

Sweet Home Unit - LFPA

Green Peter Lookout 2004



South Cascade District 2004 Annual Report

Eastern Lane Unit - ELFPA

Eastern Lane Headquarters circa 1969



NOTES FROM THE SOUTH CASCADE DISTRICT FORESTER

Greetings to everyone! Once again, we have had an interesting year. In July of 2004, the "mega" Cascade District recombined. Eastern Lane and Sweet Home units became part of the South Cascade District which is bordered by I-5 on the West, the Douglas County line on the South, the crest of the Cascades on the East and the Thomas Creek Divide on the North. Paul Bell became the District Forester for the North Cascade District, which now includes the Clackamas-Marion and Santiam units. I started in the South Cascade District as the district forester on July 1. However, there have been many additional changes in personnel since the beginning of 2004, as you will see listed below.

Here are a few highlights regarding our facilities: **Sweet Home Unit** completed a major restoration of Green Peter Lookout. After 34 years the structure was starting to deteriorate and needed significant attention. The contractor removed all the dry rot and replaced everything from the floor up. Exterior siding was replaced with hardi-board siding to extend the life span, old windows were replaced with glare resistant energy efficient windows, entry door, surrounding deck, guardrail and shutters were all replaced. The building also received a fresh coat of interior and exterior paint. It looks great, as you can see on the front cover!

Now the front cover picture of the **Eastern Lane** office is from 1969. We don't quite look like that anymore. Currently we are working to maintain and enhance the existing structures and are working on a 10 year facility plan. Construction on our new entrance into the compound should begin in the Summer of 2005. A very motivated and dedicated fire crew that is an integral part of our facility maintenance program completed many other minor projects throughout our compound and facilities.

ABOUT THE ASSOCIATIONS

Eastern Lane Forest Protective Association grew out of the Booth Kelly Forest patrol, which was the first forest protection association organization in Oregon. Eastern Lane Unit represents a true private landowner and government partnership in fire protection. In 2004, ELFPA celebrated 100 years of organized fire protection!

Linn Forest Protective Association was organized in December 1911 and were successfully in operation during fires season 1912. Two districts (Santiam and Calapooia) were staffed and four lookouts were in use. In a 1918 report, it was stated that "the head warden should be provided with a Ford or a team and buckboard, the Ford would probably be cheaper to maintain for the service secured." LFPFA has come along ways in 93 years of organized fire protection.

In keeping with the old saying "The only constant is change", we have seen many changes in our staffing in 2004.

Personnel Changes in 2004

- Greg Wagenblast promoted to Eastern Lane Unit Forester in January.
- Marvin Vetter promoted to Eastern Lane Stewardship Forester in January.
- Charlie Redheffer promoted to Eastern Lane Protection Unit Supervisor in February.
- Jim Ewing, was hired as a Sweet Home Stewardship Forester in February.
- Paul Bell, District Forester, transferred to the North Cascade District in June.
- Lena Tucker, promoted to the South Cascade District Forester in July.
- Vickie Grimes, was hired as the South Cascade District Office Manager 2 in October.
- Kristin Cotugno, Sweet Home Stewardship Forester transferred to the North Cascade District – Molalla Unit in November as a Stewardship Forester.
- Heather Glenn promoted to Office Coordinator in West Oregon-Toledo Unit.
- Nora LeDoux transferred to Eastern Lane as an OS1 in December.

My compliments to the hard work on behalf of the South Cascade staff as we work through this organizational change to create the "new" South Cascade District. With our new staff in place we are looking forward to working with our cooperators and landowners to maintain a highly effective fire fighting organization and offer a high level of service in our Private and Community Forests program.

Lena Tucker

SWEET HOME UNIT

FIRE SUPPRESSION

The 2004 fire season was 113 days compared to 109 days of 2003. Even though the season was longer it was less intense due to significant rainfall in June and late August. June, July and August rainfall totaled 6.56 inches compared to .62 inches the previous year. Fire season never fully developed even with 43 days spent in high fire danger and 59 days in moderate. Eleven days were in low fire danger and of the 113-day season 87 days were in a regulated use closure compared to 103 days in 2003. Fire season ended October 11, 2004 after seasonal rains.

The Unit experienced eight pre season fire responses of which five were statistical fires. The 50th Avenue Fire was the largest at $\frac{3}{4}$ acre and was man caused while the Carter Creek Fire was an industrial fire burning less than $\frac{1}{10}$ acre. After fire season began on June 21st the Unit experienced five additional Statistical fires, two Non-statistical fires and 57 Non-fire crew actions.

On July 18, 2004 the Unit experienced its second largest blaze of the season a $\frac{1}{4}$ acre fire spotted by Green Peter Lookout. Vandals shooting an insulator causing the 115 KV high voltage line to drop to the ground caused the McDowell Creek Powerline fire. Fortunately the fire occurred late in the afternoon and was easily suppressed.

Statewide needs were light this year with only 6 Unit personnel being dispatched to the Panorama fire on the Central Oregon District and to Douglas Forest Protection Association for the Bland Mountain#2 Fire near Roseburg.

PREVENTION

In cooperation with the USFS Sweet Home and Detroit Ranger districts 1750 elementary school students received a fire prevention message. Two prevention teams worked to provide coverage in the North Canyon as well as the Scio, Sweet Home, Lebanon and Brownsville areas.

The annual fourth grade poster contest was another cooperative venture with the USFS Sweet Home Ranger District. A total of 206 posters were completed with the top three posters becoming "grand prize" winners. These three posters were made into highway billboards by Sweet Home High School art classes and placed along three major arterioles leading into forestlands on the Unit. The grand prizewinners and additional participants were invited to ride on our fire prevention float in the Sportsman's Holiday Parade. Smokey Bear appeared at Tree Day greeting many small woodland participants, mingling in the crowd, shaking hands and receiving hugs from kids and adults.

The Unit's Forest Officers issued 16 Fire Prevention Warnings for illegal burning. In addition one person was cited to appear in Justice Court due to a reoccurring offense. Five domestic burn permits were issued in late fire season after the countywide burn ban was lifted.

Quartzville corridor agencies and adjacent landowner coordination continued in 2004. Winter and spring meetings were held to review and plan new activities for a coordinated effort in the corridor. ODF, USFS, Corps of Engineers, Linn County Parks,

Linn County Sheriff and State Police were involved. Campfires continue to be restricted to metal rings and only on the waterside of the road on Corps of Engineers and BLM lands. After hour patrols, intensive prevention signing and documented public contacts continued from last year.

SMOKE MANAGEMENT PLAN ADMINISTRATION

With a season ending weather event, fire season ended early October and landowners were able to get an early jump on slash burning. Frequent rains brought ample precipitation to provide opportunities for burning in a fire safe environment. Most burning was completed by mid- November. Pile burning of 60,359 tons was conducted on 2,784 acres. The Unit is pleased to announce that we did not experience any smoke intrusions affecting the Designated Area as a result of the slash burning during the 2004 slash burning season.

PRIVATE AND COMMUNITY FORESTS

In late 2003, Service Forestry and Forest Practices Programs were merged, creating the Private and Community Forests Program. This, in turn, combined the Service Forester and Forest Practices Forester field positions into one, called a Stewardship Forester. The dual responsibilities were fully implemented by both Stewardship Foresters within their area boundaries in 2004. The Foresters attended several training sessions throughout the year for assistance with the learning curve of the new responsibilities.

Personnel changes within the program included new hire Jim Ewing, who began work as a Stewardship Forester in February 2004. Jim came to Oregon Department of Forestry with 26 years of forest management experience in private industry. Kristin Cotugno transferred within the Department from the Sweet Home Unit to the Mollala Unit as a Stewardship Forester in November 2004. Tim Meehan, Fire Prevention Technician from the East Lane Unit filled Kristin's vacant position as a developmental for the remainder of the year, and will continue until Spring 2005 when the position is to be permanently filled.

Working with the various aspects of landowner assistance such as education, program selection, plan development, program compliance, inter-agency coordination, and tax credits, was challenging, educational, and rewarding for the Stewardship Foresters in their first year of Forestry Assistance experience.

Service Forestry Accomplishments in 2004:

Tree Planting	2 projects	50 acres
Riparian Enhancement	3 projects	66 acres
Tax Credits	49 credits	553 acres
Stewardship Plans	1 plan	20 acres
	1 plan	268 acres
Forest Resource Trust	1 inspection on a 43 acre project	
FIP	1 inspection on a 10 acre project	
CREP	3 projects and inspections	
FLEP	25 acres project	

Stewardship Foresters assisted landowners in meeting the Governor's Salmon Plan for Oregon by providing technical assistance in the planning process. For the year 2004, a total of 5 non-fish passable culverts were replaced with improved fish passable culverts and 3 deteriorated culverts were replaced with bridges. Work occurred in the Ames Creek, Calapooia River, and Parsons Creek basins. Nearly 26 miles of habitat are now either accessible or improved to adult and juvenile migration of cutthroat trout as a result of these projects.

Pre-operation planning to assist operators, landowners, and timber owners is an integral part of the Stewardship Foresters' job to ensure Oregon Forest Practices Act compliance. In 2004, 87 written pre-op plans were submitted and reviewed for resource protection. Foresters conducted 610 inspections on over 965 forest operations on the Sweet Home Unit. Normal rainfall during early Fall 2004 yielded foresters with a few road and sediment delivery issues. We had one significant road failure that had minimal impact on the waters of the State.

Funding for industrial fire inspections was reinstated in 2004. Stewardship Foresters conducted 132 fire inspections on forest operations, with a strong emphasis on compliance through education. IFPL (Industrial Fire Precaution Level) waivers were granted for 39 operations.

Our employees strive to enhance cooperative work efforts with operators, landowners, the public, and various state and federal agencies. Stewardship Foresters assisted with two fish presence surveys for a distance of 1.5 miles. The Foresters worked with local school kids, participating in Forestry Field Day where Forest Practices concepts were taught to 6th graders. The Foresters also provided Forest Practices training to a local logging company for AOL certification credits, presented a Tree City USA Award to the city of Sweet Home, and volunteered at the Oregon Department of Forestry booth at the State Fair.

COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

The 2004 season began in March with Mountain Beaver trapping and clearing roads of winter storm damaged trees. Several employees helped with helipond plumbing and brushing and several other forest management projects during fire season. After fire season the crew assisted in burning almost 2000 acres of piled slash. There was a total of 1691 hours worked on these projects:

- Bear Damage Surveys and Supplemental Feeding
- Beaver Trapping
- Mountain Beaver Trapping
- Manual Release
- Gate Maintenance
- Slash Pile Burning
- Road Brushing
- Helipond Brushing and Plumbing
- Enhancing Helipond Flight Paths

The USFS Co-Op engine project continued with three seasonal employees starting June 15th and continuing through October 15th. This crew patrolled the mixed ownership and USFS land and the Quartzville corridor on a daily basis. The crew posted prevention signs and made contact with recreationists at dispersed campsites. The engine crew worked a total of 3834 hours on this project.

Eastern Lane Unit

PROTECTION FROM FIRE

Eastern Lane experienced one of the milder fire danger/seasons in several years. Fire season was declared June 21 and extended until October 11th. Spring and early summer fire incidents occurred several times testing the permanent staff and our cooperators. Conditions and early season fire incidents indicated that we may be facing a very active season. Public restrictions were initiated for EL1 & UA1 on July 12, and WL1, WL2, & WL3 - Aug 11 prior to the mid season rain events. Mother Nature assisted the wildland fire agencies with reducing fire danger in mid August with a storm event providing significant precipitation amounts allowing public use restrictions to be lifted on September 15th.

EASTERN LANE UNIT HUMAN CAUSED FIRES

GENERAL CAUSE	2004 Fires	% OF 2004 TOTAL	10 YR TTL Fires	% OF 10 YR TOTAL
RAILROAD	0	0%	1	1%
EQUIPMENT USE	7	28%	75	27%
RECREATIONIST	1	4%	34	12%
SMOKING	1	4%	34	12%
DEBRIS BURNING	11	44%	64	23%
ARSON	1	4%	21	8%
JUVENILE	2	8%	10	4%
MISC	2	8%	35	13%
TOTAL	25	100%	274	100%

FIRE PREVENTION & FIRE PLANNING

More than 20 schools and 1500 students were visited by Smokey Bear and Eastern Lane staff. Eastern Lane staff, engines, and crews also participated in 8 festivals, parades, and shows. Eastern Lane staff also attended monthly meetings of Lane County Fire Prevention Cooperative.

Fire crews were able to maintain management of 190 fire prevention signs, and installed a large new sign in the Mohawk Valley. Two habitat burns were accomplished with the help of our fire crews -- one at Elijah Bristow State Park, and one with Lane County at Mount Pisgah.

National Fire Plan projects were accomplished at several locations in the Coburg Hills, Mohawk Valley, and lower McKenzie River Valley. Landowners were reimbursed for portions of their fuel-reduction costs, a homeowner association cleared along access routes and developed additional water supplies, and two fire districts were able to improve their access to water in rural locations. In addition, many meetings were held and flyers distributed to promote creation of defensible space around homes.

Additional federal grants have been received for Community Wildfire Planning in the Oakridge and Lowell areas, and in the Row River and Mosby Creek drainages.

Eastern Lane staff is actively participating in development of the Lane County Community Wildfire Plan.

SMOKE MANAGEMENT ADMINISTRATION

Burning was conducted on 147 slash units, which included 3,964 acres and 65,498 tons of slash. The accomplishment rate was 93%. There were no intrusions of smoke into the designated area.

PRIVATE & COMMUNITY FORESTS

There were several changes in Forest Practices in 2004. The Department merged the Forest Practices program and the Service Forestry Program in September 2003, which is now known as the Private and Community Forest Program. This new program merger resulted in district field operations migrating to the new format in January 2004. Tom Berglund (long time FPF) retired on December 31st and Marvin Vetter assumed his duties in the Stewardship Forester position. In addition, the boundaries of each Stewardship Forester changed. Jim Ewing from the Sweet Home Unit took over some responsibilities in the north, and Bob Johnson from Western Lane District assumed some responsibilities in the south part of Eastern Lane Unit. The Private and Community Forest Program again received funding to support industrial fire prevention inspections

The stewardship foresters were active administering cost share programs and workshops for local and area landowners and operators. The high volume of communication between the landowners and stewardship foresters helped curtail any problems before they arose, the unit wrote one citation in 2004. The Eastern Lane Unit processed 1005 notifications and 269 renewals for 2004.

COOPERATIVE WORK PROGRAM

The highway maintenance program, in conjunction with Oregon Department of Transportation has continued again this year with the employment of four seasonal employees. Weyerhaeuser and Seneca Timber Company also participated in our Co-op program providing resource readiness and slash related projects. These opportunities accounted for 6,563 hours of employment for our seasonal employees.

EASTERN LANE FOREST PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION

DIRECTORS

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Vice President - Cary Hart - Giustina Land & Timber

Mike McDowell - Weyerhaeuser Company

Paul Wagner - Giustina Resources

Ted Reiss - Seneca Timber Company

Dee Anderson - Small Woodlands Owner

LeRoy Petersen - Small Woodlands Owner

ADVISORY DIRECTORS

Dean Vendrasco - Willamette National Forest – USFS

Nancy Ashlock - Eugene District - BLM

Dan Shults - Southern Oregon Area Director - ODF

Mike Dykzeul - Oregon Forest Industries Council

Martha Shearer - Secretary-Treasurer - ELFPA

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Eugene, Oregon

Waning Family Trust
Eugene, Oregon

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Cottage Grove, Oregon

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Eugene, Oregon

Giustina Woodlands
Eugene, Oregon

Dale Cuyler & Brenda Woodard
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Cadore Timber Co.
Eugene, Oregon

Robert "Dee" Anderson
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Springfield, Oregon

Seneca Jones Timber Co.
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RDK Land & Timber LLC
Walterville, Oregon

Petersen Brothers, LLC
Springfield, Oregon

Giustina Resources
Eugene, Oregon

Garfield Associates
Eugene, Oregon

Lost Creek Timber
Eugene, Oregon

USR Company, LLC
Springfield, Oregon

Kintigh Family Ltd. Partnership
Springfield, Oregon

Weyerhaeuser Company
Eugene, Oregon

Weyerhaeuser Company
Springfield, Oregon

Rosboro Lumber Co.
Springfield, Oregon

Fruit Growers Supply Company
Cottage Grove, Oregon

Martha Shearer
Dexter, Oregon

Bill Burwell
Leaburg, Oregon

Tokatee Golf Club
Eugene, Oregon

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Ron Borisch, Longview Fibre	Milt Moran, South Santiam Tree Farm
Randy Silbernagel, Freres Lumber	Nels Jensen, The Campbell Group
Eric Kranzush, Giustina Land & Timber	Sherman Sallee
Bert Udell	

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Mike Rassbach, USFS Sweet Home	Mike Dykzeul, OFIC
Chad Stuart, Corps of Engineers	

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Freres Lumber Co. Lyons, Oregon	Rosboro Lumber Springfield, Oregon	The Campbell Group Eugene, Oregon
Giustina Land & Timber Eugene, Oregon	Sherman Sallee Lebanon, Oregon	Giustina Resources Eugene, Oregon
Seneca Jones Lumber Co. Eugene, Oregon	Fruit Growers Supply Co. Cottage Grove, Oregon	Hampton Resources, Inc Salem, Oregon

Linn County
(Contributing Member)