

Agenda Item No.:	E
Work Plan:	Fire Protection Work Plan
Topic:	Ongoing Topic: Rangeland Protection Association Expansion
Presentation Title:	Approval to Expand the Silver Creek Rangeland Protection Association
Date of Presentation:	September 3, 2025
Contact Information:	Stacy Savona, Wildfire Prevention and Policy Manager 971-374-3351, stacy.savona@odf.oregon.gov

SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda item is to obtain Board approval to proceed with bringing 103,262 acres of Wasco County into the Petersburg Rangeland Protection Association.

CONTEXT

Rangeland fire protection associations are non-profit, locally governed groups of landowners which have been organized to provide fire protection to rangeland in portions of eastern Oregon. These organizations are formed under the authority of the Board and with assistance from the Department.

Currently, there are 28 Rangeland Protection Associations (RPA) that have previously been approved by the Board of Forestry. These RPAs protect over 5,130,732 acres of private land and approximately 685,902 acres of state-owned lands. These lands, including federally owned land, combine to encompass over 17.6 million acres.

Several representatives of rangeland owners in Wasco County have requested the Board hold a public hearing about providing protection from fire for additional rangeland including 103,262 acres south of the current Petersburg RPA boundary. The Board, on June 4th, 2025, authorized a public hearing on the formation request, pursuant to ORS 477.320. A hearing was held at the Dufur Fire Hall in Dufur, Oregon on June 26th, 2025.

At the hearing, strong support for the expansion of the association was evident in the immediate area per the oral comments given by the attendees.

These landowners want a way to protect their private property and actively take part in the protection of their lands. The increased level of protection for this area can be achieved by bringing it into the Oregon protection system and expanding the current rangeland association.

RECOMMENDATION

The Department recommends the Board take the following action when it meets on September 3, 2025:

Approve the inclusion of rangeland in portions of Wasco County into the Petersburg Rangeland Protection Association.

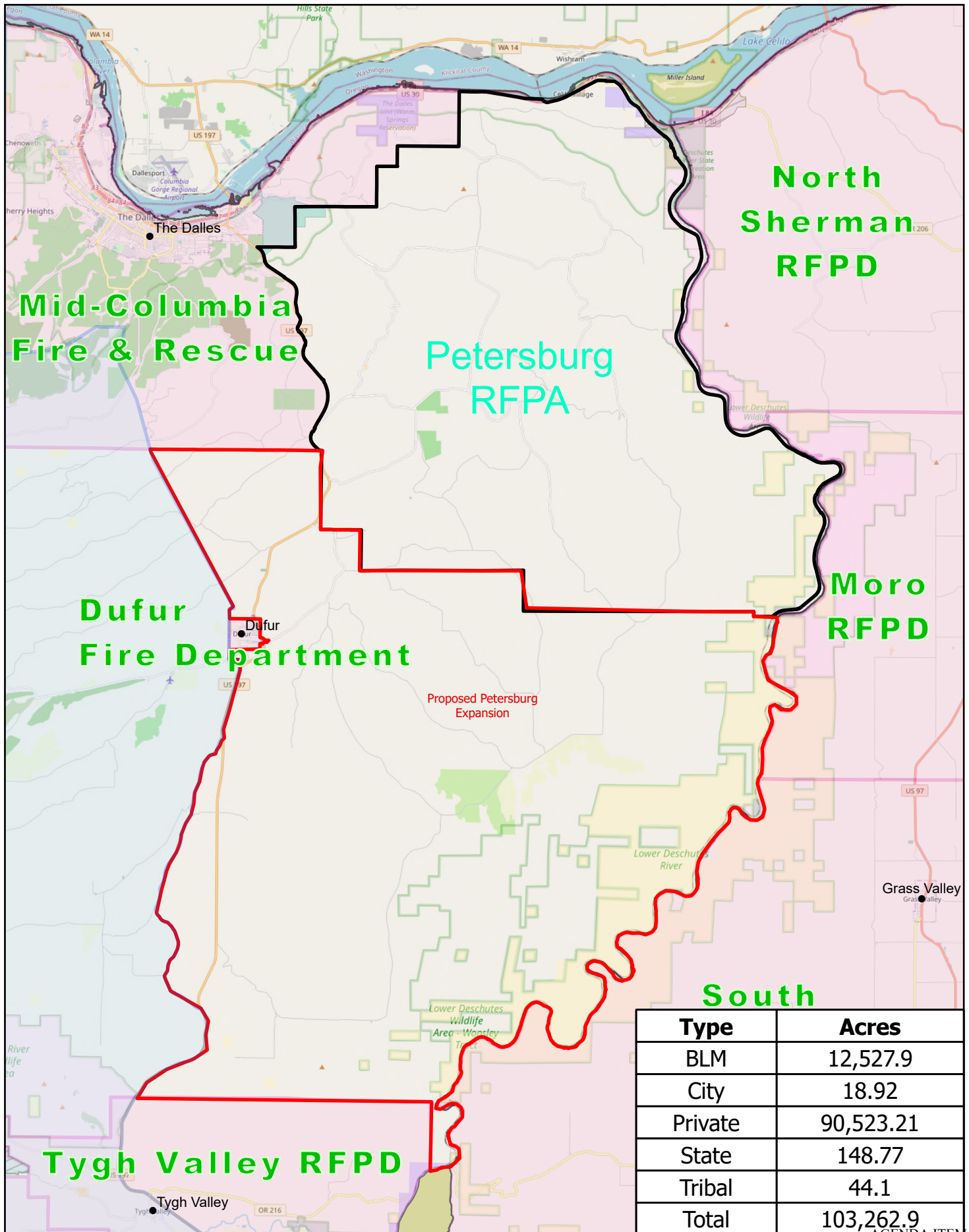
NEXT STEPS

The Department will work with local landowners in the area of the Petersburg Rangeland Protection Association. This will include developing mutual aid agreements, providing training as requested, offering FEPP equipment as available, and any other assistance as requested and feasible.

ATTACHMENTS

- (1) Petersburg Rangeland Association expansion boundary map
- (2) Petersburg Rangeland Association Formation Public Hearing sign-in sheet
- (3) Petersburg Rangeland Association Formation Public Hearing Report

Petersburg RFPA Boundary Expansion



PUBLIC HEARING PARTICIPATION RECORD
REQUEST TO EXPAND THE "Petersburg RFPa BOUNDARY" AREA INTO THE OREGON PROTECTION SYSTEM UNDER ORS
477.320

Location: _____ Dufur _____ Date: June 26th, 2025 _____ Time: 17:30 _____

PLEASE PRINT

NAME & ORGANIZATION	MAILING ADDRESS	TESTIMONY SUBMITTED	
		WRITTEN	ORAL
Steve Springston	63867 Fargher Rd Dufur OR 97024		X
Ryan Clausen	P.O. Box 1972, The Dalles, OR 97058		X
Mike May	The Dalles		X
Mike Kelly	4730 Emerson Loop Rd T.D		X
Mike Ylness	5623 Emerson Loop Rd T.D.		X
JK (X)	60277 Tygh Ridge Rd. Dufur		X
James Ylness	63653 Center Ridge Rd		X
Bob Flanning	7075 15 th Ave Rd The Dalles		
Joe Lowell	4879 Mill Creek Rd The Dalles		
Bob Hamme	62250 Tygh Ridge Rd		

PUBLIC HEARING PARTICIPATION RECORD
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477.320

Location: _____ Dufur _____ Date: June 26th, 2025 _____ Time: 17:30 _____

PLEASE PRINT

NAME & ORGANIZATION	MAILING ADDRESS	TESTIMONY SUBMITTED	
		WRITTEN	ORAL
Shawn Brumby	64891 Long Hollow Rd		X
Dave Wagenvlas	6330 Kelly Cat O'F Rd TD 97058		
Camilla Gast	60540 Tygh Ridge Rd Dufur, OR 97058		X
Jeremy Gast	"		

PUBLIC HEARING PARTICIPATION RECORD

Location: _____ Dufur _____

Date: _June 26th, 2025_

Time: 17:30

PLEASE PRINT

[illegible]

Date: June 27, 2025

To: Oregon Board of Forestry

From: Allison Rayburn, ODF Rangeland Fire Program Coordinator

Subject: Hearing Officer's Report on Petersburg Rangeland Fire Protection Association boundary expansion ORS 477.320(1)

Hearing Information

Proposed Area: 103,262 acres south of current Petersburg RFPA, in Wasco County
Hearing Date & Time: June 26, 2025 @ 5:30 PM
Hearing Location: Dufur Fire Hall, Dufur Oregon
Written Comments Due: June 26, 2025 5:30 p.m.
Hearing Authorized: Board of Forestry meeting, June 4, 2025
Hearing Officer: Allison Rayburn, ODF Rangeland Fire Program Coordinator

The Public Hearing on the proposal to expand the Petersburg RFPA boundary and bring those additional lands into the Oregon Protection System was formally convened at 5:33 p.m. at the Dufur Fire Hall, after a discussion regarding the proposal. Registration forms were available for people who wished to provide oral comments on the proposed formation. The hearing was closed at 5:39 PM.

15 members of the public representing the area landowners attended the hearing. 9 people who signed the Public Hearing Participation Record form provided oral comments. There was a discussion before the hearing to obtain further information on how the RFPA is funded and the agreements they have in place to work with the Wildland fire agencies.

Summary of Oral Comments

Steve Springston was very much in favor of the expansion. His land is all within the proposed new boundary. Insurance dropped two years ago and took a lot of money to get coverage back, and this should help lower costs. Here tonight to show support for the expansion.

Ryan Clausen currently has land that is within the current boundary and the new proposed boundary so is supportive of the move to expand.

Mike May is outside of the current boundary but is supportive of it happening.

Mike Kelly is in favor of the expansion.

Mike Urness is in favor of the expansion. He mentioned that the membership of Petersburg voted for the expansion. We go there anyway currently to help fight the fires with the proposed expansion.

Charlie Dickerson is in favor of the expansion. He mentioned that we currently are helping each other on both sides currently.

James Gibson is in favor of the expansion. It seems smart to make it one big fire district because we fight fire on both sides already.

Shawn Brumlay is in favor of the expansion. He is currently in an unprotected area, but it is a two-way street where we help Petersburg, and they help us, this will benefit both sides.

Amy Kaser is in favor of the expansion, has fought fire on both sides and is hoping this helps with call outs from dispatch with fires now that it will be protected from wildfires.

Summary of Written Comments

None submitted.



Allison Rayburn
ODF Rangeland Fire Program Coordinator
Eastern Oregon Area