



# Issue Brief - 2009

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

## South Fork Forest Camp

### Overview

South Fork Forest Camp (SFFC) is a minimum-security work camp located approximately 28 miles east of Tillamook, just off of Highway 6 along the Wilson River Highway. SFFC was established in 1951 and is a satellite facility to Columbia River Correctional Institution (CRCI), another minimum-security facility located in Portland, Oregon. SFFC is managed jointly with the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF).

The inmate population supports up to 15 ODF crews, one Oregon Parks and Recreation Department contract crew and support positions in SFFC's physical plant, kitchen, laundry, boot room, etc. Some of the work done in conjunction with ODF is pre-commercial tree thinning, trapping of mountain beavers, tree planting, and chemical treatments for insect and disease control. ODF cost to supervise and support an inmate field crew is \$730 per crew per day.

Part of SFFC's mission is to supply a ready work force to combat forest or wild fires throughout the state. Crews provide critical support for statewide fire operations, recreation and reforestation as well as support for special projects such as sign making, metal fabrication and tool or equipment repair.

Crews also provide treatment for about 10,000 acres of young tree stands each year, build or maintain up to 105 miles of hiking trails and maintain campgrounds, day use areas and trailheads within the Northwest Oregon Area (NWOA).

### An Example of SFFC's Success

During the winter flooding of 2007, SFFC staff and inmate work crews assisted in the clean-up of effort in the communities of Vernonia, Mist and Astoria. Inmate work crews arrived at the impacted areas one day after the Governor declared an emergency. The crews moved a total of six million pounds (3,000 tons) of garbage and debris over 13 days. Inmate work crews worked in the local high school carrying everything outside, ripping out drywall, loading dumpsters, etc. The work crews

worked in a total of 446 Vernonia homes and helped to get the communities quickly on the road to recovery.

**SFFC Eligibility** is determined by the CRCI/SFFC housing committee with representatives from Security, programs, mental health, medical and work programs. Selection is based upon the needs of DOC and the behavior of the inmates. Inmates must be a level 1, unfenced eligible by the Work Housing Assignment Levels Evaluation work eligibility program and fit the following guidelines:

- No arson crimes or arrests
- No violent person to person crimes where there may be victim issues
- No Tillamook County release
- No medical and mental health issues
- No violent domestic issues such as restraining orders, violations, etc.
- Good work history
- No sex offenses
- No escape history
- No animal abuse crimes
- 12 to 48 months to release

**Total acreage of SFFC:** 28

### Capacity:

- Budgeted capacity: 200
- Inmate count on 10/15/2009: 198

**Number of staff:** 39.5 (DOC) and 19 (ODF)

**Union representation:** Association of Oregon Corrections Employees (AOCE)

### 2007-09 Legislative Budget for SFFC:

DOC's Total Funds Budget – \$7,014,990  
ODF's Total Funds Budget – \$3,828,060

### South Fork Forest Camp

48300 Wilson River Hwy.  
Tillamook, OR 97141-9799  
(503) 842-2811 ■

**The mission of the  
Oregon Department of Corrections  
is to promote public safety by  
holding offenders accountable for their  
actions and reducing the risk of future  
criminal behavior.**



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**Max Williams, Director  
(503) 945-0927**

**Mitch Morrow, Deputy Director  
(503) 945-0927**

**Michael Gower  
Assistant Director for Operations  
(503) 945-0950**

**Chane Griggs  
Assistant Director for Public Services  
(503) 945-0930**

**Paula Myers, Superintendent  
Columbia River Correctional Institution  
& South Fork Forest Camp  
(503) 280-6646 ex. 206**

**Oregon Department of Corrections  
Center Street NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301-4667**

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