

Felder & Nevarez Ranches Inc.

15128 Westside Rd.

Lakeview, OR 97630

Shepard & Associates, LLC

I would like to have this letter placed in the supplemental report of the Barry Point Fire Fact Finding Report in lieu of the notes that were taken during our interview. After reviewing the notes sent to me, I found there were some errors, however more concerning was how out of context these notes would seem to someone without having some history or sense of what may have taken place leading up to these notes. There were questions asked that lead to the responses that were in the notes and without the questions, the responses in notes made little sense. In the notes, the part on our “final thoughts” were somewhat correct. Those being:

- There was terrible mis-management
- Communication was very poor
- We do not want to see anyone hurt
- Fire crews were frustrated not being able to fight the fire
- Crews were not given plans to fight the fire
- Concerned about FS using the “Box” concept to fight fire, too much land both private and federal is destroyed needlessly

The Shepard report on the Barry Point Fire was to be an “independent third party fact finding review for better or for worse” as told to us by Regional Forester Connaughton. This report did not tell all the story of what went on

during the fire due to edits and revisions made by Region 6 Administrators. There was nothing mentioned about the massive acreage burned in back fires (approx. 60% of total acres burned) or the total disregard for private lands, the missed opportunities on numerous occasions to stop this fire, lack of communication with landowners and permittees, lack of safety concerns for landowners and permittees. I know this because myself and my family spent 7 days in the fire.

In the letter from Ed Shepard inviting us to give an accounting of the fire through our eyes, this is my accounting. From what I have been told, with proper management the fire would never have left Barry Point. What I KNOW is after the fire crossed the 4017 road, it could have been stopped at Big Horseshoe Meadow and could have been stopped on Horseshoe rim before it got close to the residential area at Drews Reservoir, it should never have gone over Buckaroo Pass and entered the old Onion Fire burn. When it went over Buckaroo Pass and burned south to Fall Valley, the fire was very quiet and did very little damage. However, when the Zig Zag Crew lit their back fire Sunday night from Fall Valley, that back fire went back north and destroyed the whole west side of the Dry Creek Basin. This included the Harvey and Morris property. I KNOW on Tuesday 8/14 I told ODF Dustin Guastavsen that I could show them where to put in fire lines on the Feldkamp and Griffith properties to be effective and less damaging and I was ignored. Those back fires never met the real fire and caused somewhere around \$25,000.00 dollars in damage on the Griffith property alone. I KNOW on Wednesday, night 8/15 I was helping the Evans Family, cutting dozer lines on their property and ODF had a dozer less than a ¼ mile away and refused to unload and help. I KNOW on Thursday, 8/16 in the early morning USFS back fired the Griffith property without any notice and could have trapped us between the back fire and real fire had we been bringing more cattle off our forest permit as we had been doing the previous 5 days. I KNOW USFS burned up 150 acres of private timber on the Point Ranch that could have been avoided by simply putting the dozer line on a USFS two track road that ran parallel to the property line thus burning only juniper and sage brush on USFS property only and never touching the private timber. There are many more issues that could be brought forward; however, I think I've made my point.

To sum up my accounting of this fire, as I have said from the start, had this fire been completely out of control, without any opportunities to contain or put out, I would have never had said anything. This is not the case, our accounting or that of any other affected landowners has not changed since the fire and that's because the facts never change. At times we may be more emotionally charged than others, but rightfully so. All we are asking is for the truth and to see major changes in the way these wild fires are handled in order to be less destructive to public as well as private lands. Fire suppression should not be a revenue generating machine that it has become, the focus should be to put the fire out as quickly and safely as possible. We have never asked to put people in harm's way, but we are forced into unsafe situations in order to protect our businesses and private lands because of the way these fires are handled. The people at the administration and management levels must be held accountable for their actions or things will never change. Through all of the reports and reviews, I have not seen where there will be any significant changes for the upcoming fire season. As I have said without accountability there will be no change. This I KNOW.

FELDER & NEVAREZ RANCHES INC.

Ace Felder and Family