

In an effort to be as succinct as possible.

Weed abatement.

I feel had weed abatement laws been strictly enforced in JACKSON COUNTY, on county, city, state and private property the Alameda fire would not have had the fuel it did.

The city of Ashland owns the property where the fire started. It's Ashland City property that was 15 inch tall dry grassland surrounding a public park for teenagers. This public park is where the fire began. Had the Ashland city property been cut down to the ground as it should have been the Alameda fire wouldn't have had the fuel.

If you look at city, county, state and private property all around the valley and in fact all around Oregon road ways, I-5, 140, 66, 238, 97 all lined by 15 -20 inch dry grass for most of the fire season. With our climate seeming to dry more and more each year these roadside fires and carelessness around overgrown properties will become more and more frequent.

1. We can't prevent careless humans from smoking around fire prone areas.
2. We should anticipate that vehicular problems could set grass on fire.
3. We should assume a park built for teenagers will also be used for smoking and drinking.
4. As we drift further and further into drought these dry grasslands become a tinder box for any floating ignition source as we saw during the Alameda fire.
5. My daughter lost everything and I saw the suffering of so many others for a tragedy that should have been prevented and could have been prevented by enforcing existing weed abatement laws.

As Oregon gets dryer we will need to assess how these lands are managed because how they have been managed poses a serious risk to life and property.

I understand that weed abatement will negatively impact some very wealthy and powerful property owners and that this weed abatement will be extensive and expensive. However, the negligence of one property owner, in the case the City of Ashland, not following existing laws resulted in the loss of homes and pets of over 2000 people.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Hopefully with future planning we can prevent another Alameda fire in Oregon.

Jamie Cameron