

ROGUE FOREST PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION

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(541) 664-3328 FAX (541) 664-4340

<p><u>Officers:</u></p> <p><u>President:</u> Dave Erickson</p> <p><u>Vice President:</u> Darin McMichael</p> <p><u>Sec.-Treasurer:</u> Doug Thackery</p> <p><u>Directors:</u> Lon Casebeer Ace Carter Dave Erickson Vic Harris Tom Hayes Greg Johnson Susan Kendle Darin McMichael Mike Meredith Jim Miller Allen Mitchell Doug Thackery Tom Young</p> <p><u>Advisory Directors:</u> Kristin Babbs Ace Carter Mike Dykzeul Eric Hensel David Schott Dave Lorenz</p> <p><u>District Forester</u> Dan Thorpe</p> <p><u>Members:</u> Bureau of Land Mgt. Hancock Forest Mgmt. Fruit Growers Supply Co Green Diamond Res. Co. Indian Hill LLC Josephine Co. Forestry Kogap Enterprises Inc. Lone Rock Timber Co. Miller Ranch Perpetua Forests Plum Creek Silver Butte Timber Silvifiber Farm Snowy Butte Timberlands Stanley Ranch</p> <p><u>Member of:</u> Keep Oregon Green OFIC Protection Committee</p>	<p>December 18, 2014</p> <p>Doug Decker State Forester Oregon Department of Forestry 2600 State Street Salem, OR 97310</p> <p>Dear Doug,</p> <p>On behalf of the Rogue Forest Protection Association (RFPA) Board of Directors, I would like to express our gratitude to the Southwest Oregon District (SWO) for their diligent efforts in protecting our forestlands from fire this past summer. This was another busy fire season in SWO. The widespread drought set fuel conditions up for a disastrous season that turned out to have a more than an average number of lightning events. What needs to be recognized is the outstanding job SWO did to get people on the ground and in the air day after day to suppress fires during those difficult months of above average lightning strikes on above average number of days with above average fire conditions. SWO was right at 96% for fires less than 10 acres from a total of 283 fire starts.</p> <p>We felt the District was well prepared to fight large fires due in part to the off season coordination between firefighting agencies and Oregon Department of Forestry (State). Some examples of coordination are the State's Incident Command Teams assembled from personnel across the Districts that were called upon a record 12 times this season and our contribution to the Federal Interagency Team that was in charge of the Onion Mountain fire. The hard work put in by the State to pass the Wildfire Protection Act legislation and its funding could not have been timelier. The use of SPA Resources and Severity Funds was absolutely necessary in suppressing this summer's fires. Day to day resource availability and need between Districts was coordinated by the Southern Oregon Area. Off District firefighting helped SWO build experience for personnel and defray costs to SWO.</p> <p>RFPA also wants to recognize Oregon Forest Industries Council and their legislative work to limit fire liability to landowners and their work with the Oregon Forest Protection Committee to coordinate firefighting efforts throughout the state of Oregon. The Protection Committee is developing the standards for setting up quick response arson funds.</p> <p>Educating the public has been advanced in SWO with the further development of the SWO Fire website and RFPA's vote to financially support Keep Oregon Green. Kristin Babbs did an excellent job in taking over the KOG leadership.</p> <p>SWO remains committed to developing more camera sites and advancing new technology such as drones.</p>
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SWO will be losing three top employees to retirement during the 2015 fire season. While these will be big shoes to fill, Southern Oregon area director Dave Lorenz recognizes the importance of these positions and has already started the recruitment process to get qualified people in these positions.

We are pleased to hear the \$16,000,000 request to fund the shortfall in last years fire season was approved by the legislature. We are concerned, but hopeful, that we can acquire insurance with a reasonable premium and deductible for future fire seasons.

RFPA would like the State to express the need to our Federal neighbors to manage their land to the benefit of fire suppression through salvage and active management. Quick fire suppression in a mixed ownership is the responsibility of all owners and needs to be part of everyone's plan.

We would like the State to be mindful of the importance to the Southern Oregon Area of the Medford Air Tanker Base and not miss any opportunities to support its continued existence. Please take note that 148 loads of retardant were flown out of the Medford Tanker base to area fires during the 2014 season.

In conclusion, I would like to recognize that the RFPA Board values the relationship with the Oregon Department of Forestry, Southern Area and SWO District for their continued conscious decisions through budgeting and on ground work to keep costs down for landowners.

Sincerely,



Dave Erickson
President, RFPA

West Oregon Forest Protective Association

January 26, 2015

Doug Decker, State Forester
Oregon Department of Forestry
Salem Headquarters
2600 State Street
Salem, Oregon 97310

Dear Doug:

The West Oregon Forest Protective Association extends its appreciation to the Department of Forestry for its endurance and diligence during the protracted 2014 fire season. The Association is especially grateful to the individual employees who were deployed repeatedly on extensive tours away from home as the State battled multiple large fires this season. Also, it was noted during the fall board meeting that during the course of the fire season the Forest Service placed air tankers and other severity resources on standby and made them available to assist the Department. This contribution coupled with increased awareness of private land values and restored funding have been refreshing and welcome changes in an era where federal budgets and land/fire management philosophies have generally exacerbated challenges during fire season. The Department has been instrumental in bringing about these changes through persistent efforts over the past several years.

The Association recognizes that the challenges of fire season don't end when the weather changes as the Department faces an uncertain future in renewing its large fire insurance policy after two consecutive years of collecting a maximum benefit. There are many questions yet to be answered over the next few months in terms of whether or not the State will be able to purchase insurance, at what cost the insurance might be available, what deductible/benefit mix would be offered, and whether the State should consider becoming self-insured. As the Department and the State navigate these waters, the Association will be keenly interested in the path taken to continue to protect the general fund on behalf of all Oregon citizens. Having a working system to suppress large fires is an essential part of maintaining the marvelous beauty and myriad resource benefits that forests provide to every person in this state.

Exploring the options to construct a new Toledo Unit office continues to be a top priority for the Association in the coming year. The Association has enjoyed a great deal of assistance from Department staff and will continue to rely on your support as it endeavors to select the best path forward for this project.

This year witnessed many challenges for the Department and Fire Associations, and many challenges are ahead. The cooperative relationship between landowners and the State was, is, and will continue to be the most effective means to protect forest resources and the safety of the citizens of Oregon. I look forward to continued success next year and into the future.

Sincerely,



Paul Betts,
President West Oregon Forest Protective Association

c/o Oregon Department of Forestry
24533 Alsea Highway, Philomath, OR 97370



EASTERN LANE FOREST PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION

3150 MAIN STREET
SPRINGFIELD, OR 97478

February 18, 2015

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Giustina Land and Timber Co

Vice President:

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Greg Wagenblast

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(Vacant)

Bureau of Land

Management:

Eric Johnson

US Forest Service:

Sean Stafford

Oregon Forest

Industries Council:

Mike Dykzeul

Keep Oregon Green

Association:

Kristen Babbs

Mr. Doug Decker

State Forester

Oregon Department of Forestry

2600 State Street

Salem, Oregon 97310

Dear Doug,

The Board of Directors of the Eastern Lane Forest Protective Association thanks you for this opportunity to communicate directly with your office. Writing this letter is an opportunity for the entire Board to reflect on the prior year and look ahead in what we hope is a meaningful and constructive manner.

During the evening of August 10th a lightning storm rolled through the foothills of Eastern Lane County. Fourteen fires emerged the next day. This was a serious test to our District. The District responded with an aggressive initial attack on the fires. With the support of landowners/operators and neighboring Districts we were able to catch these fires before they escaped. This event served as a reminder of how much potential risk exists. After action reviews were held to make sure all involved learned from the event.

As I am sure that you are aware, our District benefits greatly from the aviation support provided by Weyerhaeuser Company. In 2014 this resource became available to protect forest resources on federal lands. We really appreciate all the efforts of Weyerhaeuser and the Department to make this happen. We fully understand that the best way to retain this valuable resource is to make it economically sustainable.

The South Cascade District is conducting a Protection Study this winter which will help to further identify priorities of the District. This review will provide confidence that our staffing and resources are properly aligned and that the district is budgeting efficiently. We appreciate the Department making this effort.

The South Cascade District is preparing to send out a Request for Proposals to design a solution to an aging warehouse. Funds from our Famada account are being used to fund this design/planning work. In 2013 the South Cascade District received legislative bonding authority but the landowner boards intend to be very

prudent in the use of borrowed money. Servicing debt would surely reduce the Districts flexibility to adjust for unanticipated expenses. We look forward to working with the unit staff to identify our basic needs and will support a fiscally sound project.

We thank you for the opportunity to express our views. We hope this offers you a glimpse at some of the issues that matter most to the landowners here in Eastern Lane. ELFPA is confident that the close working relationship we share with the Department of Forestry will continue to protect our forestlands in 2015.

Sincerely,



Cary Hart
President

Eastern Lane Forest Protective Association

**CLACKAMAS-MARION
FOREST PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION**

14995 South Hwy 211, Molalla OR 97038 503-829-2216, FAX 503-829-4736

Organized to Promote Cooperative Forest Protection
"A Partnership with the Oregon Department of Forestry"

Founded 1912, Incorporated December 21, 1936

President:

Jeff Frank

Frank Timber Resources, Inc.

Vice President:

Randy Silbernagel

Freres Timber, Inc.

Secretary/Treasurer:

David Lake

Portland General Electric

Directors:

Ron Borisch

Weyerhaeuser Company

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Tyson Losli

Weyerhaeuser Company

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Lazy RB Tree Farm

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Bureau of Land Management

Cindy Enstrom

Clackamas County

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Defense Board

Larry Goff

Clackamas Farm Forestry
Association

Jim Schreiber

Keep Oregon Green

Kristin Babbs

Oregon Dept. Fish & Wildlife

Jeff Boechler

Oregon Forest Industries
Council

Mike Dykzeul

Mt. Hood National Forest

Debora Roy

NW Oregon Area Director

Andy White

Willamette National Forest
Detroit Ranger District

Grady McMahan

April 15, 2015

Doug Decker
Oregon Department of Forestry
Salem Headquarters
2600 State Street
Salem, Oregon 97310

Dear Doug,

On behalf of the Clackamas-Marion Forest Protective Association I would like to express our gratitude toward North Cascade District, and all districts throughout the State for the hard work put forth during the past two very difficult fire seasons.

The North Cascade District staff continues to do an excellent job of communicating with our association during fire season. Weekly conference calls conducted by District Forester Steve Wilson or a member of his staff are a good conduit to measure the comfort level of current IFPL for landowners throughout the district. Also helpful for day to day operations are the daily ERC ratings, which can be obtained via email. I would like to encourage district staff to continue educating the public on the potential and danger of wildfire. It seems as though more fires have a human element to them.

The 2014 fire season for the North Cascade District was very unusual with an east wind event in January fueling fires that would consume over four hundred acres and the culmination being the 36 Pit fire. In between our fire season was fairly quiet thus allowing personnel to go out of district on individual assignments. With regards to 36 Pit I would like to commend district staff in their efforts of keeping our association members updated on a daily basis as to the progression of the fire. As, well as, communicating with the federal agencies in regards to landowners concerns over strategically attacking the fire. I would like to acknowledge the advanced planning the district did in September keeping resources on standby over the weekend during a predicted east wind event. On a Sunday afternoon I received a call from ODF dispatch of a reported fire on our Idanha property. When I arrived two helicopters were dumping water, USFS and ODF crews on sight and a dozer and tender had just arrived. Having these resources readily available was a huge reason the Church fire was contained to just over one acre. Another example of the complete and coordinated system.

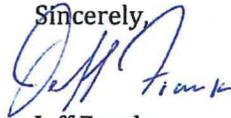
I would like to commend you and your staff for the work you do through the legislative process and your efforts to secure funding for unexpected fire costs. In addition your trip to London to meet with the underwriters from Lloyds of London to bolster our relationship and reaffirm our interest in continued coverage.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Paul Bell on his long and successful career with ODF and wish him well in retirement. And to Nancy Hirsch for her hard work and elevation to Deputy State Forester. Let's not forget your appointment of Doug Grafe to fill in behind Nancy. You have put together an excellent team.

In closing, Doug, I again would like to thank you and your staff for meeting with our board and listening as we aired some of our concerns, as well as, you educating us as to how ODF is directed to handling certain personnel and policy situations.

Doug, good luck to you and all ODF personnel during 2015.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeff Frank". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Jeff Frank

Clackamas-Marion Forest Protective Association