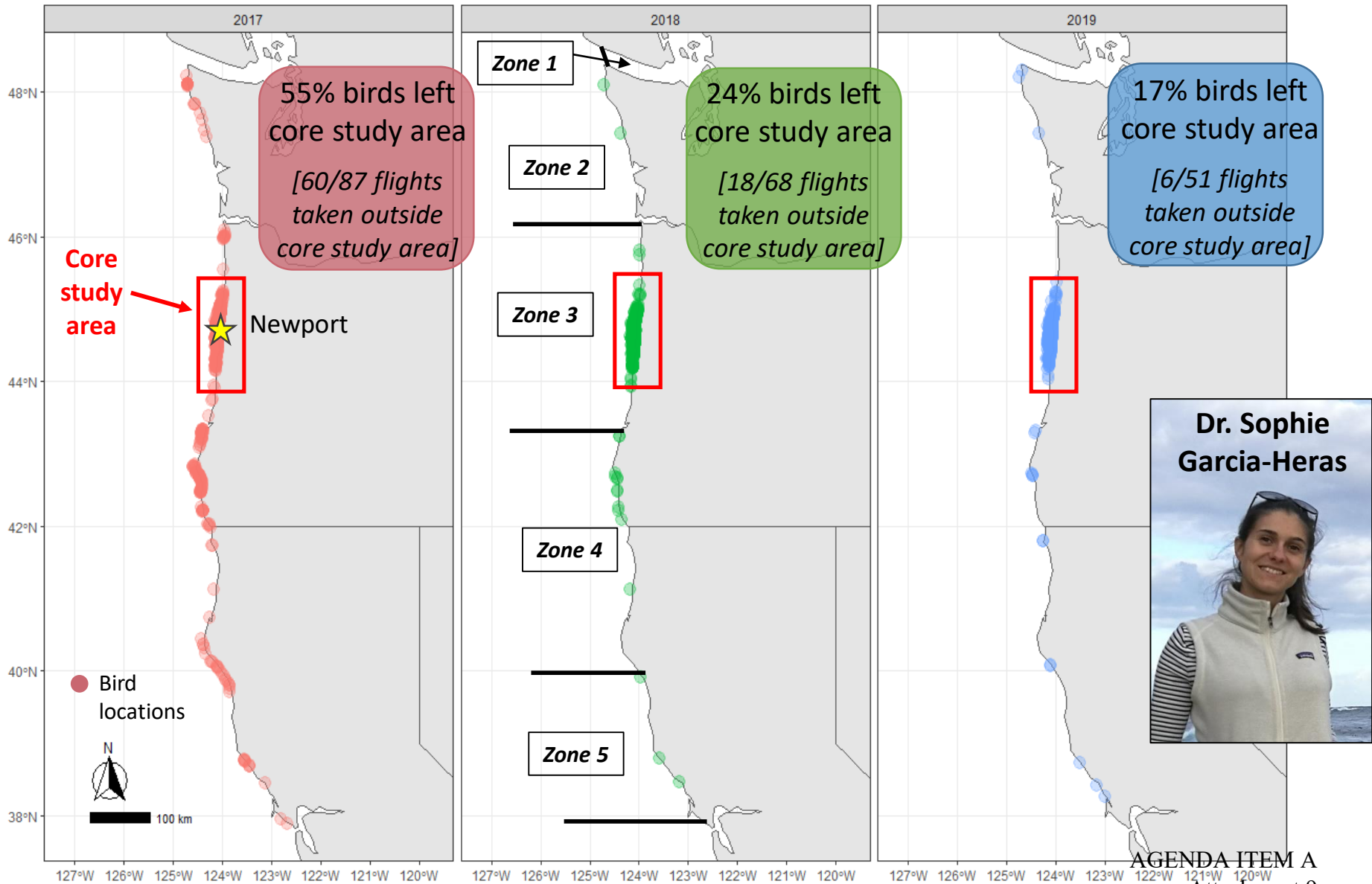
Tree DBH



Tree height



Tagged birds have moved long distances in all years



Timeline of the Oregon Marbled Murrelet Project

Short-term goals

Conclude spatial modeling studies

Mid-term goals

Continue data collection on space use and reproduction

Assess role of ocean conditions on nesting

Long-term goals

Evaluate forest management effects on nesting activities



OREGON MARBLED
MURRELET PROJECT

Synergistic effects of warm ocean conditions and old-forest loss on long-term occupancy of marbled murrelet

Matt Betts, Joe Northrup, Jenn Bailey Guerrero, Lindsay Adrean, Kim Nelson, Jennifer Fisher, Brian Gerber, Sophie Garcia-Heras, Zhiqiang Yang, Dan Roby, and Jim Rivers

AGENDA ITEM A
Attachment 10
Page 1 of 30



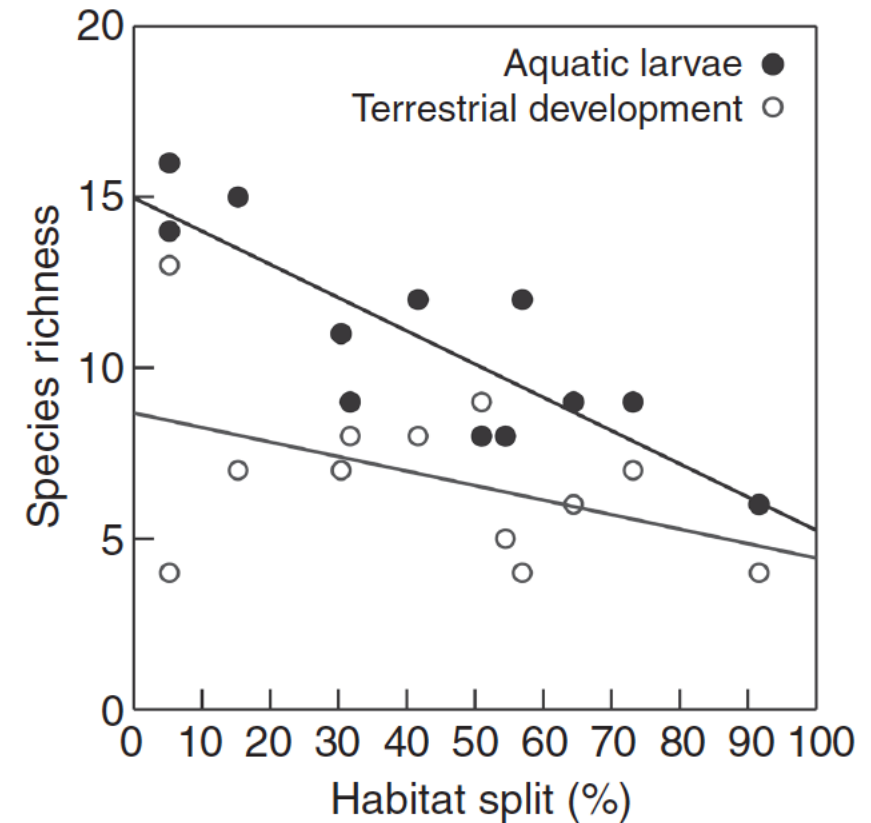
DAVID HERASIMTSCHUK

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Habitat Split and the Global Decline of Amphibians

Carlos Guilherme Becker,^{1,2} Carlos Roberto Fonseca,^{2*} Célio Fernando Baptista Haddad,³
Rômulo Fernandes Batista,⁴ Paulo Inácio Prado⁵

www.sciencemag.org **SCIENCE** VOL 318 14 DECEMBER 2007





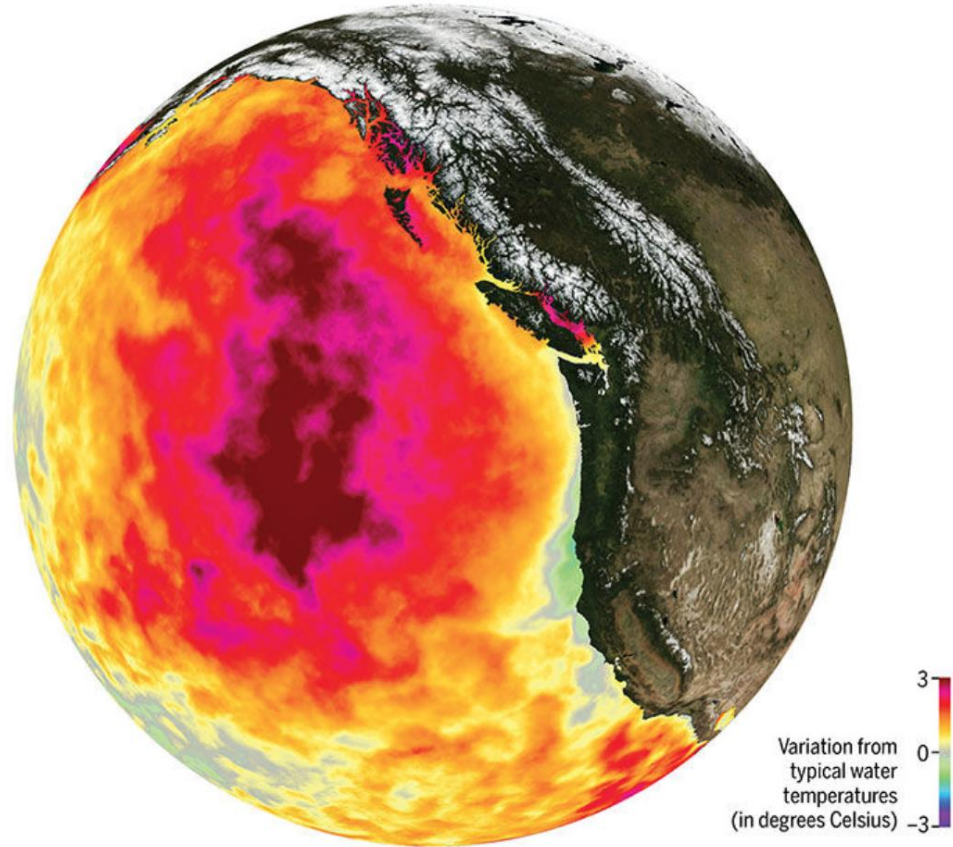






GLENN BARTLEY

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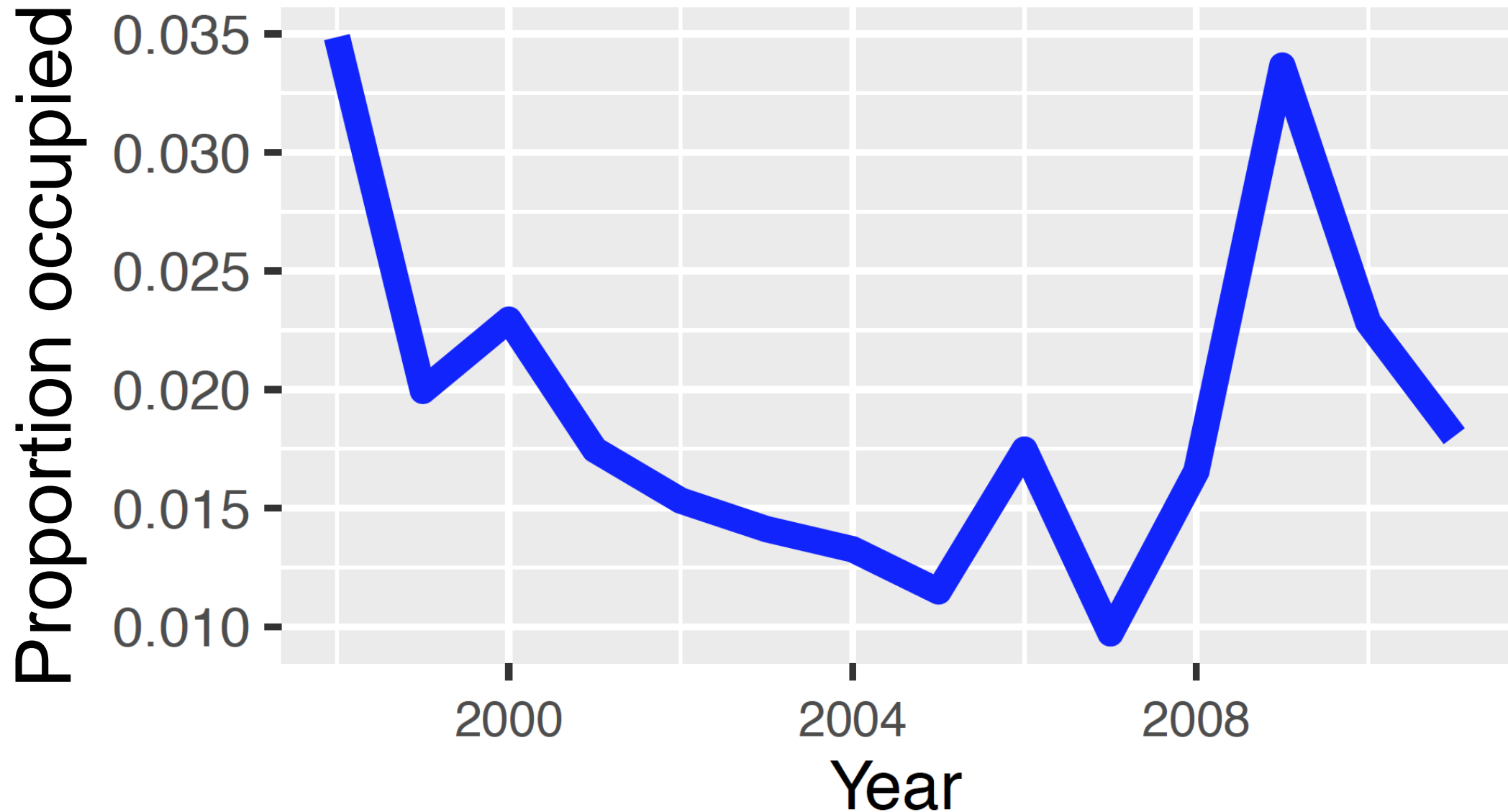


A fin whale found on an Alaskan beach in 2015 might have been among the victims of The Blob. BREE WITTEVEEN

Ocean heat waves like the Pacific's deadly 'Blob' could become the new normal

By **Warren Cornwall** | Jan. 31, 2019 , 8:00 AM

Terrestrial Marbled Murrelet Survey Data



STUDY QUESTION

1. What are the relative influences of **old forest** versus **ocean conditions** on site occupancy by marbled murrelets?

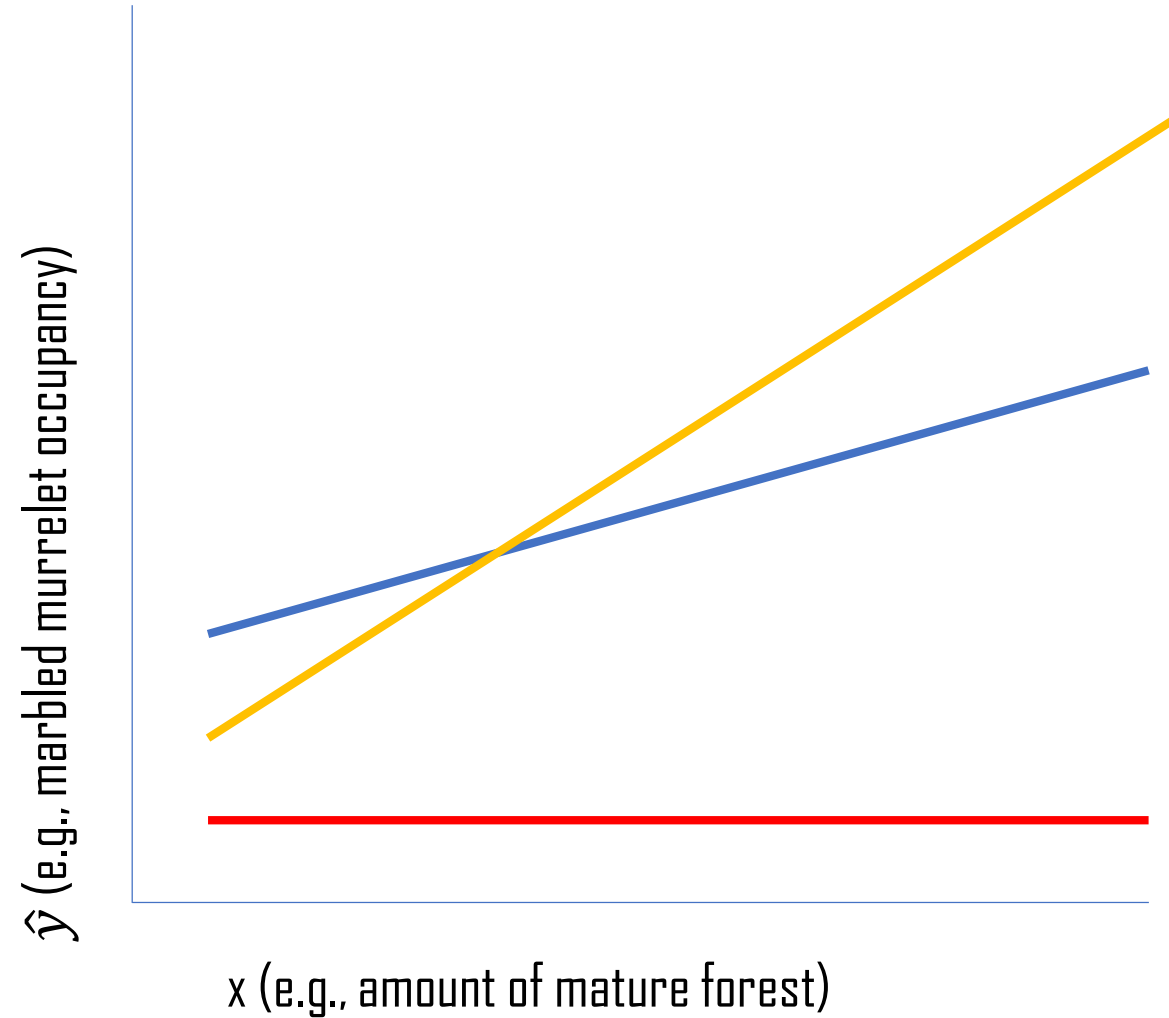
STUDY QUESTION

2. Is site occupancy driven by the synergistic effects of nesting forest habitat loss, and changing ocean conditions?

Synergistic Effects



D. Sibley



R. Van Pelt

Methods: Marbled Murrelet survey data

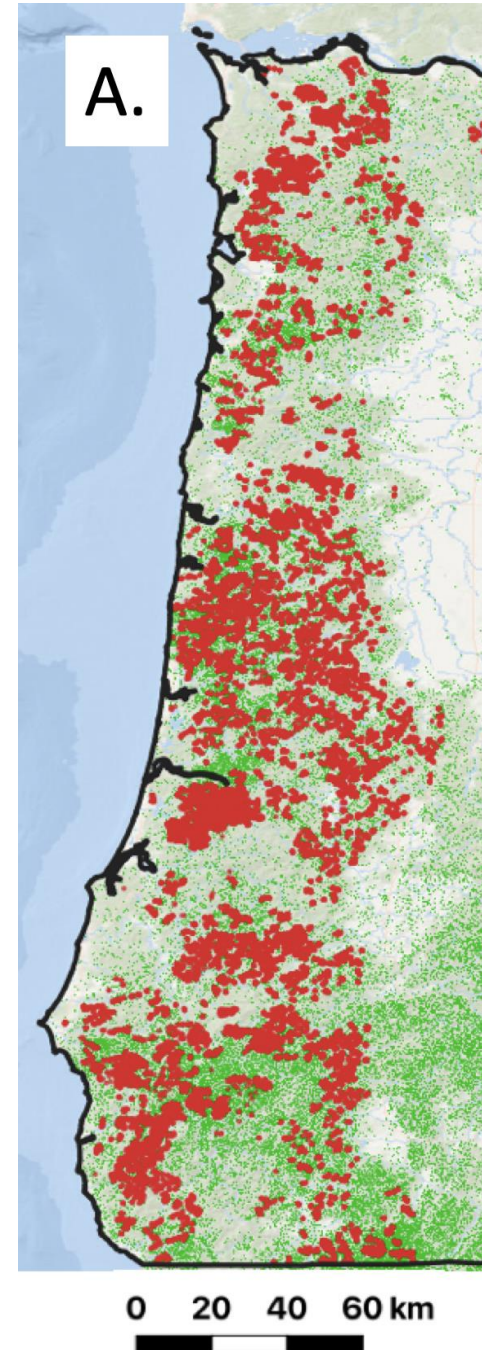
70,707 surveys sampled @
 $N = 19,837$ sites

1999 - 2018

- 2 hour surveys
- 1/8-10 ha, ≥ 9 surveys over 2 years

Locations:

Oregon State University forests
U.S. Forest Service
Bureau of Land Management
Oregon Department of Forestry



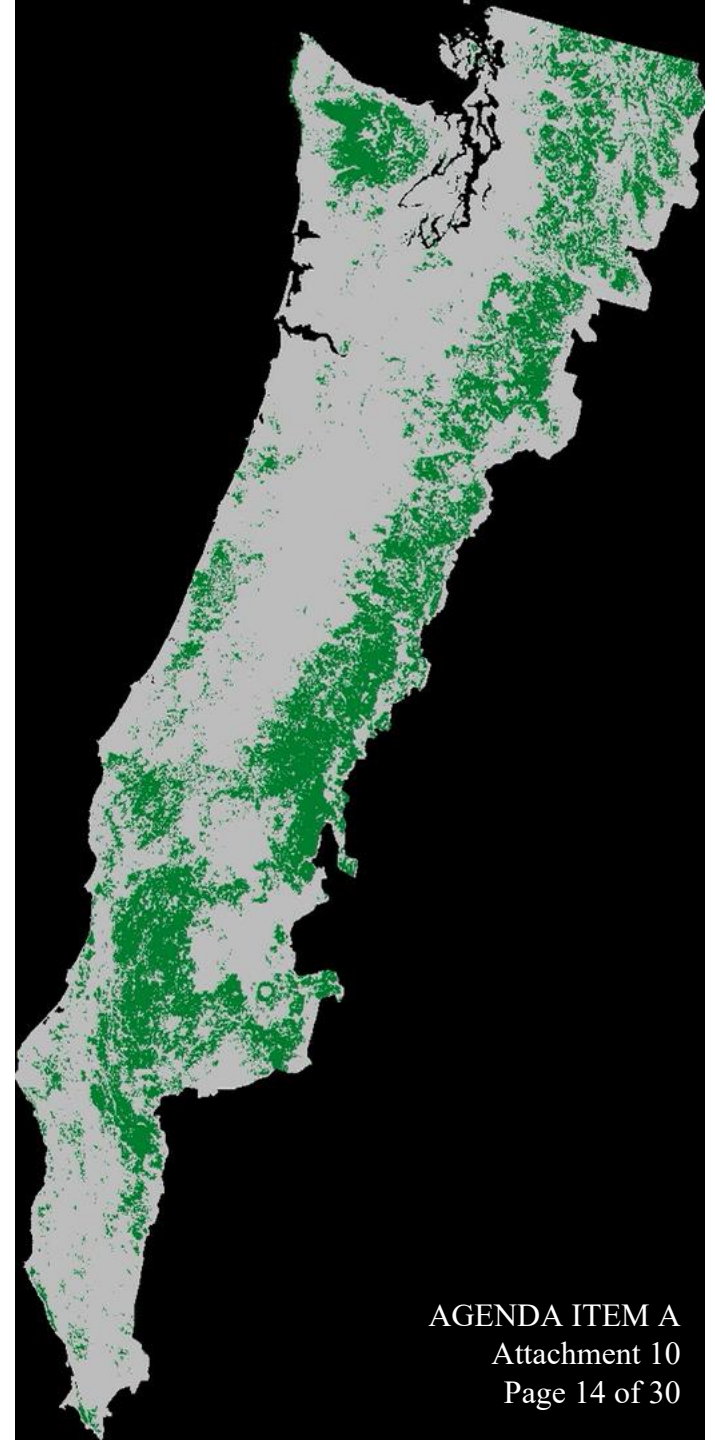
AGENDA ITEM A

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Remote sensing data

- Gradient Nearest Neighbor (Landsat TM + Forest Inventory Plots)
- Old-growth Site Index 80
(after Phalan et al 2019 PNAS)

20% decline in old forest since 1999



Old forest at two scales:

2000 m radius

100 m radius



ziquang yang

Ocean conditions

Pacific herring



Surf smelt

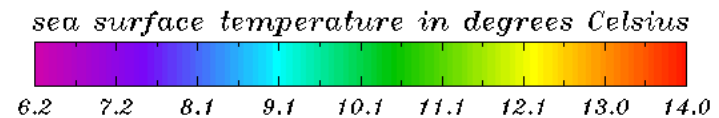
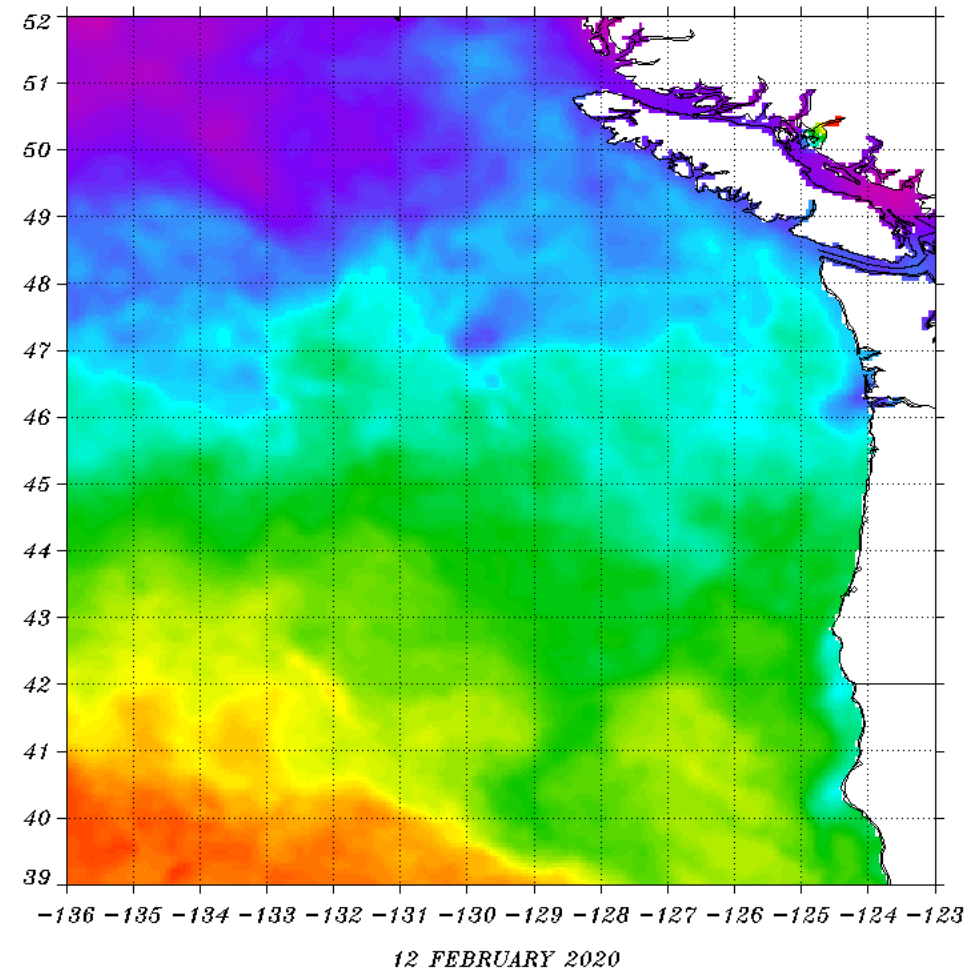


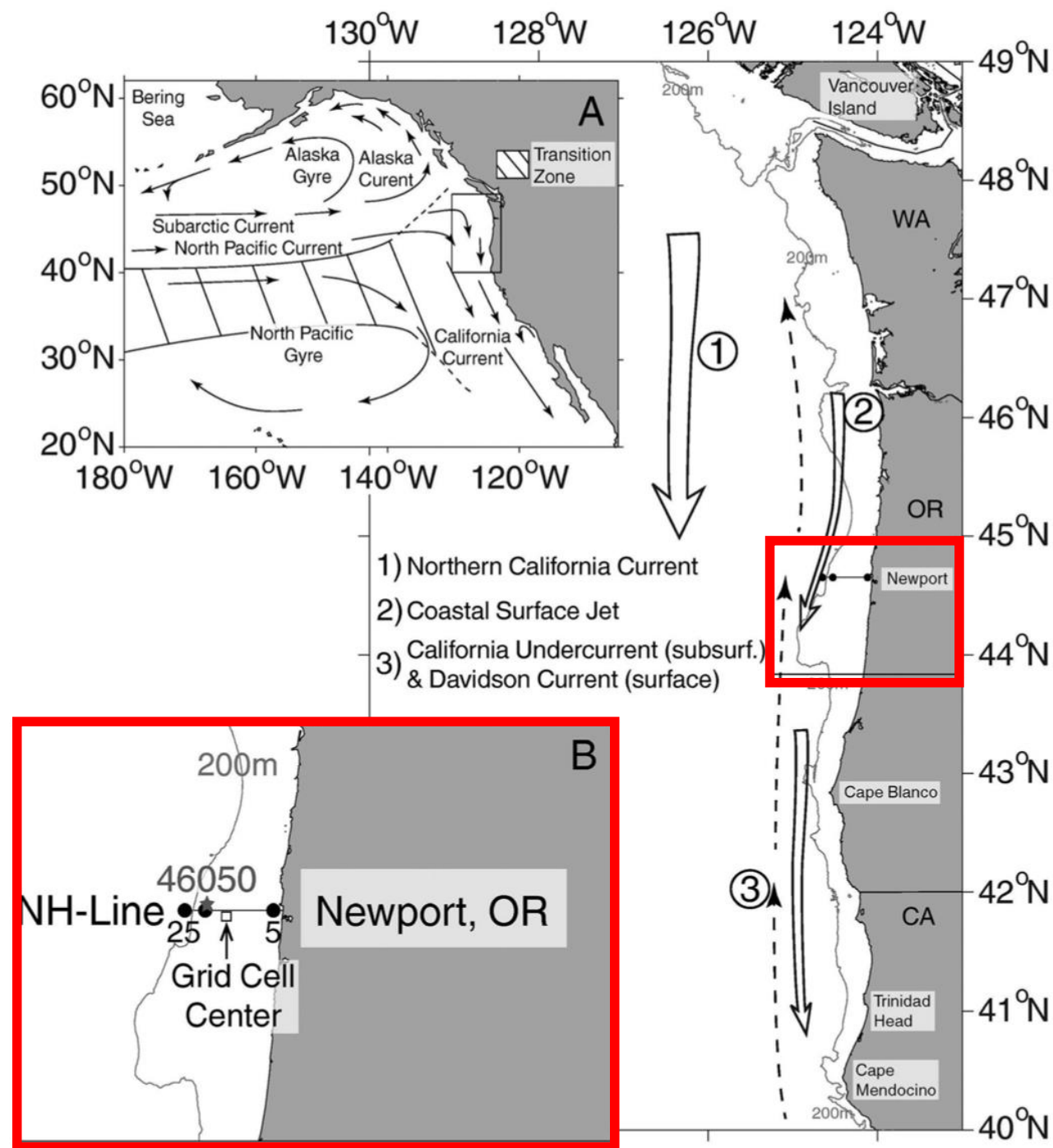
Jennifer A. Bailey Guerrero



Lindsay J. Adrean

NOAA/NESDIS GEO-POLAR BLENDED 5 km SST ANALYSIS
FOR THE WASHINGTON/OREGON COAST





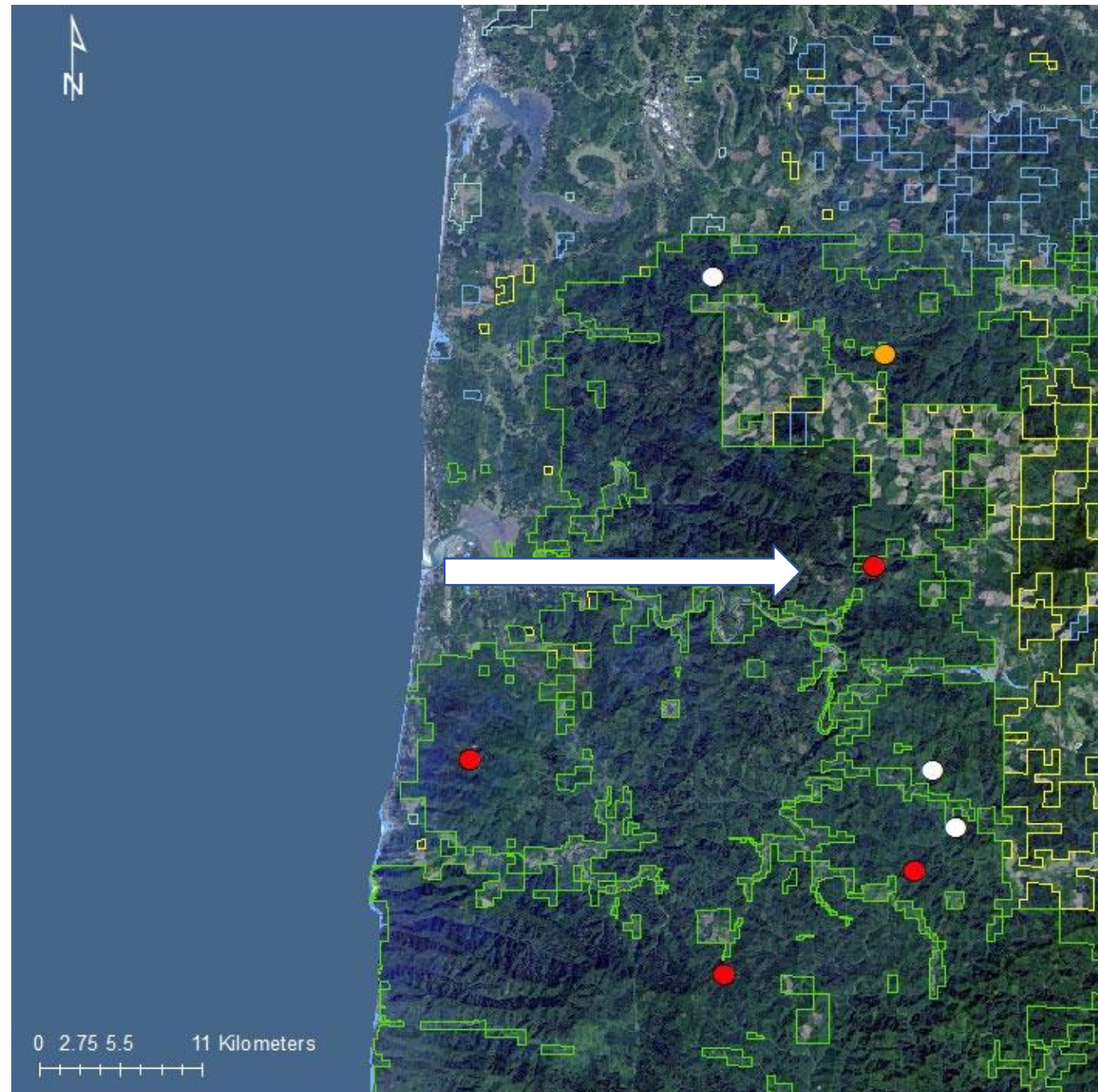
Jennifer Fisher

Peterson et al. 2017
Journal of Geophys. Res. Oceans

Principal Component Analysis of Ocean Conditions

	Ecosystem Indicator	Eigenvectors	
 Warmer	Northern copepod biomass anomalies	-0.284	 More food
	Chinook salmon juvenile catches	-0.245	
	Coho salmon juvenile catches	-0.161	
	Deep water salinity	-0.13	
	Sea surface temperature	0.218	
	Deep water temperature	0.235	
	Ichthyoplankton community index	0.262	
	Summer Pacific-decadal oscillation	0.276	
	Winter Pacific-decadal oscillation	0.286	
	Biological transition	0.291	
	<i>Oceanic Niño Index</i>	0.294	
	Upper 20-m temperature	0.297	
	Copepod richness anomalies	0.311	
	Southern copepod biomass anomalies	0.327	

Distance to coast



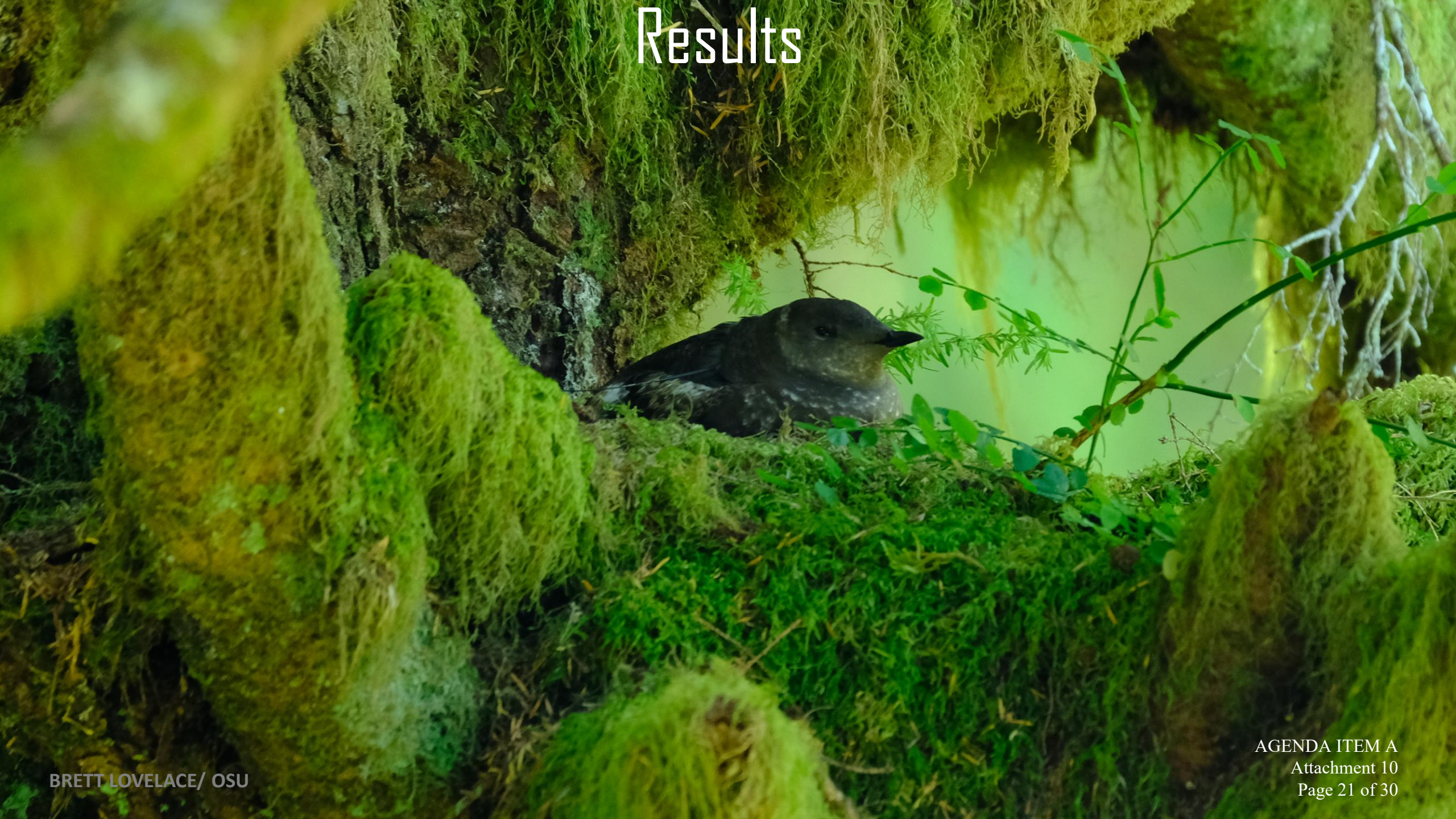
φ = initial occupancy, ϵ = vacancy,
 γ = colonization, p = detection probability

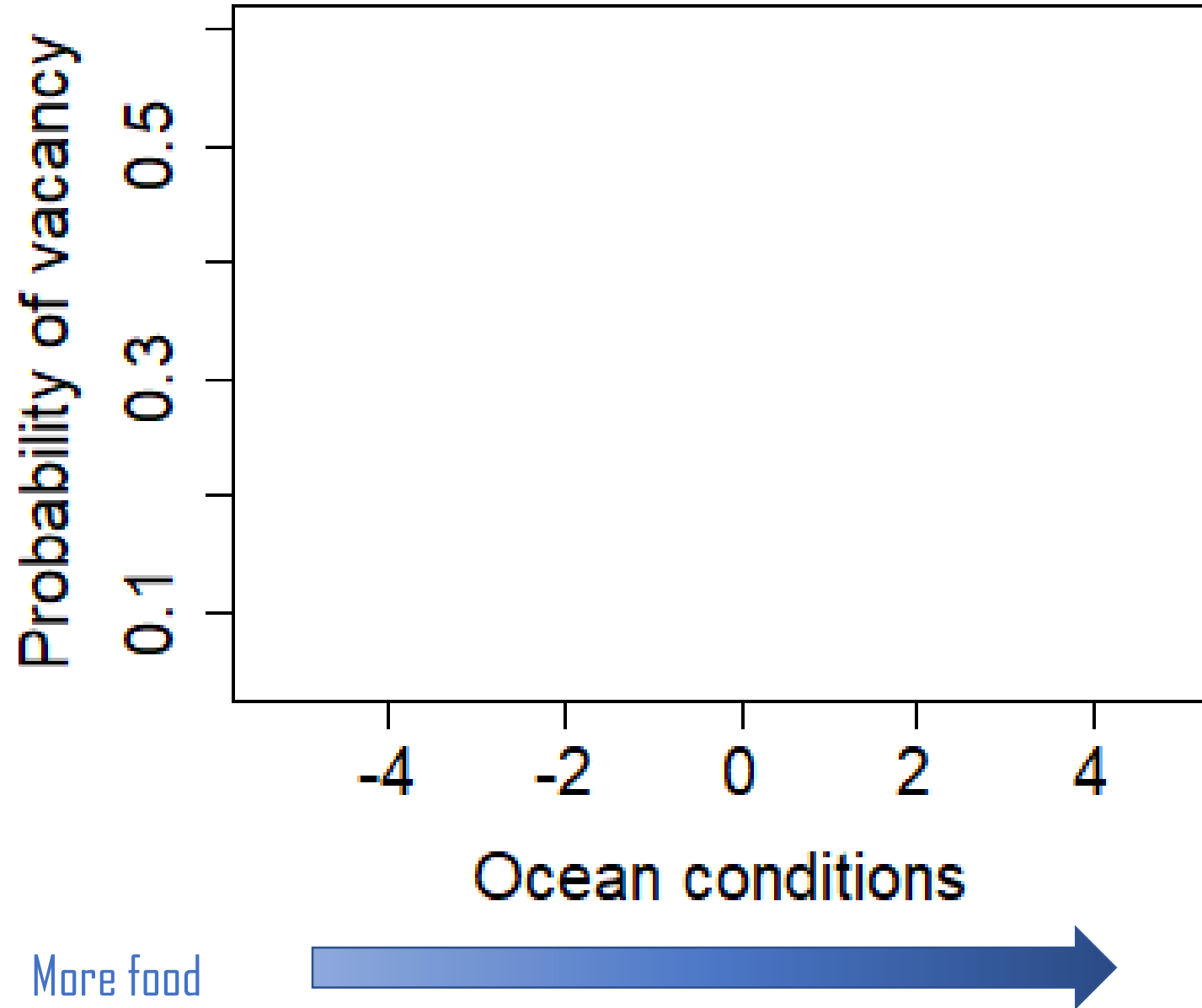
Modeling (φ , ϵ , γ , p)

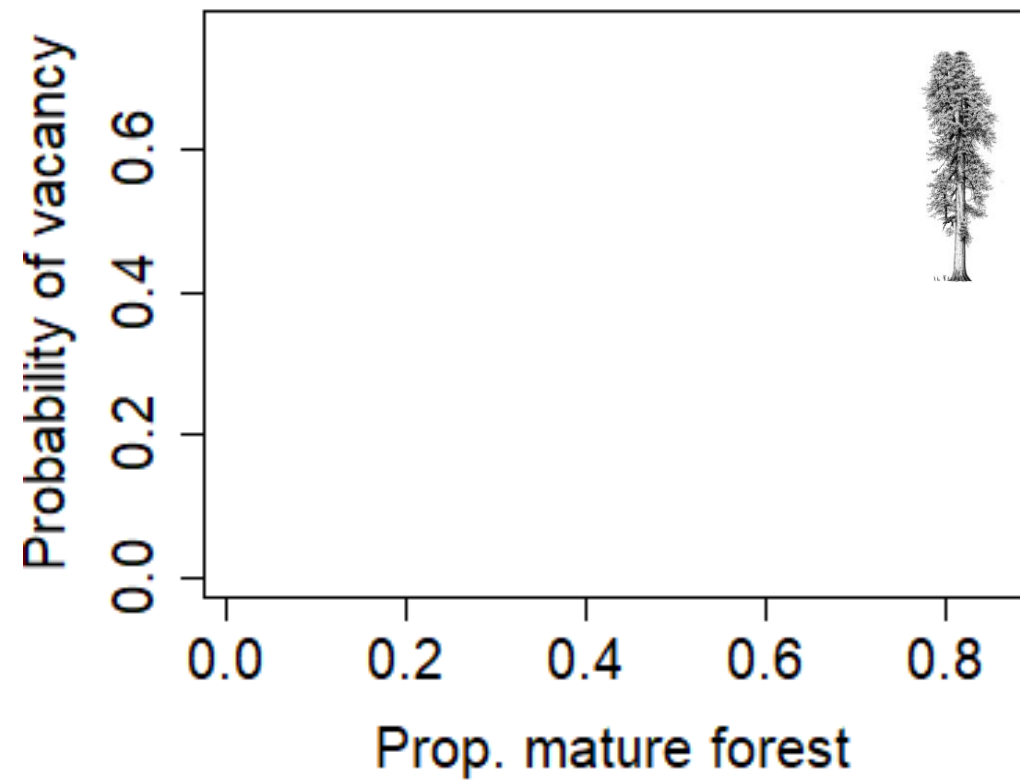
- Old forest amount modeled at **100 m** and **2000 m** scales (t & t-1)
- Ocean conditions modeled in **time t, and t-1**
- Distance to coast
- p = canopy, land owner, conifer density, day of year)
- 16 models in total, support assessed using AIC

φ (old forest 2 km + dist. to coast),
 ϵ (ocean conditions t-1 + dist. to coast)
 γ (ocean conditions year t-1 + dist. to coast)
 p (canopy + land owner + conifer density 100-m radius + day of year + day of year)

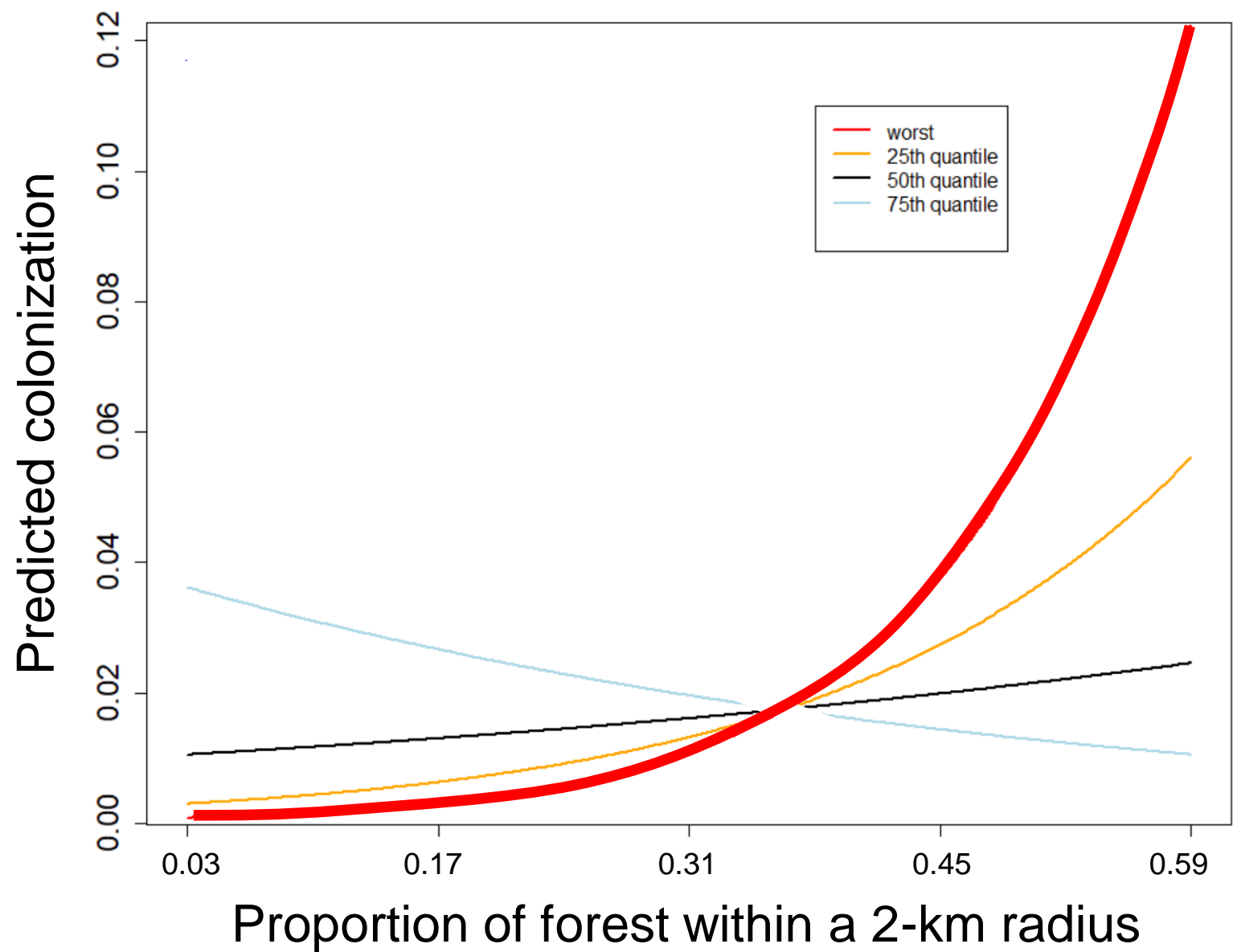
Results

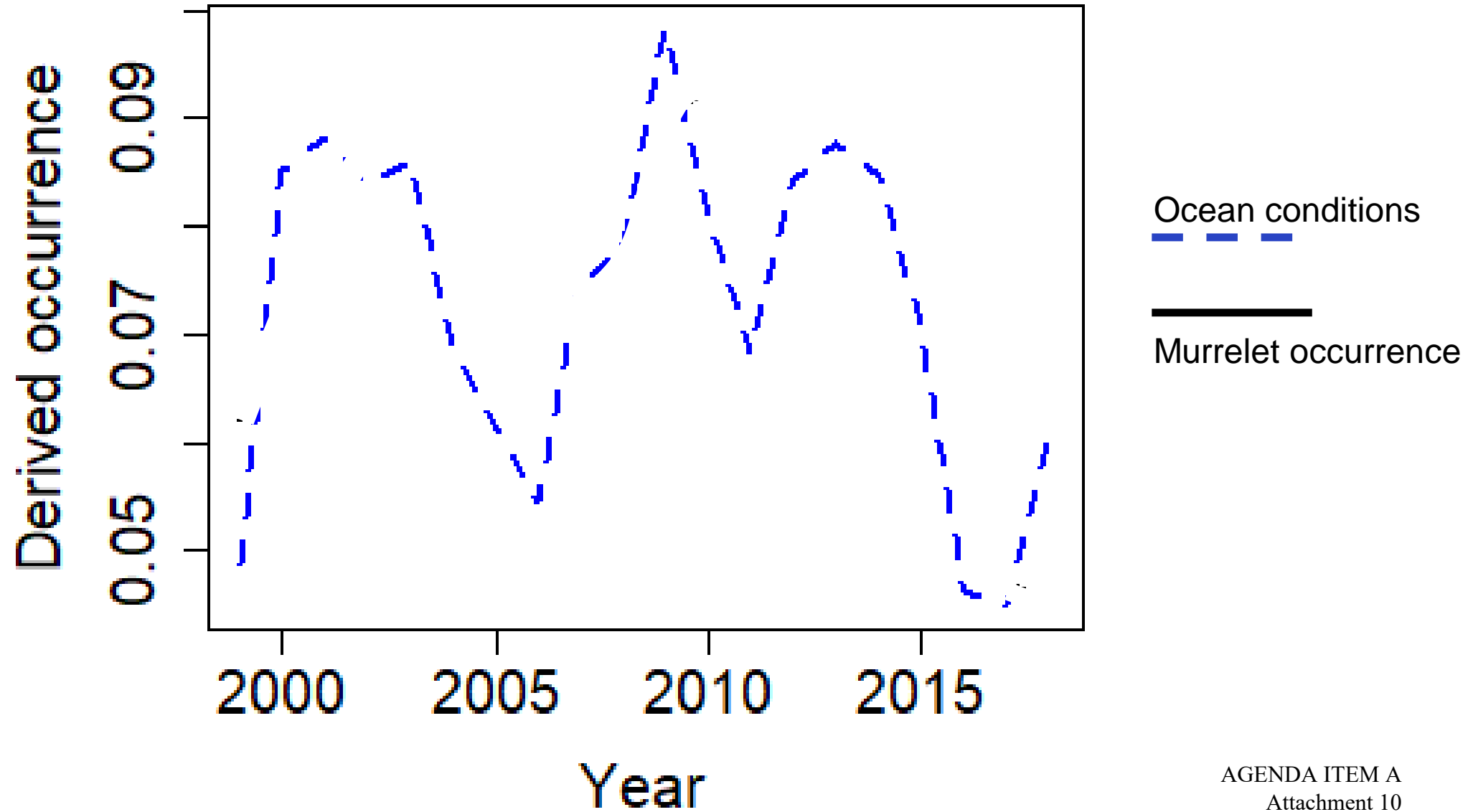


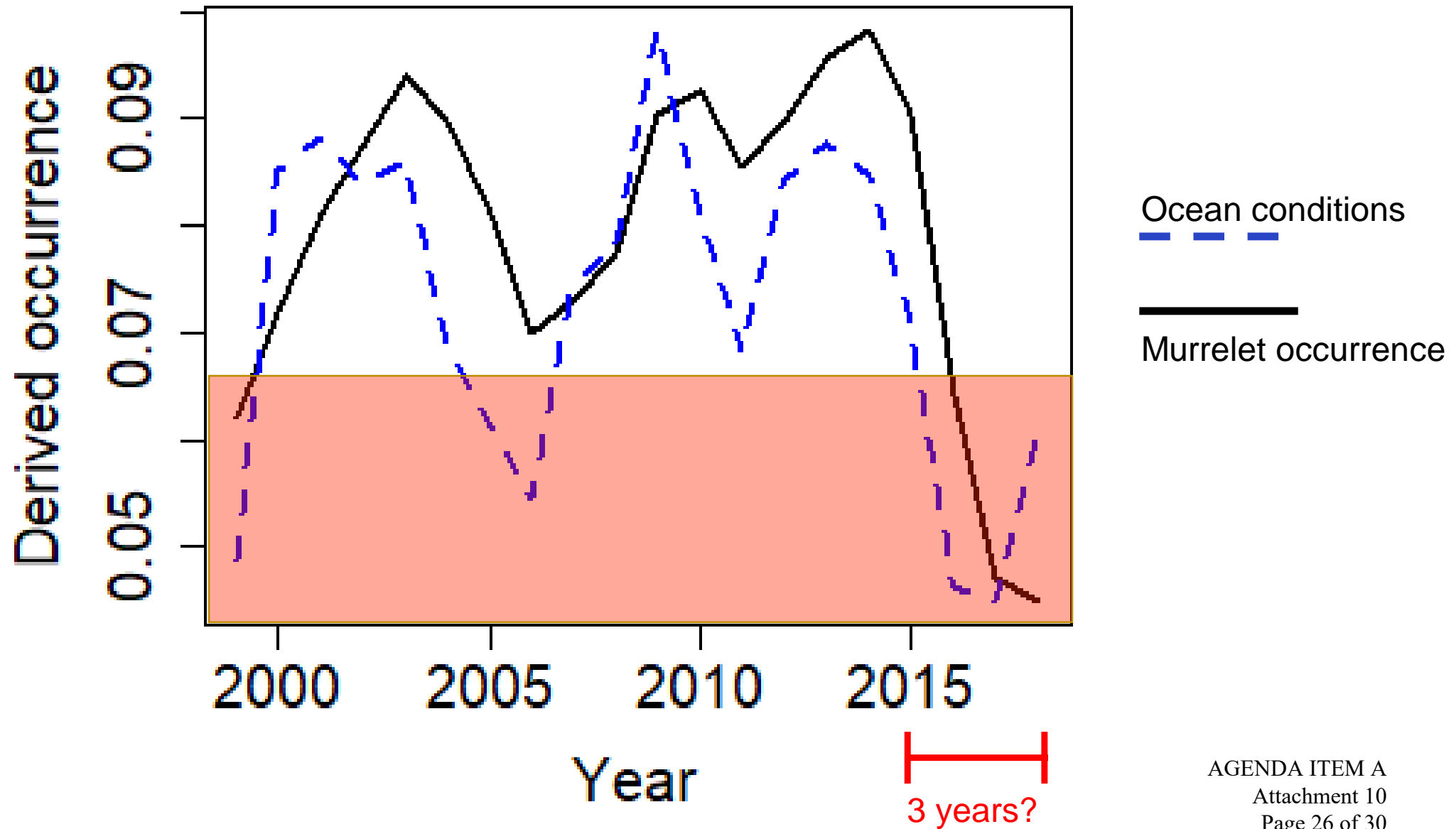




Synergistic Effects?







Does this mean we need to change the survey protocol?

- Correlation \neq causation: need to validate effect of PCI with additional years
- Survey data are suboptimal: simulation analyses to check for potential bias
- Still undergoing peer review

Conclusions

- Detailed information about ocean conditions are predictive of interannual occupancy
- Mature forest at relatively broad scales (2 km radius) is important to minimize site vacancy
- High amounts of mature forest might be particularly important for colonization in poor ocean years
- Surveying for >2 years prior to timber harvest *may* improve outcomes in future if ocean conditions worsen

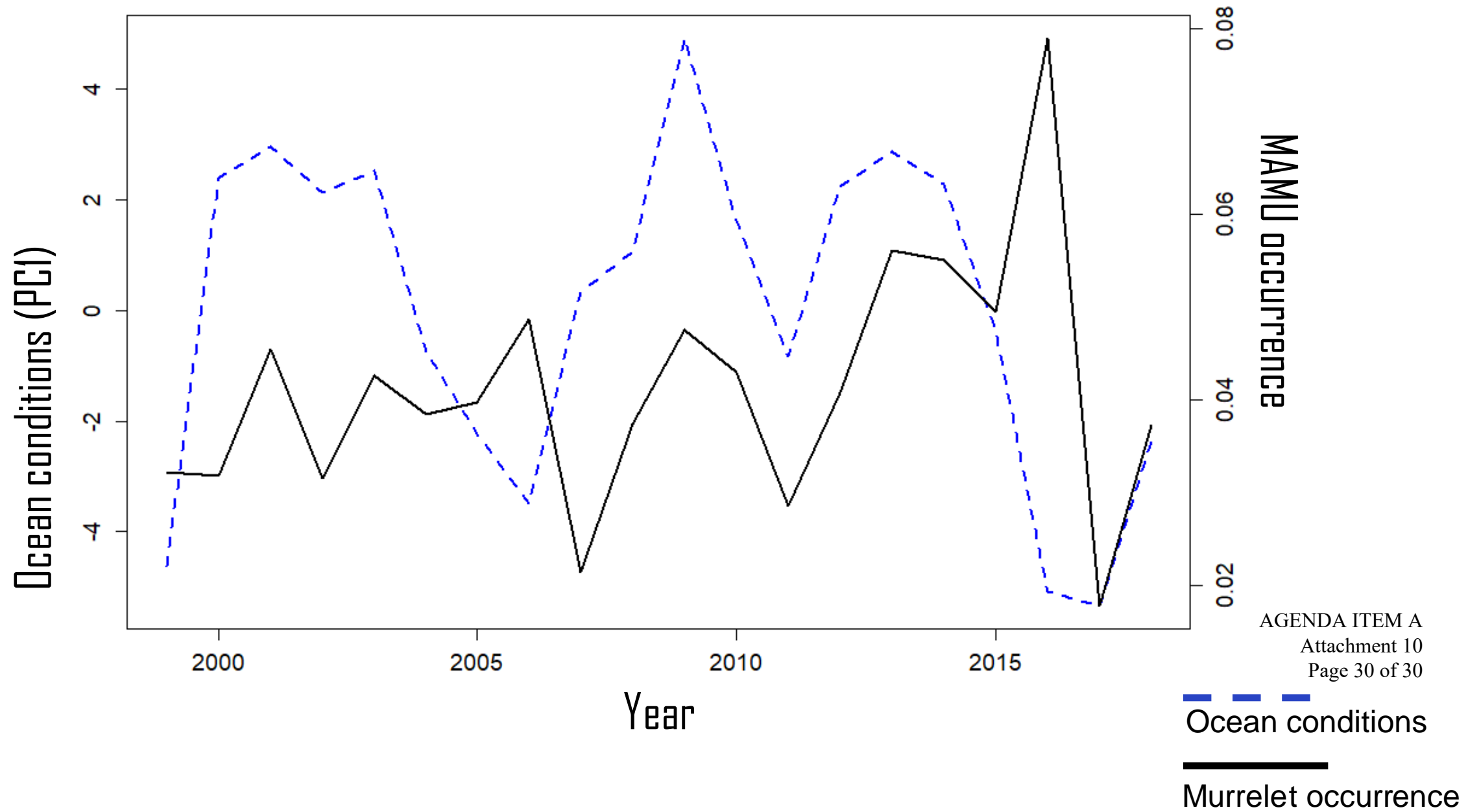


OREGON MARBLED MURRELET PROJECT

www.oregonmurrelet.org

*Science to inform conservation and
management of Oregon's coastal forests*

Funding: *College of Forestry at Oregon State University and the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture, McIntire Stennis project 1014995.*





March 4, 2020

Oregon Board of Forestry
2600 State Street
Salem, OR 97310

RE: College of Forestry Dean's Research Initiative: The Oregon Marbled Murrelet Project Update

Chair Imeson and fellow members of the Oregon Board of Forestry:

I am a consulting Certified Wildlife Biologist® and the owner of a small wildlife consulting firm. The focus of my work is to assist large and small landowners manage intentionally for wildlife. Much of my work is within the range of the marbled murrelet. In addition, my family owns and manages forest land in Yachats, Oregon. I have over 20 years of experience managing wildlife in forested ecosystems. I'm a Past President of the Oregon Chapter of The Wildlife Society and past Chair of the Oregon Society of American Foresters – and a current member of both. Being active in both societies allows me the opportunity to help wildlife and forestry professionals communicate and discuss common goals. My entire professional career focuses on working with landowners to promote sustainable timber harvest. Much of my work is developing and implementing biodiversity management plans for timber companies. Through this effort I work with companies who own timberlands extending throughout western Oregon.

I'm here today to offer my perspective on the Oregon Marbled Murrelet Project. First let me say that I am pleased that this research is being conducted and I have much respect for Dr. Rivers. You heard today about how many birds have been tagged so far in the first 3 years of this study and how some of them are moving north and south out of the study area. You also heard that in some years few of the tagged birds came inland to nest and theories about ocean conditions. This research is important and raises questions that need further investigation. I have three points for your consideration:

1. The Oregon Marbled Murrelet Project is important research. It is important for you to continue to receive updates on this work.
2. Another on-going effort is the Pacific Seabird Group Marbled Murrelet Protocol Revision. This group is made up of a team of marbled murrelet experts from various state, federal, and private organizations, who have been meeting regularly for the last several years. The revision team recently conducted an analysis to reassess detection probabilities which includes data from good, bad and in-between ocean years. These

studies were specifically designed to inform questions regarding the protocol for detecting marbled murrelets. Perhaps their insight would benefit the board in your understanding of the protocol itself.

3. The at-sea counts that are conducted as part of the NW Forest Plan Monitoring remain the best population estimates that exist for marbled murrelets in Oregon. This 20-year survey effort has been crafted and refined by professional agency Biologists seeking the best information to inform management decisions.

In summary, I am glad to see you bring in experts from the OSU study. You also have experts from the Department of Forestry on the marbled murrelet protocol revision team. I urge you to bring in experts from the revision team and learn more about the rigorous process they have been conducting to inform the marbled murrelet protocol revisions.

Thank you



Fran Cafferata Coe, CWB®
Cafferata Consulting, LLC
Oregon Small Woodland Owner

Fire Finance Update

Board of Forestry

March 4, 2020

Salem, Oregon

Doug Grafe, Chief of Fire Protection

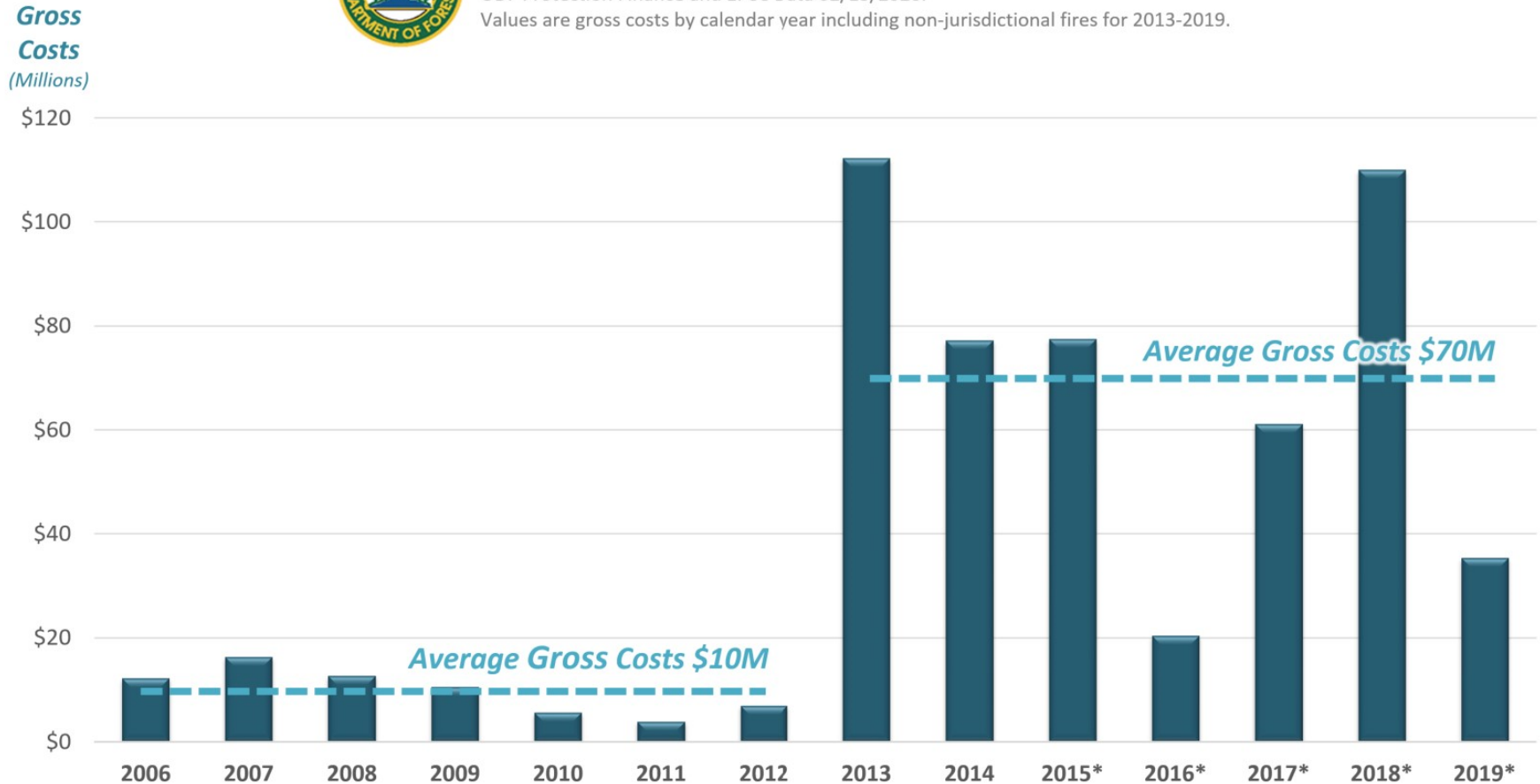
Bill Herber, Deputy Director for Administration



ODF Large Fire Costs

ODF Protection Finance and EFCC Data 02/13/2020.

Values are gross costs by calendar year including non-jurisdictional fires for 2013-2019.



*includes draft claims figures

AGENDA ITEM A

Attachment 12

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Fire Protection Financial Summary

Fire Seasons 2013-2019
As of 02/18/2020

Fire Protection Financial Summary								
Fire Seasons	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total
Fire Costs	112.13	77.08	76.90	20.64	62.53	109.17	36.21	494.66
Received To-date	(112.12)	(73.63)	(60.15)	(18.32)	(51.26)	(71.79)	(6.68)	(393.95)
Amount Invoiced	(0.01)	(3.45)	(3.09)	(3.26)	(1.98)	(30.01)	(11.26)	(53.06)
Outstanding to Invoice/Reconcile	-	-	(13.66)	0.94	(9.29)	(7.37)	(18.27)	(47.65)

Note:

Dollars are in millions.

Red indicates estimates. 2013, 2014 assumes full recoveries on amounts already invoiced to other agencies.

Primary revenue sources include: General Fund, Oregon Forestland Protection Fund, FEMA, Insurance, and other agency billings.

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Improving our Business

- Short-term
 - Staffing adjustments
 - Process improvements
 - Federal partnerships
 - Cash flow tracking and projection improvements
- Mid-term
 - 2020 Session funding requests
- Long-term
 - Forestry Financial Oversight Team
 - Macias, Gini & O'Connell LLP (MGO) recommendations
 - Options for fire funding structure

MGO –Project Plan & Timeline

- Assessments – February to June
 - Identified areas for improvement
 - Oversight / Accountability
 - Budgeting / Forecasting
 - Resources / Training
 - Standardization
 - Information Technology
 - Procurement
 - Deep dives with program staff
 - Discovery of existing admin system efforts
- Sampling and Validation – February to March
- Consolidated Cash Flow Tools - April

Next Steps

- Continue work with Oversight Team and MGO
 - Supporting MGO's work plan
 - Implementing recommendations
- Board of Forestry updates
 - MGO presentation
 - Needs for recommendations
 - Budget/POPs