**NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

August 13, 2020

**Southwest Oregon District’s New PIO/Public Affairs Officer**

*Please Forward Public Information/Media Inquiries to Kyle Novy-Riley*

**ROGUE VALLEY, ORE. –** Kyle Novy-Riley has joined ODF and will take over PIO responsibilities from incumbent: Brian Ballou, who will “fully retire” at the end of the 2020 fire season. In addition to PIO duties, Kyle will take up community engagement initiatives to advance the fire prevention program and decrease the region’s number of “human-caused” fires. Kyle’s Southwest Oregon territory will include both Jackson and Josephine Counties, jointly referred to as “Rogue Valley.”

 Our new Public Affairs Officer joins us from the private sector and brings with him almost six years of strategic communications experience. He will relocate to Rogue Valley from Portland, Oregon at the end of August.

 Please forward media inquiries and your updated contact information to Kyle’s email: Kyle.Novy-Riley@oregon.gov and add his phone number: 541-890-9424 to your contact list.

###