



# City of Prineville

387 NE THIRD STREET ♦ PRINEVILLE, OREGON 97754

## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Phone: (541)447-5627

FAX: (541) 447-5628

EMAIL: [broppe@cityofprineville.com](mailto:broppe@cityofprineville.com)

Web Site: [www.cityofprineville.com](http://www.cityofprineville.com)

September 11, 2018

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality  
Attn: Emil Hnidey  
700 NE Multnomah Street, Suite 600  
Portland, Oregon 97232

Oregon Department of Forestry  
Attn: Jenna Nelson  
2600 State Street  
Salem, Oregon 97310

To Whom It May Concern:

On Behalf of the City of Prineville City Council, we thank you for the opportunity to provide comments to the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) and Oregon Department of Environment Quality (DEQ) regarding the proposed rule changes to Oregon's Smoke Management Plan. The fire season this year in Oregon is another reminder that more work is needed to reduce potential intense fires and to reduce wildfire risks near communities which includes strategic prescribed fire in the forests surrounding our community.

We support ODF's and DEQ's efforts to align the Oregon's smoke management rules with the federal Clean Air Act 24-hour National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQs). We support a healthy balance between protecting public health and allowing critical prescribed burning to occur as we work collaboratively to address the wildfire threat and smoke intrusion caused by wildfires negatively impacting our communities.

Should the one hour threshold be included in the final version of the rules, our support for the rule package as a whole is contingent on inclusion of the proposed exemption process for those communities with a proactive communication and mitigation strategy. The exemption process is absolutely essential to the proposed rules if the one hour standard remains in the final version of the rules. Without the one hour exemption our community, infrastructure, natural resources, and firefighters will remain at risk with the increasing severity of wildfires.

We encourage acting now to change the Smoke Management Plan and move forward with these proposed changes. The fire-prone dry forests of central Oregon will burn sooner or later. Our choice is when and how they will burn in a controlled way during strategically planned and executed prescribed fire rather than out of control wildfires.

Sincerely,

Mayor Betty Roppe  
City of Prineville

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