

STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item No.:	C
Title of Issue:	South Cascade Forest Protection District Boundary
Date Presented to Board:	April 29, 2008
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SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda item is to seek final approval from the Board to adopt an amendment to OAR 629-041-0557, the administrative rule which describes the boundary of the South Cascade Forest Protection District.

CONTEXT

Seneca Jones Timber Company (Seneca) owns 210 acres of forestland which is outside of, but immediately adjacent to, the South Cascade Forest Protection District boundary. They have requested the boundary be adjusted to include their property. ORS 477.225 requires that the boundaries of forest protection districts be described in administrative rule and that boundary adjustments be made only after a public hearing.

BACKGROUND

The current boundary of the South Cascade Forest Protection District was established by the Board in December 2005. No adjustments to the boundary have been made since that time.

To accommodate the Seneca request, the South Cascade District recommended that the present boundary be adjusted to add a total area of approximately 840 acres to the District. In addition to the Seneca property, the proposed adjustment will add four additional landowners to the District. All of these landowners have forestland fuel on at least some of their property, however other portions are used primarily for agricultural or other activities. Under this proposal, the forestland portions will become subject to the fire protection provisions of ORS chapter 477 while the other portions will not.

All landowners effected by this proposed boundary adjustment have been notified and none have voiced an objection to it. The Brownsville Rural Fire Protection District currently protects and taxes structures in the area to be added to the South Cascade Forest Protection District, but not the forestland, and this will continue to be the case if the proposed adjustment is approved. The fire district has been notified about this proposal and has expressed support for it.

A public hearing was held on the proposed amendment to OAR 629-041-0557 on March 17, 2008, in Springfield. No testimony, either oral or written, was submitted.

RECOMMENDATION

The Department recommends the Board approve the proposed amendment to OAR 629-041-0557 adjusting the boundary description of the South Cascade Forest Protection District.

NEXT STEPS

The Department will file the amended administrative rule with the Secretary of State and thereby make the adjustment effective.

ATTACHMENTS

- (1) Proposed amendment to OAR 629-041-0557, South Cascade Forest Protection District Boundary
- (2) Hearing Officer's Report on Rulemaking Hearing