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COMMISSIONERS OF THE LAND OFFICE ASSESSING WILDFIRE DAMAGE IN WESTERN OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma City – The Commissioners of the Land Office (CLO) is currently conducting thorough analysis of school land acreage that was impacted by recent wildfires in western Oklahoma. At this time it is believed that approximately 30 out of 2,500 parcels statewide have been affected.

The CLO is assessing the impact of the fires and visiting with affected lessees. Our Real Estate Management Specialists are traveling to each parcel to assess condition. A major concern moving forward is wind erosion. We will monitor that closely and take appropriate actions.

Ecologically the fires can benefit the landscape. But the losses of livestock, fences, homes, and lives are tragic. For some, the fires acted like a prescribed burn and with adequate rain in the next several months the landscape could see positive regrowth of grass for grazing livestock.

While the CLO's contract is not written to recognize natural disasters such as the recent wildfires, the office will consider damages sustained by lessees on a case by case basis. Affected lessees should contact James Spurgeon, director of real estate management, at 405-521-4127 or James.Spurgeon@clo.ok.gov.

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