

Agenda Item No.:	E
Work Plan:	Fire Protection
Topic:	Annual Topic: Approval of Rangeland Fire Protection Association Budgets
Date of Presentation:	June 7, 2023
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SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda item is to obtain Board approval of the annual budgets of the Rangeland Fire Protection Associations currently operating in Eastern Oregon.

CONTEXT/BACKGROUND

Rangeland fire protection associations (RFPA) are nonprofit, locally governed, and operated landowner associations organized to provide fire protection on rangeland areas of Eastern Oregon. These geographic areas are outside both forest protection districts and rural fire districts. State statutes ORS 477.315-325 provides for the formation of these associations under the authority of the Board and with assistance from the Department. After formation, ORS 477.325 requires that the Board review and approve the rangeland fire protection associations’ annual operating budgets.

Every year, RFPAs suppress dozens of fires across over 17 million acres in Oregon. Many people describe this as “neighbors helping neighbors” model. RFPA funds go toward administrating guidance, fire suppression training, facilitating access to federal grants and surplus firefighting equipment, as well as some administrative cost reimbursement. RFPA fire prevention and suppression help conserve habitat as well as safeguarding local economic resources.

The Board’s approval will assist these associations of landowners in building partnerships, investing in their community, and providing their own local wildfire protection.

RECOMMENDATION

The Department recommends the Board approve the fiscal year 2024 budgets of the Ashwood-Antelope, Bakeoven-Shaniko, Blue Mountain, Brothers Hampton, Burnt River, Crane, Fields-Andrews, Frenchglen, Gateway, Greater Pine Valley, Grizzly, High Desert, Ironside, Jordan Valley, Juntura, Lone Pine, Lookout Glasgow, Lower Bridge, North Harney, Petersburg, Post Paulina, Silver Creek, Twickenham, Vale, Wagontire, Warner Valley, WC Ranches, and Wheeler County Fire & Rescue Rangeland Fire Protection Associations.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1) Rangeland Fire Protection Associations Fact Sheet
- 2) Fiscal Year 2024 Rangeland Fire Protection Associations Budgets
- 3) 2022 Rangeland Fire Protection Association Annual Report Statistics
- 4) Rangeland Fire Protection Association Total Protected Acres Annual Summary



Oregon's Rangeland Fire Protection Associations

Protecting 17.7 million acres of range and critical Sage Grouse habitat in Oregon

The RFPAs operate as independent associations of landowners that provide their own local wildfire protection. ODF supports the associations through administrative guidance, some administrative cost reimbursement, fire suppression training and facilitating access to federal grants and surplus firefighting equipment. RFPA fire prevention and suppression helps in conserving sage grouse habitat as well as safeguarding livestock forage and now crop lands, which are crucial to local economies.

Expansion of the Rangeland Program

The rangeland program has seen vast expansion following the passing of SB 590 in the 2021 legislature, going from 24 to 28 RFPAs. This includes the formation of Lower Bridge RFPA in Deschutes and Jefferson counties, North Harney RFPA in Harney county, Petersburg RFPA in Wasco county, and Grizzly RFPA in Jefferson county. Burnt River and Frenchglen RFPAs expanded their boundary to include acres not previously included in protected acres. These expansions and new formations have grown the number of acres protected by these volunteer associations from 16 million to 17.7 million!

ODF was awarded added capacity to more adequately support the RFPAs in 2022. This included 3 Rangeland Fire Protection Specialists and 1 Communications System Analyst (radio technician).

Brandon Daniels: will be providing technical assistance to the vast network of communication equipment used by the RFPAs to coordinate response to wildfires in Oregon. He is based in Baker City, Oregon.



Basic Fire Training for Petersburg RFPA

Training

The Rangeland Program has provided basic and advanced fire training to thousands of RFPA members, landowners, and professionals over the years, and continues its commitment to providing this crucial training. This year the Basic Fire Training underwent an overhaul based on feedback from students and changes to the national curriculum put out by NWCG. The training introduces basic fire behavior, the incident command system, use of maps and radios, and basic suppression tactics. Partnering with ODF staff are instructors from the USFS, USF&WS, BLM, Rural Agencies, and ODF protection staff. The support shown by partnering agencies has been critical in developing supportive relationships with landowners and RFPAs, having a profound effect on interoperability on fire scenes.

The expansion of the program allows for multiple trainings to happen simultaneously, improving our ability to reach more Oregonians interested in preventing and protecting the natural resources and residents of eastern Oregon.



Outstanding Neighbor Award

The ODF Rangeland program recognized Dale & Pat Martin of Silver Creek RFPA for their long term and influential dedication.

Joining in recognition are ODF retirees Gordon Foster and Frank Vetter. Mr. Vetter was instrumental helping form RFPAs while he was Unit Forester for ODF in John Day. Mr. Foster was the first RFPA program coordinator for ODF and helped begin to shape the programs assistance to RFPAs as we see it today.

Rangeland Response and Prevention



Lone Pine RFPA helping plan PCL fuel breaks.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

The RFPAs continued to support Oregon’s complete and coordinated response to wildfire through efforts within their areas of responsibility and providing mutual aid well outside of their boundaries. Early in June 2022 the Willow Creek Fire burned 42,000 acres and saw response from Burnt River , Lookout-Glasgow, and Vale RFPAs in conjunction with BLM. In August Bakeoven-Shaniko RFPA and ODF Rangeland staff provided critical mutual aid on the Miller Rd Fire aiding ODF, Juniper Flats Rural Fire Protection District, BLM and OSFM in stopping that fire at 10,847 acres.



Bakeoven-Shaniko RFPA and ODF Rangeland staff conducting critical burn to catch the Miller Rd Fire near Maupin, OR.

Fire Prevention

RFPAs have become increasingly active in planning and mitigation efforts across the desert. In Jefferson and Harney counties, they have been critical in developing CWPP’s. RFPAs have been a big part of the High Desert Partnership, doing work in identifying critical areas for fuel breaks as Potential Control Lines through the Stinking Water Project. This collaborative work has resulted in cross boundary targeted prevention work that will undoubtedly prove valuable in reducing the impact wildfire has in those communities.

RFPAs accomplish hundreds of acres of prescribed burning and Juniper abatement to increase available ground water and to maintain healthy levels of brush and grass for wildlife habitat.



WC Ranches RFPA RX Burn

Equipment

ODF staff continue to assist RFPAs in acquiring fire fighting equipment through the excess property programs and grants meant to aid in purchasing equipment. In addition the BLM provides equipment through the Rural Fire Readiness program. This program is another example of how critical RFPA partnerships with state, federal, and municipal agencies is to reducing the impact wildfire has to all Oregonians.



Prineville BLM Transfer water tender to Wheeler Co Fire and Rescue RFPA



For more information:
Oregon Department of Forestry
503-945-7200
www.oregon.gov/odf



Fiscal Year 2024 Rangeland Fire Protection Association Budget Summary

RFPA	Income							Expenses										Reserve Account
	Membership Fees	Donations	Fund Raising	Grants	Reimbursed Expenses	Other	Total Income	Insurance	CPA & Non-profit Filings	Equipment Purchases	Equipment Repair/Maintenance	Fuel	Supplies For Fire Suppression	Communications Equipment & Repair	Office Expenses	Other	Total Expenses	
Ashwood-Antelope	\$7,000			\$10,000	\$7,000		\$24,000	\$6,750	\$500	\$2,000	\$7,000	\$2,500	\$750	\$3,000	\$500	\$2,000	\$25,000	\$25,783
Bakeoven-Shaniko	\$9,000	\$5,000		\$10,000	\$3,825		\$27,825	\$3,400	\$425	\$10,000	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$1,000		\$250	\$2,000	\$19,575	\$7,925
Blue Mountain	\$1,400	\$3,500			\$4,200		\$9,100	\$3,700	\$500		\$750						\$4,950	\$10,000
Brothers-Hampton	\$1,200	\$500		\$7,700	\$4,850	\$1,200	\$15,450	\$4,800	\$50	\$2,500	\$5,000	\$3,000		\$200	\$200	\$180	\$15,930	\$12,019
Burnt River	\$5,000			\$10,000	\$5,400		\$20,400	\$4,800	\$200	\$7,500	\$3,500	\$900	\$2,500		\$200	\$220	\$19,820	\$54,529
Crane	\$30,000	\$2,000	\$4,000	\$10,000	\$12,500	\$2,500	\$61,000	\$13,000	\$500	\$11,500	\$12,000	\$4,000	\$3,500	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$12,500	\$61,000	\$20,000
Fields Andrews	\$5,700			\$1,550	\$4,723		\$11,973	\$4,648	\$75		\$2,426	\$1,825	\$2,000	\$300	\$500		\$11,774	\$24,865
Frenchglen	\$6,000			\$10,000	\$3,700	\$500	\$20,200	\$3,000	\$500	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$3,000	\$850		\$100	\$10,250	\$20,200	\$9,265
Gateway	\$600	\$2,000			\$4,400		\$7,000	\$4,400		\$1,000	\$1,000	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$100		\$8,000	\$28,000
Greater Pine Valley	\$825				\$2,059		\$2,884	\$3,214	\$125			\$250			\$137	\$50	\$3,776	\$1,775
Grizzly	\$3,000			\$10,000			\$13,000	\$3,000	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$500	\$1,000	\$2,000		\$500		\$10,000	\$0
High Desert	\$13,700	\$15,050		\$10,000	\$8,500		\$47,250	\$8,500	\$90	\$10,000	\$12,000	\$5,000	\$6,000	\$3,500	\$550		\$45,640	\$4,800
Ironside	\$3,700				\$3,575		\$7,275	\$3,500	\$75		\$500	\$500	\$600	\$300	\$500		\$5,975	\$12,859
Jordan Valley	\$0	\$0			\$6,400	\$10,670	\$17,070	\$5,800	\$600	\$2,500	\$20,000			\$3,500	\$200	\$50	\$32,650	\$25,670
Juntura	\$5,500	\$800		\$2,150	\$5,700		\$14,150	\$5,500	\$200	\$1,000	\$2,150		\$200	\$300	\$100	\$4,700	\$14,150	\$40,000
Lone Pine	\$5,100			\$10,000	\$2,933		\$18,033	\$2,633	\$300	\$10,000	\$2,510	\$500	\$500	\$1,000	\$260	\$470	\$18,173	\$8,000
Lookout-Glasgow	\$2,000	\$1,000		\$10,000	\$3,400	\$2,500	\$18,900	\$3,300	\$100	\$10,000	\$3,000	\$1,000	\$500	\$500	\$250		\$18,650	\$14,697
Lower Bridge	\$9,500			\$10,000	\$2,700	\$5,000	\$27,200	\$2,200	\$500	\$2,500	\$3,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$700	\$1,000	\$4,000	\$19,400	\$12,715
North Harney	\$8,000	\$4,000		\$10,000	\$4,000		\$26,000	\$3,000	\$1,000	\$3,000	\$2,000	\$1,000	\$500	\$500			\$11,500	\$4,500
Petersburg	\$3,000			\$10,000	\$3,940		\$16,940	\$3,840	\$1,100	\$4,000	\$1,500		\$4,500		\$100		\$15,040	\$10,000
Post Paulina	\$1,000				\$6,002	\$4,500	\$11,502	\$5,952	\$50	\$1,000	\$5,000	\$1,000	\$300	\$250	\$350	\$350	\$14,252	\$21,333
Silver Creek	\$15,000	\$1,000			\$7,750	\$1,350	\$25,100	\$5,700	\$2,050	\$3,350	\$3,600	\$4,750	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$1,200	\$2,400	\$25,550	\$26,570
Twickenham	\$2,200	\$150		\$5,000	\$4,000		\$11,350	\$3,800	\$70		\$5,000		\$2,000	\$200	\$80		\$11,150	\$12,661
Vale	\$3,000	\$1,000		\$10,000	\$3,500		\$17,500	\$2,500	\$100	\$5,000	\$2,000		\$1,000	\$5,000	\$900		\$16,500	\$9,227
Wagontire	\$3,000	\$10,000		\$3,500	\$3,500		\$20,000	\$3,500	\$500	\$3,000	\$5,000	\$3,000	\$1,500	\$500	\$250		\$17,250	\$7,525
Warner Valley	\$13,000	\$3,000		\$10,000	\$4,700	\$2,000	\$32,700	\$9,500	\$750	\$500	\$6,000	\$2,500	\$800	\$10,000	\$500	\$2,000	\$32,550	\$1,600
WC Ranches	\$2,200			\$10,000	\$7,500		\$19,700	\$5,500	\$2,000	\$5,700	\$1,000			\$3,000	\$300	\$2,200	\$19,700	\$400
Wheeler County		\$5,000	\$4,000	\$18,000	\$4,500		\$31,500	\$4,500			\$2,500	\$4,000	\$3,000	\$18,000			\$32,000	\$28,000
Total	\$159,625	\$54,000	\$8,000	\$187,900	\$135,257	\$30,220	\$575,002	\$133,937	\$13,360	\$99,050	\$111,936	\$44,225	\$38,000	\$54,750	\$11,527	\$43,370	\$550,155	\$434,718

2022 Annual RFPA Annual Report Statistics

Rangeland Fire Protection Association	Total Acres	Private Acres 3/	State, County, Acres 2/	Federal Acres 1/	Est.	No. of Fires	Mutual Assist Fires	Smoke Chases	State & Private Acres Burned	Total Acres Burned	*Large Fires over 500 ac	Fire Suppress. Hours	Admin Hours	POV Mileage	Prescribe Fire Acres	Mem Properties (estimate)	Support Personnel	Trained Firefighters	Fire Eng Type 4	Fire Eng Type 5&6	Slip-ons Pickup	Slip on Trailers	ATV/UT V tanks	Tenders	Graders	Dozers	Tractor w/ Transport	Tractor w/ Disk	Other	
Ashwood-Antelope	357,004	314,589	356	42,059	2009	4	1	3	34	34		50	1,534	700	1,300	37	50	15	3	5	9		6	1	1	11	3			
Bakeoven-Shaniko	183,102	176,683	81	6,338	2019	0	3	2	0	0		341	306	1,036	57	18	28	27	4	10	28	3	16	1	4	3	0	4	1 Airplane 10 drones	
Blue Mountain	1,157,908	75,059	2,896	1,079,953	2013	2		4	0	3		108	300	2,500		7	10	29	8	2	4		6		1			5 Tender Trailers		
Brothers / Hampton	998,928	257,785	34,826	706,318	2006	5	0	2	4	5		25	1,115	1,220	10	47	15	26	3	5	2	4	1		2	2		4		
Burnt River	263,915	161,431	3,334	99,151	2000	6	3	0	31	100		276	527	944	0	57	16	43	2	1	12		2	1	1	7	1			
Crane	1,415,068	601,120	102,748	711,200	1998	17	1	5	128	138		233	2,500	2,500	0	300	20	40	23	9	7	3		3		2	1			
Fields / Andrews	970,347	159,304	485	810,559	1998	3	2	2	0	2		68	658	3,399	0	7	5	44	3	6	2		5	3	4	5	3			
Frenchglen	1,429,813	388,316	2,460	1,039,037	2013	1	0	1	0	1		64	636	7,776	0	30	5	39	2	3	4	1		1		1	1			
Gateway	9,306	8,701	0	604	2010	0	0	0	0	0		270	159	1,513	464	10	4	6	2	2		3	0	2	1	3				
Greater Pine Valley	75,503	30,009	0	45,494	2016	1	0	1	100			164	622		100	29	3	26	2	2	2		1	1	1	1	1	1		
Grizzly	98,329	56,221	105	42,003	2023														1		2	5	1		1	1	2	3 skidsteer w mulch head		
High Desert	1,739,231	384,666	38,158	1,316,407	2018	22	5	4	170	210		40	500	1,200	950	104	5	40	9	14	4	3	3	6		5	6	1		
Ironside	355,967	330,383	1,648	23,936	1964	3	3	1	2,887	3,438	1	150	900	1,277	0	36	6	20	1	2	11	6		3	2	2	2	4		
Jordan Valley	2,495,409	292,999	178,507	2,023,903	2008	8	5	0	0	2,782	6	1,280	250	500	0		20	112	7	2	26		25	8	2	3	1			
Juntura	952,048	181,351	82,137	688,561	2007	6	1	10	4	1,904	2	65	707	1,688	0	12	12	19	1	5	1	1	2	1	2	2	1			
Lone Pine	55,312	25,426	3,673	26,213	2013	0	2	1	0	0		150	561	2,913	150	17	5	17	2	2	6	1		2	1	6	4	2		
Lookout Glasgow	263,448	166,593	122	96,733	2014	3	3	4	0	198		305	236	1,050	100	20	5	30	4		5		6	1	5	2				
Lower Bridge	34,194	15,554	926	16,906	2022	6	2	4	2	2		146	1,119	1,431	40	38	17	30	1	1	1	1	2	2			2			
North Harney	184,024	172,919	2,174	8,931	2022	N/A						425	220		40			12												
Petersburg	84,927	80,060	1,497	3,370	2023	N/A												68	1		16		5					6		
Post / Paulina	639,580	351,749	22,566	265,265	2006	11	2	4	405	408		300	800	1,200	500	40	65	25	1	7	12	5	10		3	8	6			
Silver Creek	728,270	231,712	5,461	491,097	2001	6	0	0	94	96		72	784	9,859	0	76	65	40	9	10	2	4	0	2	0	6	3	3		
Twickenham	124,301	75,499	40	48,762	2001	1	1	1	5	10		52	818	186	210	44	4	11	3	2		2	2							
Vale	1,023,221	204,570	22,347	796,305	2008	10	2	7	26,175	44,049	3,4,5	536	373	2,676	0	28	14	26	2	1	11	1	34		2	7		7	Airplane	
Wagontire	301,268	37,844	68,610	194,814	2015	0	0	0	0	0		0	410	900	0	3	10	6		3			2	2		2	2	2		
Warner Valley	1,319,875	169,153	69,116	1,081,606	2011	6		2	88	88		92	416	4,263	0	129	13	22	2	8	5	2	4	8	1	3	2			
WC Ranches	49,193	41,489	1,947	5,757	2015	1	1	4	1	1		106	1,079	3,501			3	15	2	5	1		5		5	1				
Wheeler Co. F & Res	393,710	285,503	548	107,659	2016	9	4	5	321	321		301	1,326	3,210	0	0	3	14	2	5			1	3		1	1			
						131	41	67	30,449	53,790		5,194	19,061	57,662	3,881	1,129	403	802	99	113	171	41	123	68	28	89	47	41		

1/ RFPAs do not protect Federal acres, this list is just the federal land within the RFPA Bdy.

2/ RFPAs protect DSL lands as a membership in the RFPA, also OPRD lands are protected under a protection agreement with ODF

3/ RFPAs protect all private lands regardless of membership in the Assn as per agreement with the Board of Forestry

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- 1) Amelia Rd 3237 ac Malheur Co. 7) 13)
- 2) Hat Top 1,894 ac Malheur Co. 8/19 8) 14)
- 3) Willow Crk 40,306 ac Malheur Co. 6/28 9) 15)
- 4) MM365 1,256 ac Malheur Co. 9/1 10) 16)
- 5) Vines Hill 2,427 ac Malheur Co. 9/28 11) 17)
- 6) Sheephead 1950 ac Malheur Co. 9/9 12)

Rangeland Fire Protection Association Total Protected Acres Annual Summary

Row One

Year	No. of RFPA	Total Acres Protected	Private Acres ³	State Acres ²	Federal Acres ¹	No. of Fires	Mutual Assist Fires	Smoke Chases	State & Private Acres Burned	Total Acres Burned	Fires over 500 Acres	Fire Suppression Hours	Admin Hours	POV Mileage
2017	22	15,967,400	4,553,896	639,901	10,773,603	146	35	47	29,580	103,388	17	9,556	21,148	76,589
2018	23	16,556,081	4,855,598	639,982	11,060,501	168	52	57	25,579	76,380	17	8,692	21,075	82,000
2019	24	16,556,081	4,855,598	639,982	11,060,501	114	32	76	3,308	34,475	5	5,624	17,802	84,770
2020	24	16,556,081	4,855,598	639,982	11,060,501	142	37	78	19,005	79,516	14	8,068	17,264	62,050
2021	24	16,556,081	4,855,598	639,982	11,060,501	114	32	34	5,643	14,493	9	5,228	15,816	56,938
2022	28	17,703,201	5,276,687	646,767	11,778,940	131	41	67	30,449	53,790	6	5,194	19,061	57,662
						684	229	359	113,564	362,041	68	42,362	112,165	420,009

Row Two

Year	Prescribed Fire Acres	Member Properties (estimate)	Support Personnel	Trained Firefighters	Fire Eng Type 4	Fire Eng Type 5 & 6	Slip-on Pickup	Slip-on Trailer	ATV UTV Tank	Tenders	Graders	Dozers	Tractor w/ Transport	Tractor w/ Disk
2017	4,174	671	516	512	80	76	127	18	72	54	26	86	51	
2018	9,060	1,007	400	648	92	97	146	31	89	62	30	87	45	
2019	1,198	988	406	684	97	108	140	19	82	55	24	76	48	13
2020	3,394	996	443	655	98	103	139	23	84	50	25	101	47	16
2021	3,345	1,185	412	639	93	111	140	38	103	55	31	95	44	16
2022	3,881	1,129	403	802	99	113	171	41	123	68	28	89	47	41
	17,826													

1. RFPAs do not protect federal acres, this is the acres of federal land within the RFPA boundary.
2. RFPAs protect DSL lands as a membership of the RFPA; OPRD lands are protected under a protection agreement with ODF
3. RFPAs protect all private lands regardless of membership in the Association as per agreement with the Board of Forestry