

**Date:** October 12, 2018

**To:** Oregon Board of Forestry

**From:** Marvin Vetter, Rangeland Fire Protection Coordinator

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

### Hearing Information

**Proposed Area:** Double Road area, South of Burns, & Willow Flat, Oregon, in Harney County  
**Hearing Date & Time:** October 11, 2018 @ 1800 hours.  
**Hearing Location:** Riley Store, Riley, Oregon  
**Written Comments Due:** October 11, 2018 by 6:00 p.m.  
**Hearing Authorized:** Board of Forestry meeting, September 2018  
**Hearing Officer:** Marvin Vetter, Rangeland Fire Protection Coordinator

The Public Hearing on the proposal to expand the Silver Creek RFPA boundary and bring those additional lands into the Oregon Protection System was formally convened at 6:00 p.m. in the Riley Store, 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 6:41 PM.

10 members of the public representing the area landowners attended the hearing. The initial letter to the Board of Forestry contained 12 signatures from the public, but there was a conflict with another meeting in Burns at the same time. 10 people signed the Public Hearing Participation Record form and 6 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. There were two public meetings held during the spring and summer to determine the interest of local landowners that would be affected by the expansion.

### Summary of Oral Comments

Dale Martin the Fire Supervisor for the Silver Creek Rangeland Fire Protection Association started off the oral comments, with a statement that he wanted to protect the outlying unprotected areas to meet up with adjacent RFPA boundaries, and if we spread the equipment out we can catch these range fires at a smaller size. 2 participants from the "OO Road" had talked to their neighbors and everyone is excited about the proposal, they are not only talking about fire suppression but also fire prevention, to save their rangeland and buildings. 2 members from Willow Flat talked about quick response to fires and having the capability to protect their assets.

### Summary of Written Comments

Harney County Judge Pete Runnels, submitted written comments on behalf of the Court and County Commissioners in Support of the boundary expansion for Silver Creek Rangeland Fire Protection Association.

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