

**From:** [Woodford Gail](#)  
**To:** [HWREC Exhibits](#)  
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We live in Springfield and lost our family cabin on the McKenzie to the Holiday Farm Fire. Navigating the paperwork and trying to find answers through Lane County has so far been a nightmare. We trying to rebuild our cabin and have heard that we have only a year from the date of the fire to get started, but at this point that's impossible. We still have an acre of trees that need to be removed, and even before the fire, people we know who were trying to build were telling us it was taking a YEAR for building permits to be approved by Lane County. This is unacceptable and we need help!

Here are the things that would made a huge difference to those of us working to rebuild along the McKenzie:

1. Extend the one-year replacement window to at least 5 years.

We are all competing for the same tree fallers, septic inspectors, contractors and builders. Even though we started a month after the fire we are still at the end of many lists.

2. Whenever possible, waive requirements that didn't exist when our original cabin was built.
3. Work with counties to streamline the permit process and waive fees. In Colorado after their wildfires, they worked to make it easy for people to rebuild. That is not happening in Lane County.
4. Provide resources to hire more staff for counties. Accessibility to county staff is a huge issue, at least in Lane County. They are working from their homes without phone access. The county doesn't have a way to forward their work number to their homes, and in some cases county workers are only going in once a week to check their messages.

Thank you for prioritizing this.

We lost a beloved cabin, but most of the people up the river lost their homes. We all deserve to more forward as quickly as possible.

Gail and Lou Woodford  
Springfield