

Northeast Oregon District 2009 Statistical Report



LA GRANDE UNIT

BAKER SUBUNIT

PENDLETON UNIT

WALLOWA UNIT



Marvin D. Brown
State Forester

John Buckman
District Forester

District Forester Comments

Northeast Oregon District had a very busy year in 2009. Major District activities included; 1) dealing with impacts associated with legislatively mandated General Fund reductions; 2) obtaining two large stimulus funded forest improvement grants for landowners; 3) managing an assortment of challenges to end up with a successful Fire Season 2009; and 4) continuing to move forward with our four county Forestland Classification committees.

The State's general funding shortfalls resulted in reductions in funding for two (out of five) Stewardship Foresters in the District's in the Private Forest Program. These foresters administer the Oregon Forest Practices Act, implement various grant programs and provide great value to the Fire program in the District. Without alternatives, this reduction would result in a significant loss to the District and the landowners that we serve. Fortunately, the District was able to secure \$4 million dollars in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act forest improvement grants for landowners that will allow us to keep these employees on the District for grant administration purposes. These grants represent a real windfall for some landowners that are interested in conducting forest stand improvement and targeted ecosystem restoration work.

Fire Season 2009 ended up with slightly below average fire starts and significantly below average acres burned. In early August, no one could have foreseen this end result as conditions were setting up for a tough second half of summer. Fortunately, an unusual wide-spread rain event in early August took the heart out of fire season 2009. Prior to this rain, the District managed and suppressed several challenging fires that presented real threats to lands within the District. Federally managed fires once again presented issues for the District in 2009.

The District continued to work with our four County Forestland Classification Committees to update and revise our forestland classification database. This is difficult and at times contentious work as this activity eventually identifies lands that are assessed for fire patrol. This classification review is long overdue and will assist the District in assuring and implementing a fair and equitable forestland classification and assessment program. The District is appreciative of local support that we have obtained from the County Commissioners in northeast Oregon and the landowners that have volunteered their time and insight to assist on this important project.

Lastly, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all the staff in NEO District. This business requires long hours and hard work to address various workload spikes associated with fires, administrative tasks or project deadlines during the year. On every occasion, District employees rose to these challenges to accomplish the needed work.

Sincerely,
John Buckman
Northeast Oregon District Forester



Budget Committee Members

The Northeast Oregon District continues to have a strong Budget Committee that is supportive of District activities and provides valued input to manage and improve District operations.

Chris Heffernan, Union County, Budget Committee Chair, non-industrial private landowner and rancher.

John Warness, Union County, EOFPA President, Region Manager, Northeast Oregon Operations for Forest Capital Partners.

Bob Messinger, Union County, small non-industrial forest owner.

Lyle Defrees, Baker County, EOFPA Director, non-industrial private landowner and rancher.

Bill Shumway, Baker County, EOFPA Director, non-industrial private landowner and rancher.

Pat Sullivan, Baker County, non-industrial private landowner and rancher.

Elwayne Henderson, Wallowa County, non-industrial private landowner and forest operator.

Mack Birkmaier, Wallowa County, non-industrial private landowner and rancher.

Hank Howard, Umatilla County, forest and rangeland manager for Pacific Northwest Tree Farm.

Bob Holowecky, Umatilla County, private forester representing Pendleton Ranches and Cunningham Sheep.

Personnel Changes

David King - Pendleton Unit Forester retired at the end of June of 2009. David started his career with ODF and in the Pendleton Unit in July of 1968 as a seasonal Conservation Aide. During David's 41 plus years, he held a variety of positions including dispatcher, Forest Officer, Protection Supervisor and the Pendleton Unit Forester position.

David will be remembered for his dedication to the job, his knowledge of the firefighting profession and his outstanding service to the landowners in Umatilla County and NEO District.

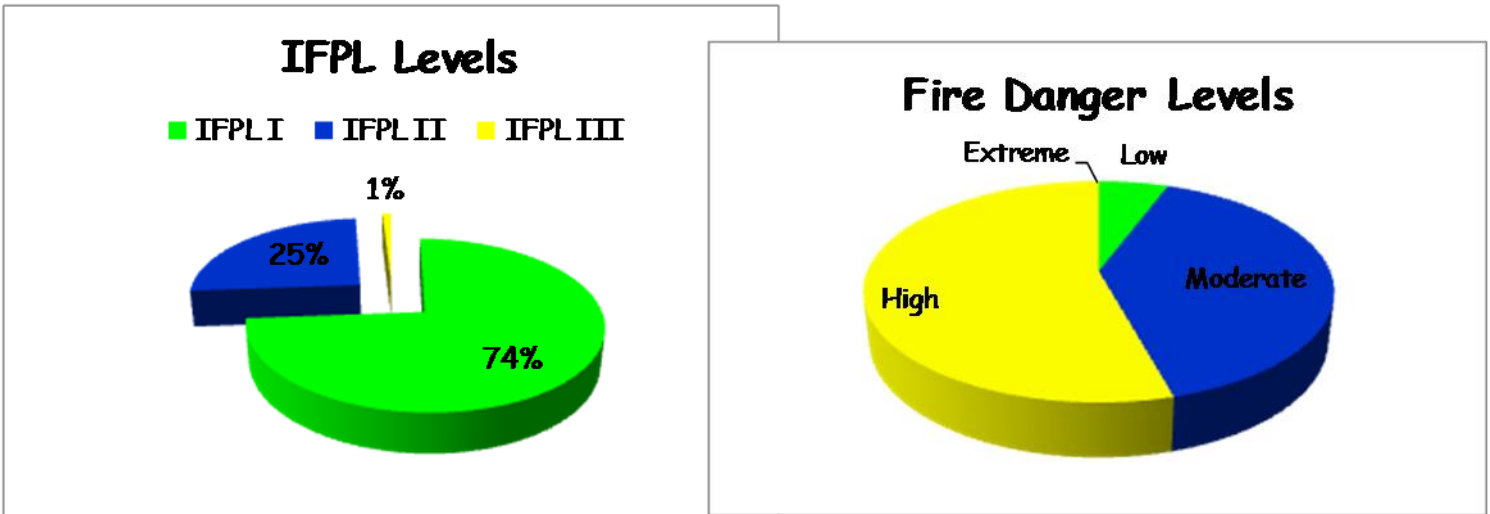


Chris Wagner- Permanent Initial Attack Dispatcher, who had been on a leave of absence to obtain his Masters in Education, returned to his position in June of 2009. Christopher resigned after receiving a teaching position at Baker City High School in August of 2009.

Gerry Meyer- Seasonal Forest officer and ODOT Coop TMS2 retired on October 31, 2009. He began working for ODF in June of 1997 and has been working winters at ODOT since November of 1999.

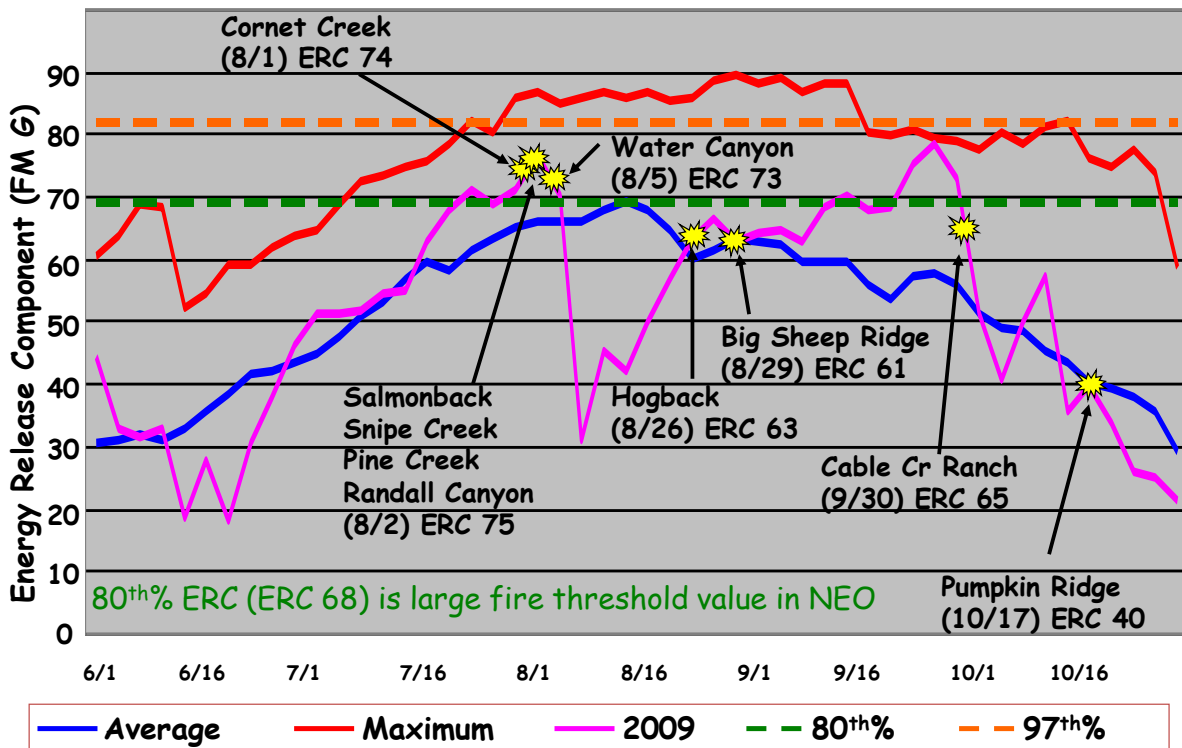
Protection From Fire

The graphs below represent 105 days of data.

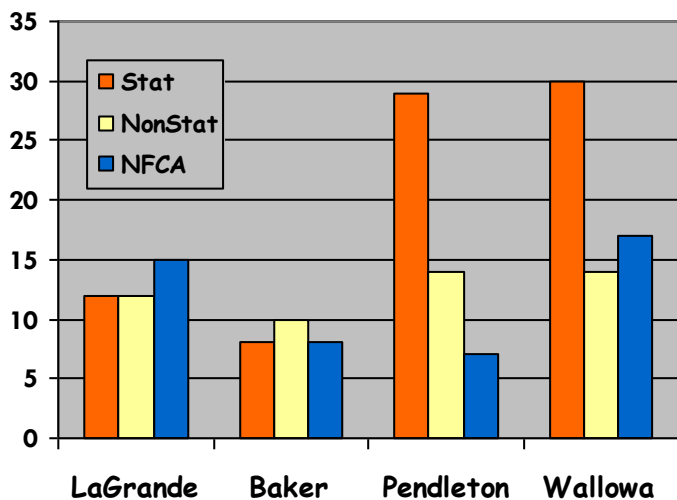


The 2009 Fire Season started on July 2nd and was terminated on October 15th. Regulated Use Closures were implemented on August 1st, suspended on August 12th, reinstated on August 26th and terminated on October 3rd.

NEO - ERC (1989 - 2009)



Fire Stats

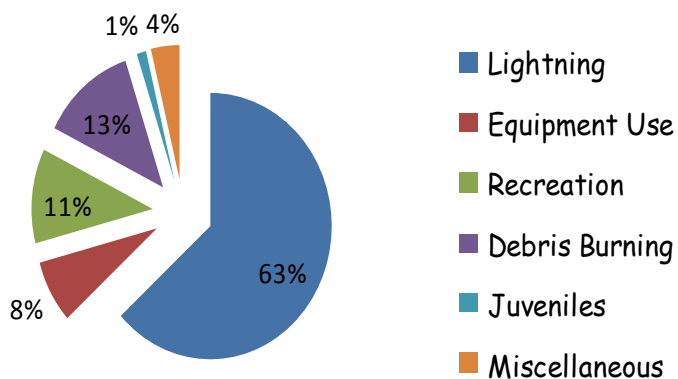


Ten Year Average

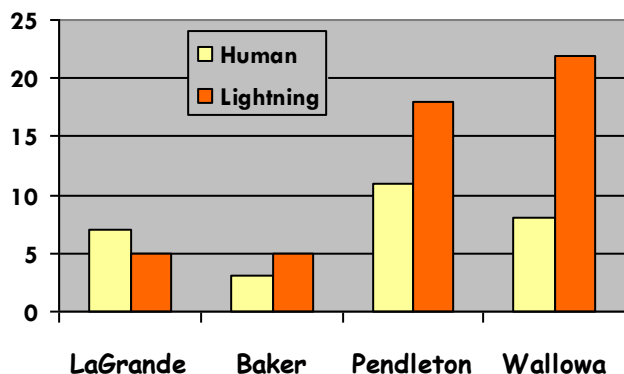
Year	# Of Fires	Acreage
2009	79	672
2008	69	683
2007	113	10,127
2006	85	3,311
2005	69	2,057
2004	80	39
2003	91	1,613
2002	90	1,407
2001	110	15,320
2000	79	4,375
Average	87	3,960

- 87.3% of fires were 10 acres or less.
- NEO District had 50 Lightning caused fires for 568 acres and 29 Human caused fires for 104 acres.
- This year's District statistics are below the ten year average.
- 30 overhead orders were filled at NOIDC, along with 26 crew orders, 12 of which were inmate crews. We also filled 8 equipment and 7 aircraft orders.

General Cause



Fires by Cause



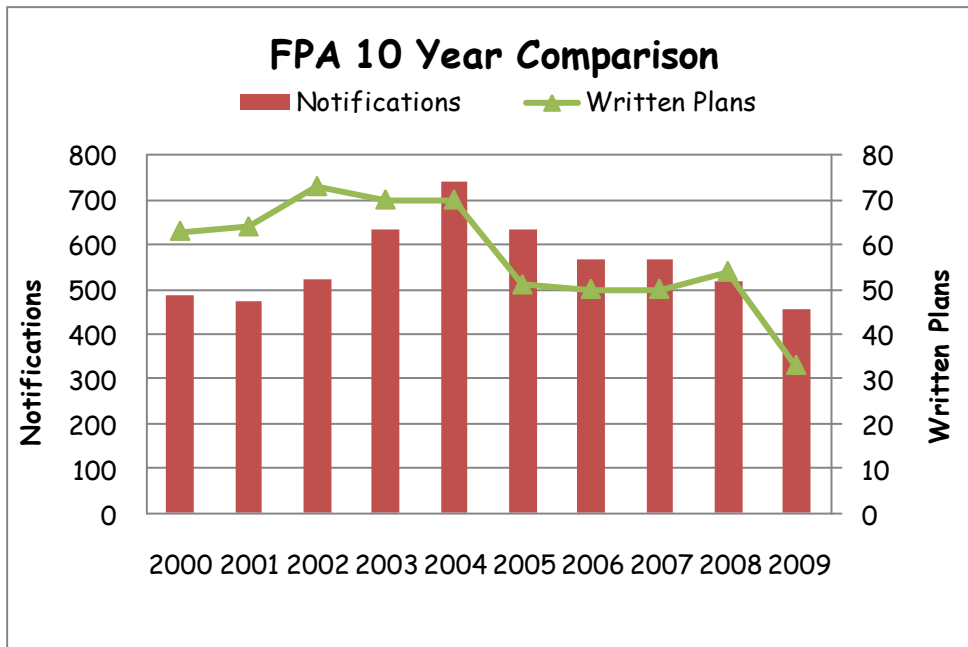
Fire	ODF Acres	Total Acres
Cornet Creek	80	80
Salmonback	17	17
Randall Canyon	296	403
Big Sheep Ridge	136	3,360
Cable Creek Ranch	35	35
Spring Creek	19	19
Pumpkin Ridge	25	25

PRIVATE FOREST PROGRAMS

Forest Practices Act Administration

Below are the FPA administration numbers for 2009.

No citations were issued.



- Letter of Commendation for Outstanding Forest Practices**
- Harry Merlo of Mc Ranch
 - Butch Tanzey of Tanzey Forest Improvement
 - Bob Zacharias of Zacharias Logging

National Fire Plan Implementation

ODF Unit	Acres Treated (2009)	Acres Treated (2002 To 2009)
Baker Sub-Unit (Baker County)	373	5,674
La Grande Unit (Union County)	313	2,698
Pendleton Unit (Umatilla County)	762	3,598
Wallowa Unit (Wallowa County)	313	1,681
TOTAL	1,761	13,651

2009 Tree Farmer of the Year For Union County

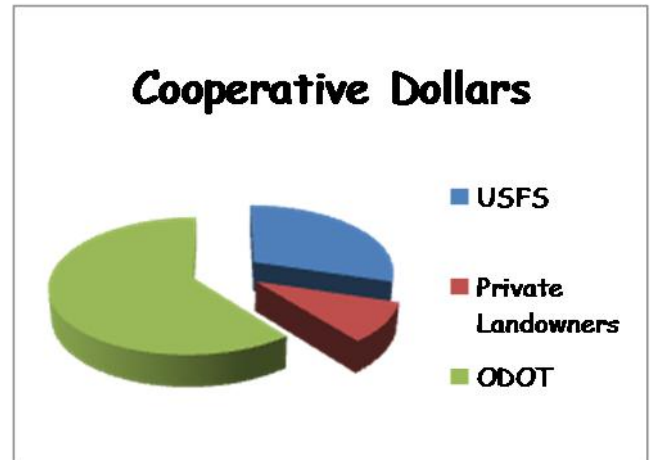
Bill and Lynn DeMastus

Bill and Lynn were recognized for their continued community support. The DeMastus' have donated many hours, fire wood and their land to the La Grande High School and to the elderly.

Forestry Assistance

Non-Commercial Thinning	1,797 Acres
Fuel Reduction/Slash Treatment	1,876 Acres
Reforestation Tax Credit	14 Acres
Forest Road Design	13,000 Feet
Stewardship Plans	10,575 Acres
Wildlife/Fish Habitat Enhancement	183 Acres
Riparian Enhancement	729 Acres
Reforestation	1,120 Acres
Bark Beetle Treatment	651 Acres

Activity was high again this year due to landowner interest, available funding, and ability to get projects done on the ground. This ability is due in large part to strong partnerships with many local operators, consultants, landowners, and other agencies. We greatly appreciate and value these partnerships, which also helps immensely in continuing to garner funding. A variety of sources were used, including Bark Beetle, Stewardship, OWEB, CREP and EQIP.

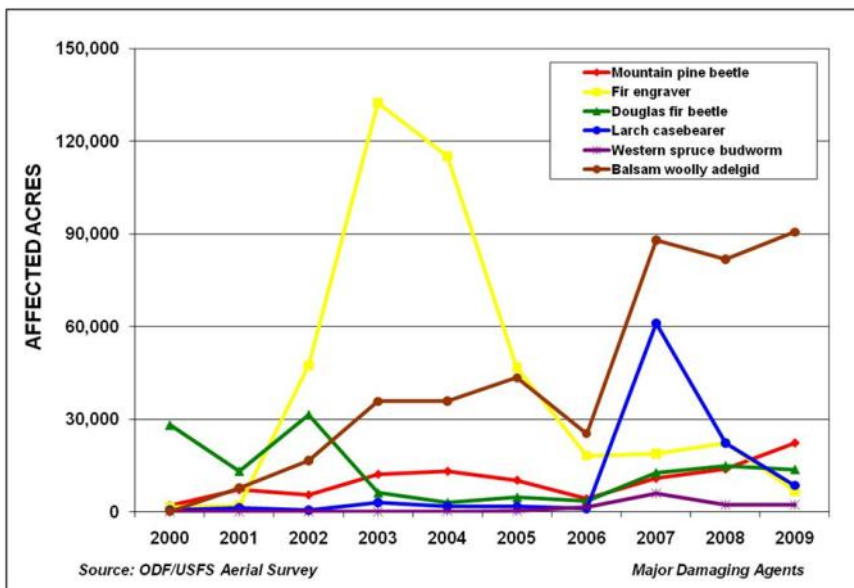


Cooperative Work Program

The cooperative work program in Northeast Oregon continues to employ and provide training opportunities for both permanent and seasonal employees. In 2009, employees worked for Oregon Department of Transportation, United State Forest Service, and miscellaneous private landowners. Through this program, NEO is able to offset some of the costs associated with personnel, provide well qualified employees to other agencies during times when they need extra workers, help retain long term employees, and assist landowners with land management projects.

2009 Forest Health Condition

Ten-year damage trend of the major insect pests affecting NEO



Northeast Oregon District Organization Chart

