

Discussion - Enhanced Patrols on Crooked River Ranch
By: Sheriff Jim Adkins

Some residents living on Crooked River Ranch have been asking the Home Owners Association Board and myself, the Sheriff of Jefferson County, about the possibilities of assigning deputies specifically to CRR or increasing the number of patrols on the Ranch. They want to see an increase in traffic safety operations and more roving patrols. There are other residents who do not think it is necessary to have enhanced patrols on the Ranch and think the way we conduct business currently is adequate.

I have decided to team up with the CRR HOA and explore ways of providing enhanced patrols, which will cost each home owner a little more money each year, in the form of a special district tax. We have decided to see what the residents think about a special district and then if there is enough interest, asking the home owners to vote on the matter. The HOA and I will give you the information; the costs, logistics, pros and cons, but ask you to decide on what you really want. What level of service do you want? We are okay with whatever decision you, "the boss" makes. This is a serious matter and I want to help you make an informed decision.

A town hall is scheduled for Tuesday, February 28, 2017 at 6:00 p.m., in the Juniper Room at the administration building. We can meet and discuss the pros and cons of having a special district and what the expense might be. Please come and help us talk this through and tell the HOA and myself what direction you would like us to take.

Currently, I have my deputies patrol CRR in the following manner: When there is a call for service at CRR, they respond as soon as possible. CRR calls must be prioritized along with the other calls from other parts of the county. As you already know, it can take a long time for a deputy to physically respond to your address, if they are not on the Ranch.

The CRR Fire Department has been kind enough to allow me to put a desk and computer at the Fire Station for my deputies to use. This space allows my deputies to interact with the Fire Department and to have a location in which they can write reports in a safe space and a location to interview folks from the Ranch, without having to respond back to the Madras office.

On most Thursdays and Fridays, my Camp Sherman resident Deputy, Dave Blann, drives to CRR and patrols for about 5 to 6 hours, each of those days, if there are no calls in Camp Sherman. We have adjusted his shift to patrol when the vehicular traffic on the Ranch is heavier in the morning and later in the year we may adjust his shift to later in the day.

I have three patrol deputies who live in Redmond, Bend and LaPine. I have stationed their patrol cars at the CRR fire hall, so these deputies drive from their home to the fire station to begin their shift. When they start their shift, they patrol around the Jefferson County portion of CRR and conduct traffic stops, serve civil process and respond to any calls for service that may be happening at the time. When they get a call for service in the northern part of the County, they then leave CRR and respond accordingly. When it is nearing the end of their shift, these deputies will attempt to respond back to CRR and patrol around for a while before going off duty at the fire station.

During a regular work week, my deputy maybe the only deputy on duty to answer calls for the rest of the county. There is the possibility I may have two deputies working at the same time, however one is

specifically assigned to an enhanced patrol contract for either the cities of Culver and Metolius, or to the PGE project area at the Cove State Park. They are to remain in their area of enhanced patrol, unless there is an emergency elsewhere. These agencies pay into my budget extra monies to have these enhanced patrols in their areas. During routine calls for service, the on duty deputy must handle all other calls by him/herself.

If the on duty deputy is the only deputy working, and they are in the Madras area handling calls, there could be a substantial amount of time pass before that deputy could respond from the northern part of the county to an issue at CRR. When a high priority call comes in at CRR, I do utilize the assistance of the Oregon State Police and the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office to respond (if they are in the area) and control the scene until my deputy is able to arrive on scene and handle the call.

Enhanced patrols can be a moderately expensive undertaking which would be beneficial to both you as the resident and to me as the chief law enforcement officer for the County, allowing me to provide better service to you during the time the enhanced patrol deputy is working at CRR and freeing up another deputy in the northern part of the county to better serve those citizens.

Another way we try to help folks and their neighborhoods remain safe and vigilant, is to set up the Neighborhood Watch program. At this time, only a couple phases / neighborhoods have reached out to meet with me and my coordinator, Richard Ladeby. We have been to CRR a couple times in the past, to meet with different folks about the process. We are willing to meet anytime, give you some direction and provide you with Neighborhood Watch signs, if you are willing to commit to your phase / neighborhood.

Please come to the town hall meeting on February 28th, at 6:00 p.m. and voice your opinion on this matter or whatever issue you want to discuss. I want to hear from you!

Jim Adkins, Sheriff 541.475.6520 ext 4310.