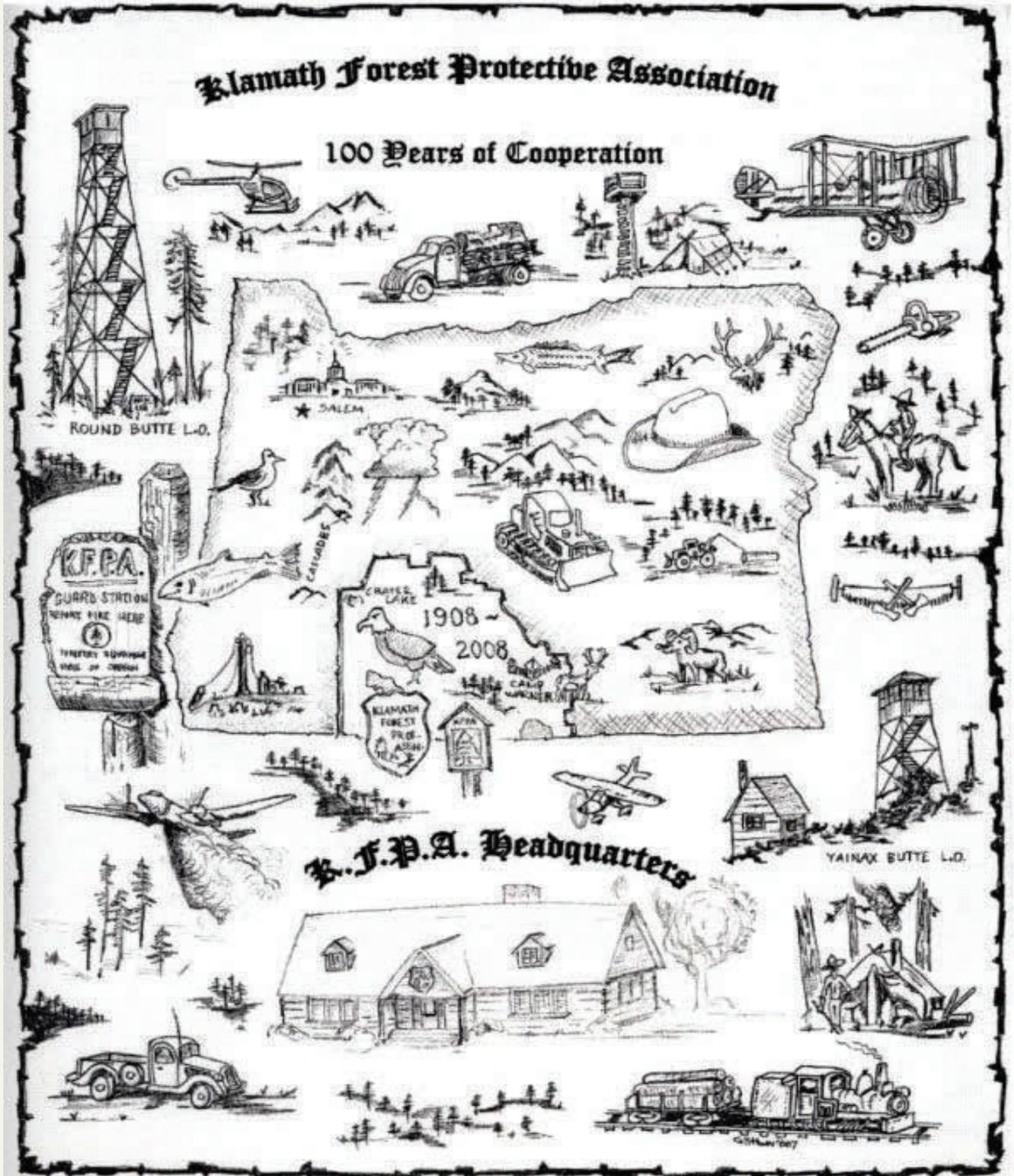


# KLAMATH-LAKE DISTRICT CENTENNIAL REPORT



OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY

# 2007 ANNUAL REPORT

Oregon Department of Forestry  
Klamath-Lake District

April, 2008



## District Forester Perspective



It is a true honor to highlight some of Klamath-Lake District's accomplishments in this "Centennial Edition" annual report.

As you read the statistics and look at the information and data from 2007, try to visualize the area, the people and the events of early 1908 when Klamath Forest Protective Association (KFPA) began. In April, 100 years ago, the KFPA founders and fire wardens were pondering the upcoming season, trying to prepare a budget, working on cooperative projects, getting equipment together and coordinating with others to ensure the private forests in Klamath and Lake Counties didn't burn up. A lot has changed in 100 years, but based on the previous sentence, you can see much is the same.

Klamath-Lake District and KFPA share a rich history of success! This past year was extremely successful adding to the tradition of great fire fighting, excellent forest management, support to our local communities, and the value of relationships. If you are reading this report, most likely you are also a part of our success and our rich history, thanks for supporting Klamath-Lake District and "on to the next 100!"

*Bill*

## KFPA—100 Years of Cooperation

1908 to 2008

The Klamath Forest Protective Association (KFPA) is a nonprofit organization that represents all private landowners in the Klamath-Lake District.

Established in 1908, KFPA was responsible for fire suppression and other fire protection activities on private land.



### In this issue:

KFPA Celebrating 100 Years	2
Fire Season Review	4
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### Special points of interest:

- Human caused fire numbers down.
- Guzzler Project: Water for Wildfire and Wildlife
- Mindy Sherrieb retires in November.
- 2007 Oregon Tree Farmer of the Year Mezger Forest Inc.
- Front Cover drawing created by Greg Pittman.

# Klamath Forest Protective Association

In the early 1900's associations were created to handle forest fire suppression in the state of Oregon. Over time, however, many associations began turning their fire fighting responsibilities over to the state. In 1975, KFPA transferred its fire fighting duties by signing a cooperative agreement with the Oregon Department of Forestry. Today KFPA works closely with the District Forester, providing advice and direction in the general operation of the District's fire protection program. Members also provide input into and approve the annual Protection operating budget. KFPA works hard to make positive contributions to the local community through its various

programs. In addition to protection of private forest and range resources from wildfires, KFPA also has the following objectives:

**To preserve** the private forests of Klamath and Lake counties for the purpose of maintaining and enhancing timber and forage production.

**To protect** private forest and range resources from loss by insect and disease attacks.

**To enlist the aid** of other organizations in accomplishing these objectives.

KFPA's members collectively own and manage approximately 836,000 acres of private land in the District.

Members elect a 13-person board of directors each year. Board members volunteer a lot of time to handle the association's affairs and work on various related committees. KFPA also promotes and sponsors forest fire prevention education for children, recognizing that our key to success in the future lies with them.



Commemorative pin recognizing 100 years



## Board of Directors

**Brett Johnson** JWTR, LLC *President*

**Bill Swarts** Olympic Resource Management *Vice President*

**James Dahm** Whiskey Creek Timber *Treasurer*

**Kim Dykstra** *Secretary*

**Dan Applebaker** J-Spear Ranch Co.

**Lon Casebeer** JWTR, LLC

**Edward Livingston** Gerber Ranch

**Lee Fledderjohann** Fremont Sawmill

**Glenn Lorenz** Bar-CL, Inc.

**Robert Mezger** Whiskey Creek Timber

**Bruce Wirth** Meadow Lake, Inc.

**Buchanan & Hagelstein** Ranch

KFPA sign at the new Headquarters' Office

# The Klamath-Lake District

The Klamath-Lake District administers Department programs on 1.4 million acres in Klamath and Lake Counties located in south central Oregon. The District stretches north from the California border to Crater Lake National Park and east from the crest of the Cascades to Lakeview.

The District carries out the programs and policies of the Oregon Department of Forestry through the following local programs:

**Management** of 34,000 acres of state-owned forestlands.

**Protection** from wildfire on more than 1.4 million acres of forest land in Klamath and Lake Counties.

**Administration** of the Forest Practices Act.

**Provide** Forestry and Community Assistance.

**Involvement** in local and federal land use planning targeting forest sustainability and wildfire issues.

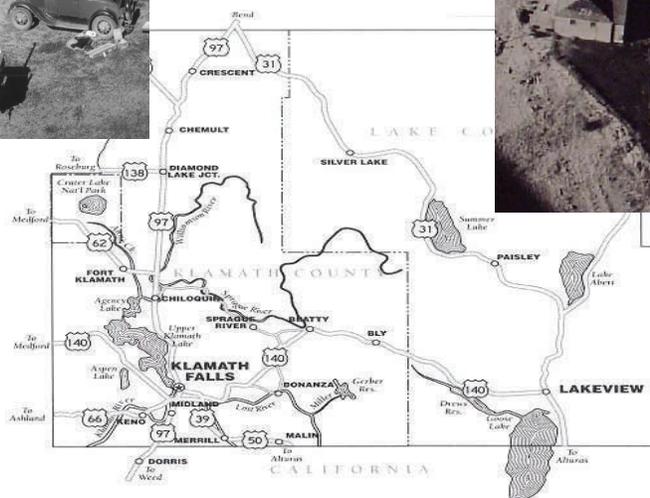
The District maintains two offices, one in Klamath Falls and one in Lakeview. The District's 24 permanent employees are organized into four units: District Administration, Lake Protection, Klamath Protection, and State Forest Management. In addition, approximately 50 employees are hired each year in seasonal positions for summer fire fighting jobs in the Protection program.

Headquarters office winter of 2007



Bly Mt Guard Station in 1934

Aerial of new  
KFPA Headquarters,  
Office completed in 1946.





Fire School Above and right

## Protection From Fire

Fire season was officially declared on June 1st, with additional public use restrictions put in place for the Klamath River Canyon. Similar public use restrictions were put in place for the remaining portions of the District on July 2nd. The District remained in fire season and these public use restrictions until Oct 10<sup>th</sup>, for a total fire season length of 132 days, and a public use restriction period of 91 days.

During the season, the District experienced 111 fires on state protected land that burned a total of 959 acres. Overall the District experienced 114% of the ten year average in terms of fire numbers, only burning 23% of the ten year average in terms of acres. The potential for large fires and the resultant damage

was a concern throughout the season, as evidenced by record high indices during August and September.

Despite heavy lightning activity causing large fires in other areas, the District was very successful at initial attack and in managing fires requiring additional resources. Coupled with the strategic use of severity funded resources, employee dedication, and coordination with our cooperators and landowners, the District had a great record for 2007.



Fire Warden Charles Ogle at a Guard Station, Penny Springs Above with Ford pickup truck Right

## 2007 Fire Season Summary

Approximately 84% of the fire season was spent in High or Extreme fire danger. In total, the District experienced 25 days of lightning, resulting in 134% of the ten year average number of lightning fires. Human caused fire numbers were down this year, with 89% of the ten year average.

Due to significant effort, the District experienced only two fires over 100 acres during 2007. Keys to success during the year were fire prevention efforts, timely use of additional resources and the excellent fire skills we are blessed to have in our employees.



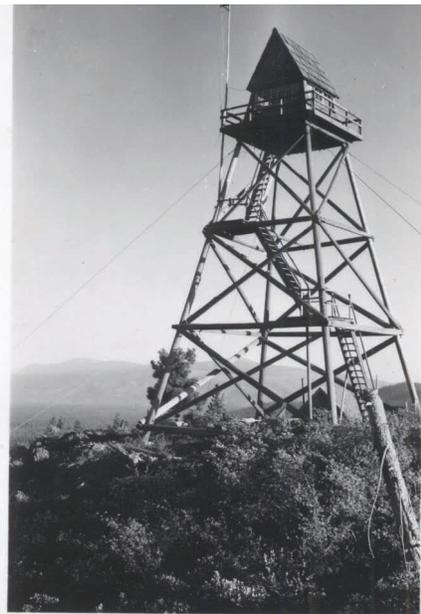


Kirk Fire north of Chiloquin Above  
Fletcher Fire on the Lake Unit Right



## 2007 SIGNIFICANT FIRES

SIGNIFICANT FIRES	TOTAL ACRES	ODF ACRES	CAUSE	DATE
Spring Ranch	16	16	Miscellaneous	4/17/07
Kirk	82	41	Equipment	7/1/07
Stukel	169	169	Lightning	7/7/07
Taylor	10	10	Lightning	7/7/07
Silver Dollar	49	44	Lightning	7/8/07
Fletcher	8,121	634 (OR)	Lightning	7/16/07



Parker Mountain Lookout—1940s Above  
Early day lookout and his dog Right

## Prevention

Fire prevention is an integral part of the District's Fire Protection Program. Prevention efforts are emphasized and presented through education, public outreach and enforcement.

The District was proactive this year in providing information to the public through media press releases and a variety of display ads and newsprint publications. The display ads highlighted current fire restrictions in place during critical fire danger periods.

Educational information was also presented to the public during the Klamath Home Show, Fire Prevention Cooperative Workshop, Klamath & Lake County Fairs, and the annual Child Safety Day program.





Craig Leech presenting to students Above  
Merrill Elementary School winning poster Right

## Wildland Fire Prevention Poster Contest

This annual Fire Program event is to help students understand the importance of preventing wildland fires. School presentations include information on the responsibilities of the Department of Forestry, who is responsible for paying for the suppression costs of a fire, the equipment and tools used for suppressing a fire, and how they, as students, can help with fire prevention.

Each student is asked to help “get the message out” about preventing wildfires by drawing a poster. The posters are judged on their creativity, use of color, and the message.

The 2007 program was presented to 725 second and fourth grade students. The schools participating included: Altamont, Ferguson, Fremont, Gearhart, Henley, Malin, Merrill, Peterson and Stearns Elementary Schools. The program is supported through partnerships with the schools and financial support from the KFFPA, area banks, local businesses, forest industry representatives and Klamath Country Title 3 funding assistance.



FIRE CAUSE	NUMBER OF FIRES			NUMBER OF ACRES		
	2007	10-YEAR AVERAGE	% OF 10-YEAR AVERAGE	2007	10-YEAR AVERAGE	% OF 10-YEAR AVERAGE
Railroad	0	0	100 %	0	0	100%
Equipment	2	8.2	24 %	46.10	269.16	17%
Recreationist	10	8.3	120%	7.44	15.98	47%
Smoker	1	2.4	42%	1.10	4.81	23%
Debris Burning	12	11.7	103%	6.41	106.92	6%
Arson	2	2.7	74%	.21	234.54	0
Juveniles	3	2.3	130%	.60	15.85	4%
Miscellaneous	9	8.3	108%	21.04	26.10	81%
Total Human Caused	39	43.9	89%	82.9	673.35	12%
Lightning	72	53.6	134%	876.44	3517.46	25%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>97.5</b>	<b>114%</b>	<b>959.34</b>	<b>4190.81</b>	<b>23%</b>

Interior of lightning caused  
Silver Dollar Fire





Despite continued reductions in Federal Grant funding, the District was successful in obtaining additional funds for the Chiloquin Fire District. This funding, money

## Grant and Cooperative Projects

given by the federal government to individual states for distribution, is termed a "Pass through Grant", and will be utilized for fuels treatment and fire planning.

The Bly "Western States Grant" Project on the Lake Unit was completed this year with 200 acres having been treated. The two fuel reduction projects, Bley-Was Heights and Pinecrest subdivisions, involved hand thinning, hand limbing and slash busting (see *photo left*).

In addition, the Klamath Unit continued grant funded fuels treatment at Moore Park in Klamath Falls, and to date has completed 261 acres with an additional 50 acres planned for 2008.

Title 3 Grant dollars were used to help with the annual poster contest, assist in finishing the Klamath County home assessment project, and to complete the Klamath County and the Klamath Falls Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP.)

Cooperative projects in 2007 also included the Lake Unit assisting the Nature Conservancy with 160 acres of prescribed burning on the Sycan Marsh Preserve (see *photo below*).



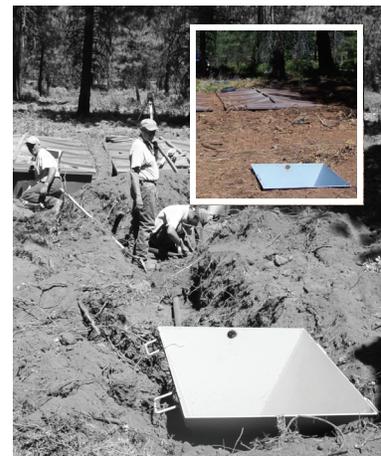
## Water for Wildfire and Wildlife

The Water for Wildfire and Wildlife project was designed to provide water storage for fire protection in locations that do not have water readily available. When not in use by fire personnel, the water will be available to support and/or enhance wildlife habitat.

A plan was developed, in partnership with the BLM and ODFW, which called for two 1800 gallon water tanks to be placed in 3 different locations on the plateaus above the Klamath River Canyon. The two water tanks were then to be linked to a drinker or "guzzler" to be used by wildlife and provide a source for drafting water. A Title 3

grant was applied for and received in 2005 to financially support the effort. The sites, located on BLM "O&C" lands, were surveyed for cultural resources and ultimately approved by the BLM.

The installation of the tanks and guzzlers was contracted and completed in the summer of 2007. 3600 gallons of water were made available at 2 of the sites, and 1800 gallons at the 3rd site. ODF personnel, ODFW biologists and members of the Oregon Hunters Association (OHA) built the water catchments, or aprons, that go over top of the water tanks. These aprons are designed to collect



moisture from rain and winter snow to ensure that the tanks stay full of water. Maintenance of these sites will be a collaborative effort between ODF, ODFW and the local chapter of OHA. Thank you to our partners in the ODFW Klamath Office and the Klamath Chapter of the OHA!

## Private Forests

The Private Forests Program encompasses various aspects of promoting and supporting landowners in improving forest health, timber production, fish and wildlife habitat, soil and water quality, recreation opportunities, and aesthetics of private forests through information, technical assistance, financial incentives, and regulation.

*Tree O Logging* was honored at the 2007 Operators' Breakfast for the Forest Practices Merit Award received for

### 2007 NOTIFICATION OF FOREST OPERATION

ITEM	KLAMATH UNIT	LAKE UNIT	TOTAL
New Applications	341	170	511
Renewed Applications	63	38	101
<b>Total Notifications</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>612</b>

### ADDITIONAL FOREST PRACTICES DATA FOR 2007

ITEM	KLAMATH UNIT	LAKE UNIT	TOTAL
<b>WRITTEN PLANS</b>			
Significant Wetlands	15	23	38
Threatened & Endangered Species	12	0	12
Waters of the State	6	16	22
<b>FOREST PRACTICES CITATIONS</b>			
Civil Penalty Citations	0	1	1
Criminal Citations	0	0	0
Uniform Citations (Fire)	7	0	7
Uniform Citations (Warnings)	7	0	7

protecting a significant wetland and a large fish-bearing stream. The focus of the Operators' Breakfast each year is on fire prevention, and legal requirements for industrial forest operations. It also gives Associated Oregon Loggers (AOL) an opportunity to update landowners and operators on current statewide issues. The annual meeting was co-hosted by AOL, Oregon Department of Forestry and JWTR, LLC.

### Mezger Forest Inc. 2007 Oregon's Tree Farmer of the Year

Left to right:  
Marvin Brown, Alan Mezger,  
Donna Roberts, Jim Roberts,  
and Robert Mezger



## Urban Forestry

Support of the Klamath Tree League and the Tree City USA program for Klamath Falls continued in 2007. Klamath Falls earned a Growth Award in their fourth year as a qualified Tree City. The award recognizes significant improvement in local tree care. The Klamath Tree League has established an Arboretum at Oregon Institute of Technology and provides support to the City for their Arbor Day celebrations.





Klamath-Lake Forest Health Partnership installing interpretive trail signs at Lake of the Woods.

## Forestry Assistance

The District continues to participate as a member of the Klamath-Lake Forest Health Partnership supporting various local projects: planning interpretive trails at Lake of the Woods and Sun Pass; exploring and supporting local efforts to utilize small wood and biomass and reviewing the District's State Forests Annual Operating Plans.

### **Accomplishments and activities for 2007 included:**

**Assisting** landowners in completion of 40 acres of site preparation and planting, 27 acres of pre-commercial thinning, 68 acres of underburning and fuel reduction (cooperative project with The Nature Conservancy at Sycan Marsh), 263 acres of stewardship plan development, 260 feet of riparian enhancement, 95 acres of wildlife habitat enhancement, 340 acres of insect and disease diagnosis and two spring development projects.

**Reviewing and commenting** on 46 Klamath County land use planning and tax assessment requests.

**Coordinating** the Tree Farm program and annual inspections for Klamath and Lake Counties. The Klamath County nominee, Mezger Forest Inc., was named Oregon's Tree Farmer of the Year.

**Organizing** the Forest Management stations at Resources and People Camp (RAP) and the School Forestry Tour.

**Developing** a management plan template for use by the Lake County Watershed Council.

**Continued participation** in several outreach activities including Klamath Outdoor Science School (KOSS), Lake County Natural Resources Outdoor School, Klamath Tree League (KTL), Society of American Foresters (SAF), the Prevention Poster Contest and Project Learning Tree (PLT).

## Forest Health

The Oregon Department of Forestry's Forest Health Program is designed to survey, evaluate, and monitor forest insects and tree diseases. ODF then provides technical advice and training in the use of integrated pest management principles to help professional foresters and landowners meet their management goals and objectives.

In 2007, damage to forest lands in Eastern Oregon, detected by the annual aerial survey, increased by 40% overall. Many of the most severely damaged areas were in National Forests and designated wilderness areas. The majority of the damage observed in Klamath-Lake District was attributed to the mountain pine beetle epidemic which began in 2001. The outbreak, from Winter Rim to the Gearhart Wilderness, is projected to continue for up to a decade or more and has increased the risk of catastrophic fire. The expansion is increasingly impacting other species including ponderosa, sugar,



Historic "pine beetle work" camp.

western white and whitebark pines. Cost-share funding was available to private landowners during 2007 for precommercial thinning to prevent bark beetle mortality in pine stands. This US Forest Service sponsored grant will continue on the District in 2008. Two public meetings were held in the early part of the year to present information and answer questions about the mountain pine beetle and the current epidemic. Damage from other bark beetles has declined with the easing of drought conditions on the District. Acreage affected by a variety of defoliators also remained low in 2007.



Slipshod Timber Sale Above

## State Forests

The Klamath-Lake District manages 33,739 acres of state forest lands. Sun Pass State Forest is the largest single block within that total, at 21,317 acres. This forest is located 40 miles north of Klamath Falls near the southeastern corner of Crater Lake National Park. Remaining state-owned land is scattered in a number of small parcels throughout the District, with the exception of two larger blocks of land tracts – Bear Valley and Yainax Butte.

The mission of the State Forests program is to actively manage state lands in a cost-effective and environmentally sound manner. State forest lands are managed to maintain major resources for the benefit of the public and produce revenues for counties and the Common School Fund.

Of the 33,739 acres managed by the District, 26,912 acres are County Forest Trust lands, and the remaining 6,827 acres are Common School Forest lands.

The District's State Forests staff continued support of the Klamath Outdoor Science School (KOSS) to meet the long range plan goal to interpret the history of the forest and present day management. The primary strategy to achieve this goal is to provide youth, teachers, and parents with education about the working forest. During 2007, KOSS provided forest science programs to 413 students and 59 teachers and chaperones at the school site in Sun Pass State Forest near Kimball Park. Two 30-foot diameter yurts were built in 2006 and in 2007, KOSS added a storage unit to the site.

## 2007 Accomplishments

State Forest management activities accomplished on state forest lands during the year included:

**Planting** 136,300 seedlings in the Sun Pass Forest and Southwest Block.

**Precommercial thinning** on 68 acres of lodgepole and ponderosa pine plantations and 232 acres on recently harvested timber sales (Siderod, Lucky Logger and Leo's Landing).



Northern Goshawk adult with chick on Slipshod Timber Sale Above  
Coyote pup on the Sick Puppy Timber Sale Below

**Herbicide spraying** on 1000 acres for noxious weeds in the Yainax Tract and site prep spraying on 120 acres within the Leo's Landing Timber Sale.

**Slashbusting** on 71 acres within the Siderod Timber Sale.

**Slash/Brush piling** on 39 acres within the Lucky Logger Timber Sale.

**Conducting** a seed production project of 358 ponderosa pine trees at the Sun Pass progeny test site plantation.



## 2007 ACTIVE TIMBER SALES

BOARD OF FORESTRY LANDS		
Sale Name	MBF Volume	Value
Lucky Logger	842	\$ 190,000
Four Corners	4,056	\$1,118,695
Slipshod	7,075	\$1,641,000
Jack Straw	450	\$115,000
<b>TOTAL SALES</b>	<b>12,423</b>	<b>\$ 3,064,695</b>

## 2007 TIMBER SALES SOLD

BOARD OF FORESTRY LANDS			
Sale Name	Acres	MBF Volume	Value
Beaver Domination	245	2745	\$ 456,331
Sick Puppy	732	10,400	\$ 2,900,000
Jack Straw	240	450	\$ 115,000
<b>TOTAL SOLD</b>	<b>1217</b>	<b>13,595</b>	<b>\$ 3,471,331</b>



Slipshod Timber Sale



Klamath Falls office as it appeared in 1946 just before the Open House Day celebration.

## Administration

tracking and reporting, word processing and budget preparation.

During the fire season months, the staff provides direct support to the Fire Program in both Lake and Klamath Units. Additional fire fighting resources on the District during severity and move-up

periods had a significant impact to the Admin staff during the 2007 Fire Season, (see chart below). These additional activities included tracking severity resources costs, maintaining documentation packages and providing logistical support throughout the summer.

The District Administrative staff provides fundamental service and support to all District programs in both Klamath Falls and Lakeview. The Admin staff is responsible for the operation of a variety of business management functions, including processing payroll, purchasing, fire billings and payments, motor pool

2007 SEVERITY RESOURCES	ASSIGNED TO K-L DISTRICT
Type II Helicopter	July 4 - 13
ODF Strike Team with Strike Team Leader	July 10 - 13
Contact Engines Strike Team	August 2
Helicopter Manager Trainee Overhead	August 7 - September 6
Type II Helicopter	August 7 - October 15
Contact Engines Strike Team	August 30 - September 2
ODF Strike Team with Strike Team Leader	August 31- September 3

## Safety & Wellness

“Klamath-Lake District has a strong commitment to safety! We are very active in promoting positive programs, tools, and procedures to help provide a safe work environment for all.”

“2007 brought a similar commitment to Wellness.”

The goals and standards, identified in the District Safety & Wellness Plan, challenged employees to continue to foster excellent safety attitudes, encourage safe working practices and raise the consciousness of personal safety and wellness.



Kellie and Deanna respond to the annual earthquake drill.



The Safety & Wellness Committee provides an important leadership role to the District and was fundamental in accomplishing the goals outlined above. The committee members were Craig Leech (Chairman), Paula Jones (Wellness Coordinator), Randy Baley, Bill Hunt, Dennis Lee, Garry Renicker, Greg Pittman, Sarah Mullen and Ryan Tague.

EXPOSURE HOURS AND MILES DRIVE	2007	2006	2005
Employee Exposure Hours	89,579	94,650	102,593
Vehicle Miles Driven	398,804	375,624	393,897

## 2007 Accomplishments

The District Safety and Wellness accomplishments during the year included:

**Completed** OR-OSHA courtesy Inspection for both Unit offices.

**Ensured** Unit safety meeting documentations were reviewed and addressed all associated concerns.

**Reviewed** all accidents and gave hazard abatement recommendations to help curtail future incidents.

**Reviewed** incidents and trends, and passed on vital information to employees and managers.

**Ensured** completion of an “Operating Power Tools” JHA.

**Updated** the speaker system at the Klamath Office.

**Ensured** building inspections and OR-OSHA logs were completed.



All District Employees Safety BBQ

**Completed** the annual earthquake drill.

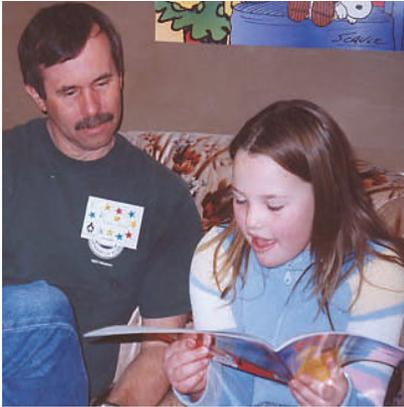
**Appointed** a seasonal wellness coordinator assistant.

**Updated** safety meeting forms to include a wellness topic.

**Participated** in “Healthy Active Klamath” community-wide wellness challenge.

**Presented** “Fireline Fitness” program to District staff.

**Established** and maintained Wellness Information Centers at Unit offices and guard stations.



District employees are committed to their communities in a variety of ways. Together they support the Klamath and Lake Counties Food Bank, read to students participating in the SMART program and annually provide assistance to the Klamath Falls' Snowflake Mile Run. The opportunity to be involved and serve the community while working for the Department is a privilege and the value of these efforts are priceless!

## Community Service

Start Making A Reader Today (SMART) is Oregon's leading nonprofit early literacy program, serving kindergartners through third graders. Every SMART student is read with twice a week and receives 14 new books to take home and keep. This year, six employees participated by reading to children at Fairhaven and Conger Elementary schools in Klamath Falls, and Fremont Elementary school in Lakeview.

### Food Drive

The Annual Food Drive was an amazing success! District employees with the help of community partners raised \$8,500 during Governor's State Employee

Food Drive. Staff accomplished this by soliciting monetary gifts and food donations, and conducting fundraising activities throughout the year.

This year's donation represents a solid partnership with many local businesses and organizations. Employees recognize that these partnerships are tantamount to this year success... bottom line:

*"We couldn't have done it without them!"*

The Klamath and Lake Counties Food Bank receives 15 lbs of food for every dollar donated. This year's donation totaled 127,500 pounds of food to help communities within the District.



Mindy Sherrieb celebrates her retirement with coworkers and friends.

## Personnel News

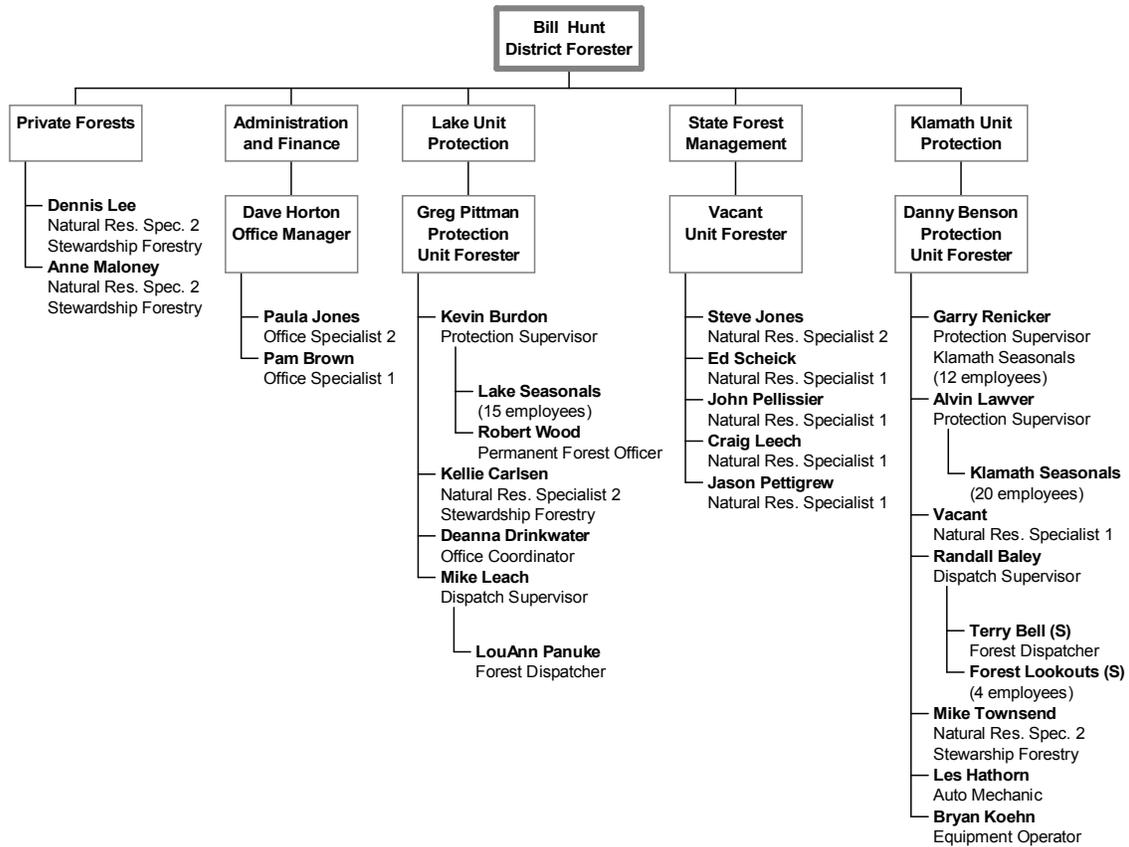
Two employees were recognized for their service and dedication to ODF in 2007.

In November, Melinda Sherrieb retired after 28 years of invaluable service. Her time spent working with cooperators, dispatching, fire prevention activities, fire assignments, and community service are proud accomplishments. Our sincere thanks go to Mindy for all her support and accomplishments throughout the years... and we wish her the best!

Robert Luttrell, Klamath Unit Forest Officer, completed 25 years of service and received the Department Service Award for his contributions at the Annual Safety BBQ. Congratulations Rob!

In addition, Robert Wood, Lake Unit Forest Officer, was promoted to a permanent position in June of 2007. Rob has worked for several years as a seasonal fire fighter, the experience that Rob brings to the Unit will benefit the District as a whole. Congratulations Rob!

# KLAMATH-LAKE DISTRICT PERSONNEL



## Klamath-Lake District

### Klamath Falls Office

3200 Delap Road  
Klamath Falls, OR 97601  
Phone: (541) 883-5681  
Fax: (541) 883-5555

### Lake Unit Office

2290 North 4th Avenue  
Lakeview, OR 97630  
Phone: (541) 947-3311  
Fax: (541) 947-3078



## Websites

<http://egov.oregon.gov/ODF/>

<http://oregon.gov/ODF/FIELD/KL/aboutklamathlake.shtml>

**OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY**