

Sweet Home Unit History

The Sweet Home Unit of the South Cascade District began nearly 100 years ago as the Linn County Fire Patrol. It was organized in December 1911 with 96 members, and was responsible for patrolling 335,000 acres. The new Fire Patrol organization operated successfully during the 1912 fire season, and by 1913 had established two divisions (Santiam and Calapooia), arranged for 18 patrolmen (mostly volunteers), and built four lookouts.



Linn Fire Patrol, 1960

A look at excerpts from the 1918 Annual Report gives clues regarding the issues of the day: "The head warden should be provided with a Ford or a team and buckboard. A Ford would probably be cheaper to maintain...." "There is a general complaint from the stockmen about their cattle getting in old deserted cabins during fly season and getting crippled either by hooking one another or knocking the cabin down on themselves..."

In 1979, the Linn County Fire Patrol Association contracted with the State Forester to assume implementation of its fire fighting responsibilities, and the Linn County State District (part of the Oregon Department of Forestry) was formed. At this time the Linn District provided fire protection to all non-federal lands east of the Willamette Valley in Linn County.



Yellowstone Lookout, 1980

In 2004 the Linn County State District became the Sweet Home Unit of the South Cascade District. The northern tier of Linn District, from Snow Peak to the north, became part of the North Cascade District. Today, the Sweet Home Unit protects