

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY



West Oregon District Annual Report 2007

Special points of interest:

- WEST OREGON DISTRICT SEES MOST COSTLY FIRE IN TWENTY YEARS
- STUDENT WORKER PROGRAM RETURNS
- CENTRALIZED DISPATCH COMES TO WEST OREGON
- MT BABER ATV RECREATION AREA
- JACK DUNAWAY AND RICK RETHERFORD RETIRE

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West Oregon District Annual Report 2007



From the District Forester

Welcome to the West Oregon District annual report for 2007. This report provides insight into some of the more noteworthy activities and accomplishments of the district this past year.

As has been the case for the last few years, there have been several important personnel changes. Jack Dunaway retired with 33 years of service to the agency including 23 years with West Oregon District. The majority of this service was overseeing the operations of the Toledo office. Jack set the standard for excellence in customer service and developing high quality working relationships with our partners and stakeholders. The district and agency will miss his common sense approach and boundless efforts for continuous improvement. Rick Retherford also retired with almost 32 years of agency service including 28 years at the Dallas office as Protection Supervisor. Rick's knowledge and skills of firefighting and fire investigation leave a gap that will be challenging to fill. Both Jack and Rick continued and furthered the agencies commitment to professionalism. I wish them well and thank them on behalf of many for their numerous years of outstanding service.

This year will be recorded as the most expensive fire season in the last two decades. It, again, reinforced that east-wind events and public recreational forest use remain the principal worries and greatest risk to our forest assets and financial resources. The district's largest fire, the 1500 Road Fire was started in early September by a recreational user during an east-wind period. Before the end of a week, in excess of \$1.3 million dollars of fire suppression were exhausted along with considerable damage and loss for the affected forest landowners. In the end, fire suppression costs are a shared responsibility and borne by all forest landowners who principally carry the financial burden of our forest fire protection system. I sometimes worry that this is not always well understood or appreciated by many outside of the fire protection business.

Catastrophes like the 1500 Road Fire allow for reflection, testing of systems and detailed analysis of what occurred and what should have occurred. Overall, I feel very positive about the hard work that included district employees, other agency folks, forest landowners, law enforcement, and rural fire districts. These efforts and especially the teamwork approach were exceptional.

Also note the approval of a district land exchange plan. This is an important milestone and sets the stage for moving forward with specific land exchanges that will improve our ability to manage state forest lands.

The district cannot be successful without the dedication and hard work of each employee and the strong partnerships with the West Oregon Forest Protective Association, forest industry, operators, landowners, and many other agency and private organizations. Again, thank you all.

Enjoy reading this year's report.

Steve Laam, District Forester



Private Forests Program



**Kyle Abraham—Dallas Unit
Stewardship Forester**

Developing positive working relationships with forest landowners and focusing efforts on customer service have helped make “2007” a very successful year for WOD’s private forests program.

The District has welcomed three new stewardship foresters in Jason Hayzlett, Jeremy Sullens and Kyle Abraham. Jason worked for State Forests in the District for the past seven years before promoting to the stewardship forester position. Jeremy has worked for the Department for eight years and was most recently the Protection Supervisor for the Pendleton Unit. Kyle Abraham has worked for the Department for ten years and most recently served as the Monitoring Specialist for the Private Forests Program in Salem. Welcome to West Oregon!

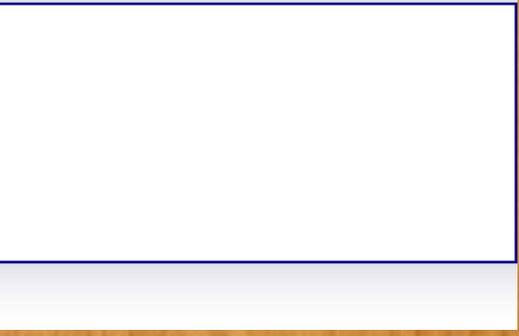


**Jason Hayzlett—Philomath Unit
Stewardship Forester**



**Jeremy Sullens—Toledo Unit
Stewardship Forester**

West Oregon District
Philomath—929
Toledo— 715
Dallas— 805
Total Notifications 2449



Foresters were also involved with several cost share programs to support small woodland owners including: Oak Savannah and Woodland Restoration and Enhancement, Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, Stewardship Councils, Stewardship Planning and the 50% tax credit among others. These efforts continue to provide financial support and expert guidance to landowners seeking to make improvements to forestland throughout the District.

The Oak Restoration and Enhancement project is being funded by the American Forest Foundation, with hopes that this “pilot” project will be able to determine actual costs for restoration work and hopefully expand the program in the future. Restoration work will be accomplished on approximately 45 acres in Polk County and approximately 10 acres in Benton County.



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The district headed into the beginning of the 2007 fire season very dry which seems to have been the trend for the past several years. In the three months prior to June weather stations throughout the district recorded 40-50% of average rainfall amounts, setting up for another potentially dry summer.

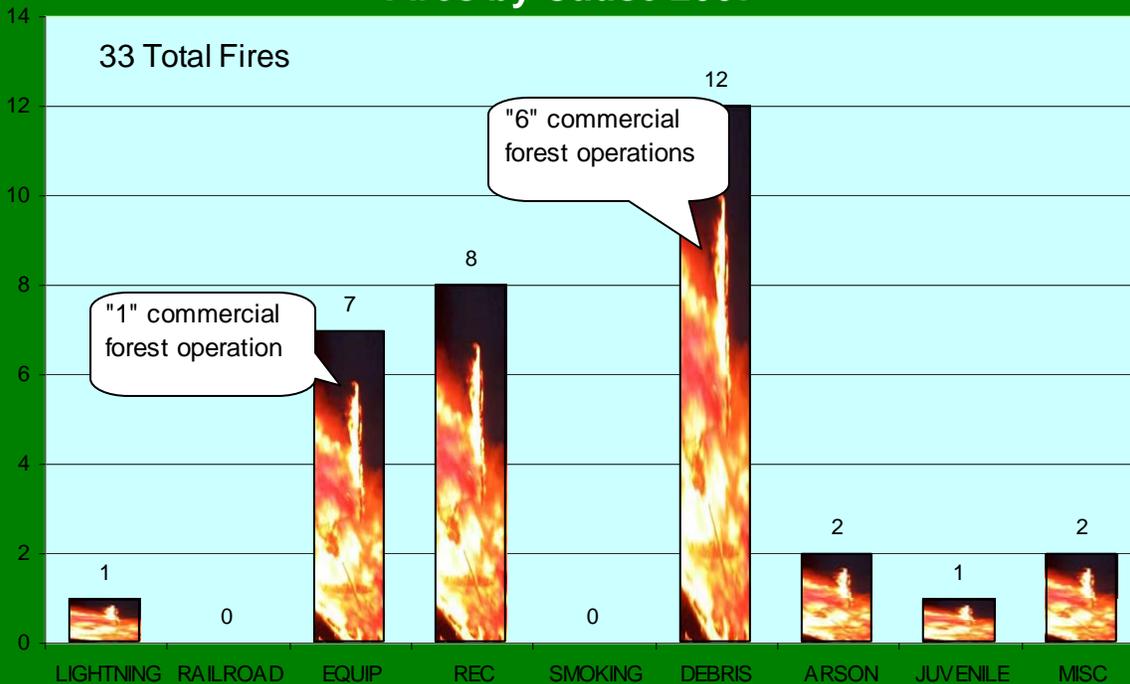
Fire season for the district officially began July 5th, with regulated use closure beginning July 7th. On July 10th the industrial fire precaution level in WO1 moved to a level 2 for six days before the district got a little shot of rain and cooler weather allowed WO1 to drop back down to a level 1 on July 16th. The district continued to have fairly moderate temperatures most of the summer and picked up just enough small shots of moisture through September 9th to stay at a level 1 in WO1. On September 10th due to an east wind event that caused significant drying, WO1 went back to a level 2 for four more days before cooler temperatures, a wind shift and a few showers allowed the district to drop back down to a level 1 in WO1.

Finally, October 2nd the weather moderated significantly bringing rain and much cooler temperatures allowing the district to terminate both regulated use and fire season.



Toledo Forest Unit Supervisor, Doug Grafe participants in a training burn in Lincoln County

West Oregon District Fires by Cause 2007



Throughout the summer and fall, district personnel responded to 64 fire calls, 33 of those resulted in actual statistical fires. Unlike 2006 when a higher percentage of fire runs occurred in the Toledo Unit, for 2007 more than 50% of the districts fire runs occurred out of the Dallas Unit. Overall, the numbers of fire runs in the district in 2007 were down by about 40% from the 10 year average.

By the end of the 2007 fire season, the district spent a total of 89 days in fire season, 84 days in a regulated use closure, 79 days in a Level 1 industrial closure and 10 days in a Level 2 industrial closure. These totals seem fairly average con-

sidering how dry fire season started; however, the district did not sneak through the summer unscathed.

Protection From Fire

The 2007 fire season brought with it some new faces to the West Oregon District protection staff. Retirements by three very experienced, longtime district employees Jerry Piering - Dallas Unit Forester, Rick Retherford - Dallas Assistant Unit Forester and Jack Dunaway - Toledo Unit Forester left three big holes for the district to fill.

Jeff Classen was selected to fill the Dallas Unit Forester position. Jeff comes to this position with 22 years of experience with the Department of Forestry. All but one of those years have been on the West Oregon District and he's had the opportunity to work at all three of it's offices.

Doug Grafe was selected to fill the Toledo Unit Forester position. Doug comes to this position having worked the past 4 years at the Toledo office as a Stewardship Forester. Prior to beginning his work with the Department of Forestry Doug spent 5 years as the City Forester for Albany.

Allison Blair was selected to fill the Dallas Assistant Unit Forester position. Allison comes to this position having worked with the Department of Forestry the past 9 years. Allison started with the Department working on the Dallas fire crew for 4 years, worked as the dispatcher in Dallas for 3 years and spent the last 2 years working in Salem for the Protection Program.



Outdoor school sparks interest for Polk County middle school students in future wildland firefighting careers. September 25, 2007.

The 2007 fire season was a very busy one for district fire crews. As in past years the district's fire crew began their summer with training June 25-29th at the Mid-Willamette Valley Fire School near Sweet Home. This interagency training was well attended with 250 students and instructors from the USFS, BLM, BIA, USFW, Tribal organizations and ODF. The week long event provides basic fire-fighting courses as well as more advanced courses for return attendees. At the end of the week, a live burning exercise was conducted by students. This entire week is organized similar to that of a real fire situation in order to mimic the experience firefighters would be exposed to on a large fire incident.

During the course of the summer district fire crews also conducted 9 training burns totaling 70 acres. Training burns are always great opportunities for our crews to experience live fire and practice skills and techniques learned for controlling and suppressing fire.

District crews were also involved in a number of various prevention activities. Crew members from all three offices along with Smokey Bear participated in a number of parades throughout the summer. Participation in parades helped present the fire prevention message to over 40,000 people and included the Independence Day parade in Monmouth, the Dallas Summerfest Parade, the Loyalty Day Parade in Newport and the Philomath Frolic.



Above L to R: Dallas Fire Crew, Toledo Fire Crew, Philomath Fire Crew. Right: Dallas Forest Officer Jason Rayburn instructs Polk County middle school students about wildland fire suppression techniques at the 4-H center Outdoor School in West Salem. September 25,



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1500 Road Fire



On Saturday, September 8th the district experienced its largest and most costly fire in 20 years. The 1500 Road Fire, as it was named, began at 12:44 p.m. when West Oregon Dispatch received a call reporting fire in a logged area west of Falls City. Within an hour Dallas engines located the fire along the 1500 Road, off of the Valsetz Mainline road. Initial attack resources reported that the fire was approximately 15 acres, running, spotting and producing fire whirls.



By 5:30 p.m. the fire was estimated at 50+ acres, with a 20 acre spot fire quickly spreading up the northeast face of Bald Mountain. The smoke column could be seen from Newport to the Cascades and in the evening hours this fire created quite a spectacle that could be seen all up and down the Willamette Valley. The aggressive fire behavior was largely attributed to strong east winds with steady speeds of 30 miles per hour and gusts to over 40.

A Type 1 Fire Investigator was immediately requested to investigate the 1500 Road fire. Rick Retherford headed up the investigation with the assistance of Dallas Stewardship Forester Kyle Abraham, Oregon State Police and the Polk County Sheriff. Investigation of the 1500 Road fire is still currently underway but nearing completion.



A) Fire taking its first big run just after fire crew arrived on scene. B) Smoke column just before the fire crew arrived on scene. C) Photo taken the first night of the fire as 30-40 mile an hour east winds fan the flames. D) Upon arrival, Dallas unit crews gear up to battle the wildfire. E) Fire crew member continues suppression efforts.

Protection From Fire

Suppression efforts on the 1500 Road fire grew quickly to include 4 helicopters, 22 contract crews, 10 South Fork crews, 22 Engines, 16 tenders, and two dozers. At the peak, over 650 personnel were assigned to the fire. The fire and subsequent spot fires were contained and controlled by Friday, September 14th at 362 acres. By the end of the 6 1/2 days it took to suppress this fire, costs had risen to over \$1.3 million dollars.

The size and complexity of this fire taxed district personnel and resources to the maximum. With additional overhead and engines brought in from other districts throughout the state, the West Oregon District was able to manage this fire without bringing in an Incident Management team. Every West Oregon District employee in some shape or form contributed to the successful efforts. Even employees who never saw the fire put in extra effort and time covering for others to keep our regular business functions going.

Shortly after the fire, all West Oregon District personnel participated in an after fire review on 9/25/07 . Assessment of the fire included evaluation of initial attack operations, extended attack operations, planning, logistics, finance, safety, what worked well and what lessons the district can walk away with.

The 1500 Road fire concluded with an outstanding safety record of zero personal injuries and zero vehicle accidents!!



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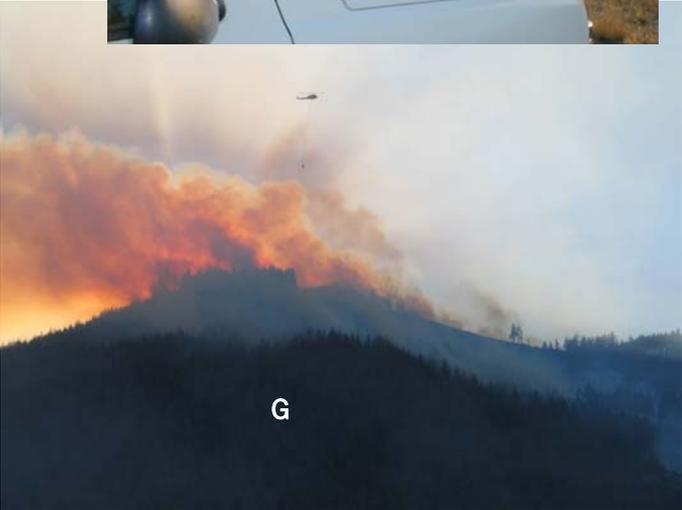
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F) Russ Anderson, Dave Thompson, and Jeremy Sullens plan initial attack efforts. G) Helicopter attempts to catch spot fire on first evening of fire. H) Doug Grafe conducts morning briefing at the Dallas Unit. I) Michael Curran coordinates a bucket drop. J) Main fire site after mop up.

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October Slash Rekindles

Late October also provided another challenging fire situation for the district. Well over a month past the 1500 road fire. More than three weeks after the end of fire season and termination of all seasonal fire fighters. After more than 5 inches of rainfall during a four week period starting the end of September, another east wind event arrived and brought to life, a large number of fall slashburns that had recently been burned. Nearly all units had been burned after the 15th of October.

From October 26-28th east winds rekindled 32 slashburns within the district. It was a long weekend for district personnel helping landowners chase fire and monitor units. Most units burned within unit boundaries, however, two units resulted in fires that crossed property lines and broadcast through about 170 acres. By the time the weather moderated and the winds shifted back to an on-shore flow, the 32 units that rekindled resulted in a total of 650 acres being broadcast resulting in some significant costs to landowners and the district.

This east wind/rekindle event provides a good reminder that fall slashburning can sometimes be tricky and isn't without risk. Careful planning and monitoring is critical to prevent the control problems many landowners experienced in October. For folks who have been around enough years, they know this is not a rare, one time occurrence.

Smoke Management

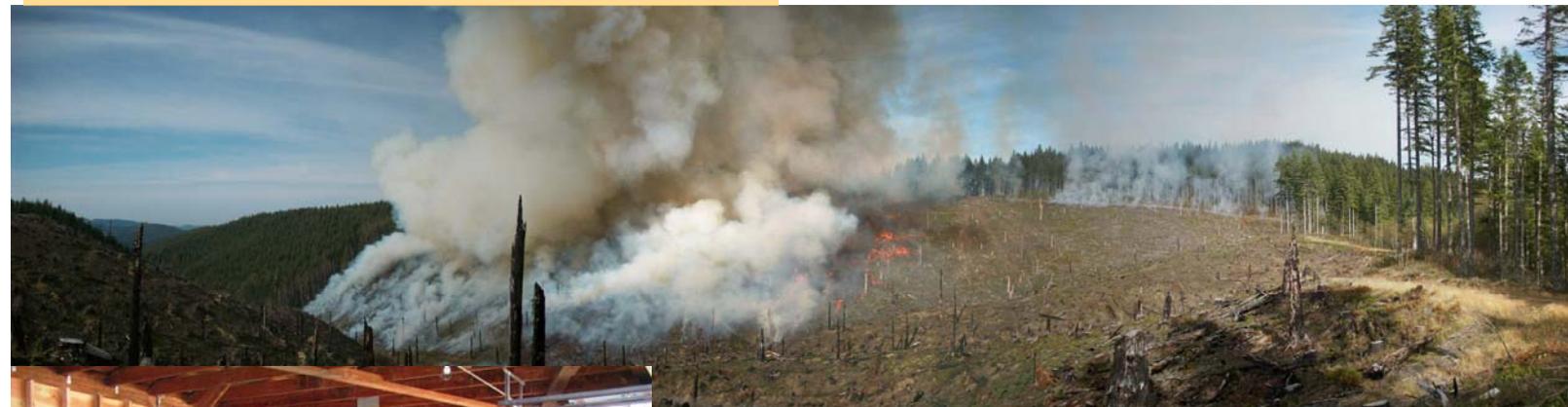
Slashburn accomplishments for 2007 were very similar to those of 2006 and recent years. Overall, a total of 461 units (8494 acres) were registered between the three offices. Of the 461 units registered, 374 of those (6801 acres) were burned in 2007.

For the 374 units burned, 28 of those were broadcast units (1189 acres consuming 20,369 tons) and 346 were piled and landing units (5612 acres consuming 111,634 tons).

Operator Meetings

Yearly operator meetings held in June at each of the three Unit offices were very well attended by landowners and operators. Holding smaller localized meetings at each of the three offices continues to draw strong numbers of people out of the woods and into our late afternoon desert meetings. Toledo had 39 people attend their meeting with a spirited game of "Jippo Jeopardy" getting everyone involved.

Philomath had a commanding crowd with 76 people in attendance. Dallas had 62 people attend their meeting. These yearly meetings have done a great job of bringing folks in to get them thinking about fire prevention before our fire season actually starts.



West Oregon Fire Protection Association 2007 Directors and Members

Officers:

President— Tim Tompkins—Weyerhaeuser
Vice President— Jerry Anderson—Forest Capital
Secretary- Larry Black-ODF
Treasurer- Britt Madison—Stimson Lumber

Directors

Donald Carr—Carr Family Forests
Dana Clay—Green Diamond
David Hampton—Hampton Affiliates
Dave Hiatt—Wakefield Farm
Matt Higgins—Plum Creek
Sara Leiman—Coast Range Conifers
Lee Miller—Miller Timber Services
Barte Starker—Starker Forests
Joe Steere—Miami Corporation

Advisory Directors

Steve Marx—ODFW
Tom Tomczyk—BLM
Mike Bordelon—ODF
Mike Dykzeul—OFIC
Mary Ellen Holly—KOG
Carl West—USFS

Members

Barclay Family Trust
Carr Forest Resources
Coast Range Conifers, LLC
Conf. Tribes of Grand Ronde
Conf. Tribes of Siletz
Rose Esbenshade
Forest Capital Partners, LLC
Freres Timber, Inc
Georgia Pacific
Giustina Resources
Green Diamond Resource Co.
Hampton Affiliates
Hull-Oakes Lumber Co.
Ron and Victoria Larson
Miami Corporation
Miller Timber Services
Plum Creek Timberlands
T&M Miller Family Trust
Jeralyn O'Brien Trust
Roseburg Resources
Diane & Lance Stein
Schroeder & O'Neil
Smith Hill Properties
Springer Logging
Springer Tree Farm
Starker Forests, Inc.
Stimson Lumber Co.
Van Eck Forest Trust
Wakefield Farms
Weyerhaeuser Co
Widow Creek Tree Farm

Protection From Fire

West Oregon Forest Protective Association A dynamic partnership

For over 50 years, West Oregon Forest Protective Association (WOFPA) has been a vibrant partner in fire protection efforts in Polk, Benton, and Lincoln Counties with ODF.

The 2007 annual membership meeting and budget hearing were held April 3 in the Philomath office with 32 attendees. President, Tim Tompkins presented a summary of the proposed budget. The total FY 08 protection budget

WOFPA's annual Summer tour focused on Benton County, with special emphasis on small woodland owners and their prevention efforts, industrial fire inspections, recreation fires and Benton country woods patrol efforts, and urban interface challenges and the upcoming forestland classification committee reviews.

The fall Board of Director's meeting was held on December 5, 2007 with 30 in attendance. Agenda topics included a review of the recent fire season, including the 1500 Road Fire, from District Forester, Steve Laam, Mike Bordelon, Area Director, and Bill Lafferty, Salem Protection.

Other reports were given on the success of the student worker program, radio frequency conversion efforts, recreation patrol program, and centralized dispatch.

Photos from WOFPA Summer Tour 2007. A) Sara Leiman of Coast Range Conifers asks a question of Simon Babcock, Philomath High School Forestry Director. B) Corporal Sprague Tweldt of Benton County discusses recreation patrols C) Tour discusses industrial inspections. D) Checking humidity. E) Dana Clay, Green Diamond discusses the tour with President Tim Tompkins, Weyerhaeuser.



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Student Worker program returns to West Oregon



Student workers Derek Gourley, Stephanie Smith, and Beth Torgerson

In early 2007, Ted Erdmann, Philomath Protection Forester began pursuing the idea of securing some grant dollars to hire a couple high school student workers on a trial basis. The purpose behind these student worker positions would primarily be to increase the initial attack capacity of the Philomath fire crew. With a few phone calls, enough funds were contributed to the project by local landowners that three student workers would be able to be hired. The landowners contributing to this project were Starker Forests, Hull-Oaks Lumber Co. and Thompson Timber.

The student workers started employment June 18th, the same time the districts regular fire crew started. Funding secured was enough to work the students for 13 weeks which allowed them to work through the middle of September. Students trained and worked right along side the regular district fire crew throughout the summer. They were provided the opportunity to attend fire school and become certified as Fire Fighter Type 2 and began task books for Fire Fighter Type 1.



Through the summer students stayed very busy with training (including several training burns), participating in fire prevention activities (patrolling and posting prevention signs), helping maintain the readiness of fire equipment (washing hose, maintaining tools and engines), helping suppress fires (including the 1500 Road fire) and a variety of project work around the Philomath compound.

By the end of the summer this program was seen to be a success. Besides increasing the districts initial attack capacity, this program should become an additional resource for filling fire crew positions when there are vacancies. For the students, they learned more about forestry and potential careers in the field while gaining some very useful and meaningful work experience. It also provided the opportunity for students to gain and develop good work ethics and habits, individual confidence, leadership, technical skills and the importance of teamwork.

Because of the success of this program in 2007 and strong support by landowners, the district is hoping to expand the student worker program in 2008. If enough grant funding can be obtained the desire would be to hire two student workers at each of the districts three offices.



Recreation Fire Prevention



Forest Officer, Michael Curran

A considerable increase in the number of recreation related fires during the 2006 fire season prompted the Toledo Unit to take a closer look and develop a prevention strategy it would implement in 2007. Historically the district averages 5 recreation fires per year, however, in 2006 the Toledo unit alone had 17 recreation related fires. In an effort to address this sharp increase, the Toledo office hired an extra Forest Officer in 2007 whose primary focus was to tackle the recreational fire problem.

Michael Curran was hired into this Forest Officer position and throughout the summer was involved in a number of prevention activities. Part of those activities included 14 after hours patrols. Two of those were ride alongs with the Lincoln County Forest Deputy and one was with the Benton County Forest Deputy. These planned patrols yielded 53 recreational public contacts. Of the 53 contacts, 22 of those were campers that had campfires. These people were educated and requested to extinguish their campfires.

A significant public relations outreach was made to address recreation fires during the 2007 fire season. To add to the media outreach an interface fire prevention TV program was developed and released on the local charter cable network. The program was part of the TV show "A View of Lincoln County".

Other prevention projects included twenty three permanent signboards that were built and placed in high use areas. Each signboard was GPS'd and placed in a file for the development of a GIS map layer. An effort was made throughout the season to visit high use recreational sites at least twice a week to ensure regulated use signs were presented at all times. Time was also invested in identifying and evaluating water sources on private lands. Ponds were evaluated for accessibility to engines and helicopter use and noted where improvements to water sources are needed.

Centralized Dispatch for the district

West Oregon initiated a centralized dispatch, managed out of the Toledo office. Previously, each office staffed a dispatch center 7 days a week. Centralizing the dispatch function was intended to provide for more cohesive and efficient delivery of services.

Overall, the centralized dispatch was very successful and clearly presented many improvements to West Oregon's operations. Special thanks goes to all the administrative staff who made this project successful and to Heather Glenn for coordinating this effort!

Due to the success of the 2007 season, the district plans to operate a centralized dispatch for the 2008. Ultimately the goal is to transition the dispatch center to Philomath; however, there are radio infrastructure limitations that will need to be addressed before this can happen.

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20 Year Fire Summary

03/26/2008

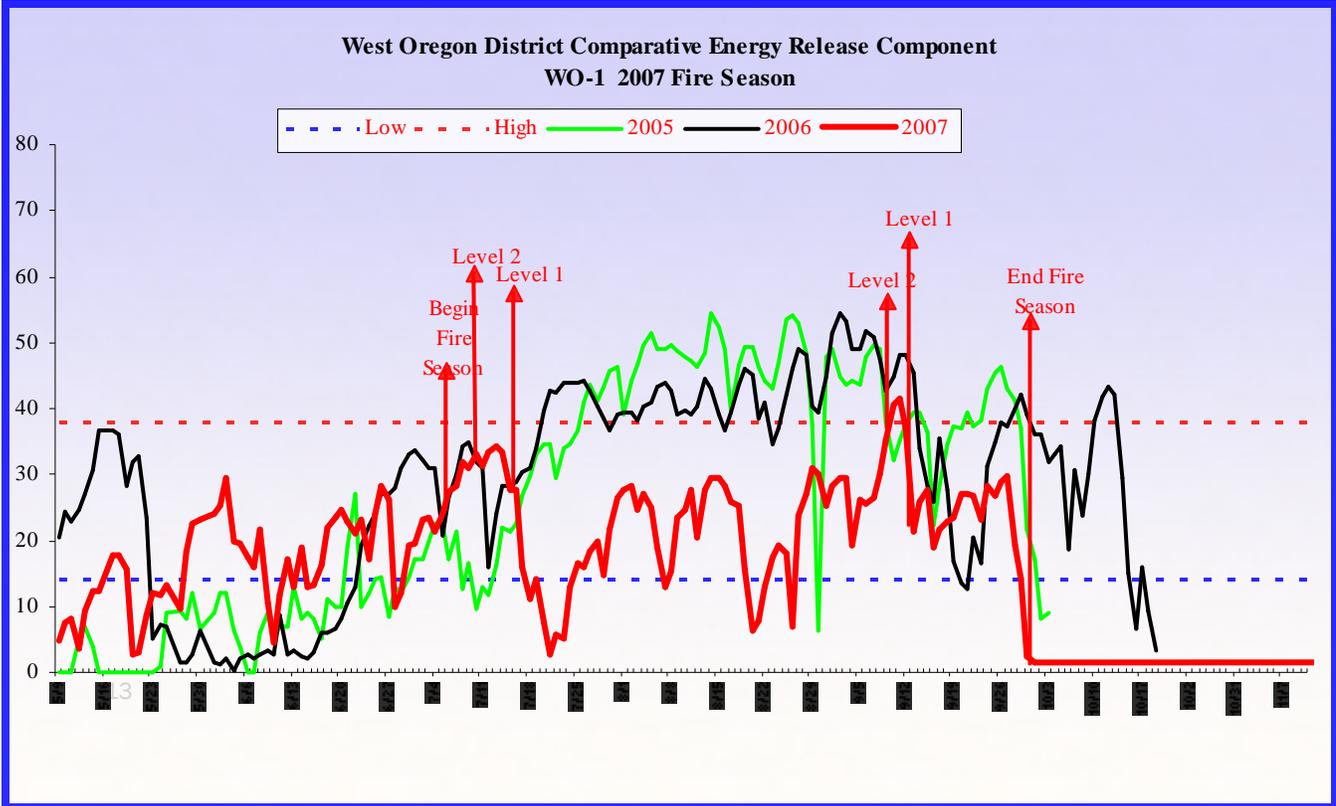
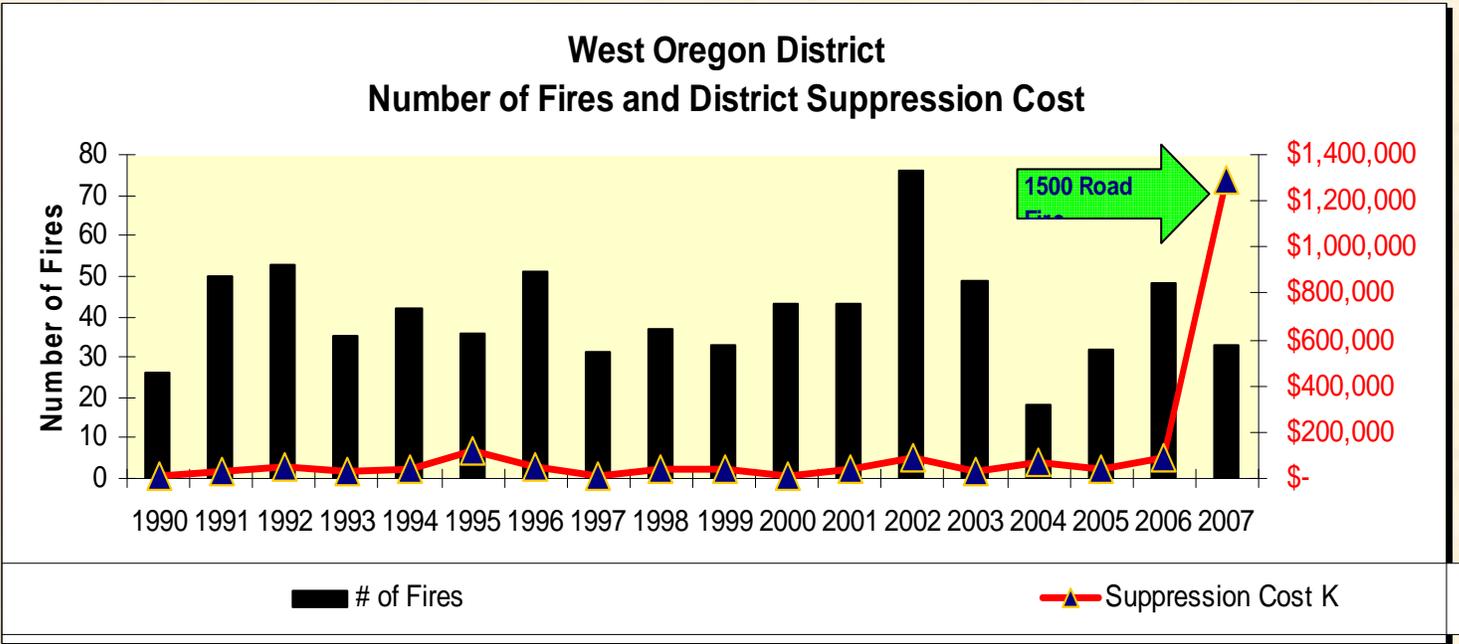
YEAR	FIRE SEASON			STATISTICAL FIRES		
	BEGIN	END	DAYS	# FIRES	ACRES	SUPPRESSION
1987	6/15	11/10	148	43	6,291	\$3,151,155
1988	6/29	10/13	106	37	193	\$54,770
1989	6/26	10/20	116	47	160	\$42,354
1990	6/30	10/5	97	26	28	\$14,375
1991	6/17	10/24	129	50	61	\$24,514
1992	6/1	10/23	144	53	65	\$49,547
1993	8/1	10/12	72	33	32	\$20,558
1994	7/5	10/21	108	41	37	\$36,035
1995	7/1	9/27	88	36	69	\$117,573
1996	7/8	10/14	98	51	76	\$45,890
1997	7/21	9/16	57	31	66	\$12,713
1998	7/13	10/5	84	37	190	\$42,736
1999	7/8	10/27	111	33	68	\$43,880
2000	6/28	10/12	106	43	17	\$11,873
2001	7/2	10/22	112	43	112	\$35,939
2002	7/1	11/6	128	76	279	\$88,400
2003	6/26	10/7	103	49	431	\$28,069
2004	6/28	10/6	100	18	46	\$69,549
2005	7/13	10/4	83	36	158	\$40,069
2006	6/26	10/19	115	48	50	\$86,406
2007	7/5	10/2	89	33	549	\$1,341,998
20 YR AVERAGE			102	41	134	\$110,362
10 YR AVERAGE			103	42	190	\$178,892
5 YR AVERAGE			98	37	247	\$313,218

10 YEAR SUMMARY

LONGEST FIRE SEASON	YEAR	SHORTEST FIRE SEASON	YEAR
YEAR OF MOST FIRES	2002	YEAR OF LEAST FIRES	1997
HIGHEST ACRES BURNED	2007	LOWEST ACRES BURNED	2004
HIGHEST SUPPRESSION COST	2007	LOWEST SUPPRESSION COST	2000

Protection From Fire

MOST COSTLY FIRES SINCE 2000			
1500 Road	\$1,320,595	2007	Recreation
Fanno Ridge	\$63,082	2004	Lightning
200 Road	\$28,728	2002	Smoker
Denzer Bridge	\$19,857	2002	Arson
Schooner Creek	\$16,703	2006	Campfire
Rocky Creek	\$13,686	2005	Lightning
Parker Stadium	\$13,511	2006	Recreation



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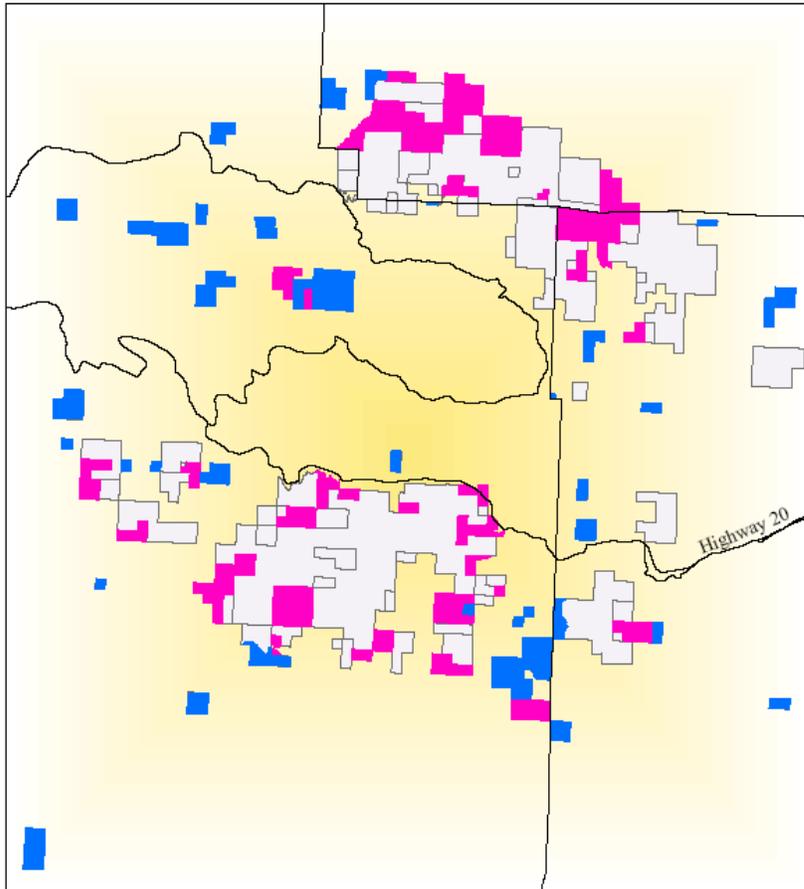
During 2007, the West Oregon District continued to manage state forestlands under the Northwest Forest Management Plan for "Structure Based Management". The district remained active in its timber sale, reforestation, roads, and recreation management programs.

While accomplishing its annual objectives within the state forests program, the district generated revenue for Lincoln, Benton, and Polk counties from the Board of Forestry lands and revenue for the Common School Fund from its Department of State Lands holdings. Volumes and values are given in the table on the following page.

Reforestation activities were specifically geared at rapidly reforesting sites that have had a timber harvest, to address disease issues, and to promote species diversity in areas planned for more complex stands. These objectives were accomplished by using a variety of species, and tailoring specific silvicultural prescriptions to each site.



Yarder operation on Bear Top Timber Sale near Toledo, OR



Legend

- Highways
- County Boundary
- Acquire Parcels
- Exchange Parcels
- ODF Ownership

WEST OREGON DISTRICT
LAND ACQUISITION &
EXCHANGE PLAN

3 0 3 6 Miles



Land Exchange Plan

The district's Land Acquisition and Exchange Plan was approved by the Board of Forestry in 2007. Work began on an exchange with Starker Forests, Inc. for land in Benton, Lincoln, and Polk counties.

This map shows opportunities for land exchange and acquisition that will consolidate state forest holdings. Land acquisition and exchange is a long term project the district is committed to. Greater efficiency in forest management will occur as the plan is implemented.

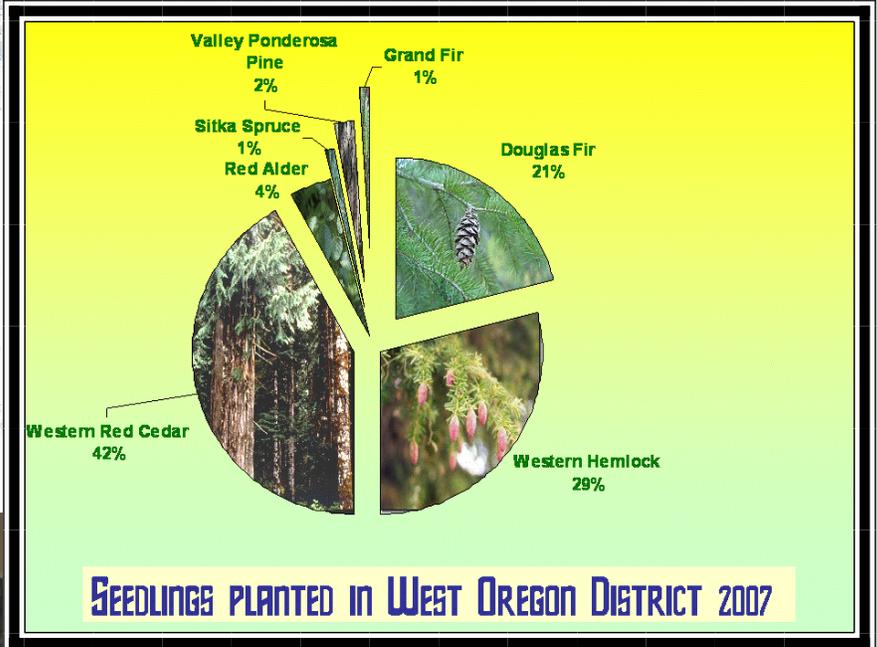


Dan Borg, West Oregon District State Forests Unit Forester receives his 30 year service award at the December all district meeting

State Forests Program

Annual Accomplishments

Timber Volume Sold	9.5 MMBF
Associated Timber Value	\$3,106,273
Tree Planting Completed	255 acres
Number of Trees Planted	68,800
Timber Volume Harvested	12.1 MMBF
Timber Harvest Value	\$5,017,295
Roads Constructed / Improved	5.6 miles
Miscellaneous Forest Product Permits	\$10,636
Map Sales	\$2611
Woodcutting permits	\$690



Stewardship Forester, Jason Hayzlett and Sale Prep Forester, Blake McKinley won first place for their mapping display at the annual GIS conference



Engineering Unit Manager, Chris Humcke works with Engineering intern, Lucas Hunt on mapping the 1500 Road Fire

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District constructs new tree cooler

In 2007, the West Oregon district saw the first major facilities construction and remodel projects in almost 20 years. A new tree cooler was built at the Philomath compound replacing the old, undersized, 300 sq ft unit in Toledo. The new cooler is 720 sq feet with a 10'x36' loading dock, virtually tripling the amount of seedling storage area. The cooler construction began in April and was completed in August 2007 at a cost of \$94,300.



A) Construction begins. B) Ribbon cutting ceremony
C) First seedling delivery D) Reforestation Forester Lee Edwards inspects seedlings. E) Completed cooler



Before



After

Raising the roof

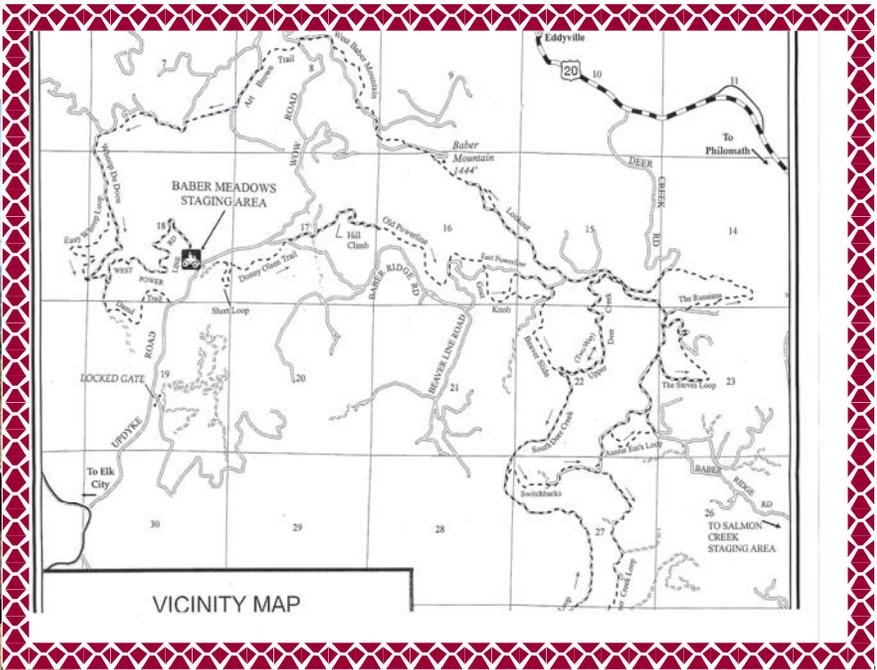
The other construction project for the district was a remodel of the existing State Forests Management Garage. The original structure built in 1965 included homemade wooden garage doors which could not be adequately secured and were too small to accommodate larger pick-up trucks.

The roof of the structure was raised approximately 2 feet in height. Four new overhead metal garage doors were installed and one parking bay was turned into a shelved storage area with a walk-in door. Interior lighting was improved, as was drainage and retaining walls around the garage.

The end results were a dramatic increase in security and improved functionality for the aging building at a project cost of \$34,775.

State Forests Program

Recreation—Mt Baber ATV trail network



The Mt. Baber trail network is open all year round except when regulated use restrictions are in effect during fire season. Individual trails are sometimes closed due to active forest management operations, ongoing project work, or to prevent trail damage. The total length of the trail loop is 32.6 miles.



Large snowfalls continued at the site from December through Spring.



The Salmon Creek ATV Staging area was constructed in the fall. This new staging area provides riders from the Willamette Valley with an opportunity to access the Mt. Baber trail system at a location much closer than the existing staging area at Baber Meadows.

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Dunaway and Retherford Retire

With over 50 attendees Jack's retirement party suited the years of dedicated service he provided to ODF. Friends and family from the east coast to the west coast and from the decades of the past to current joined in the festivities. Jack, the fresh Yaquina bay oysters, and the salmon and halibut were all were "grilled" to perfection! Here is what Jack has to say about his 33 years.

What is your most memorable moment while working for ODF?

It was one of my first experiences working in a large fire incident: Bland Mountain 1. I was in the Logistics section. It is a powerful experience having hundreds of people all working for one goal with a seemingly insurmountable task facing you. You quickly become a fan of the Incident Command System.



What will you miss most?

I will miss mostly, the people of ODF. You spend a large part of your life at work and ODF became a family: a support structure that I was grateful to have throughout my career. I will miss the working groups I was a part of and the sense of accomplishment you have when providing real direction for the agency, establishing a "win - win" for all involved.

Please do not be humble; what was your greatest contribution?

I believe my contributions in the Logistics field were my greatest. I served 19 years in Logistics on Team 2 (aka. The Best Team). Over that time, Logistics has come a long way.

How about those retirement plans?

Fishing, Hunting, Claming, Traveling, Camping, House Projects, Gardening, Cooking, Volunteer-Work, Fly Tying, and more Hunting and Fishing.

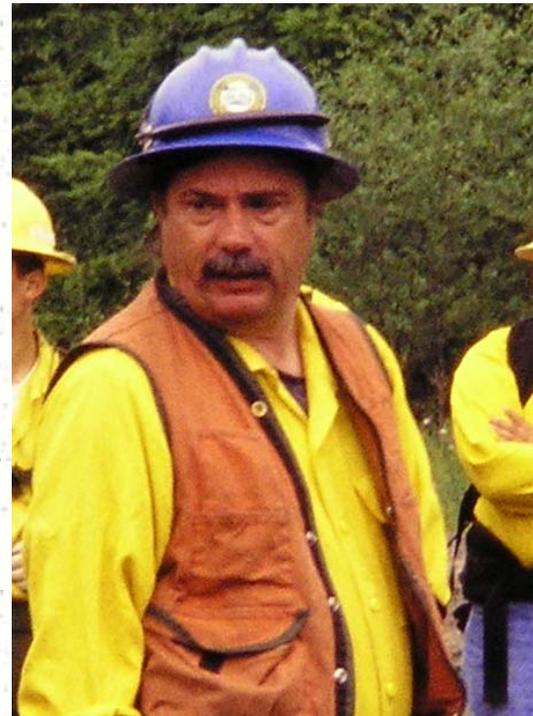
Any other thoughts?

My time with ODF was wonderful; absolutely a great experience. I was very fortunate to have a career in a field I loved and an organization of such high caliber!

Long time Dallas Protection Forester Rick Retherford retired June 1, 2007 after 31 years and 7 months of service with the Oregon Department of Forestry.

Rick began his career with ODF back in 1975 when the Western Lane District hired him through the CETA Program. Rick recalls doing a wide variety of things his first couple years, everything from mowing lawns to planting trees, burning slash, burning old lookouts, and a number of different forest management activities for State Lands. Rick laughingly says, "I started out on the bottom mowing the lawn and worked my way up." Rick's next position was the Fire Warden at the Gunter Guard Station in the Western Lane District where he spent about a year. He then promoted to a permanent Forest Officer position at Western Lane's Vincent Creek Guard station where he supervised 7 seasonal fire fighters. Then in the summer of 1979 Rick promoted to the Protection Supervisor Position in Dallas where he has been every since.

Rick retires having enjoyed his job and the variety of things he has been able to do over the years. Rick feels a lot of satisfaction when he looks back at all the kids he's had the opportunity to hire and sees how so many of them have gone on to be very successful in their lives. A few have made their career with ODF while many others have moved on to careers as engineers, firemen, policemen, paramedics, teachers and the list goes on. Rick says it has been fun when past employees have come by and visit or he runs into them and catches up on what they are doing. Another great memory Rick has is number of kids that have called him Ranger Rick as he's done prevention work through the years. To this day Rick says it's still amazing how kids and adults will approach him and greet him as Ranger Rick.



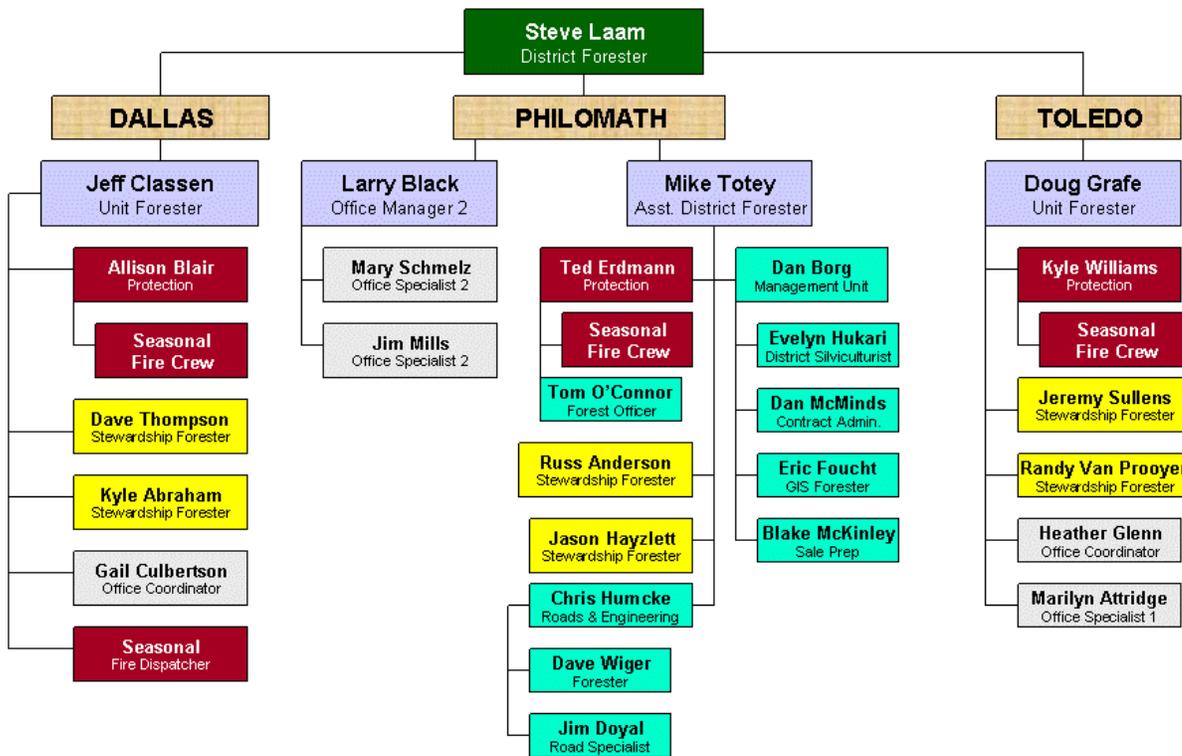
18 Although Rick is officially retired now he says he's just as busy as when he was working full time. After Rick retired this past summer he was able to come back and lead a couple fire investigations for ODF. Rick hopes to have that opportunity to come back again to help investigate fires as it's something he's enjoyed doing.

Administration, Safety, and Wellness



A) District Forester, Steve Laam conducts a tour of Black Rock area for Admin Appreciation Day B) West Oregon Admin staff: Larry Black, Marilyn Attridge, Gail Culbertson, Heather Glenn, Mary Schmelz C) All district Health and Wellness luau D) Doug Grafe practices fire shelter deployment E) Blake McKinley performs fire extinguisher refresher training F) Rick Harris competes in all district Wii bowling tournament G) Philomath summer crew constructed new ramp access for annex. H) Allison Blair and Heather Glenn decorate for all district safety recognition and training day in December I) Safety and Wellness Pictionary J) West Oregon Horseshoe tournament winners

**West Oregon District
December 2007**



West Oregon District

Philomath Unit

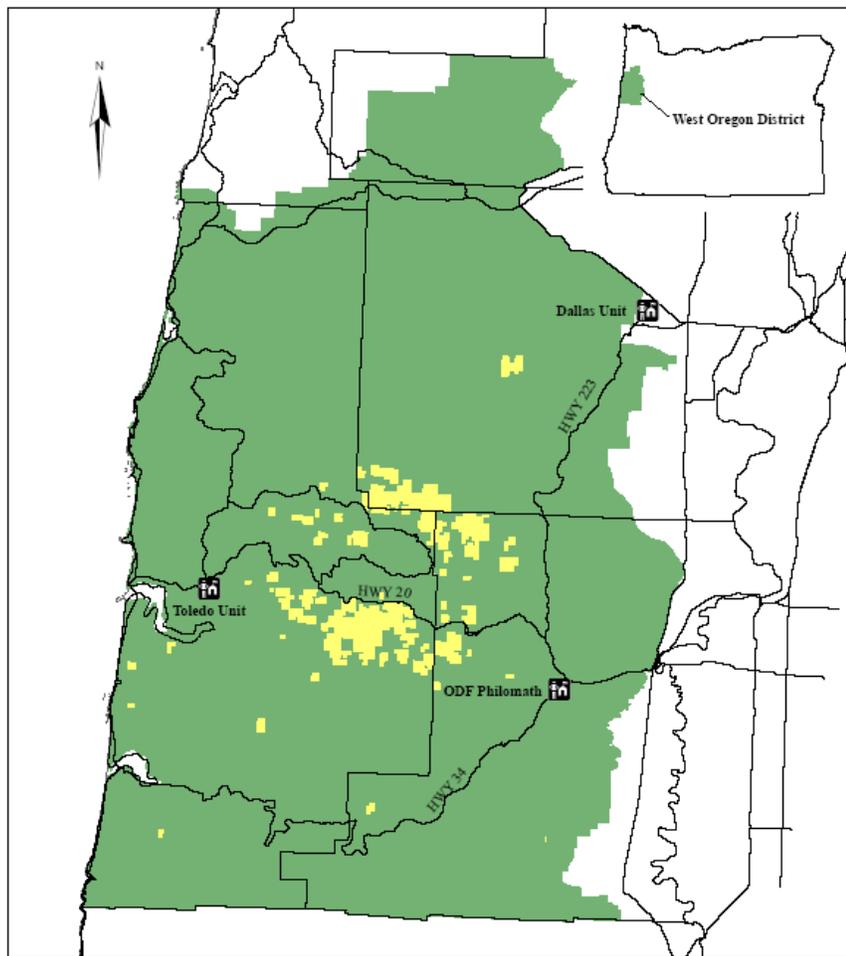
24533 Alsea Hwy
Philomath, OR 97370
(541) 929-3266 Fax (541) 929-5549

Toledo Unit

763 NW Forestry Road
Toledo, OR 97391
(541) 336-2273 Fax (541) 336-5261

Dallas Unit

825 Oak Villa Road
Dallas, OR 97338
(503) 623-8146 Fax (503) 623-9034



Legend

- Highways
- County Boundary
- ODF Ownership
- Protection District

WEST OREGON DISTRICT

