

Agenda Item No.:	G
Work Plan:	Fire Protection Work Plan
Topic:	Ongoing Topic: Rangeland Protection Association Formation
Presentation Title:	Expansion of Lone Pine RPA Boundary
Date of Presentation:	March 07, 2018
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**SUMMARY**

The purpose of this agenda item is to obtain Board approval to proceed with an expansion of the current boundary for Lone Pine Rangeland Protection Association to include additional rangeland not currently protected.

**CONTEXT**

This is part of the Department’s ongoing effort, pursuant to ORS 477.320, to assist rural communities in eastern Oregon to develop wildland fire protection coverage in areas that are currently unprotected.

**BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS**

A public hearing was held December 1, 2017 at the Harney County Courthouse in Burns, Oregon.

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.

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.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Department recommends the Board take the following action when it meets on March 07, 2018:

Approve the expansion of the boundaries of the Lone Pine Rangeland Protection Association, pursuant to ORS 477.320.

**NEXT STEPS**

The Department will continue its work with local landowners in the area supporting the Lone Pine 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) Lone Pine Rangeland Protection Association Hearing Report
- (2) Map of the Lone Pine RFPA proposed boundary change