

Agenda Item No.:	D
Work Plan:	Fire Protection Work Plan
Topic:	Ongoing Topic: Rangeland Protection Association Formation
Presentation Title:	Approval to Form Grizzly Rangeland Protection Association
Date of Presentation:	Mach 8 th , 2023
Contact Information:	Levi Hopkins, Wildfire Prevention and Policy Manager (503) 949-3572, Levi.a.hopkins@odf.oregon.gov

SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda item is to obtain Board approval to proceed with bringing specific areas of southern Jefferson County, into the Oregon Protection System.

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 27 Rangeland Protection Associations (RPA) that have previously been approved by the Board of Forestry. The most recent being the Petersburg RPA which was formed in January of 2023. These RPAs protect over 4,855,598 acres of private land and approximately 639, 982 acres of state-owned lands. These lands, including federally owned land, combine to encompass over 16 million acres.

Several representatives of rangeland owners in Jefferson County have requested the Board hold a public hearing about providing protection from fire for rangelands in the vicinity of Madras, Oregon. The Board, on January 4th , 2023, authorized a public hearing on the formation request, pursuant to ORS 477.320. A hearing was held at 6712 SE Ramms Rd in Madras, Oregon, on February 3rd , 2023.

At the hearing, strong support for the formation of an association was evident in the immediate area. Testimony presented during the hearing indicated a need for organized fire protection, and the local landowners want to assist local wildland agencies with initial attack to prevent more large fires in the area.

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 forming a rangeland protection association.

RECOMMENDATION

The Department recommends the Board take the following action when it meets on March 8th, 2023:

Approve the inclusion of rangeland in portions of southern Jefferson County into a rangeland protection association and direct the Department to assist with the formation of the Grizzly Rangeland Protection Association, pursuant to ORS 477.320.

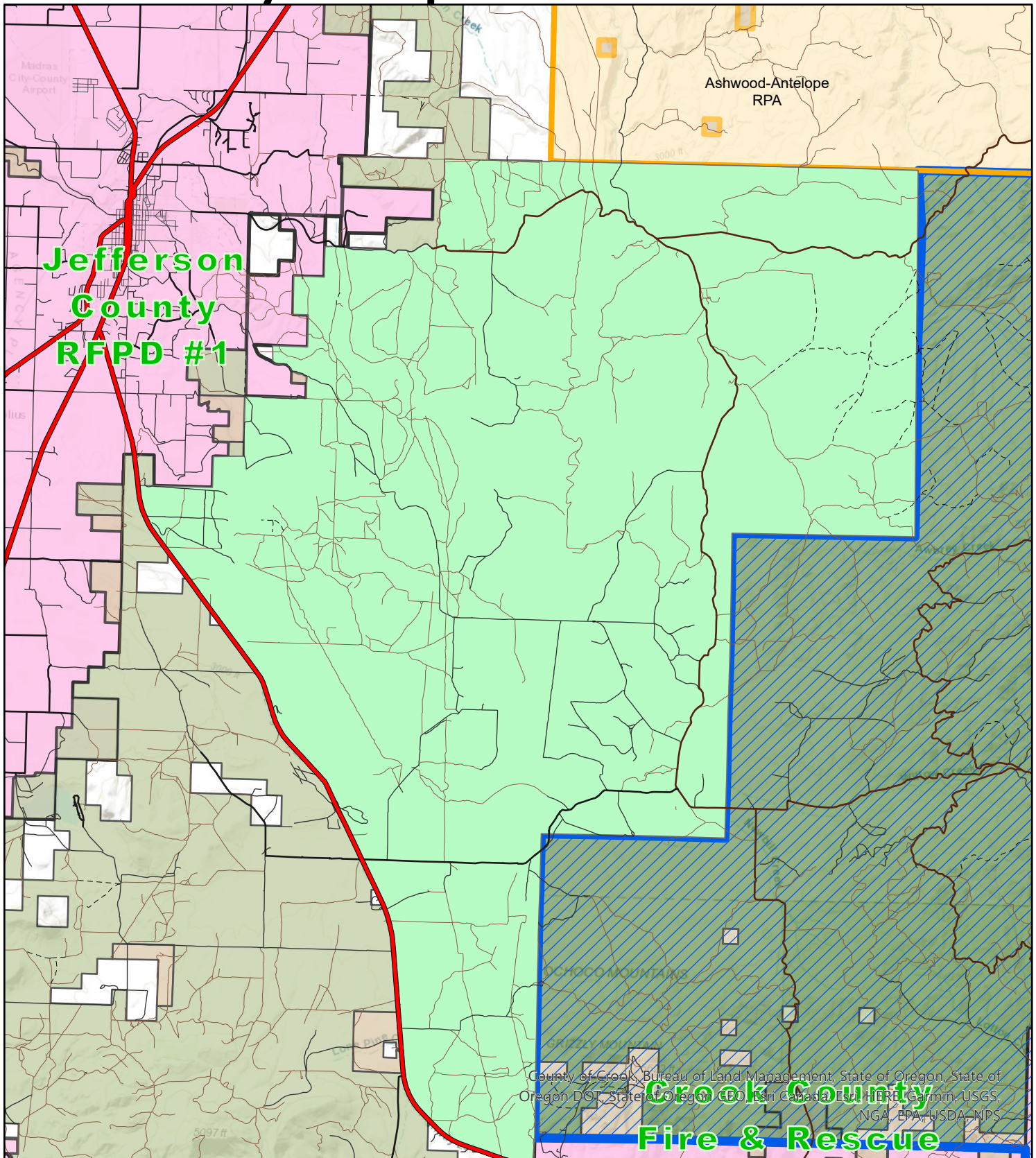
NEXT STEPS

The Department will work with local landowners in the area to form the Grizzly Rangeland Protection Association. This will include developing mutual aid agreements, providing training as requested, offering Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP) program equipment as available, and any other assistance as requested and feasible.

ATTACHMENTS

- (1) Grizzly Rangeland Association boundary map
- (2) Grizzly Rangeland Association Formation Public Hearing sign-in sheet
- (3) Grizzly Rangeland Association Formation Public Hearing Report
- (4) Letter of Support

Grizzly Proposed RFPA



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| <p>Road Types</p> <p>PDMclass</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Interstate; Highway — Paved; Highway exit — All weather — Dirt | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — In UGB; Paved - Secondary Display Layer — Mainline Rd - - Hiking trail - - 4wd trail | <p>Protection Status 2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Structural Fire Protection BLM Forest Protection Association No known protection | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other Federal Rangeland Protection Association USFS ODF Forest Protection Districts GrizzlyProposedRFPA |
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Grizzly
PUBLIC HEARING PARTICIPATION RECORD
REQUEST TO ~~EXPAND THE "SILVER CREEK"~~ RFPA BOUNDARY" AREA INTO THE OREGON PROTECTION SYSTEM UNDER
ORS 477.320

Location: 6712 Ramms Rd Date: Feb 3, 2023 Time: 1718

PLEASE PRINT

NAME & ORGANIZATION	MAILING ADDRESS	TESTIMONY SUBMITTED		
		WRITTEN	ORAL	
Brent Fessler Grizzly RFPA president	P.O. box 729 Madras, OR 97741		✓	X
Simon Winters 8900 S.E. Grizzly Rd	8900 S.E. Grizzly Rd. Madras		✓	X
BOB RUFENER 9452 SE GRIZZLY RD M	9452 SE GRIZZLY RD MADRAS, OR 97741		✓	X
Julie Rufener	9452 SE Grizzly Rd Madras, OR 97741			
Kim Rufener	9452 SE Grizzly Rd Madras, OR 97741			
Guay Corwin	522 Slenic Loop Silver, OR 97734		✓	
Dustin Corwin	" "		✓	X
Mark Wunsch JC Commissioner	12274 SE Grizzly Rd Madras, OR 97741		✓	
MIKE COOKINGHAM TAMMY COOKINGHAM	6712 SE RAMMS RD MADRAS, OR 97741		✓	
County Commissioners		X		

Date: February 3rd, 2023
To: Oregon Board of Forestry
From: Cassie Adamson, Rangeland Fire Protection Administrative Specialist
Subject: Hearing Officer's Report on Grizzly Landowner Hearing ORS 477.320(1)

Hearing Information

Proposed Area: Southern Jefferson County
Hearing Date & Time: February 3rd, 2023 5:00 PM
Hearing Location: 6712 SE Ramms Rd, Madras, OR 97741
Written Comments Due: February 10th, 2023
Hearing Authorized: Board of Forestry meeting, January 4th, 2023
Hearing Officer: Marvin J. Vetter, Rangeland Fire Protection Coordinator

The Public Hearing on the proposal to bring the Grizzly area into the Oregon Protection System was formally convened at 5:18 p.m. at the 6712 SE Ramms Rd 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 5:27 p.m.

There were 10 people in attendance and 9 of them were local landowners, 7 landowners signed up to provide oral comments on the participation record. This included one representative from the Jefferson Co. Commissioner that spoke in support.

Summary of Oral Comments

Community interest in the formation of the proposed Grizzly Rangeland Protection Association is high and is strongly supported by landowners and the County. There is also support from the local wildland fire agencies (Local, State, and Federal). A Board of Directors has been established. Additionally, a set of by-laws has been established, corporate legal status has been applied for and received, a bank account has been established, funds have been raised, and commitments of time and equipment and training are being lined up for them to be ready by the 2023 fire season.

Landowners and residents of the area are increasingly worried about the incidence of rangeland fire. These landowners want a way to protect their private property and actively take part in the protection of their lands and livestock. The increased level of protection for this area can be achieved by bringing it into the Oregon Protection System and forming a Rangeland Protection Association.

There were no concerns or opposition expressed for the proposed RPA formation. Oral testimony was in full support of bringing these lands into the Rangeland Protection System and forming a Rangeland Protection Association.

Summary of Written Comments

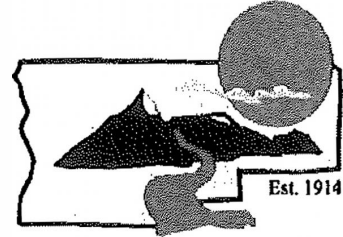
The Jefferson County Commissioners were in full support of the RFPA forming within their county.

/s/ Cassie Adamson
Cassie Adamson

Rangeland Fire Protection Administrative Specialist
Eastern Oregon Area

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

66 S.E. "D" St., Suite A • Madras, Oregon 97741 • Ph: (541) 475-2449 • FAX: (541) 475-4454



February 1, 2023

Oregon Department of Forestry
2600 State Street
Salem, Or 97310

RE: Grizzly RFPA

Fire Risk management is a high concern in the high desert landscape of Jefferson County. The citizens of the Grizzly area are forming a Rangeland Fire Protection Associations. This RFPA will protect roughly 30,000 areas of previously unprotect lands with a local grass roots organization approach.

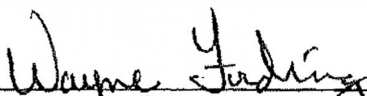
- Have met with ODF
- Registered with the state of Oregon and been assigned and EIN
- Working on their 501(c) 3 status and bank account
- Scheduled a public hearing for mutual aid agreements with ODF and BLM
- Working with Ashwood/Antelope RFPA with mutual aid

The Jefferson County Board of Commissioners are in full support of protecting and minimizing the risk of wildfires on our sensitive landscape. The Jefferson County Board of Commissioners supports the formation of the Grizzly Rangeland Fire Protection Association pursuant to ORS 477.315(2)(b). The Board finds that the organization of the Grizzly RFPA would be a cost-neutral part of our emergency management program and the area proposed to be included in the Association is not currently protected by a rangeland protection association. Please contact the Board Chair or Jefferson County Emergency Management Coordinator, Sergeant David Pond, with any question.

Sincerely,



 Kelly Simmelink, Chairman



 Wayne Fording, Commissioner



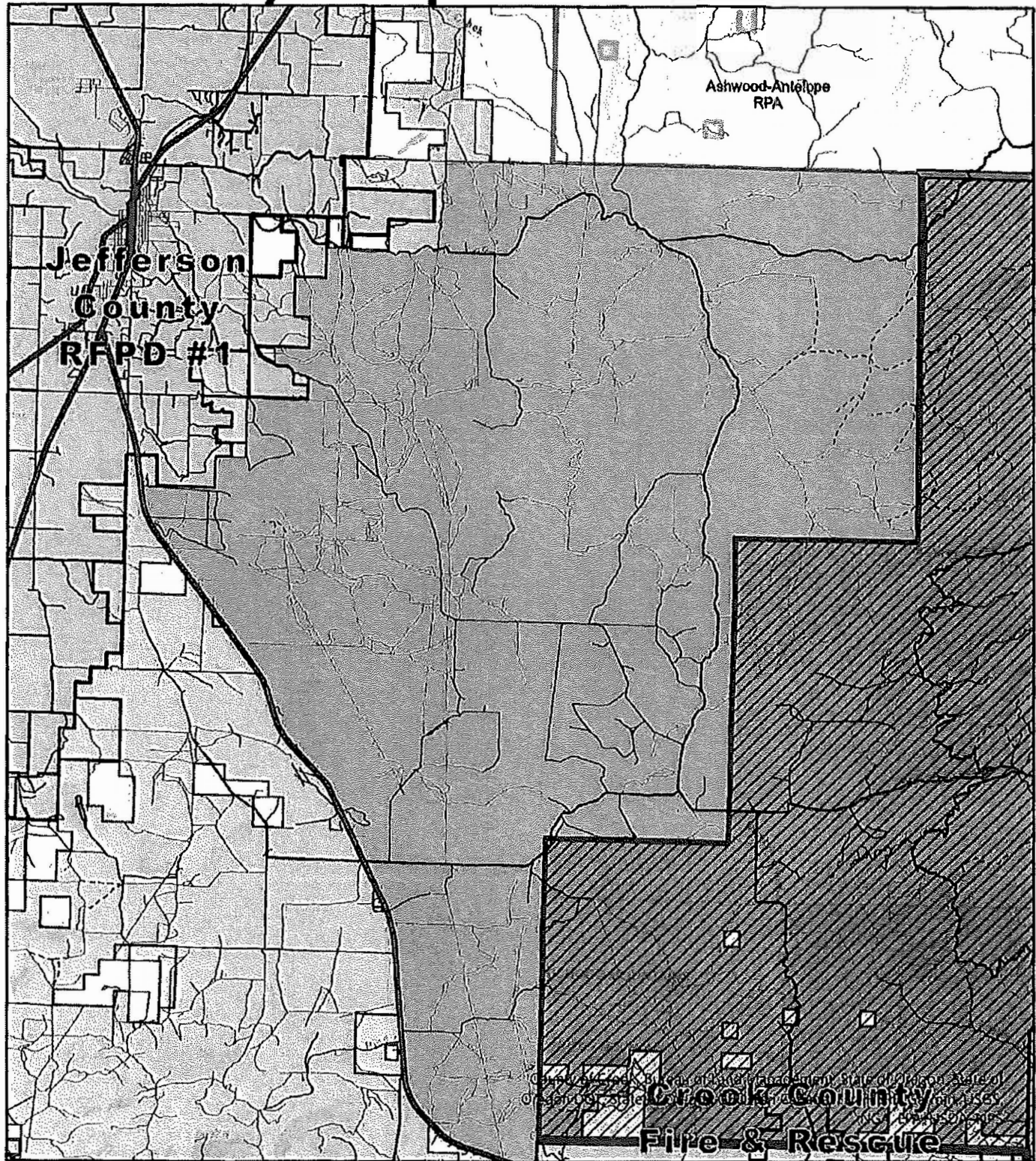
 Mark Wunsch, Commissioner

Wayne Fording, Commissioner

Kelly Simmelink, Chair

Mark Wunsch, Commissioner

Grizzly Proposed RFPA M-027-23



Road Types
 PDMclass
 Interstate; Highway
 Paved; Highway exit
 All weather
 Dirt

In UGB; Paved - Secondary Display Layer
 Mainline Rd
 Hiking trail
 4wd trail

Protection Status 2021
 Structural Fire Protection
 BLM
 Forest Protection Association
 No known protection

Other Federal
 Rangeland Protection Association
 USFS
 ODF Forest Protection Districts
 Grizzly Proposed RFPA
 AGENDA ITEM D