

Date: December 4, 2017
To: Oregon Board of Forestry
From: Marvin Vetter, Rangeland Fire Protection Coordinator
Subject: Hearing Officer's Report on Lone Pine Rangeland Fire Protection Association boundary expansion ORS 477.320(1)

Hearing Information

Proposed Area: Lone Pine area, North of Burns, Oregon, in Harney County
Hearing Date & Time: December 1st, 2017 @ 1400 hours.
Hearing Location: Harney County Courthouse, Burns, Oregon
Written Comments Due: December 1st, 2017, 2:00 p.m.
Hearing Authorized: Board of Forestry meeting, September 2017
Hearing Officer: Marvin Vetter, Rangeland Fire Protection Coordinator

The Public Hearing on the proposal to expand the Lone Pine RFPA boundary and bring those additional lands into the Oregon Protection System was formally convened at 2:00 p.m. in the Harney County Courthouse, 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 2:10 p.m.

Six (6) members of the public representing the area landowners attended the hearing. Four (4) people signed the Public Hearing Participation Record form and provided oral comments.

Summary of Oral Comments

Community interest in the expansion of the proposed Lone Pine Rangeland Protection Association is high and is strongly supported by landowners in the Lone Pine area. The Lone Pine Board of Directors is excited to bring in the additional properties to assist with dues and additional volunteers to assist in firefighting. The new volunteers participated in a basic fire class on December 2nd & 3rd to be ready for fire season 2018.

Landowners and residents of the area are increasingly worried about the incidence of rangeland fire. This is due, in part, to the number of large fires in their area, more specifically the Buzzard Complex of 2014 and Cinder Butte fire of 2017. 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 Rangeland Protection Association boundary.

No local residents opposed the proposed RPA expansion. Oral testimony was in full support of bringing these lands into the Rangeland Protection System and expanding the Rangeland Protection Association boundary.

Summary of Written Comments

No formal written comments were received.

/s/ Marvin J. Vetter
Marvin J. Vetter
Rangeland Fire Protection Coordinator
Eastern Oregon Area