

ADMIN DRAFT  
GARBERVILLE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT ANNEXATION  
PLAN OF SERVICE

**SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED**

56653 (b) (1) An enumeration and description of the services to be extended to the affected territory.

56653 (b) (3) An indication of when those services can feasibly be extended to the affected territory.

**Enumeration of Services and When Such Services can be Provided.** The Garberville Fire Protection District (FPD) proposes to annex its existing out-of-district service area, consolidate operations with the Sprowel Creek Volunteer Fire Company, and annex the Sprowel Creek service area into the boundaries of the Garberville FPD. Upon approval of the annexation, the Garberville FPD proposes to maintain the fire protection services that are currently provided by the Garberville Volunteer Fire Department specified in Health and Safety Code Section 13862, which include in particular:

- Fire protection services.
- Rescue services.
- Emergency medical services.
- Hazardous material emergency response services.
- Other services relating to the protection of lives and property.

The Garberville FPD was formed in 1940 and has provided fire protection services to its out-of-district response area for decades and the Sprowel Creek Volunteer Fire Company, incorporated in 1998, provides fire protection service to the Sprowel Creek/Nielson Ranch area. The proposed annexation would officially merge the operations of the two fire departments into one efficient, effective, and sustainable emergency services system and make possible a proactive, sustainable solution for future fire and emergency service needs for the area by creating a regional district, with an improved economy of scale and associated benefits. Sprowel Creek would become a new Garberville FPD battalion. In addition, the new revenue generated by this annexation would begin the process of establishing a new Garberville FPD battalion in the Benbow area. If all progresses according to plan, additional firefighters would be recruited and trained from the Benbow area, initially a fire engine may be strategically placed at a residence or other location to allow a quicker response to Benbow incidents, and ultimately a fire station constructed in Benbow after sufficient revenue is accumulated, an appropriate site is selected, and environmental review completed.

## SERVICE UNITS AND CAPACITY

56653 (b) (2) The level and range of those services.

**Existing Service Demand.** Based on the 2020 Census, the Garberville FPD currently responds to fire protection services demanded by a population of approximately 1,720 residents (623 within the existing district boundary) living in 947 total housing units (365 within the existing district boundary). The Sprowel Creek Volunteer Fire Company (VFC) serves a population of approximately 37 residents living in 20 total housing units. Non-residential development within the Garberville FPD non-district response area that demands fire protection service includes the Benbow Inn and KOA, Humboldt County Garberville Airport, Garberville Sanitary District wastewater treatment and water supply facility, Caltrans maintenance station, three automobile fueling stations, Blue Star Gas, One Log House and Grandfather Tree gift shop, Randall Sand and Gravel, as well as numerous smaller commercial recreation and other businesses.

The current district boundary contains approximately 623 people, based on Census Blocks and the 2020 Census. The following table shows an estimate of the 2020 population of the proposed annexation area.

Response Area	Population
Garberville Airport/Kimtu Meadows Response Area	265
Alderpoint Road Response Area	187
Bear Canyon Response Area	60
Benbow Response Area	472
Maple Lane East Response Area	46
Richardson Grove, South 101 Response Area	67
Sprowel Creek VFC Response Area	37
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,134</b>

Source: estimate based on 2020 Census Block Groups.

**Existing Service Levels.** The Garberville FPD is an active member of the fire service in Humboldt County. The Garberville FPD is a participant in the countywide fire protection mutual aid agreement, is a member of the Humboldt County dispatch cooperative, and has an active role in the Southern Humboldt Technical Rescue Team. The Garberville FPD provides the full range of fire protection services, including responses to emergency medical services (in general, approximately 80 percent of fire department calls for service are emergency medical) and auto extrication with City Ambulance Garberville, as well technical rescue (high and low angle and swift water rescue), and general public assistance responses. The GFPD has responded to an average of 256 calls per year over the last four years, based on response data from CAL FIRE. Although the CAL FIRE response data does not show dispatches to the Sprowel Creek VFC, there have been an average of 5 calls per year within the Sprowel Creek VFC response area, not including approximately 2 calls per year to assist CAL FIRE with wildfires.

**CALLS FOR SERVICE – GARBERVILLE FPD (DISTRICT AND NON-DISTRICT )**

<i>Call Type</i>	<i>2018</i>		<i>2019</i>		<i>2020</i>		<i>2021</i>	
	<i>Calls</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Calls</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Calls</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Calls</i>	<i>%</i>
Structure Fire	1	0%	2	1%	4	2%	1	0%
Vegetation Fire	6	3%	5	2%	6	3%	7	3%
Other Fires	42	20%	35	15%	35	18%	56	21%
Medical	107	51%	127	55%	97	51%	118	43%
Vehicle Accident	11	5%	10	4%	7	4%	8	3%
Public Assist	38	18%	46	20%	37	19%	78	29%
Hazardous Condition	6	3%	5	2%	4	2%	4	1%
<b>Total Calls</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>100%</b>

**CALLS FOR SERVICE – SPROWEL CREEK VFC**

<i>Call Type</i>	<i>2018</i>		<i>2019</i>		<i>2020</i>		<i>2021</i>	
	<i>Calls</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Calls</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Calls</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Calls</i>	<i>%</i>
Structure Fire			1		1			
Vegetation Fire	1	33%	1	25%	1			
Other Fires								
Medical	2	66%	1	25%	2	66%		
Vehicle Accident			2	50%	1	33%		
Public Assist	1							
Hazardous Condition								
<b>Total Calls</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>100%</b>		

Note: The Garberville FPD responded to six calls for service in the Neilson Ranch Subdivision, as well as assisting Cal-Fire with wildland fires in the area, including three (3) medical aids, one (1) structure fire, one (1) wildland fire and one (1) chimney fire.

The Garberville FPD has 17 active volunteer firefighters and the Sprowel Creek VFC has 20 plus volunteer firefighters and auxiliary personnel. Firefighters are all receive structure and wildland fire training, public safety first aid, and training in emergency vehicle operations. Garberville FPD firefighters have extensive training, as indicated in the following table.

**PERSONNEL & TRAINING**

<i>Personnel</i>	<i>Number</i>
Volunteer	17
Total	17
<i>Training Qualification</i>	<i>Number*</i>
Fire Fighter I or above	3
Wildland (CICCS)	8
First Responder (Medical)	10
EMT	1
Paramedic	1

<i>Personnel</i>	<i>Number</i>
HazMat First Responder Ops.	
Rope Rescue	4
Swift Water Rescue	4
Fire Investigation	

\*Members trained to level

The Garberville FPD operates from a fire station located at 680 Locust Street in Garberville.

The Incident Command System (ICS) fire engine typing, the ISO Property Protection Classification System (see discussion of ISO below), and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) establish standards for the fire engine capabilities and the water and equipment complement that is to be carried on board. The Humboldt County Fire Chief's Association recently implemented a county-wide fire engine numbering system that indicates the fire department (first two digits), fire engine type (third digit), and fire department apparatus number (fourth digit). For instance, the ICS engine typing system specifies the volume of water and the number of passenger seats for each engine type; the ISO system specifies the type and quantity of hose, appliances, and equipment that must be carried on structure firefighting engines, and the NFPA specifies engine characteristics, including hoses, nozzles, ladders, equipment, and appliances in even greater detail.

#### **FACILITIES AND APPARATUS**

<i>Station/Address</i>	<i>Apparatus (seats)</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Pump (GPM)</i>	<i>Tank (Gal)</i>
Garberville Foltz Station 680 Locust Street	E-5725 (3)	1998	2	1250	1000
	E-5726 (3)	2012	2	1250	1000
	R-5775 (5)	2016	4	750	250
	WT-5756 (2)	2012	5	1750	3470
	U-5703 (3)	2016	cmd		
	C-5700(3)	2010	cmd		

<i>Station/Address</i>	<i>Apparatus (seats)</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Pump (GPM)</i>	<i>Tank (Gal)</i>
Sprowel Creek 725 Ranch Road	Kaiser Q-attack (2)	1975	4	250	300
	GM-Q-attack (2)	1984	4	250	500
	OES Tender (2)	1980	5	750	1000

**Emergency Medical Services.** The North Coast Emergency Medical Services Agency (North Coast EMS) establishes certifications, the scope of practice, and procedures for departments and members of fire departments responding to medical emergencies as well

as for ambulance service providers. North Coast EMS has Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with First Responder Basic Life Support (BLS) and First Responder Advanced Life Support (ALS) departments. Most local fire organizations are First Responder Basic Life Support (BLS) providers, including Fortuna FPD, and have personnel that are certified at the BLS level (Public Safety First Aid, First Responder, or Emergency Medical Technician). The Garberville FPD is a BLS service provider, and most members are trained at the Public Safety First Aid, First Responder, and has two members who are trained paramedics.

The Garberville FPD is dispatched simultaneously to calls for emergency medical services within their response area with City Ambulance-Garberville. In most areas, fire departments arrive at the scene first and are expected to perform immediate lifesaving treatment, assess and stabilize the patient, prepare the patient for transport, and provide a verbal report and written documentation to ambulance personnel. The City Ambulance-Garberville station is located at 814 Redwood Drive in downtown Garberville and ambulance personnel may in some instances arrive prior to, or at the same time, as Garberville FPD personnel.

**ISO Fire Rating.** There are several benchmarks by which the level of fire service provided by an agency may be measured, and the Insurance Services Office Public Protection Classification, or ISO PPC, is one such measure. The ISO is a rating commonly used by insurance companies to determine fire insurance rates, with 1 being the best rating which indicates the highest level of fire protection and the lowest is 10. Based on an ISO audit, the Garberville FPD has an ISO PPC rating of 6/6X.

The ISO “6” rating is applied to the area within 5 road miles of the responding fire station and 1,000 feet of a creditable water supply, such as a fire hydrant. The “6X” is applied to properties within 5 road miles of a fire station but beyond 1,000 feet of a creditable water supply (ISO 2014).

### **Future Service Demand**

The proposed Garberville FPD district boundaries reflect the current and planned service area of the Garberville FPD and the Sprowel Creek VFC. The proposed boundaries generally the district boundaries or response areas of adjacent fire departments. The proposed annexation would officially merge the operations of the two fire departments into one efficient, effective, and sustainable emergency services system and make possible a proactive, sustainable solution for future fire and emergency service needs for the area by creating a regional district, with an improved economy of scale and associated benefits. Sprowel Creek would become a new Garberville FPD battalion.

No new development is proposed as part of this annexation and there is no known planned or proposed projects within the area. Significant increases in population or employment are not expected within the annexation area, based on the population and employment projections by the State of California. Based on the South County Regional Fire Services MSR, The town of Garberville is expected to continue growing at the historical growth rates, which could range from about 0.25 to 1.5 percent per year. The

surrounding out of district area is larger in area with significant vacant rural residential land and may grow at a higher annual average rate.

The revenue generated by this annexation would begin the process of establishing a new Garberville FPD battalion in the Benbow area. If all progresses according to plan, additional firefighters would be recruited and trained from the Benbow area, initially a fire engine may be strategically placed at a residence or other location to allow a quicker response to Benbow incidents, and ultimately a fire station constructed in Benbow after sufficient revenue is accumulated, an appropriate site is selected, and environmental review completed.

## **PROPOSED SERVICE INFRASTRUCTURE**

56653 (b) (4) An indication of any improvement or upgrading of structures, roads, sewer or water facilities, or other conditions the local agency would impose or require within the affected territory if the change of organization or reorganization is completed.

As described above, the Garberville FPD and Sprowel Creek VFC currently provide fire protection services throughout the proposed fire protection district boundaries and would continue to provide such services on behalf of the Garberville FPD. The proposed Garberville FPD would not be required to make improvements to maintain the current level of service.

The Sprowel Creek Volunteer Fire Company is not supported by a sustainable or reliable source of ongoing revenue to support the provision of fire protection services. The proposed annexation would extend the Garberville FPD's current property tax allocation to the expanded district boundary, establish a new district-wide special tax, and consolidate fire protection service operations and administration with Sprowel Creek, providing regular and ongoing revenue sources to sustain local fire protection services within each community and to also retain the important local identity of each community's fire department.

The proposed annexation would officially merge the operations of the two fire departments into one efficient, effective, and sustainable emergency services system and make possible a proactive, sustainable solution for future fire and emergency service needs for the area by creating a regional district, with an improved economy of scale and associated benefits. Sprowel Creek would become a new Garberville FPD battalion. The Garberville FPD plans to use revenue generated through the annexation to improve the Sprowel Creek fire station, including new rollup doors, standby generator, heated bay, storage racks for PPE, and a concrete floor. In addition, within the first several years after annexation, the Garberville FPD would purchase a quick attack for Sprowel Creek, like R-5775 which can carry respond to fires and medical incidents and carry at least four fighters as well as upgrade Sprowel Creek personnel protective (PPE) and communications equipment. The cost of station upgrades, a new quick attack, and other equipment is projected to be approximately \$150,000.

As stated above, the revenue generated by this annexation would begin the process of establishing a new Garberville FPD battalion in the Benbow area. After upgrading the Sprowel Creek station, apparatus, and equipment, the Garberville FPD would acquire a new Type 3 wildland engine to be stationed in Garberville. E-5725 would be relocated to Benbow and temporarily housed at or near the home of a Garberville FPD firefighter or quick response to the Benbow and Richardson Grove Area. Additional PPE and communications equipment would be purchased to outfit newly recruited Benbow firefighters. The cost of a new wildland engine for Garberville and equipment to outfit new Benbow firefighters is projected to be approximately \$420,000.

Ultimately, a new fire station would be constructed in Benbow after sufficient revenue is accumulated, an appropriate site is selected, and environmental review completed. In addition, a water tender and quick attack would be acquired so that the Benbow can both operate independently and support responses throughout the new district. The cost of a new water tender and quick attack and Benbow fire station improvements is projected to be approximately \$450,000.

The Garberville FPD would continue to recruit new volunteers to join the department and become firefighters. The Garberville FPD has developed an equipment replacement plan, but future equipment needs may exceed available funds. The Garberville FPD regularly pursues grant funding to address equipment and training needs. Planned equipment and apparatus acquisitions and fire station improvements are planned to occur in the next five years, as funds are available.

**FINANCING OF SERVICES**

56653 (b) (5) Information with respect to how those services will be financed.

Garberville FPD is primarily supported through property taxes (also known as “ad valorem” taxes) as well as grants and interest revenue. Total revenue has averaged approximately \$83,500 per year over the last five years. Current Garberville FPD operating expenses are approximately \$79,000 per year. The Garberville FPD pays for periodic equipment repair and acquisition using its trust fund account. The following table provides annual average operating and contingency expenditures estimates for the last five years.

Category	Amount
Worker's Comp	\$3,200
Insurance	\$7,500
Office expenses	\$1,000
Professional Services	\$3,000
Communications	\$2,500
Membership	\$1,500
Education/Training	\$3,200
Clothing	\$3,000

<b>Category</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Supplies and materials	\$4,000
Equipment (repair, maintenance, replace)	\$5,000
Equipment contingency	\$10,000
Vehicle (repair, maintenance)	\$10,000
Fuel	\$1,000
Vehicle contingency	\$10,000
Facility (repair, maintenance)	\$1,000
Facility contingency	\$3,000
Household expenses	\$750
Food	\$250
Utilities	\$3,000
Total Average Expenditures	\$64,900
Average Revenue minus Expenditures	\$19,100

The proposed Garberville FPD annexation involves a property tax exchange agreement with Humboldt County, whereby the County would shift property tax base and growth generally equivalent with current the Garberville FPD property tax allocation. It is estimated that the base property tax transfer would equal approximately \$200,000 per year and average annual property tax revenue growth is projected to be approximately \$7,000 per year over the first five years. This revenue would be in addition to the current \$80,000 per year in property tax receipts that are generated within the existing district.

The proposed annexation is coupled with a proposed special tax as a means to establish a dependable long term source of revenue for community fire protection services for the existing district, the annexation area, and for the Sprowel Creek VFC response area. The special tax is proposed to be based on the use of property, whereby vacant property of any type would pay \$25 per year; a single family home within a hydranted area would pay \$100 per year; a home not served by hydrants would require a greater response, including water tenders, would pay \$150 per year; multiple family dwellings would pay between \$200 and \$450 depending upon the number of housing units; most commercial properties would pay \$300 per year; and hotels and motels would pay between \$300 and \$750 per year based on the number of rooms. The tax may be increased by as much as five percent per year to account for inflation. The proposed special tax is estimated to generate approximately \$150,000 per year.

In addition, the Garberville FPD would establish procedures to allow that any such parcels which are contiguous, undeveloped, held under identical ownership and can be demonstrated to contain average fuel loading below a given threshold (to be determined by the District) may, upon annual approval of an application of the owners thereof to the district Board, be treated as a single parcel for purposes of this special tax. This exemption is intended to provide financial relief to landowners who own multiple properties that are managed as one unit.

The following page contains the proposed Garberville FPD budget after formation based on the revenue sources described above.

<b>Proposed Garberville FPD Budget</b>				
	<b>Garberville</b>	<b>Benbow</b>	<b>Sprowel Creek</b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
<b>Operation Expenditures</b>				
Worker's Comp	\$3,600	\$1,600	\$800	<b>\$6,000</b>
Insurance				<b>\$10,125</b>
Office expenses	\$1,000	\$500	\$500	<b>\$2,000</b>
Professional Services				<b>\$3,000</b>
Communications	\$2,500	\$1,250	\$1,250	<b>\$5,000</b>
Membership				<b>\$1,500</b>
Education/Training	\$3,600	\$1,600	\$800	<b>\$6,000</b>
Clothing	\$500	\$250	\$125	<b>\$875</b>
Supplies and materials	\$4,000	\$1,000	\$400	<b>\$5,400</b>
Equipment (repair, maintenance, replace)	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$1,250	<b>\$8,750</b>
Equipment contingency	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$2,500	<b>\$17,500</b>
Vehicle (repair, maintenance)	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$2,500	<b>\$17,500</b>
Fuel	\$1,000	\$500	\$250	<b>\$1,750</b>
Vehicle contingency	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$2,500	<b>\$17,500</b>
Facility (repair, maintenance)	\$1,000	\$750	\$750	<b>\$2,500</b>
Facility contingency	\$3,000	\$1,500	\$750	<b>\$5,250</b>
Household expenses	\$750	\$563	\$563	<b>\$1,875</b>
Food	\$250	\$188	\$188	<b>\$625</b>
Utilities	\$3,000	\$2,250	\$2,250	<b>\$7,500</b>
Administrative Staffing Expenditures				<b>\$33,000</b>
				<b><u>\$153,650</u></b>
<b>Total Operational Expenditures</b>				<b><u>0</u></b>
<b>Capital/Apparatus Replacement Fund Cost</b>				<b><u>\$40,000</u></b>
<b>Revenue</b>				
Existing Property Tax				<b>\$80,000</b>
New Property Tax				<b>\$202,789</b>
Special Tax				<b>\$147,550</b>
<b>Total Revenue</b>				<b><u>\$430,339</u></b>

<b>Proposed Garberville FPD Budget</b>				

<b>Proposed Garberville FPD Budget - Operational Enhancements</b>				
<b>Potential Operational Enhancements – New Annual Expenditure</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>			
1 Firefighter (EMT, Apparatus Operator)	\$100,000			
Pay Per Call Expenses	\$20,000			
	<b><u>\$120,000</u></b>	May implement by 5th or 6th year		
	<b>Estimated Cost</b>			
<b>Phase 1 Capital and One-Time Expenditures</b>				
Quick Attack for Sprowel Creek	\$50,000			
Approx. 14 new Radios	\$6,300			
PPE for 7 firefighters	\$50,000			
Station Improvements for Sprowel Creek	\$40,000			
	<b><u>\$146,300</u></b>	Projected to be complete by 1st or 2nd year		
<b>Phase 2 Capital and One-Time Expenditures</b>				
Type 3 Engine for Garberville	\$350,000			
Approx. 2 new Radios	\$900			
PPE for 7 firefighters	\$70,000			
	<b><u>\$420,900</u></b>	Projected to be complete by 4th or 5th year		
<b>Phase 2 Capital and One-Time Expenditures</b>				
Tender for Benbow	\$100,000			
Quick Attack for Benbow	\$250,000			
Approx. 2 new Radios	\$900			
Station Improvements for Benbow	\$125,000			
	<b><u>\$475,900</u></b>	Projected to be complete by 5th or 6th year		

## **CONDITIONS OF SERVICE**

The approval of the formation of the district would be subject to a two-thirds majority vote in favor of a special tax by the registered voters within the existing and expanded district boundaries and the approval of a property tax exchange agreement by the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors pursuant to Tax Exchange Agreement Offer 1 of the Board of Supervisors adopted strategies and expectations.

### **ORGANIZATION ALTERNATIVES TO BE CONSIDERED:**

1. Annexation by another Fire Protection District
2. Larger Fire Protection District Annexation/Consolidation

Considerations in the evaluation of Alternatives:

The proposed annexation area includes the communities of Benbow, Sprowel Creek, Garberville Airport/Kimtu Meadows, Bear Canyon, Alderpoint Road, and South U.S. 101/Richardson Grove. There is a volunteer fire company in the Sprowel Creek area that would be merged with the Garberville FPD and the proposed annexation area borders the Redway and Briceland FPDs.

Alternative actions considered include:

- The annexation of the proposed boundaries by an adjacent fire protection district, such as the Briceland FPD or Redway FPD. Based on the South County Regional Fire Services MSR, the proposed annexation area is within the Garberville FPD Sphere of Influence and the Sprowel Creek VFC response area. The proposed annexation is not within the response area of the Briceland FPD or Redway FPD; therefore, there are no other adjacent fire protection districts that would be expected to provide adequate fire protection services to the proposed annexation area. The Briceland FPD was formed in 2011 and the district boundary was intended to include the fire department's full response area. The Redway FPD has considered expanding its boundaries to include areas outside its district boundaries to which it provides "good will" service, which are located to the east and the north of the existing district boundary. When requested, Briceland and Redway FPD provides mutual aid response to the Garberville FPD within its existing district and out-of-district response area. Briceland and Redway FPD would not be expected to provide the same level of fire service to the proposed annexation as the Garberville FPD due to distance and travel time.
- Larger reorganization involving surrounding fire protection districts and areas outside district boundaries protected by volunteer fire departments not affiliated with special districts. Ten or more years ago, fire departments (VFDs and FPDs) in Southern Humboldt considered a larger reorganization involving consolidation and rejected the idea due to the loss of local control of fire protection services and service revenue and costs and felt that no immediate significant service benefits. Shared administrative costs are a common reason for fire related district merger. At that time, most Humboldt County fire departments had only nominal

administrative costs because services are provided by volunteers. Therefore, there was little immediate benefit to pursuing a larger reorganization.

Since that time, the challenges to local fire departments have increased, including the following: volunteer recruitment and retention has become a much more significant issue for all fire departments; the responsibilities and administrative burden on Fire Chiefs has increased due to new commercial and institutional occupancy inspection requirements; increased training standards and requirements to track training; as well as annual special tax or special assessment roll processing and state financial reporting requirements.

In response, fire departments throughout Humboldt County, including Southern Humboldt, are exploring different ways to work together. The Southern Humboldt Fire Chiefs Association has developed a regional training tower at the CAL FIRE Eel River Fire Center which will play a central role in the planned Southern Humboldt training academy.

Annexation of the entire Garberville FPD response area by another fire protection district is not considered feasible due to the extended response distance and that a significant portion of the annexation area could only be accessed through the existing Garberville FPD boundaries. The proposed action includes a merger between the Garberville FPD and the Sprowel Creek VFC. There may be benefits to mergers between other nearby FPDs, especially between Garberville and Redway FPD. These two FPDs respond together effectively as automatic and mutual aid patterns and participate together in regional training opportunities. But at this time these two FPDs have not indicated a willingness to merge. The Garberville FPD commits to continuing to discuss merger or reorganization with the Redway FPD into the future.

The proposed action would maintain and enhance fire protection to the Garberville out of district response area and would significantly improve fire protection in Sprowel Creek by establishing ongoing funding support through tax revenue from the local community. The proposed action would support the mutual social and economic interests of the Garberville community by sustaining community-based fire protection services and establishing local governance for such services. The proposed action would have little or no effect on adjacent areas, most of which have their own local fire department.