FIRE DISTRICT FROM PAGE 12

"Burn to Learn" exercise: Battalion Chief Cody Goodnough setting a "room and contents" fire; getting the room full of fuel and fire so that trainees can experience the extreme heat and low visibility of a real structure fire.

so that our fire, emergency and medical needs are the best they can be for both victims and responders? AVFD#9 is unique in that they cover medical, vehicular and other emergencies, plus both structural and wildland fires. Hence the need for a variety of vehicles that can carry hose, medical supplies, water, etc., while still getting up our long, narrow driveways. Over the years a strong fleet of vehicles has been built to cover the district's seven stations across 181 square miles (*see map*). Do we let them slowly deteriorate?

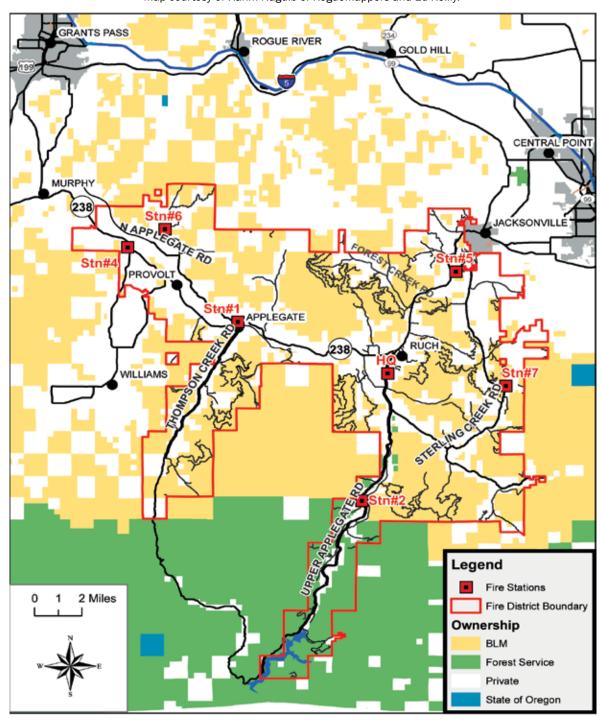
AVFD#9's other staff are the fire chief, an operations chief, a maintenance/logistics chief and the office manager. Aside from their specific assigned duties and responsibilities, they also respond to calls. And, they write successful grants, maintain/service the vehicles, build new engines, coordinate with other local, state and federal partners, provide home assessments and fuels reduction grants for us constituents, help educate our kids about fire prevention issues, and inspect/install smoke alarms for elderly residents.

Without shift officers, many of these other functions performed by staff would be reduced or eliminated. Response times would lengthen. Without good equipment and reliable vehicles, quality of service and response would decline over time. Capital improvements across the district have allowed the needed growth to keep up with our increased and aging populations here in the Applegate. *Are we willing to forfeit all of this over a seven cent increase?* 

From my wildfire education work over the years, I know that our fire district is more community-engaged than any in the Rogue Basin. We have a solid base of dedicated volunteer firefighters. Our fire district leadership has shown they can keep promises, stick to a

## **Applegate Valley Rural Fire District Jurisdiction**

Map courtesy of Karim Naguib of RogueMappers and Ed Reilly.



budget, plan for the future, leverage grant funds, and provide for our valley's growing needs. I'll gladly pay \$15 to \$20 more per year to maintain

all of these valuable services that our fire district provides! Will you?

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