

# Deschutes County Forestland Classification

February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015 – 9 AM  
Minutes

## Committee Members Present:

Ed Keith, Deschutes County Forester  
Kristin Dodd, ODF, Unit Forester COD  
Jeremy Ast, Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire  
Matt Cyrus – Landowner, Grazing Representative  
Bill Swarts – Retired, Timber Representative  
Nicole Strong, Deschutes County, OSU-Extension Agent

## Committee Members Absent:

None

## Guests:

Roger Johnson, Sisters Camp Sherman Fire  
Ben Duda, ODF  
George Ponte, ODF  
Gordon R. Foster, ODF  
Boone Zimmerlee, ODF  
John Thomas, Cloverdale RFPD  
Jerry Johnson, Cloverdale RFPD

**Meeting called to order at 9:05 am by Kristin Dodd**

## Introductions

## Review & approve Minutes from 1/26/15 meeting

Review of January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015 minutes. Motion to approve minutes made by Matt Cyrus, and seconded by Bill Swarts. **Vote: For — Unanimous.**

## Public Comment Period

Jerry Johnson, the Board President for Cloverdale Fire District attended the meeting to clarify how the Committee classification work will affect the annual revenue of Cloverdale Fire District. The Committee explained that the classification for the area within the Cloverdale Fire District are still being reviewed and the Committee is cognizant of the implications this classification process has on local Fire Districts. George Ponte offered to speak with Mr. Johnson in private to explain the classification process in detail and answer his questions so the Committee could continue their classification work.

Roger Johnson, the Fire Chief for the Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire District attended the meeting to ask the Committee to consider two items. The first was a request that the Committee classify any lands within the City Limits of Sisters as a 0 or exempt. Many of the regulatory processes that exist within the city limits reduce the fire threat for properties within City Limits. These lands also have infrastructure in place that allow for a quick and effective fire response within City Limits. The second item Chief Johnson requested was that the Committee considers any lands that have documented irrigation rights to be classified as a 0 or exempt. Many areas have irrigation rights and the owners may use their irrigation when needed to maintain their water rights.

Ed Keith confirmed with Boone Zimmerlee if Oregon Department of Forestry could only find the physical location of the water rights on properties but not where the water right have been applied. Boone explained that the GIS layer only shows which properties have water rights not if they use their water rights on a consistent basis. Matt Cyrus suggested contacting the local water masters in the Sisters area. He knows at least one of the districts has the usage mapped in GIS layer the Committee may be able to use. Jeremy Ast added that water rights are accurately mapped. The Committee requested that Oregon Department of Forestry follow up with the surrounding water district to see if their GIS layers can be integrated into the maps the Committee is using for the classification process.

## **Old Business**

### **Review changes to map recommended by the Committee.**

The committee approved all changes on the map made by Oregon Department of Forestry per the committee's recommendations at the January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015 meeting. During the review the Committee asked Boone Zimmerlee how old the aerial photos are that are being used? Boone explained that the aerial photos are from 2012 & 2014.

## **New Business**

### Classification of the lands within the City of Sisters:

Chief Johnson mentioned this topic during his earlier comments for the Committee. The Committee is tasked with classifying the lands in the county according to the guidelines set forth in the initial meetings. Numerous factors can influence whether classifying lands within the city limits makes sense or not, from an ODF protection responsibility standpoint. In some cases paved streets, fire hydrants, paid fire district staff, quick fire response, spread potential is low and typically much less vegetation due to infrastructure. Does it make sense for Oregon Department of Forestry to provide fire suppression capacity for lands within city limits?

Matt Cyrus asked Boone to follow-up with an updated city limit boundary so that the Committee can clearly see where the boundary is while they are classifying lands. Matt Cyrus posed a compromise on the classification within city limits to the Committee. Areas within city limits that still have large tracts of wildland fuel will still need Oregon Department of Forestry's protection in his opinion.

The Committee agreed that subdivisions that have infrastructure that allow for quick and efficient wildfire response will be exempt from classification inside Sisters City Limits. However, large tracts of wildland fuel still should be classified, even if the tracts are within Sisters City Limits.

Kristin shared that there is statutory language regarding classification of lands within city limits. There are factors for consideration that allow for some flexibility in classifying lands within city limits, such as water supply, access, fuel modification, and if the area has adequate structural fire protection, the Committee has the flexibility to classify inside a city on a case-by-case basis. Many wildland urban interface neighborhoods are already subject to other regulations from the city when they are within the city limits.

### **Continue review & preliminary classification of lands**

The Committee continued their review of the Deschutes County lands in Township 15S (T15S), Range 10E (R10E).

The committee reviewed and accepted the preliminary mapping classification designation by Oregon Department of Forestry on the following Sections in **T15S**,

**R10E:** 1, 2, 7, 11, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35 & 36.

Further, the committee asked that changes be made, per the committee's suggested revisions, to the proposed maps presented by the Oregon Department of Forestry on the following Sections in **T15S, R10E:** 8, 12, 13 & 26.

The Committee asked for more definitive information, including photos, water rights information and current Sisters City limits, so that further review and evaluation could be made on these sections in **T15S, R10E:** 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 14 & 28.

The Committee continued their review of the Deschutes County lands in Township 15S (T15S), Range 11E (R11E).

The committee reviewed and accepted the preliminary mapping classification designation by Oregon Department of Forestry on the following Sections in **T15S, R11E:** 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 28, 29, 32, 33, 34, 35 & 36.

Further, the committee asked that changes be made, per the committee's suggested revisions, to the proposed maps presented by the Oregon Department of Forestry on the following Sections in **T15S, R11E:** 7, 8, 9, 17, 18, 26, 30 & 31.

No Sections in **T15S, R11E** suggested for further review.

#### **Calendar Planning – Meeting Schedule**

The next meeting will be March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015 from 9am-12pm at the Sisters ODF office located at 16721 Pine Tree Lane Sisters, OR 97759. The Committee will meet again on April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015 from 9am-12pm in the Deschutes County Road Department Conference Room. The Deschutes County Road Department is located at 61150 SE 27<sup>th</sup> St Bend, OR 97702.

There being no further business to discuss Ed Keith, **adjourned the Committee Meeting at 11:46 pm.**

**Next meeting:** March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015, 9am-12pm at Sisters ODF Office, 16721 Pine Tree Lane, Sisters, OR 97759