

Charles & Zoe Foster  
Home & Landowner  
Archie Creek Fire

On September 8, 2020, we received a phone call from the Douglas County Sherriff Department informing us that that we had to evacuate immediately because of a forest fire. My wife and I got our three Labradors in one car and left in less than five minutes. We took only our phones and wallets and nothing else. When we reached the end of our long driveway, the fire was already upon us. I told my wife that we would have to backup all the way to the house and try and canoe down the river to save our lives. We would then have had to leave our beloved dogs behind. My wife cried and said she just couldn't physically do it, so I made the decision to drive through the flames and we barely escaped. I was later seriously injured as a result of the fire.

We lost everything, two very unique homes, 3.5 miles of pristine river frontage lands, and we lost an important bridge. When we returned eight days later, we could not find a trace of anything recognizable. Since that time, it has only gotten worse. Our only road in has cracked and is unusable. We own Bob Butte and The Point and have setup a plan to restore and replant. We have plans for a new home, other buildings, and a new bridge, but this will be very very expensive.

The Archie Creek Fire has caused a financial and mental hardships for our family. We are anxiously awaiting the outcome of the lawsuit to rebuild. However, the tax outcome we face if even if we win is very dramatic and will not allow us to rebuild and recover.

The Tax Implications:

37 to 38% FEDERAL TAX

10% STATE TAX

37% Attorney Fees

Include no deduction for lawyers' fees, 2017

**The net is 84 to 85% of the awards at the least will go to taxes.**

Example, a \$1,000,000 award will leave us with around \$150,000 to rebuild. This amount is not nearly enough to rebuild and restore our property. We beg for some State Tax relief.