

We own property in Grant Co., on the Middle Fork John Day River and are writing in support of full funding for OSU Extension Services statewide full budget request of \$158.5 million. When we bought our property, the ~ 140 acres of range and forest were in terrible shape due to past heavy-handed management. We have over the years participated in several OSU affiliated programs for forest health projects and wildfire mitigation. They have been an invaluable resource for marshalling several public-private forest health initiatives on our land. And most recently, have been pleased to attend the Ecology and Management of Eastern Oregon Forests webinar series. Through these engagements, we've appreciated the assistance and learned so much valuable information on better land management practices to: 1) reduce catastrophic wildfire risk 2) improve forest health + wildlife habitat 3) increase potential for future responsible timber harvest as forest health and yield improves and 4) improved wildlife and livestock browsing/grazing quality.

As a dentist, I perhaps especially appreciate the benefits of preventative measures to ensure healthy outcomes. Just like my patients who took excellent care of their oral health using science-based ideas, OSU provides science-based guidance and assistance to private landowners such as us to improve and maintain healthier, more fire-resistant and productive landscapes. This is especially important today due to changing demographics and climate patterns! We sorely need services such as supported by OSU Extension Services to keep our Oregon natural resources healthy and productive. Please fully fund their budget request, on behalf of 1000s of landowners such as ourselves. Thank you

Keith Valachi