

Agenda Item No.:	D
Work Plan:	Fire Protection Work Plan
Topic:	Ongoing Topic: Rangeland Protection Association Formation
Presentation Title:	Hearing request to Expand Silver Creek RFPA Boundary
Date of Presentation:	March 5th, 2025
Contact Information:	Stacy Savona, Wildfire Prevention and Policy Manager 971-374-3351, stacy.savona@odf.oregon.gov

SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda item is to obtain Board approval to proceed with a public hearing on the subject of expanding the current boundary for Silver Creek Rangeland Protection Association to include additional rangeland not currently protected.

CONTEXT

This is part of the Department's ongoing effort, pursuant to ORS 477.320, to assist rural communities in eastern Oregon to develop wildland fire protection coverage in areas that are currently unprotected.

Rangeland owners in Harney County have provided a letter (Attachment 1) requesting the Board to hold a public hearing on the subject of providing protection from fire for rangelands by expanding the current boundary of the Silver Creek Rangeland Protection Association (Attachment 2).

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

Rangelands in eastern Oregon present a concern to Forest Protection Districts because of the lack of fire protection. Fires starting on these lands, left uncontrolled, have frequently threatened or spread to forestlands protected by the Department. This creates a dilemma for the district and potential use of district resources on unprotected lands that do not financially support the protection district.

The 2004 Fire Program Review identified assisting local communities in developing fire protection on unprotected lands as a high priority. Rangeland Protective Associations have been formed in Ash Butte, Blue Mt., Brothers Hampton, Burnt River, Crane, Fields-Andrews, Frenchglen, Gateway, Ironside, Jordan Valley, Juntura, Greater Pine Valley, Lookout Glasgow, Lone Pine, Post Paulina, Silver Creek, Twickenham, Vale, Warner Valley, Wagontire, WC Ranches, and Wheeler County.

The area the private landowners are considering for fire protection is interspersed with other land management agencies.

Although the emphasis is protection of private lands, opportunities will exist for partnerships and mutual aid agreements with other entities to strengthen wildland fire protection throughout the area.

RECOMMENDATION

The Department recommends the Board approve the landowners' request to hold a public hearing on the subject of providing protection from fire for rangelands in Harney and Lake Counties, Oregon.

NEXT STEPS

The Department will hold a public hearing and determine the support for providing fire protection in Harney and Lake Counties, Oregon. If there is sufficient support, a request will be made from the landowners to the Board to determine whether the rangeland should be included within a protection system.

If the Board determines that the rangeland should be included in a rangeland protection system, the Board, in cooperation with interested persons, will establish the extent and type of protection to be provided. Such protection shall be commensurate with the values and uses of the rangeland to be protected.

ATTACHMENT

- (1) Letter from Silver Creek Rangeland Protection Association
- (2) Map of the proposed boundary expansion of the Silver Creek Rangeland Protection Association

Oregon Department of Forestry
Salem Headquarters
2600 State Street
Salem, OR 97310

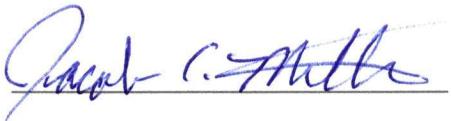
January 30, 2025

RE: Silver Creek Rangeland Fire Protection Association Expansion

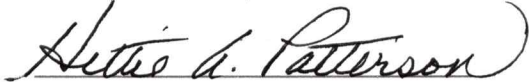
Dear Ms. Skinner and the Board of Forestry

The Silver Creek Rangeland Fire Protection Association would like to hold a public hearing to expand our protection boundary to the west to include approximately 88,000 additional acres in Harney and Lake Counties. 84,697 acres are federally owned, 2,457 acres are privately owned, 640 acres are state owned and 37.4 acres are county owned. The private, state and county land is currently unprotected.

Please see attached map and signatures of interested landowners. Thank you in advance for your consideration.



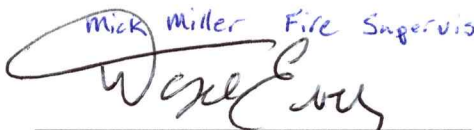
Chance Miller, Silver Creek RFPA Chairman



Hettie Patterson, Silver Creek RFPA Secretary/Treasurer

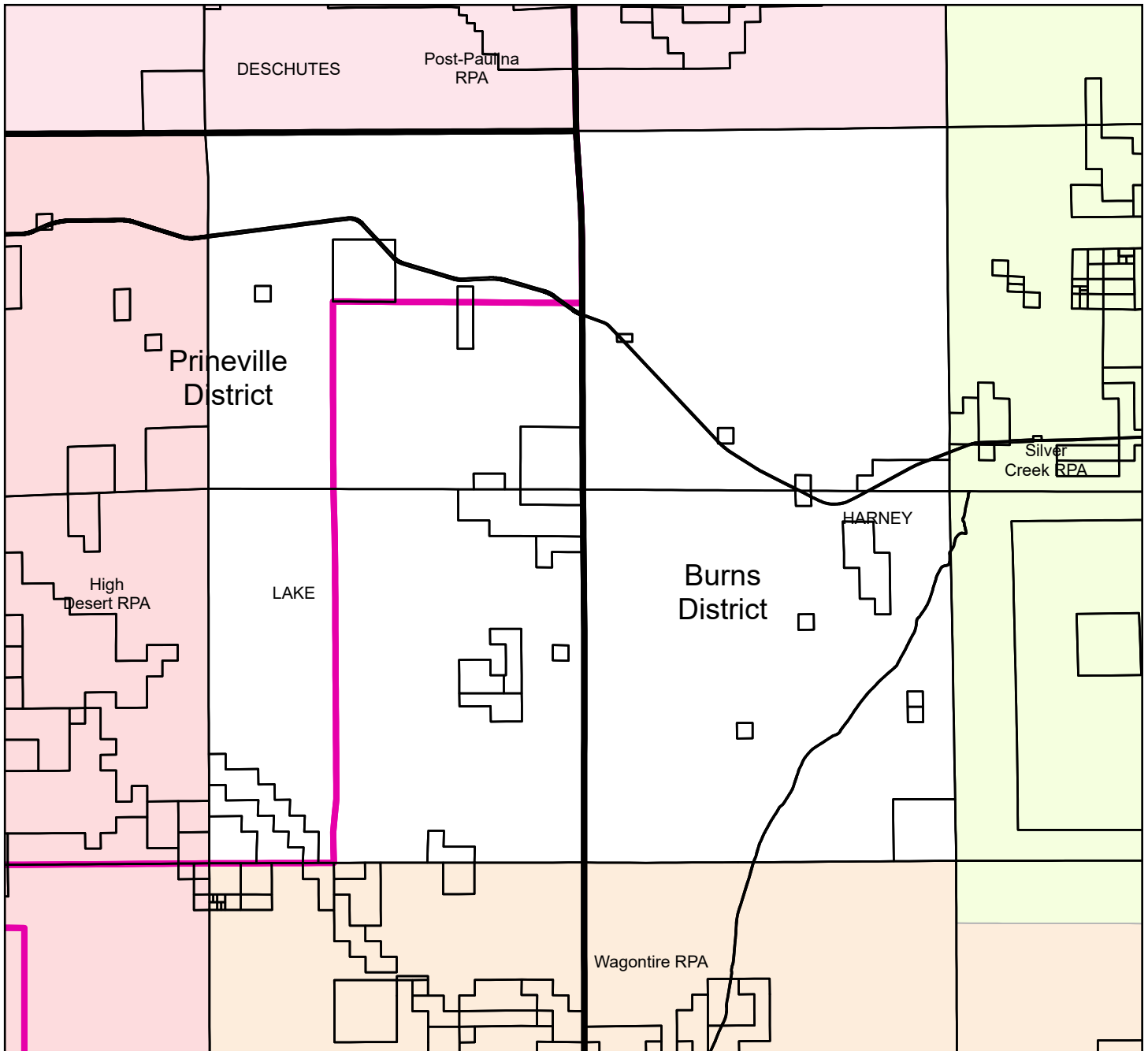


Mick Miller Fire Supervisor



Wayne Evans Board Member

Unprotected Land



Legend

 BLM Districts

RPA_Name

High Desert RPA

Post-Paulina RPA

Silver Creek RPA

Wagontire RPA

Acreage

	Acreage
Private	2,457.87
State	640.00
County	37.40
Federal	84,697.68

Landowner	Address	County	City	State	Zipcode	Acres
ANTLER ACQUISITIONS, LLC	63796 DESCHUTES MARKET RD	Lake	BEND	OR	97701	1,611.35
BUTLER-PARRISH GABRIELLE	20268 S ATHENS DR	Lake	OREGON CIT	OR	97045	426.67
CAMPBELL, WILEY D	9565 N BURR AV	Harney	PORTLAND	OR	97203	259.85
GI RANCH CORP	15 SW COLORADO AVE SUITE 1	Lake	BEND	OR	97702	160.00
HARNEY COUNTY		Harney				37.40
STATE OF OREGON	PO BOX 100	Lake	PAISLEY	OR	97636	640.00
U S A	700 W MINERAL AVENUE	Lake	LITTLETON	CO	80120	40,929.10
U S A		Harney				43,768.58