

Narrative Statement by Ralph DeMoisy,
resident on the Glide Property titled in
the Estelle DeMoisy Living Trust
@ 22922 N. Umpqua Hwy

To whom it may concern,

Here is what I remember on the days during the Archie Creek fire that started September 8, 2020 near Steamboat Springs just east of Glide, OR:

I was watching the news on TV and learned of the fire early in the morning on Sep 8th, a Tuesday. Not long after the fire started I began seeing smoke filling the Umpqua River basin first, then up into the air surrounding my cabin on the Glide timberland my family owns. It took a day for the fire to work its way down the river to me. Even as the smoke got thicker, I did not think I would have to evacuate as I thought the fire may pass me by and not affect my area, but then, late Wednesday, the 9th of Sep, I lost power to my home and lost phone service. That's when I became very concerned. I also noticed fires and orange sky up the mountain above my cabin and decided it was time to think about evacuating my place which is surrounded by acres of timberland. I did not have transportation at the time, and could not get ahold of neighbors for help, so I was up all night thinking about how I was going to leave my property with my dog in tow. Fortunately I just had the one pet, but thinking about getting me and my dog, Cammy, out of there was very stressful. What I did not know is that my brother, Charles (who lives in Florida) was in touch with the local sheriff's office at the time, trying to track me down and make sure I had left the cabin in Glide. Since he was not successful in finding my location, he asked the sheriff dispatcher to run up to the property to see if I was still there. He wanted to make sure I had evacuated. Perhaps at least partly due to my brother's actions, a sheriff vehicle did show up at my place early Thursday morning, the 10th of Sep, and gave me and my dog, Cammy, a ride all the way to S. Roseburg, where a friend of mine lives. I stayed with my friend, Frank Shield, about a day before returning to my cabin in Glide after I found out power and phone service had been restored to my area.

When I returned to my place, I was traumatized by what I saw - acres (approximately 80 acres) of DeMoisy-estate timberland destroyed by this horrendous fire. Fortunately my home and pump house were spared so I lost no personal property, but the timber loss was devastating - hundreds of thousand of dollars in ready-to-harvest timber lost in a matter of two days. Some timber was salvageable, logged and sold to mills in Oregon but at rates well below normal

market value. What could be logged and sold was severely compromised, burned and singed enough so that nearby mills would only give half or less of what the timber normally would have yielded. Profit margins were also reduced by the higher cost of logging due to such a demand for loggers, truck drivers and any labor associated with logging. Mills were being saturated by logs coming in for processing as land owners needed to salvage timber quickly while it was still relatively fresh and not infested with beetles or other insects going after dying timber. This oversupply of timber being dumped on mills further reduced the price of logs.

On top of this, I was struggling with COPD at the time and the smoke aggravated my condition. (I was diagnosed with COPD a couple of years ago). It took a few weeks for me to start breathing a bit more normally again but I still suffer from COPD which I feel was aggravated by the fire.

So, I once lived on a nice piece of land, covered with large hardwoods but mostly old growth Douglas Fir, Hemlock, Cedar and Ponderosa Pines. It was teeming with wild animals and birds, owls, deer, turkeys even some bears. Now I'm on a property with little wildlife and not many trees but clear-cut areas loggers left behind because the entire area had to be logged to salvage what the Archie Creek Fire did not destroy. I have lost some interest in continuing to live on this once beautiful and peaceful piece of land with a cabin in the forest. It is now a bit more like a wasteland. My family has cleared the area destroyed by fire and replanted most of the land with seedling trees but it will be years before we see these trees mature, past my lifetime certainly, as I am now 74 years old. I hope I can find a way to have peace up here once again but it will be difficult for me. My life has been forever changed. This is something I will never forget or be able to erase from my mind.

Ralph DeMoisy
Glide Property Caretaker, part owner
Estate Beneficiary