

My wife & I have owned our 360 acre tree farm in Benton Co in Hoskins along the Luckiamute River since 2000. Two hundred twenty acres are dedicated to sustainable merchantable timber production and 140 acres to restoring habitat & ecosystem function. Since that time we have built a home & pole barn with extensive defensible spaces, 2.4 miles of gravel roads which are kept grass & weed free during fire season, mowed walking paths throughout the tree farm every fire season, built three multi use deep water ponds covering 5 acres which are accessible to helicopters and ground base equipment for fire fighting (including State Forest land 0.5 miles from our gate), and cleared brush, thinned & pruned trees along the tree farm & county roads on 100 acres over the past three years. These actions have easily cost us over \$150k since 2000 (> \$70k the past three years). Fires in my part of the state are usually human caused, typically by citizens that are not associated with the timber industry & are not rural landowners.

It would be absurd to increase our firefighting costs. We have paid more than our fair share.

- Oregon's wildfire fighting system, led by the Department of Forestry, is one of the best, if not the best, in the western US and any changes to the system should be done very carefully.
- Any changes to the current wildfire fighting system should retain the core structure of the 2013 Wildfire Protection Act.
- The shared responsibility system in Oregon, which relies on local landowner input and assistance, is why Oregon's system is better than our neighboring states.
- The base level of fire protection is set at the local district level with landowner involvement. This is the foundation for Oregon's system.
- Changes to the local base budgets need to come from the local landowners. It is their property that is at risk and being protected.
- Salem should not dictate the proper level of protection for local districts. The level of protection that is needed in Tillamook County is very different than what is needed in Josephine County.
- Oregon's Board of Forestry is tasked with assuring that all district budgets are reviewed to provide adequate protection for each district.
- If local landowners' needs are not being met by their local districts, they need to bring that message to the Board of Forestry.
- Small lots and improved lots (buildings) currently provide about 68% of the revenue for the Oregon Forest Land Protection Fund (OFLPF).
- **Landowners do not currently support any changes to the funding formula or new uses of the OFLPF.**
- **The contract between ODF and BLM to protect BLM land in western Oregon may be the biggest threat to the Oregon system and should be the focus of the Committee's work.**

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