

Mid Rogue Fire District Board Meeting: June 14, 2026

6:00 p.m. – Zoom Only

Live Streamed at www.youtube.com/@MidRogueFD

Rural Fire Protection District Attendance:

Directors Present: Tom McGowan, Vincent Ownbey, Mark Jones, Randy Benetti Sr.

Members Absent: Ralph Weidling

Recorder: Kassie Austin

Guest Presenters: None

1. Call to Order

a. The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

The board reviewed today's agenda items. Director Jones recommended the addition to the agenda for item 5 "Other Matters" and item 6 "Adjournment". *Director Benetti made a motion to approve the agenda with the modifications. The motion was seconded by Director Ownbey. Upon roll call, Director McGowan – yes, Director Benetti – yes, Director Jones – yes, Director Ownbey – yes, Director Jones – yes. Motion carried 4-0.*

3. Payroll Update and Needs

Director Jones explained to the board that he has been working with APS, and he has been working to collect the documents that is required. Director McGowan stated that he has saved the employee documentation into the district's repository. Director Jones explained that he needs the documents to send over to the payroll company. Discussion took place regarding the district's BIN. The board did not seem to think that the district has been issued an BIN. Director McGowan stated that he is working on the PERS participation documentation.

4. Bank Accounts Needed

Director Jones explained that the district needs to open two separate bank accounts. One account would be specifically set aside for employee payroll, and an additional account bank account for the district's RAMP P-card program. There must be a minimum of \$25,000.00 for the bank account that is used for RAMP P-cards. The board discussed transferring \$30,000.00 into the P-card account, so that the minimum is always within the account. Director Jones has spoken with Evergreen bank, and the district could open two additional accounts, and have all the authorized signers submit their signatures for the new accounts. The board discussed in great detail the potential of moving the funds to a different bank in the future, but for now, the board will use Evergreen.

Director Benetti moved to approve the district opening two additional bank accounts at Evergreen bank. One for Payroll, and one for the Ramp P-card Program. The motion was seconded by Director Ownbey. Upon roll call; Director McGowan – yes, Director Benetti – yes, Director Ownbey – yes, and Director Jones – yes. Motion carried 4-0.

5. Other Matters:

Director Jones explained that the June 22, 2026 meeting will not have district members available. It was recommended that the meeting be canceled, and the regularly scheduled meetings resume on July 13, 2026. *Director Benetti made a motion to cancel the June 22, 2026 regular meeting. The motion was seconded by Director Ownbey. Upon roll call; Director Benetti – yes, Director McGowan – yes, Director Ownbey – yes, Director Jones – yes. Motion carried 4-0.*

Director Jones explained that the board has approved paydays for employees to be on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month. After discussion, *Director McGowan made a motion for the district to cut draw checks for the employees until the district has established the payroll and accounting system on the 2nd and*

4th Fridays of the month. The motion was seconded by Director Benetti. Upon roll call; Director Benetti – yes, Director McGowan – yes, Director Ownbey – yes, and Director Jones – yes. Motion carried 4-0.

6. Adjournment

The board adjourned the meeting at 6:46 p.m. without objection.

Kassie Austin, Recorder

INVOICE



Bulletproof Construction & Excavation

CCB#244560
6155 Tunnel loop Road, Grants Pass, OR, 97527
Main- 541-660-2311
Office- 541-226-9994

BILL TO

Mid Rogue Fire District

INVOICE #

2674

INVOICE DATE

06/30/2026



DESCRIPTION

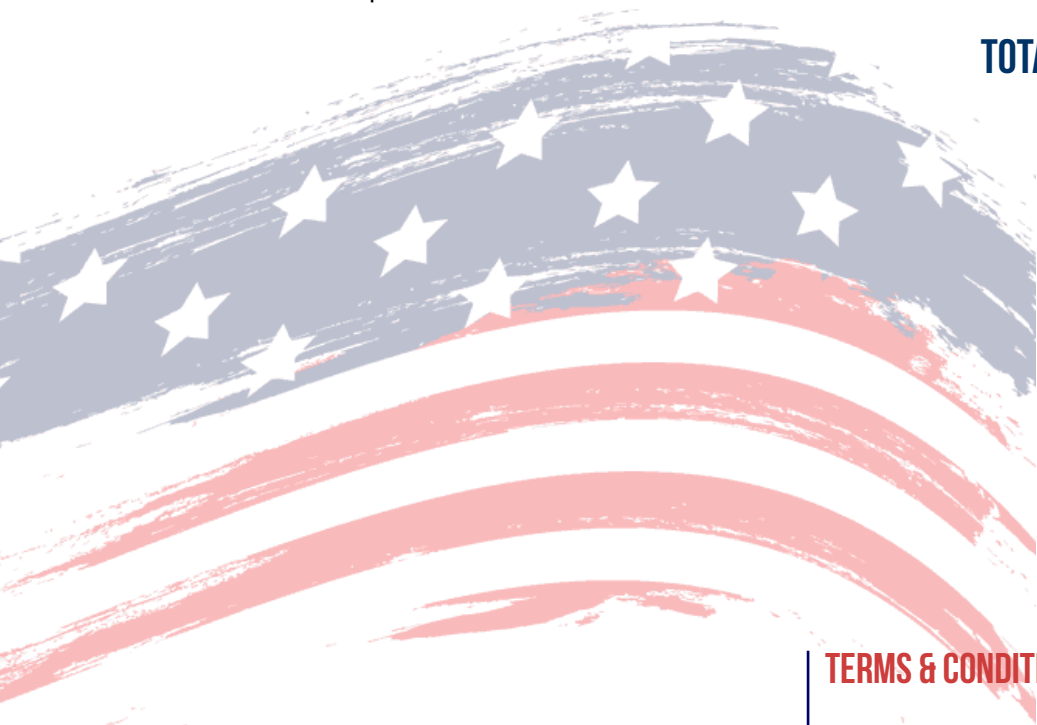
AMOUNT

Completed	5,450.00
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Demoing out partition wall, moving electrical light switch to the other wall, opening up end wall and adding in an ADA door with back porch light, locating old window location and adding window back into existing framing and doing a 3 way wrap on window sill with a wooden bottom, Removal of old flooring and Installation of new LVP or Laminate snap together flooring in room with new base board, Re hanging drywall with hang tape and texture, painting of room with walls one color and trim another for a total of 2 colors, Drilling out the door that goes into garage and adding in a double keyed dead bolt and also adding one on the front door, Cleaning and hauling away all material to dump.

TOTAL

\$5,450.00



Thank you

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Completed

If you have any questions please call Spencer
541-660-2311

2026 STRATEGIC PLAN - 07/13/2026

DESCRIPTION	NOTES	June wk 1	June wk 2	June wk 3	June wk 4	July wk 1	July wk 2	July wk 3	July wk 4	July wk 5	Aug wk 1	Aug wk 2	Aug wk 3	Aug wk 4
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1	DISTRICT FUNDING OPTIONS RESEARCH		
	Out of District Billing	ORS 476.290	
	IGAs, Authoriies Consolidations & Mergers	SB0454	
1	OSFM FDID	In conversation	
	190 Agreement	Alternative Strategy	
	ORS Study / Research	478 - OK / 476 - statutory	
	access & water supply training		
	Formal Request		
3	Friends of MRFD		
	Formal Registration	Review formation	
	Recruitment and Org Meeting	On Hold for Aug/Sept	
2	Public Relations Firm Research		
	United Strategie & Consulting	July 13th Presentation	
	Loomis	July 27th Presentation	
	Densmore		
POSITION PAPER			
	Part 1: MRFD Vs RMF Roll Definitions		
	Part 2: 30% Non-Contributors Issue		
1	STANDARDS OF COVER	Request Board Committee	
	Community Risk Assessment	Jo Co Emergency Mgmnt	
	Response Standards	RMF Records	
	Training & Qualification Standrds	RMF Career Path	
	App & Equipment Standards		
1	STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS		
	Kelcie Easter	County Emergency Manager	
	Sheriff Daniels		
	Mike McLaughlin	Memo Pending	
	Ron Smith		
	Nate Sanders	New Emergency Manager	
	Mike Hussey		
	Dave Larson		
MISC			
2	Office Remodel	\$9,150	
2	Social Media transition to Staff		
3	Grants Funding	Funding Navigator \$4,500	HOLD

PROPOSAL FOR GOVERNMENT RELATIONS & PUBLIC AFFAIRS SERVICES

Presented to Mid Rogue Fire District

Attn: Phil Turnbull, Executive Director

Prepared by	United Strategies & Consulting
Date	June 5, 2026
Proposed term	July 1, 2026 through December 31, 2027, unless renewed
Monthly retainer	\$5,000

Introduction

United Strategies & Consulting is pleased to present this proposal to serve as government relations and public affairs counsel to the Mid Rogue Fire District. We understand that the District is in a formative stage, and that the central task ahead is building public understanding, organizational structure, and the political support necessary to secure a sustainable funding model for fire and emergency services across the region.

Our firm brings deep Southern Oregon roots, a statewide government affairs network, and a track record of guiding clients through complex ballot measure, legislative, and stakeholder engagement efforts. We propose to work hand in hand with the Executive Director as he builds the new District, providing strategic counsel, hands on execution, and a steady presence at the local, state, and federal levels.

Understanding of the Engagement

Based on our June 4, 2026 meeting with Executive Director Phil Turnbull, we understand the District faces a defined set of opportunities and challenges:

- ☐ The District serves a predominantly rural residential coverage area of roughly 300 square miles and a population of approximately 40,000 to 45,000 residents.
- ☐ The central objective is to secure voter approval of a taxing district measure, with a target window of November 2027, that would place the District on stable financial footing and end the existing membership and subsidy model.
- ☐ Messaging is the central challenge. A significant share of voters are unaware the District exists, and the relationship between the District and the current service provider must be clearly explained to the public.
- ☐ Similar funding measures have been attempted without success before, which underscores the need for disciplined messaging, coalition building, and a clear case for service delivery.
- ☐ The District intends to contract for and supervise emergency service delivery, and will need a clear plan that pairs the current level of service with the improvements residents expect.

This proposal is designed to meet those needs through an integrated scope of work spanning campaign management, messaging, advocacy, emergency preparedness education, and legislative representation.

Scope of Services - Overview

United Strategies & Consulting proposes to provide the following five areas of service. Across all areas, we will work alongside the Executive Director and may be called upon for other assigned duties as needed to support the District as it stands up its operations.

1	Manage the 2027 November Taxing District Campaign <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We will serve as campaign manager for the November 2027 taxing district ballot measure.• This includes overall campaign strategy and planning, budget development and management, timeline and milestone tracking, voter targeting, field and outreach planning, coalition and endorsement development, fundraising support, and coordination of all campaign communications.• We will design the effort around the District's core points, including clarifying the relationship with the current provider, framing the funding question fairly for voters, and building the service delivery case that drives the measure.
2	Messaging for the District and the Campaign <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We will develop a unified messaging framework for the District as an organization and for the ballot measure campaign.• This includes core narrative development, message testing and refinement, talking points, frequently asked questions, presentation materials, and a white paper built around the District's primary points.• Our goal is to ensure that the public understands what the District is, why it exists, and what the measure will accomplish, with clear and consistent language across every audience.

3 Convening and Local Advocacy

- We will convene stakeholders and connect District leadership with elected and appointed officials at the local, state, and federal levels.
- This includes facilitating introductions and relationship building with county commissioners, municipal leaders, state legislators, and members of the congressional delegation and their staff, as well as organizing small group presentations and coalition meetings that build consensus and broaden support for the District's mission.

4 Emergency Preparedness Education

- We will assist the District in educating its partners and the public about the need for emergency preparedness and the role a well funded fire district plays in community resilience.
- This includes developing educational materials, supporting public presentations, and helping frame the preparedness conversation in a way that resonates with residents across the coverage area.

5 State Legislative Representation

- We will represent the District at the Oregon State Legislature.
- This includes monitoring legislation that affects fire districts and emergency services, advancing and running bills that benefit the District, defending against legislation that would harm the District's interests, and engaging relevant state agencies on matters affecting the District's operations and funding.
- We will keep the Executive Director and board informed throughout each session and interim period.

Scope of Services -Detailed

1. Manage the 2027 November Taxing District Campaign

We will serve as campaign manager for the November 2027 taxing district ballot measure, directing the effort from planning through Election Day. Our management will include:

- **Campaign planning and strategy.** Develop and maintain a written campaign plan covering strategy, message, budget, timeline, and field operations, reviewed and updated at regular intervals.
- **Budget development and management.** Build and manage the campaign budget, track expenditures against plan, and provide the Executive Director and campaign committee with regular financial reporting.
- **Timeline and milestone tracking.** Maintain a master timeline with defined milestones and deadlines, including all election filing dates, and track progress against each.
- **Voter targeting.** Analyze the electorate, segment voters, and develop a targeting plan that focuses resources where they will have the greatest effect.
- **Field and outreach planning.** Design the canvassing, phone, mail, and outreach program, and coordinate volunteers and vendors who execute it.
- **Coalition and endorsement development.** Identify, recruit, and secure endorsements from community leaders, organizations, and stakeholders, and build the supporting coalition.
- **Fundraising support.** Support the campaign committee's fundraising effort with planning, targets, materials, and tracking.
- **Communications coordination.** Coordinate all campaign communications across channels for message consistency and timing.

We will design the effort around the District's core points, including clarifying the relationship with the current provider, framing the funding question fairly for voters, and building the service delivery case that drives the measure.

2. Messaging for the District and the Campaign

We will develop a unified messaging framework for the District as an organization and for the ballot measure campaign. This work will include:

- **Core narrative.** Develop the central narrative explaining what the District is, why it exists, and what the measure will accomplish.
- **Message testing and refinement.** Test and refine messages with the Executive Director, board, and, where appropriate, the public, adjusting language based on what resonates.
- **Supporting materials.** Produce talking points, frequently asked questions, and presentation materials for use across audiences.
- **White paper.** Prepare a white paper built around the District's primary points, including the relationship with the current provider, the service delivery plan, and the case for sustainable funding.

Our goal is to ensure that the public understands what the District is, why it exists, and what the measure will accomplish, with clear and consistent language across every audience.

3. Convening and Local Advocacy

We will convene stakeholders and connect District leadership with elected and appointed officials at the local, state, and federal levels. This work will include:

- **Relationship building.** Facilitate introductions and build relationships with county commissioners, municipal leaders, state legislators, and members of the congressional delegation and their staff.
- **Small group presentations.** Organize and support small group presentations to community groups and stakeholders across the coverage area.
- **Coalition meetings.** Convene coalition meetings that build consensus and broaden support for the District's mission.

4. Emergency Preparedness Education

We will assist the District in educating its partners and the public about the need for emergency preparedness and the role a well funded fire district plays in community resilience. This work will include:

- **Educational materials.** Develop educational materials that explain emergency preparedness and the District's role in community resilience.
- **Public presentations.** Support public presentations and community events that carry the preparedness message.
- **Message framing.** Frame the preparedness conversation in a way that resonates with residents across the coverage area.

5. State Legislative Representation

We will represent the District at the Oregon State Legislature. This work will include:

- ☐ **Monitoring.** Track legislation that affects fire districts and emergency services throughout each session and the interim.
- ☐ **Advancing legislation.** Advance and run bills that benefit the District, working with legislators and stakeholders to move them forward.
- ☐ **Defensive advocacy.** Identify and defend against legislation that would harm the District's interests.
- ☐ **Agency engagement.** Engage relevant state agencies on matters affecting the District's operations and funding, including out-of-jurisdiction billing and reimbursement questions.

We will keep the Executive Director and board informed throughout each session and interim period.

Timeline, Metrics, and Deliverables

The engagement runs from July 1, 2026 through December 31, 2027, organized around the November 2027 general election. The phases below define the work, the deliverables, and the metrics by which progress can be measured.

Dates tied to the election calendar will be confirmed against the official Oregon election filing deadlines as they are published.

Phase 1 – Foundation and Board Engagement *July 2026 – December 2026*

Focus	Key Deliverables	Metrics
Onboarding and discovery	☐ Confirmed work plan and master timeline ☐ Board presentation delivered	☐ Work plan approved ☐ Presentation delivered to board
Messaging foundation	☐ Draft core narrative and messaging framework ☐ White paper outline	☐ Framework drafted and reviewed ☐ Outline approved by ED
Stakeholder mapping	☐ Stakeholder and official contact map ☐ Initial introductions begun	☐ Contact map completed ☐ First meetings scheduled

Phase 2 – Build and Educate *January 2027 – June 2027*

Focus	Key Deliverables	Metrics
White paper and materials	☐ Completed white paper ☐ Talking points, FAQ, presentation deck	☐ White paper finalized ☐ Material set in active use
Local advocacy	☐ Small group presentation series ☐ Coalition meetings convened	☐ Presentations delivered to target count ☐ Coalition membership growing
Preparedness education	☐ Public education materials ☐ Community event support	☐ Materials distributed ☐ Events supported
Legislative session	☐ Bill tracking and position reports ☐ Session-end summary to ED and board	☐ Priorities advanced or defended ☐ Board briefed each period

Phase 3 – Campaign *July 2027 – November 2027*

Focus	Key Deliverables	Metrics
Campaign launch	☐ Final campaign plan and budget ☐ Measure filing complete ☐ Voter targeting plan	☐ Plan and budget adopted ☐ Filing deadlines met ☐ Targets defined
Endorsements and coalition	☐ Endorsement roster ☐ Active coalition	☐ Endorsement targets met ☐ Coalition mobilized
Field and communications	☐ Canvass, mail, phone, and digital program ☐ Coordinated public communications	☐ Voter contact goals met ☐ Message discipline maintained
Election	☐ Get-out-the-vote effort through Election Day	☐ Turnout and support targets among identified voters

Phase 4 – Post-Election and Transition *November 2027 – December 2027*

Focus	Key Deliverables	Metrics
After-action and transition	☐ Post-election after-action report	☐ Report delivered to board

Focus	Key Deliverables	Metrics
	☐ Transition or implementation recommendations ☐ Renewal discussion	☐ Next-step plan agreed ☐ Renewal decision informed

Throughout all phases, United Strategies & Consulting will provide the Executive Director with regular status updates, present to the board as requested, and remain available for other assigned duties that advance the District's objectives.

Campaign activities will be conducted in compliance with applicable Oregon election law, with public agency resources and campaign activities kept appropriately separate.

Our Approach

We believe the path to a successful measure runs through public understanding and trust. Our approach pairs strategic counsel with hands on execution: we will build a clear and consistent narrative, develop the materials the District needs to make its case, convene the stakeholders whose support matters, and maintain a steady presence at the local, state, and federal levels.

Throughout, we will work as an extension of the District's team, supporting the Executive Director as he builds the organization and adjusting our focus as priorities evolve.

Working Relationship

United Strategies & Consulting will work alongside the Executive Director as he builds the new District. We will function as a flexible and responsive partner, and we will be available to take on other assigned duties as needed to advance the District's objectives.

We will provide regular updates to the Executive Director and will present to the board as requested.

Team

United Strategies & Consulting will assign a dedicated team to the Mid Rogue Fire District engagement, each member matched to the areas where their background and experience add the most value. The team will function as an extension of the District, working alongside the Executive Director as he builds the new organization and adjusting roles as the work evolves.



Greg Lemhouse

Engagement Lead

Greg will serve as the lead on this engagement, directing the overall strategy and serving as the District's primary point of contact. Greg co-founded United Strategies & Consulting and brings two decades of public safety leadership, having served in law enforcement for twenty years and retiring as a Lieutenant and Division Commander with the Medford Police Department. That command level experience instilled a discipline of preparation and high-level problem solving that translates directly to managing a complex, multi-year ballot measure and advocacy effort.

Greg also brings firsthand experience in elected local government, having served three terms on the Ashland City Council, where he won each election by wide margins and worked across party lines as an independent to find common ground. He understands how local government bodies operate, how voters expect to be heard, and how to build the public trust a taxing district measure requires.

His later work in international government affairs and as a lobbyist gives him a deep network and a proven ability to build the relationships that move an effort forward at every level of government.



Carrie Reed | Founding Partner

Messaging, Strategy, and Financial Consultation

Carrie will support the engagement with messaging, strategic counsel, and financial consultation as needed. As co-founder of the firm, Carrie brings a career grounded in finance and operations, including roles in commercial lending and as a Chief Operating Officer and Chief Financial Officer for a local housing development firm, where she oversaw both company operations and financial health. That background is well suited to a District working to define a sustainable funding model, frame the cost of service for the public, and explain the financial case behind the measure.

Carrie's operational experience also included leading government relations for the housing firm, building working relationships with local governments to navigate Oregon's land use and zoning processes while preserving trust with officials.

Her ability to translate complex financial and operational realities into clear, relationship-driven messaging makes her a valuable partner on both the strategy behind the measure and the language used to communicate it to voters and stakeholders.



Isis Thornton-Saunders | Associate

Campaign Lead

Isis will lead the District's campaign efforts. Isis is a government affairs professional and lobbyist with a track record of advancing client priorities through every stage of the legislative process, from crafting bill language and building bipartisan coalitions to coordinating grassroots campaigns and negotiating directly with policymakers.

Her experience in coalition building and grassroots coordination maps directly to the central challenge facing the District: reaching a largely uninformed electorate, building consensus, and converting public understanding into a yes vote.

Isis's portfolio spans multiple sectors, including local government and human services, giving her a working familiarity with the kinds of public agencies and community stakeholders this campaign will need to engage.

Her day-to-day leadership of campaign planning, outreach, and coalition development will keep the effort organized and on schedule through the November 2027 measure. Isis has successfully led ballot issue campaigns for the firm as well individual campaigns for elected officials. Isis is widely recognized as one of the best and most respected in the field of campaign management in Southern Oregon.



Dave Henslee | Associate

Strategic Planning and Organizational Consultation

Dave will assist with strategic planning and organizational consultation as needed. Dave brings a combination of public safety expertise, strategic planning, and business acumen to the firm. His public safety background is particularly relevant to a fire and emergency services district, giving him an informed perspective on the operational realities, readiness considerations, and service delivery questions at the heart of the District's case.

Dave spent decades in law enforcement, graduating from the FBI Leadership Academy and retiring as the Chief of Police for the City of Klamath Falls. Dave is also an experienced in leading the creation and implementation of strategic plans.

As the District stands up its structure and defines how it will contract for and supervise service delivery, Dave's strategic planning and organizational experience will support the Executive Director in thinking through structure, process, and the long-term operational plan that underpins the funding measure.

Together, this team pairs lead direction and local political experience, financial and messaging depth, hands-on campaign leadership, and public safety and organizational planning expertise. Each member is positioned where their strengths matter most, and all will be available to support the Executive Director on assigned duties as the engagement requires.

Term and Compensation

The proposed agreement will begin July 1, 2026 (retro-actively if necessary) and continue through December 31, 2027, unless renewed by mutual agreement of the parties, with a 30-day termination clause.

Compensation will be a monthly retainer of \$5,000, billed monthly.

The retainer covers the scope of services described above and the firm's availability to support the Executive Director and the board on assigned duties as needed. Costs that are typically billed separately, such as third party vendors, travel outside the region, polling, printing, paid media, and campaign production, will be discussed and approved in advance.

Campaign activities will be conducted in compliance with applicable Oregon election law, and the District and the firm will coordinate to ensure that public agency resources and campaign activities are kept appropriately separate.

Next Steps

- ☐ Schedule and deliver a presentation to the District board.
- ☐ Finalize and execute a services agreement reflecting the terms above.
- ☐ Begin work on the messaging framework and white paper built around the District's primary points.
- ☐ Develop the campaign plan and timeline for the November 2027 measure.

The Mid Rogue Fire District has a rare opportunity: to build something lasting and to put emergency services in this region on solid ground for generations. It will take disciplined strategy, clear communication, and a partner who knows how to win at the ballot box and in the halls of government. That is the work we do, and we would be proud to do it alongside you. We are ready to begin and look forward to discussing this proposal with you.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Lemhouse & Carrie Reed

Founding Partners

United Strategies & Consulting



Jackson County Fire District 1

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7/9/2026

Mid Rogue Fire District

Subject: Request for Annexation Consideration – Savage Creek Road Properties

Dear Board Members,

Jackson County Fire District 1 respectfully requests your consideration regarding the potential annexation of several properties located on Savage Creek Road in Josephine County, near your district boundary.

When the Mid Rogue Fire District was originally established, these properties were not included within its coverage area. At the request of the property owners, Jackson County Fire District 1 has since entered into fire protection service contracts with several of these residents.

Due to geographic access, this section of Savage Creek Road is most efficiently served from Jackson County Fire District 1's response area. As a result, our response times are significantly faster than those from Josephine County-based agencies. Additionally, these properties fall within seven miles of our fire station, qualifying them for annexation under SB 1068 (ORS 478.702).

The properties under consideration include, but may not be limited to:

- 1144 Savage Creek Rd
- 1146 Savage Creek Rd
- 1148 Savage Creek Rd
- 1160 Savage Creek Rd
- 1175 Savage Creek Rd
- 1540 Savage Creek Rd
- 1560 Savage Creek Rd
- 1570 Savage Creek Rd
- 1577 Savage Creek Rd
- 1742 Savage Creek Rd

Our primary objective is to ensure these residents have access to reliable, long-term fire protection services. We welcome your input and would like to know whether Mid Rogue Fire District prefers to

assume responsibility for this coverage area or would support Jackson County Fire District 1 in formally annexing and serving these properties.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to your response.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Hammond", with a stylized, flowing script.

Mike Hammond

Fire Chief

Jackson County Fire District 1