

Schroader, Kathy

From: Orjiako, Oliver
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2015 11:47 AM
To: Euler, Gordon; Alvarez, Jose
Cc: Schroader, Kathy
Subject: FW: Fire - For the Record

FYI. Kathy I will send these your way. I hope there are not duplicates! Thanks.

Oliver

From: Carol Levanen [<mailto:cnldental@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Saturday, August 22, 2015 12:05 PM
To: Madore, David; Mielke, Tom; Stewart, Jeanne; McCauley, Mark; Orjiako, Oliver
Subject: Fw: Fire - For the Record

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Carol Levanen <cnldental@yahoo.com>
To:
Sent: Saturday, August 22, 2015 12:02 PM
Subject: Fire - For the Record

Dear Councilors,

The East wind is blowing here and the scene is heavy with smoke from the fires East of us. The Lewis River here is like a mini gorge and we get the same winds as the Gorge does. Are we all ready for another Yacolt Burn. The conditions are identical and the Washougal fire is burning. The problem is, because of so much regulation, there are many more times the vegetation on the lands, compared to 1902. Landowners are not allowed to clear, cut trees, infringe on areas, or otherwise manage their land, to assure safety, because of regulations. As I look from our windows, I see a huge rural and urban forest stretching out to the Columbia River, which was not there when we built the house. I would hate to see all of that go up in smoke. Some of us built ponds for stormwater and fire protection, but even they are now heavily regulated in this county. The tree farmers are not allowed to access their land in such a way that it will discourage a fire, because of county environmental regulations. Landowners with large parcels can't manage their land in a way that protects them from fire because of regulation and the parcels are too large for them to manage. Large lot zoning has forced these people to forget about the future of their land, and without their children, they have no one to help take care of it. Even blackberry vines cannot be removed unless done by hand. Therefore, huge stands of the dry brittle bushes are everywhere in the county because hand cutting is too much to ask from anyone. It would seem that safety to the public would be far more important to the councilors than environmental considerations, yet all of the county environmental, and other, ordinances have left that equation out. We hope we are ready, when the fire comes. We have followed the recommendations from Fire District 3 volunteers for a safety zone around our home. We hope we never have to see if it works. But, these fires are a strong reminder to councilors that environmentalism is not the most important role the councilors must play. Protecting the citizens of the county from harm, is. All of the county ordinances need to be reviewed to assure there will be no roadblocks to the safety of the people.

Sincerely,

Carol Levanen, Ex. Secretary
Clark County Citizens United, Inc.
P.O. Box 2188
Battle Ground, Washington 98604

