



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

## Department of Forestry

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Date: December 2, 2016  
To: Medford Water Commission  
From: Oregon Department of Forestry  
State Aviation Manager  
2600 State Street Bldg. D  
Salem, OR 97310  
Subject: Reservoir for the purpose of wildland firefighting

Dear Medford Water Commission,

I am writing this letter on the behalf of Sabrina Carey regarding a reservoir located at 11650 Butte Falls Hwy Eagle Point, OR. It is my understanding that Mrs. Carey purchased the property located at 11650 Butte Falls Hwy Eagle Point, OR only to find out that the reservoir was constructed without a permit, which may result in the removal of the reservoir or reducing the reservoirs capacity.

Sabrina Carey, the landowner, has offered the Oregon Department of Forestry access to the reservoir for the purpose of supporting wildland fire fighting operations to protect both private and Bureau of Land Management resources. By granting access to the reservoir, Mrs. Carey becomes part of the complete and coordinated wildland fire fighting system which is the foundation for our agencies success in suppressing wildfires. The reservoir at its current capacity can support a large fire for multiple days and serve her next door neighbors in surrounding areas during initial attack of small fires. This ultimately will aid in reducing the risk for loss of property, valuable resources, and lives.

I would like to urge the Medford Water Commission to consider keeping the reservoir in place at its current capacity for the purpose of providing a long term water source for wildland firefighting. When access to water is lost, it results in increased flight time for firefighting aircraft which can make the difference between a small fire extinguished on initial attack and a large destructive wildfire.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter. If you have any question please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Neal Laugle  
State Aviation Manager  
Oregon Department of Forestry  
503 945-7508