STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item No.: D

Work Plan: Fire Protection

Topic: Annual Topic: Approval of Rangeland Fire Protection

Association Budgets

Date of Presentation: June 6, 2024

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Fire Protection Division

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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 2025 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 Rangeland Fire Protection Associations.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1) Rangeland Fire Protection Associations Fact Sheet
- 2) Fiscal Year 2025 Rangeland Fire Protection Associations Budgets

- 3) 2023 Annual Report Statistics4) Total Acres Protected by Year List



Oregon's Rangeland Fire Protection Associations

April 1, 2024

Protecting 17.5 million acres of range, crop and critical Sage Grouse habitat in Oregon

RFPAs operate as independent associations of landowners that provide their own local wildfire protection. RFPA fire prevention and suppression helps in conserving sage grouse habitat as well as safeguarding livestock forage and crop lands, which are crucial to local economies.

Changes to ODF Rangeland Fire Staffing

After 40 years of putting out fires all around the state, Marvin Vetter made the reluctant decision to trade his fire tool for a fishing pole.

This left the Rangeland Fire Coordinator position open. Allison Rayburn was chosen for the position. She brings 24 years of experience running engines, managing fires and fire crews, and most recently serving as the John Day ODF Unit Forester.

Rick Fletcher was with the program for a year and a half as a Rangeland Fire Specialist. We appreciate his work with landowners, and his help updating training classes, maps and the RFPA Google site. Rick moved on to the Central Oregon Assistant District Forester. Congratulations Rick!

Steve Meyer was chosen to fill the Rangeland Fire Specialist position. Steve comes with over 25 years of experience working with fire equipment, fire crews, fire suppression and management. He was most recently the Baker ODF Wildland Fire Supervisor.

Allison and Steve have both had long careers serving Oregon's landowners with the Oregon Department of Forestry and are proud to continue that path with the Rangeland Fire Program.



ODF Rangeland Fire Staff, left to right: Central Rangeland Fire Specialist Don Tschida, Admin Specialist Cassie Adamson, East Rangeland Fire Specialist Steve Meyer, South Rangeland Fire Specialist Jason Rayburn, Program Coordinator Allison Rayburn and Radio Technician Brandon Daniels.

Marvin's Final Summit





2023 Outstanding Neighbor Award

The ODF Rangeland program recognized Ron Whiting for his long term dedication as chairman of the Lone Pine RFPA. Ron's thoroughness and experience makes him an invaluable asset to Lone Pine as well as neighboring RFPAs and cooperators. Ron also se-

ODF Staff Support Additions, Expansions and Training

ODF supports the associations through administrative guidance, insurance reimbursement, fire suppression training and facilitating access to federal grants and surplus firefighting equipment.

The addition and experience of new staff has added to the amount and variety of training provided. In addition to basic and refresher firefighting training, staff presented equipment winterization tips and safety messages based on real life lessons learned.

Administrative work has kept ODF staff busy over the last year with two new associations formed in 2023 (Grizzly and Petersburg) and an interest meeting was held in Umatilla County for another possible addition in 2024. High Desert, Brother-Hampton, North Harney, Lone Pine, Crane, and Frenchglen all made adjustments to their boundaries. Fields-Andrews expanded their boundary to include an additional 4,500 of private, state and federal land at the north end of their RFPA.

Rangeland Fire Readiness and Response



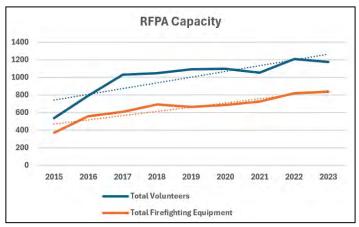
April 1, 2024

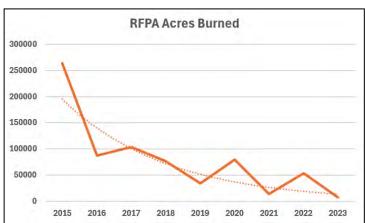
Increased Protection and Less Acres Burned

In the past nine years, the Rangeland Program has significantly expanded it's protection from 13.8 million acres in 2015 to 17.5 million acres in 2024. In those nine years the program has added eight Rangeland Fire Protective Associations, making a total of 28 RFPAs in the state of Oregon.

Even with the increase in protected acres, acres burned have been decreasing. The RFPAs' added capacity allows them to quickly respond and begin work on a fire while more resources are on their way. In 2023, 7,080 acres burned on RFPA-protected land, far below the 9-year average of 80,057 acres burned.

In 2023, the largest fire on within a RFPA was the 1,628 acre Alder Creek Fire burning on WC Ranches and Prineville BLM. With the RFPAs quick response to initial attack and the continued partnerships with the Bureau of Land Management, Oregon Department of Forestry, local municipalities, landowners and other organizations, we're able to keep Oregon a little bit safer from wildfire.





Firefighting Equipment

Helping distribute excess fire equipment and repurpose excess military equipment into viable wildland engines continues to be a large focus of the Rangeland program. RFPAs receive equipment from the FEPP/FFP program, BLM offices, ODF offices, ODF Fire Cache, Redmond Fire Cache, and private landowners.

In the last year, they have distributed more than 20 pieces of equipment such as military trucks, fire engines, water trailers, slip-in tank/pump modules, and even a helicopter dip tank. As well as truckloads of radios, hose, hand tools and Nomex clothing.

We appreciate everyone's generosity in supporting the program.

The best quality equipment we have received has been through the Bureau of Land Management's Rural Readiness Program. In the last four years the program has received four fire engines and one water tender. This equipment is distributed from BLM to the Rangeland Associations in full-service condition before it's reached the end of its life, and comes fully stocked with equipment and ready to respond to fires. This is a big help to associations as well as increasing fire response on state and federal land.



Burns BLM transfers type 6 engine to North Harney RFPA



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



Rangeland Forest Protection Association Budget Summary July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020

Fiscal Year 2025 Rangeland Fire Protection Association Budget Summary

				T				Evnances										
				Income	<u> </u>			Expenses Office										
RFPA	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	Expenses (Supplies, Postage, etc.)	Other	Total Expenses	Reserve Account
Ashwood-Antelope	7,000	0	0	10,000	8,000	0	25,000	7,500	1,000	2,000	7,000	2,500	1,000	3,000	500	1,000	25,500	23,436
Bakeoven-Shaniko	10,000	300,000	0	0	0	15,000	325,000	3,400	500	60,000	1,000	2,000	5,000	0	100	23,000	95,000	67,755
Blue Mountain	1,400	3,500	0	0	4,200	0	9,100	3,700	500	4,000	750	0	0	0	0	0	8,950	10,000
Brothers-Hampton	2,500	300	0	7,700	5,900	2,500	18,900	5,850	50	2,500	2,000	2,000	1,000	200	500	775	14,875	6,164
Burnt River	5,000	0	0	10,000	5,820	0	20,820	4,800	200	7,500	3,500	1,500	2,500	0	200	820	21,020	55,163
Crane	30,000	2,000	2,000	10,000	14,000	1,500	59,500	13,000	1,500	46,000	15,000	6,000	3,500	4,500	3,000	24,000	116,500	20,000
Fields Andrews	4,600	1,700	0	0	5,100	0	11,400	5,100	0	0	930	550	100	0	100	0	6,780	27,299
Frenchglen	6,000	0	0	10,000	3,700	500	20,200	3,000	500	1,000	1,500	3,000	850	0	100	10,250	20,200	9,265
Gateway	1,000	1,000	0	0	4,700	0	6,700	4,700	0	1,000	1,000	0	500	250	100		7,550	
Greater Pine Valley	600	0	0	0	1,037	4,740	6,377	2,103	70	0	353	275	0	0	82	218	3,101	
Grizzly	3,000	0	0	10,000	3,000	0	16,000	3,000	1,000	4,000	500	1,000	2,500	250	500	0	12,750	39,140
High Desert	16,000	10,000	0	2,500	8,500	0	37,000	8,500	90	5,000	3,000	5,000	4,000	2,500	550	0	28,640	3,500
Ironside	3,700	0	0	0	3,575	0	7,275	3,500	375	0	1,000	1,000	900	300	200	0	7,275	10,781
Jordan Valley	10,000	0	0	0	6,400	10,670	27,070	5,800	600	2,500	20,000	0	0	3,500	200	50	32,650	25,670
Juntura	5,500	300	0	3,200	2,200	0	11,200	5,500	200	1,000	2,000	0	300	200	500	1,500	11,200	45,000
Lookout-Glasgow	2,000	1,000	0	10,000	3,400	2,500	18,900	3,300	100	10,000	3,000	1,000	500	500	250	0	18,650	16,511
Lone Pine	5,200	0	0	10,000	2,950	0	18,150	2,650	300	0	9,820	500	180	0	260	0	13,710	10,000
Lower Bridge	10,000	0	0	7,500	5,000	5,000	27,500	4,500	750	2,000	3,500	2,500	2,500	1,200	500	2,500	19,950	7,550
North Harney	7,500	500		5,000	4,000	0	17,000	3,400	600	2,000	4,000	1,000	1,500	500	500	500	14,000	3,000
Petersburg	3,000	0	0	10,000	0	10,000	23,000	3,840	1,100	0	0	0	0	0	100	4,500	9,540	
Post Paulina	1,050	4,500	0	0	6,050	0	11,600	5,996	150	1,000	5,000	1,000	300	250	350	600	14,646	31,790
Silver Creek	12,000	500	0	0	8,000	1,200	21,700	5,800	2,200	2,600	3,600	3,000	1,000	750	,	1,950	21,900	38,966
Twickenham	2,600	300	0	5,000	3,349	0	11,249	3,279	70	3,000	2,000	0	2,000	0		0	10,649	11,363
Vale	3,000	1,000	0	10,000	2,500	0	16,500	2,500	100	5,000	2,000	0	1,000	5,000		0	16,500	8,236
Wagontire	3,000	7,000	0	3,500	3,500	0	17,000	3,500	500	2,000	4,000	3,000	1,500	500		0	15,250	7,224
Warner Valley	13,000	3,000	0	0	9,500	2,000	27,500	9,500	250	500	4,000	1,200	500	1,500	250	1,200	18,900	1,600
WC Ranches	2,400	0	0	10,000	7,500	0	19,900	5,700	2,000	5,500	1,000	0	0	3,000	300	2,400	19,900	4,248
Wheeler County	0	5,000	4,000	9,000	2,000	0	20,000	4,500	0	10,000	5,000	4,000	3,000	18,000	0	0	44,500	28,000
	171,050	341,600	6,000	143,400	133,881	55,610	851,541										650,086	511,661

											2023 A	Annual	Report	: Stati:	sics															
Rangeland Fire Protection Association	Total Acres <u>4</u> /	Private Acres	State, County, Acres <u>2</u> /	Federal Acres	Tribal Acres	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 Personel	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/	Tractor w/ Disk	Other
Ashwood-Antelope	357,003	314,547	356	41,917	183	2009	2	2	2	689	689	3)	174	1,197	3,402	800	43	45	15	3	5	9	0	8	1	1	11	3	0	
Bakeoven-Shaniko	183,145	176,247	81	5,947	870	2019	3	5	6	100	100		272	285	1,727	10	18	3	25	4	10	28	3	15	1	4	3	0	4	
Blue Mountain	1,157,141	75,020	2,828	1,059,899	19,394	2013	1	0	4	0	0		20	100	2,000	0	7	10	29	9	1	4			6					5 Tender Trailers
Brothers / Hampton	716,557	225,797	35,288	455,472	-	2006	2	1	2	1	1		22	656	4,049	155	49	14	42	3	5	2	4	3	0	2	0	4		
Burnt River	273,581	169,336	3,702	100,543	-	2000	9	1	1	7	7		280	326	932	0	58	16	41	3	1	12	0	2	1	1	7	1	0	
Crane	1,344,523	574,596	102,682	658,557	8,688	1998	13	1	3	350	350		156	2,650	2,500	0	300	20	40	23	9	7	3	0	3	0	2	1	0	
Fields / Andrews	1,009,243	161,806	1,077	846,360	-	1998	1	2	2	667	667	2)	520	175	2,495	0	42	3	12	1	6	2	0	0	4	3	4	4	0	
Frenchglen	1,467,117	414,529	2,109	1,050,479	-	2013	1	0	1	0	1		64	636	7,776	0	30	5	39	2	3	4	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	
Gateway	9,310	8,703	0	605	2	2010	0	0	0	0	0		211	395	712	305	10	15	10	2	2			3		2	1	3		
Greater Pine Valley	74,955	29,662	437	44,856	-	2016	2	0	2	35	35		122	947		0	7	2	24	2	2	2	2							
Grizzly	70,923	42,619	1	28,303	-	2023	1	1	1	1	1		180	500			17	10	3		2		2	5	2		1	1	2	3 skid steers with mulch heads, 3 backhoes
High Desert	2,014,038	393,047	63,343	1,557,490	158	2018	15	1	5	125	145		200	100	2,700	50	160	5	30		14	4	3	1	5	0	5	4	1	2 Trailer Pumps, 2 Dump trucks
Ironside	356,097	330,501	1,649	23,947	-	1964	1	0	2	10	10		15	1,000	1,500	0	36	6	20	1	3	11	6	2	3	2	3	2	4	
Jordan Valley	2,496,084	292,992	178,676	2,024,416	-	2008	3	0	0	10	415		750	250	250	0	25	20	100	7	2	26	0	25	8	3	3	1	0	
Juntura	952,374	178,141	82,154	688,808	3,271	2007	4	1	0	1,281	1,416	4)	65	800	1,601	0	11	12	19	1	5	1	1	2	1	2	2	1		
Lone Pine	55,146	17,301	2,675	35,170	-	2013	0	0	1	0	0		150	600	2,500	100	20	6	14	2	2	3	1		3	3	3	3	1	
Lookout Glasgow	267,235	168,166	561	98,508	-	2014	2	4	26	3	8		209	198	865	80		0	30	4	0	5	0	0	6	1	5	1		
Lower Bridge	32,258	15,212	40	17,006	-	2022	1	1	4	0	0		52	892	1,470	0	48	12	42	1	2	2	0	2	2	0	0	0	2	3 Support Vehicles
North Harney	106,269	82,663	1,209	20,607	1,790	2022	0	0	3	0	0		20	750	1,000	0	40	3	12	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Petersburg	75,763	72,311	866	2,108	478	2023	3	2	4	140	140		423	1,280	10,590	0	34	0	103	1	0	38	0	0	10	0	0	0	13	
Post / Paulina	640,268	351,909	22,898	265,461	-	2006	2	1	8	2	2		100	800	1,200	0	41	65	25	1	7	12	5	10	1	3	8	6	0	
Silver Creek	675,069	227,772	10,820	436,477	-	2001	3	1	4	2	18		55	435	4,020	0	65	52	38	9	10	2	4	0	2	0	6	3	3	
Twickenham	126,292	77,338	40	46,317	2,597	2001	0	2	1	0	0		20	700	1,371	210	52	3	9	2	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2 Chainsaws
Vale	1,025,383	204,660	24,195	796,528	-	2008	9	0	4	267	1,039	5)	154	359	1,082	0	29	20	17	3	1	11	1	34	0	2	7	0	7	Airplane
Wagontire	301,322	37,852	68,621	194,849	-	2015	0	0	0	0	0		0	305	630	0	3	10	6	0	3	0	0	0	2	1	2	2	2	
Warner Valley	1,311,703	162,789	77,098	1,071,776	40	2011	4	0	0	40	40		76	440	3,744	0	129	13	22	0	8	5	2	4	8	1	3	2	0	
WC Ranches	49,243	41,506	1,948	5,789	-	2015	2	0	0	1,555	1,675	1)	132	2,163	4,536	0	12	2	17	2	5	1	0	5		2	5	2	1	2 excavators 2 backhoes
Wheeler Co. F & Res	391,920	283,710	548	75,917	31,745	2016	9	4	5	321	321		301	1,326	3,210	0		3	14	2	5	0	0	1	3	0	1	1	0	
	17,539,962	5,130,732	685,902	11,654,112	69,216		93	30	91	5,606	7,080	5	4,743	20,264	67,862	1,710	1,286	375	798	89	115	192	39	123	73	33	83	46	40	

 $[\]underline{1}/\textit{RFPAs do not protect Federal acres, this list is just the federal land within the \textit{RFPA Bdry}.}$

1) Alder Creek 1,628 ac Wheeler County 7/6/23	7)	13)
2) Mann Lake 667 ac Harney County 7/18/23	8)	14)
3) Antelope Creek 688 ac Wasco County 7/19/23	9)	15)
4) Corbie Fire 1,141 ac Malheur County 8/1/23	10)	16)
5) Birch Creek 682 ac Malheur County 7/17/23	11)	17)
6)	12)	

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

 $[\]underline{3}/\mathit{RFPAs}\ \mathit{protect}\ \mathit{all}\ \mathit{private}\ \mathit{lands}\ \mathit{regardless}\ \mathit{of}\ \mathit{membership}\ \mathit{in}\ \mathit{the}\ \mathit{Assn}\ \mathit{as}\ \mathit{per}\ \mathit{agreement}\ \mathit{with}\ \mathit{the}\ \mathit{Board}\ \mathit{of}\ \mathit{Forestry}$

^{4/}Total acres updated in 2023 due to better mapping/GIS calculations and boundary changes. Only includes Oregon acres.

Annual Totals

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
2015	20	13,897,124	4,007,960	616,063	9,322,329	164			113,160	263,971	11	15,591	9,954	
2016	22	14,228,169	4,169,230	601,743	9,457,196	116	31		2,732	87,422	7	5,956	20,148	
2017	23	15,967,400	4,553,896	639,901	10,773,603	146	35	147	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	26	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
2023	28	17,539,962	5,130,732	685,902	11,654,112	93	30	91	5,606	7,080	5	4,743	20,264	67,862
	9-Year Average								26,118	80,057				

Year	Row To	Support	Trained	TOTAL	Fire Eng Type	Fire Eng Type 5 &	-	Slip-on Trailer	ATV UTV	Tenders	Graders	Dozers	Tractor w/ Transport	Tractor w/ Disk
	(estimate)	Personnel	Firefighters	VOLUNTEERS	4	6	Pickup	Trailer	Tank				Transport	w/ Disk
2015	641	252	283	535	95		112	6	57	45	11	43		
2016	558	449	340	789	61	71	116	24	70	50	26	98	41	
2017	671	516	512	1028	80	76	127	18	72	54	26	86	51	17
2018	1,007	400	648	1048	92	97	146	31	89	62	30	87	45	15
2019	988	406	684	1090	97	108	140	19	82	55	24	76	48	13
2020	996	443	655	1098	98	103	139	23	84	50	25	101	47	16
2021	1,185	412	639	1051	93	111	140	38	103	55	31	95	44	16
2022	1,129	403	802	1205	99	113	171	41	123	68	28	89	47	41
2023	1,286	375	798	1173	89	115	192	39	123	73	33	83	46	40

^{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