

Court Boice

Oregon State District 1 Representative

NWI/NWA Transcript: Statement Recorded November 20, 2024

Gold Beach, Oregon: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TopUyc47xeA>

Supporting the NWA National Wildfire Emergency

When Jedidiah Smith come through my region 20 years after the Lewis and Clark expedition, what did he find? The greatest trees on the planet; the oldest living two things, the redwood and the Douglas fir; the most pristine rivers. Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest is the most rugged, the most beautiful -- arguably -- and should be the most productive forest in North America; the rugged territory that matches it all.

So yes, I raised my sons in a Rogue River Wilderness. No roads, so nobody can take away from me the responsibility, the respect, the admiration, the love for a Wilderness Area. But it didn't take me very long as a young man, 50 years ago in the '70s, really started my family to recognize that the fires were absolutely -- as one of you said a bit ago -- unnecessary.

And so I grew up around people that had common sense -- like everybody on this call, just wants to do the right thing; understands the logic of good active forest management policies.

Never forget. And somebody mentioned a bit ago one million dollars -- excuse me, one trillion dollars. Correct me if I'm wrong, but that's one million million, and I'm afraid, ladies and gentlemen, we haven't seen anything yet. And I think that's why you're all on this call. I'm going to encourage you all to stay together. Never give up. Please stay with it.

The combined experience and background of the people on this call, and others that maybe didn't make it today -- it's just mind boggling to me in a very, very positive way. And you know, Roger [Jaegel] mentioned our grandkids. I have nine, and probably have a great-grandchild here before very long.

What was left to us, and the responsibility to manage, we did. You did. And it breaks my heart to see what's happening in my state, in the western United States, and it's a constant reminder.

You know, Ms. [Dana] Tibbitts mentioned destructive Federal policies. Here's just one, and you all know this, but I'm going to beat this drum and others similar for a long time with every breath I got. Not to be double-dramatic here, but I'm also -- like Roger said, or I think it was Roger -- you know. Forgive me, but you don't need to be forgiven. You don't need to apologize when you see this kind of unnecessary waste, this kind of demolition of the -- especially in Oregon -- this great gift that we've been given: the heritage; the legacy; the beauty.

And we are determined, through the legal system -- those that tell us that they know better -- and we're going to defy them, and we're getting closer. And of course we're a little optimistic with a new president. You know -- my chief thing is to -- Randy Moore's got to go, period, and I don't think that's going to be an issue. But we, you know, we need to have that voice, and I've got a voice.

I'm not trying to come across as an expert here, and the least of that in that category, but again, Ms. Tibbitts mentioned the destructive policies. Here's one: when the Forest Service, through wind-driven monsters, wants to look me in the eye and tell me that that's "treated lands," when it burns at 2,000 degrees -- as opposed to a normal fire, which often are "good," as you all know, burns at 1,200 degrees.

These nuclear fires cook everything, and they want to tell me that's "treated acres?" As you just said, turns into hardwood forests -- it will take at least 50 years to come back and destroying my rivers, my watersheds, my fish habitat.

I think it was the American Lands Council that that really promoted the acreage and the wildlife loss of 22 critters for every single acre that's burned in a "non-normal" -- or "non-natural," excuse me -- fire.

So when I hear a group like this suggests that we need to promote and address a National Wildfire Emergency -- whatever the title is, boy, I am all in -- to the extent, if my involvement is 1% or 20% doesn't matter. You folks tell me what you think I could do or how I could help. Believe me, I will be all ears and my crew -- and I've got some people in the Oregon House and beyond Oregon, okay, that that will gladly be involved.

So you know, I think that's probably enough. I certainly would be available for questions. I'm just happy to be on here and listen to anyone else, and we'll look

forward to that.

The United States Forest Service for potential class action lawsuits -- I think their Achilles heel is the smoke-health damage. Now that seems like a small part. When you have, as Dr. Bob [Zybach] said, when you have communities burned to the ground, and the public safety issues, that when people die, and the radical environmentalists are determined to double-down on having their way. And again, looking you in the eye, looking us in the eye, and saying, "this is part of good."

And you know, we got the tribes turning, or maybe they were ahead of us before that. Way ahead of us. But that's probably enough. Guys, I mean, I could talk for an hour just like all of you could talk way beyond that. But I hope that has some meaning, and I hope it is appropriate, all of it, and I've got more notes here.

I took a lot of notes and, believe me, if this recording is possibly available, I'm going to listen again. It just -- I'm just processing everything I heard, and learned, and agree with, and appreciate. And it's just more back to being energized. So thank you very much. Everyone.

I would start this way, Mr. Stub [Ted Stubblefield] I read everything you send out. Phil [Aune]. Thanks for serving on AFRC [American Forest Resource Council]. If you see Travis Joseph, be sure and tell him that Boice character said, "Hello!"

Joe [Reddan], you had a hickory shirt on. I can assure you, I'm much more comfortable in that attire than I am -- I did take my tie off earlier today, but being in a suit -- Jim Peterson and Bob Zybach, those I've known these two for many years, and I've followed them with everything I've got, and they're the last two I would want to disappoint by any remarks I might make. I probably won't talk more than three or four minutes, though.

My name is Court Boice. I was a Curry County Commissioner for six years, southwest corner of Oregon, and got appointed to the State Legislature, due to a resignation. And so I just got reelected a couple weeks ago yesterday, and with a good margin. I represent the timber capital of the world: Douglas, Coos, and Curry counties.