

Agenda Item No.:	C
Work Plan:	Fire Protection Work Plan
Topic:	Ongoing Topic: Rangeland Protection Association Formation
Presentation Title:	Expansion of Silver Creek RPA Boundary
Date of Presentation:	January 09, 2019
Contact Information:	Tim Holschbach, Fire Prevention and Policy Manager (503) 945-7341, tim.j.holschbach@oregon.gov

SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda item is to obtain Board approval to proceed with an expansion of the current boundary for Silver Creek 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 October 11, 2018 at the Riley Store in Riley, Oregon.

Community interest in the expansion of the proposed Silver Creek Rangeland Protection Association is high and is strongly supported by landowners in the Double Road and Willow Flat areas. The Silver Creek RPA 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. Everyone is excited about the proposal, they are not only talking about fire suppression but also fire prevention, to save their rangeland and buildings. 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 January 09, 2019:

Approve the expansion of the boundaries of the Silver Creek Rangeland Protection Association, pursuant to ORS 477.320.

NEXT STEPS

The Department will continue its work with local landowners in the area supporting the Silver Creek Rangeland Protection Association. This work 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) Silver Creek Rangeland Protection Association Hearing Report
- (2) Map of the Silver Creek RFPA Proposed Boundary Change
- (3) Letter of Recommendation from Harney County Court
- (4) Public Hearing Participation record