

# 2005 Annual Report

**Oregon Department of Forestry  
Western Lane District**



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Above: The new Western Lane District sign is the artwork of South Fork Forest Work Camp inmates. The summer fire crew dug the large holes and installed the sign in July 2005. It sits on the front of the compound along Territorial Highway.



## FROM THE DISTRICT FORESTER

*2005 was a very successful year for the Western Lane District. The State Forest program completed all planned sales, only two fires over 10 acres occurred, and no significant changes to the Private Forest Program were made.*

*We spent more time this past year dealing with concerns over smoke intrusions and chemical applications than in previous years. Smoke concerns in the Florence area have increased for several reasons. One being the lack of fall winds that normally blow and another being the lack of regulation regarding land clearing burning that occurs. We have worked with Lane Regional Air Pollution Authority to increase the regulation of burning in the area and start a backyard burning advisory phone number for the Florence area.*

*One unusual occurrence during the year was the number and acres of lightning-caused fires within the district. We had six lightning fires that burned 55 acres, with the largest being the Big Creek fire, which burned 50 acres on June 29<sup>th</sup>. The 10-year average is three lightning caused fires that burned 5.5 acres. Last year the cost to fight these six fires was \$126,155 compared to a 10-year average of only \$5,897.*

*Thanks to hard work by the protection staff, we had an excellent fire crew for the summer. With additional talents they were able to accomplish several projects around the compound. One of these was the installation of the new sign in front of the office. The sign was made by the South Fork inmate camp and installed by our fire crew. The crew also remodeled the office restrooms, the archive room and the shop parts room.*

*We lost one of our long term veterans, Ken Ockfen, when he decided to retire and start a new career in Idaho. Ken's skills and talents will be missed, but with his departure we gained a great employee, Link Smith, from our northern neighbors, the West Oregon District.*

*As always, dedicated employees are what make all of this possible. I am a lucky district forester to have a group of such talented employees. I am further lucky to have a Board of Directors that truly understands the issues and focuses on what is important. Both of these groups help make Western Lane an exceptional district.*

*Sincerely,  
Rick Rogers, District Forester*

## PROTECTION FROM FIRE

Western Lane District had a high potential for fire occurrence in 2005. Fire season began on July 5th and ran through October 4th. The potential for fire starts and growth exceeded even the years of the Austa and Siuslaw River Fires. The hot weather stayed consistent into early fall. Public restrictions were imposed on July 25th and suspended on October 4th.

### FIRE SUPPRESSION

Fire occurrence was down this last season. District crew members responded to 59 dispatches with 39 of them resulting in statistical fires. There were more acres burned, 101.61 acres, than in the previous year. Lightning fires were the most costly and resulted in the greatest acreage burned. Debris burning and equipment use fires were also a major fire cause in the district. Fires were hit fast and hard, which kept them small.



### STATISTICAL FIRES PER YEAR

YEAR	NUMBER OF FIRES	NUMBER OF ACRES
2001	72	110.80
2002	73	955.06
2003	90	664.59
2004	42	22.24
2005	39	101.61
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>1854.30</b>

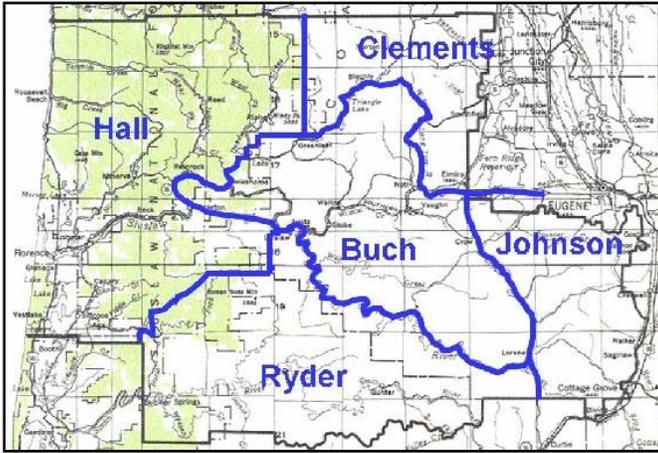
### FIRE PREVENTION

Fire prevention is an integral part of the district's fire protection system. Through a diverse program utilizing various media, school programs, presentations, special events, public contact and other means we were able to offer our fire prevention message. We made over 32,000 individual or small group fire prevention contacts and another 140,000 contacts using local media (television, radio and newspaper), totaling more than 1,050 hours. As an active member of the Lane Fire Prevention Cooperative we also assisted with various activities throughout the county.

The administration of legal requirements is another facet of the fire prevention program. These requirements include issuing burning permits to forest landowners and the public regulating logging operations and restricting access to forestland during periods of high fire danger. For calendar year 2005, the district issued 275 permits for slash disposal.

Left: Seasonal Forest Officer, Julia Lauch, helps a child put on a helmet at "Touch-a-Truck," an event where kids can explore the many vehicles they see around their community. Western Lane sent two seasonal employees and an engine to participate in the annual event put on by the Peterson Barn Community Center.

## PRIVATE & COMMUNITY FORESTS



Stewardship Forester Areas

The mission of the Private and Community Forests program is to *implement progressive policies and programs, including technical assistance, incentives and regulation that promote healthy, sustainable private and community forestlands.* Western Lane's strategy to best accomplish this mission focuses on the establishment and maintenance of partnerships with our landowners. Our Stewardship Foresters continue to spend the majority of their time in the field working directly with landowners, industry personnel and the general public. Our goal is to share knowledge and provide awareness to others of the benefits of an actively managed forest. Examples include our participation in Oregon Small Woodlands meetings, local watershed council meetings, and numerous presentations to local schools. We also provided presentations at an Oregon Forest Industries Council workshop, presented Tree City USA awards to several local cities, and staffed an information booth at the Logging Conference. Our participation in Lane County's local Forest Field Days, a hands-on forestry and natural resource education for middle school students, continues to be a tremendous learning opportunity for local youth.

2005 was the second complete year that Western Lane District has been fully integrated into the Private and Community Forests program. The difficulties encountered while merging the former For-

est Practices and Service Forestry programs have largely been overcome.

We now have five Stewardship Foresters charged with both Forest Practices Act administration and providing

**"Our goal is to share knowledge and provide awareness of the benefits of an actively managed forest."**

landowners with technical and financial assistance. The Stewardship Foresters also continued their active role supporting the Protection from Fire program. Several of the foresters went off district on various fire assignments and continued to be an integral part of the fire suppression within the district.

One thousand two hundred eighty three notifications were submitted during 2005, down roughly thirteen percent from 2004. Written plans were included in 412 of these notifications providing additional information on the specific protected resource and type of activity. Streams and their associated water quality, riparian areas, and fish passage requirements continue to encompass the majority of these written plans.



Above: Western Lane Stewardship Foresters share examples of wetlands and free to grow issues at the 2005 SOA Stewardship Forester Conference. Western Lane District hosted the conference that consisted of approximately 55 P&CF Program employees from the SOA and Salem Staff.

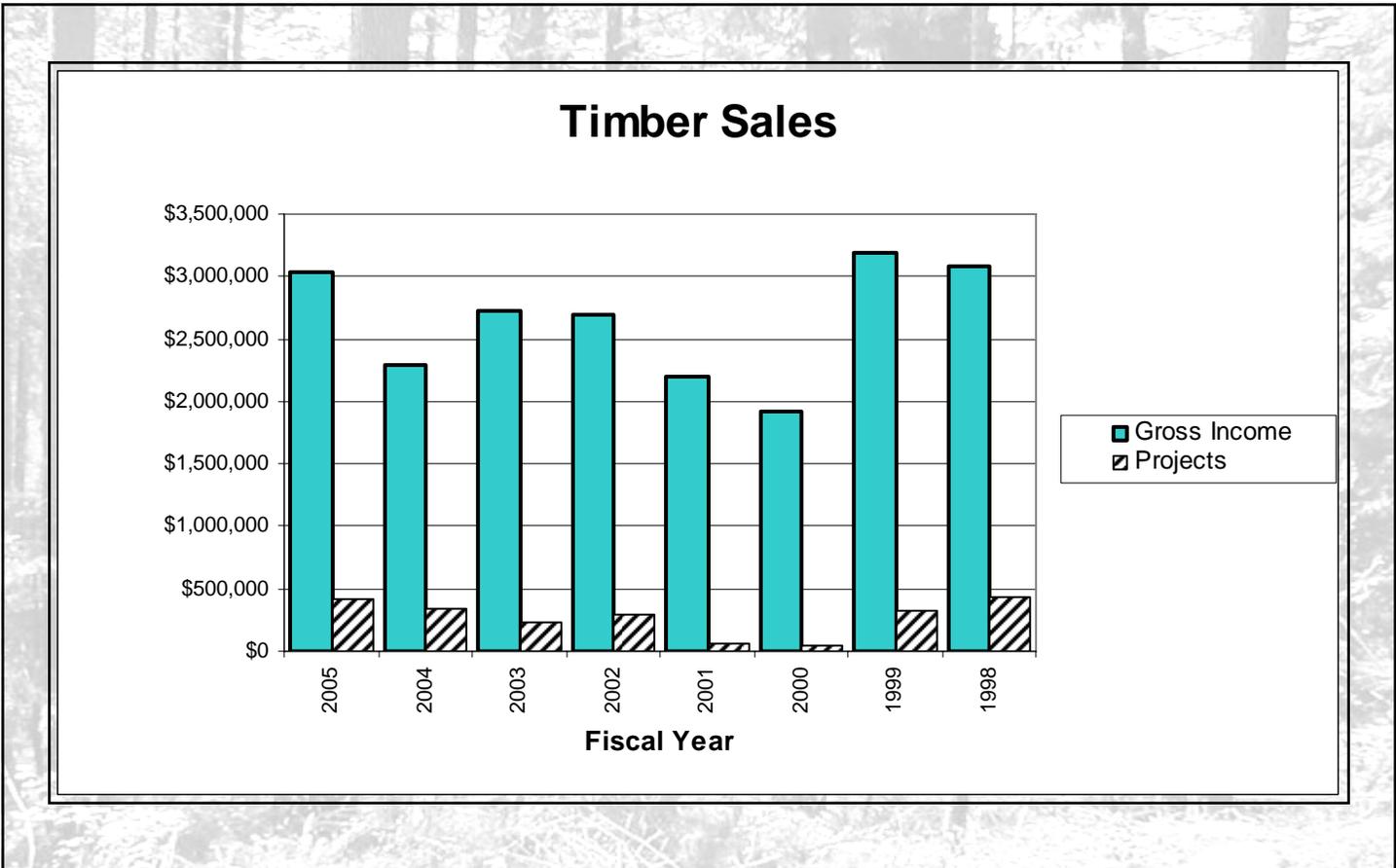
## STATE FORESTS



Lookout Point

The State Forests Program manages approximately 26,000 acres of forestland within Lane County. These lands are managed to meet an array of economic and environmental goals established by the 2001 *Northwest State Forests Management Plan*.

In fiscal year 2005, Western Lane auctioned 7.4 million board feet on 195 acres of thinning and 163 acres of clear cut, all on Board of Forestry lands. The sales required five and a half miles of road construction. The estimated net stumpage after road costs were subtracted is \$2,600,000.



## ADMINISTRATION

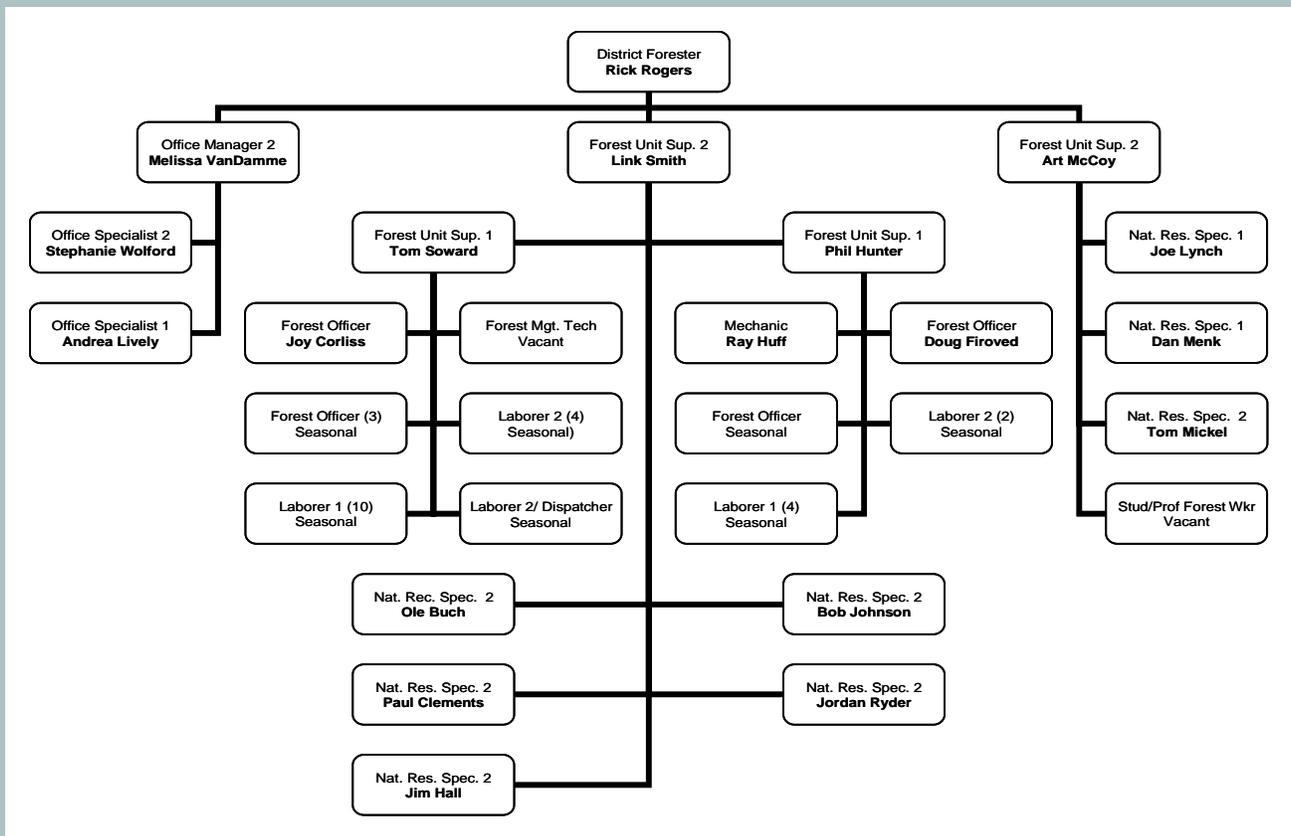
On September 14th, Forest Unit Supervisor 2, Ken Ockfen, retired from the Oregon Department of Forestry to take a job with the Idaho Department of Lands. Ken worked at Western Lane district for 28 years.

Grant “Link” Smith, former Stewardship Forester from Oregon Department of Forestry’s Toldeo Unit, was selected to fill the vacancy, effective January 1, 2006.



Left: Ken Ockfen is presented with a plaque by Dan Shults at his retirement function held in the Western Lane conference room.

## ORGANIZATION CHART





***"STEWARDSHIP IN FORESTRY"***

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