

Agenda Item No.:	3
Work Plan:	Fire Protection Work Plan
Topic:	Ongoing Topic; District Boundary Changes
Presentation Title:	Central Oregon District Boundary Change
Date of Presentation:	March 4, 2015
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SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda item is to seek approval from the Board to hold one or more public hearings in regards to a proposed change in the Central Oregon District Boundary and to revise the administrative rule which describes the boundary of the Central Oregon Forest Protection District.

CONTEXT

The 1997 Legislature amended ORS 477.225 to require that boundaries of forest protection districts be described in administrative rule. In July 1998 the Board promulgated administrative rules which provided the framework into which individual district boundary descriptions were to be inserted. Since then, all forest protection district boundary descriptions have been inserted. In order to change a Forest Protection District Boundary, the Board must amend the pertinent Oregon Administrative Rule through the rulemaking process.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

There are two changes that need to be made to the Central Oregon Forest Protection District boundary. The first is within The Dalles Unit and the second is within the Prineville Unit as described below, respectively.

When Central Oregon District “The Dalles Unit” was established in the OAR’s there were four isolated parcels of private ownership classified and protected by ODF within the Warm Springs Reservation boundaries located south of the “McQuinn Strip” in Wasco County. One 80-acre parcel located in the E ½ of the NE ¼ of section 6, T6S, R11E was under private ownership. Since then this parcel has been purchased by the Warm Springs Tribe and as such was removed from the assessment rolls since the fire protection responsibilities were now the responsibility of the Warm Springs Tribe. Since ODF no longer protects this parcel, it should be removed from the District Boundary description of the OAR’s and the re-lettering of the subsections should occur. See attachment 2 map.

On the Prineville Unit of the Central Oregon District, there is a discrepancy as to how the boundary is described in administrative rule and what is shown on the protection map. See Attachment 3. This discrepancy was discovered recently when Crook County

conducted preliminary Forestland Classification of all lands within the District boundary, based on the boundary displayed on the map.

Once the error on the map was found to not match administrative rule, the Forestland Classification committee in conjunction with the District Forester, proposed a modified boundary change as displayed on Attachment 4. The proposed change would be to modify both the administrative rule and District boundary so they are the same, essentially moving the boundary in between the current administrative rule boundary and mapped boundary locations. This would include all Class 2 Timber lands and a buffer of Class 3 Grazing lands.

This area of the Prineville Unit, Central Oregon District is currently under dual protection with Crook County Fire and Rescue, Rural Fire Protection District.

With this proposed boundary change to the Central Oregon Forest Protection District, there will be approximately 110 Tax Lots and 66 landowners affected. Approximately 92 Tax Lots and 60 landowners will be added to the Forest Protection District for a total increase of 20,746 Acres. Approximately 18 Tax Lots and 6 landowners will be removed from the Forest Protection District for approximately 6,428 acres.

RECOMMENDATION

The Department recommends that the Board direct the State Forester to begin the rulemaking process to amend OAR 629-041-0515, the boundary description of the Central Oregon Forest Protection District Boundary.

NEXT STEPS

The Department will hold one or more public hearings on the proposed boundary description. The Department will then return to the Board for final approval to amend the administrative rule which describes the boundary of the Central Oregon Forest Protection District

ATTACHMENTS

1. Proposed OAR 629-041-0515, Central Oregon Forest Protection District Boundary
2. (Map) The Dalles Unit Boundary Change
3. (Map) 2015 Current Prineville Unit Boundary
4. (Map) 2015 Proposed Prineville Unit Boundary