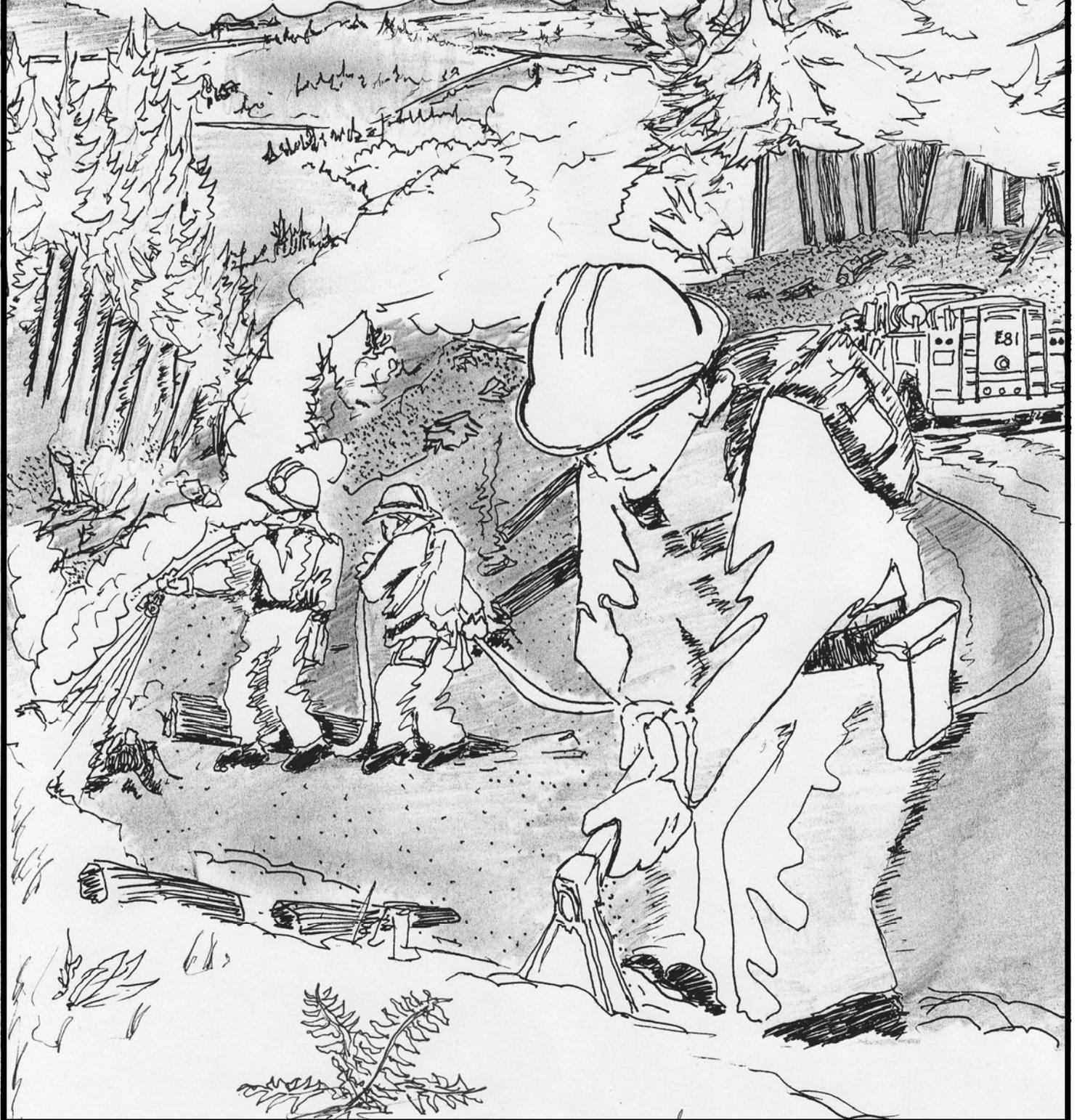


# Western Lane District 2007 Annual Report



Cover artwork by Paul Clements, Stewardship Forester

# *DISTRICT FORESTER NEWS*

## *From the District Forester*

*2007 was a successful year for the Western Lane District. As the newest District employee, it is my pleasure to share with you some of my thoughts about the previous year. Though I started working on the District after 2007 was complete, the great work of our employees throughout the year is still very evident.*

*There were some notable personnel changes during 2007. Rick Rogers, our District Forester for 10 years, retired and Melissa VanDamme, our Office Manager, resigned so she could be home with her twin boys. Everyone at the District wishes both of these exceptional individuals the best in their new endeavors.*

*Western Oregon experienced a relatively mild fire season in 2007. However, on the Western Lane District, this mild season was interrupted by two significant events. First was the 56 acre Shaw Creek Fire near Lorane. This fire was quickly detected, in part, by a DFPA smoke detection camera. This clearly demonstrated the value of these cameras and we hope to expand their use in the future. The second event was initiated by east winds, which caused fire to escape from a number of previously ignited slash piles late in the season.*

*The State Forests staff responded quickly to a wind event that put 1 million board feet of timber on the ground the previous December. Personnel put a salvage contract up for sale and salvage harvest operations are proceeding such that the risk of decay and loss of timber value is diminished.*

*The public continues to show increased interest and sensitivity toward both smoke and pesticides. Responding to public concerns and monitoring these activities for compliance with the Oregon Forest Practices Act and the Smoke Management Plan consumes an increasing amount of our Stewardship Foresters' time.*

*Work on the compound development continued as preliminary site plans were finished. In addition, the sale of the baseball field to the city of Veneta is near completion.*

*I would like to thank all of our employees for their great dedication and hard work. I also want to thank our Board of Directors and our landowners for all the help and support they provide us.*

*Sincerely,*

*Dave Lorenz, District Forester*

# *PROTECTION FROM FIRE*

The Western Lane District provides fire protection for 755,000 acres of private and public forest land in Western Lane County and Northern Douglas County. The goal of the program is to minimize the two cost factors: fire suppression and loss caused by damage to forest resources. This goal is achieved through cooperation provided to the District by forest landowners, industry, other fire agencies and the public.



Local media crews film Paul Clements, Stewardship Forester, for a PSA addressing fire prevention. The PSA reached an estimated 100,000 individuals.



Phil Hunter & Smokey Bear visited 33 1st grade classrooms in 2007. They taught 664 students about fire prevention.

## Fire Prevention

Fire prevention continues to be a priority within the District. Records demonstrate that District staff made over 20,000 individual or small group contacts last year and another 100,000 estimated contacts through the use of the local media. The District is an active member of the Lane Fire Prevention Cooperative and regularly assists the co-op with various fire prevention activities.

The administration of legal requirements also contributes to fire prevention. These requirements include issuing burning permits, regulating logging operations and periodically restricting access to forestland during periods of high fire danger. The District issued 1,163 power-driven machinery permits, 295 slash burning permits, 96 fire prevention citations/warnings, 130 industrial inspections/visits and 10 waivers.

# PROTECTION FROM FIRE



The 56 acre Shaw Creek Fire was spotted on August 16 by a smoke detection camera on Harness Mountain (DFPA).

## Fire Suppression

Western Lane District experienced a cooler and shorter fire season in 2007 as compared to the previous year. Fire season lasted 97 days beginning June 27th and ending October 1st. Public Regulated Use restrictions were imposed on July 9th and terminated on September 28th. Despite reduced fire danger and a short fire season, district personnel experienced a challenging year due to the number and types of fires. The District's largest fire for the year, Shaw Creek, rapidly grew to over 50 acres due to access difficulties, adverse terrain and heavy fuel loading. This fire had tremendous potential and would have been much larger without the cooperation and assistance provided by our industry partners, neighboring Forest Protective Associations and local landowners.

The District also experienced a strong east wind event the 3rd week in October resulting in 10 escaped slash fires and burning nearly 300 acres. Debris burning was once again the lead cause followed closely by equipment use and recreational fires.

2007 Fire Season Summary		
Level	WT-1	SL-2
I	84 Days	89 Days
II	13 Days	8 Days
III	0 Days	0 Days
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>97 Days</b>	

YEAR	NUMBER OF FIRES	NUMBER OF ACRES
2003	90	664.49
2004	42	22.24
2005	39	101.61
2006	72	17.76
2007	70	356.55
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>1162.65</b>

# PRIVATE FORESTS

## FPA Administration/ Forestry Assistance

<i>Number of Notifications</i>	1163
<i>Number of Notification Renewals</i>	185
<i>Number of Written Plans</i>	328

The Private Forests Program in Western Lane District is administered by five Stewardship Foresters: Ole Buch, Paul Clements, Jim Hall, Bob Johnson and Jordan Ryder. One of the Western Lane Stewardship Foresters is also utilized to provide Assistance to the forest landowners in the Eastern Lane Unit/South Cascade District.

The Western Lane District covers terrain that ranges from gentle to steep; with landowners that vary from corporate to rural residents to family forest landowners. Landowner goals vary as the diverse range of landowners might suggest. Stewardship Foresters routinely meet with landowners and operators on a wide range of issues.

Public safety reviews are a high priority within the district. These reviews are necessitated by the potential of shallow, rapidly moving landslides. Proposed operations on steep terrain above residences and high volume public roads receive particular attention during the review of notifications. Consultation with ODF geo-technical specialists and private consulting geo-technical engineers may be necessary during the review of these sites.

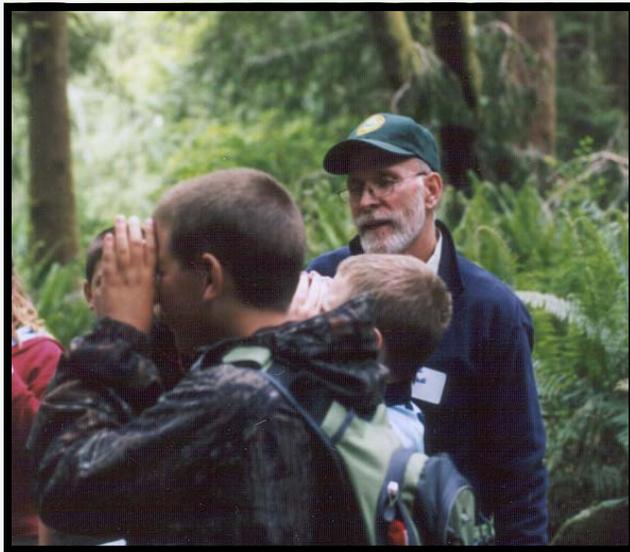
Public interest in forest activities continues to grow and has become a significant activity for the ODF foresters within the district. Nearly twenty individuals now utilize the Notification of Operations subscription process to receive public record information. Stewardship Foresters are frequently asked to respond to questions and comments from subscribers, local interest groups and the general public regarding forest operations. Much of this public attention is directed toward operations involving the application of herbicides.



# PRIVATE FORESTS



Interest in the Oregon financial incentives program, the reforestation income tax credit and Forest Resource Trust continues. Those activities are coordinated by Jim Hall in the Florence office and Bob Johnson in the Veneta office. The development of Stewardship Plans remains a motivating tool for small forest landowners to pursue and achieve their management goals.



Locally, Stewardship Foresters play a significant role as part of the volunteer pool for the Forest Field Day program. This field-based, natural resource education for middle school students occurs each spring and fall in Lane County. Thousands of sixth and seventh graders have been through this program since the mid-1990s.



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*Top: ODF Staff entomologist, Rob Flowers (L), and landowner, Ron Gilson, review Ips mortality in a local Ponderosa Pine plantation.*

*Middle: Jim Hall, Stewardship Forester, assists children in measuring tree heights at the Florence Forest Field Day.*

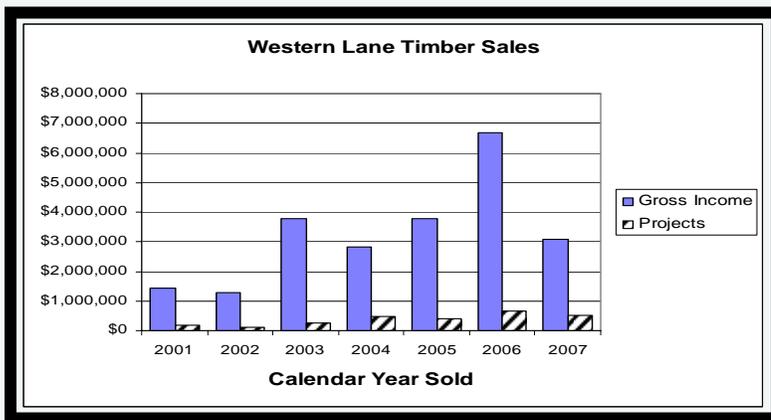
*Bottom: Consulting Forester, Mike Atkinson, reviews site preparation work on a Forest Resource Trust project.*

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# STATE FORESTS

The State Forests Program manages approximately 26,000 acres of forest land within Lane County on a sustained basis. These lands are managed to meet an array of social, economic and environmental goals established by the 2001 Northwest State Forests Management Plan.

In 2007 the district sold 10.3 MMBF of timber, averaging just over \$300/MBF. The sales included 1.3 MMBF of December's 2006 blow down of the newly thinned forest. One hundred and sixty acres of clear cut were planted with a mixture of fir, hemlock, and cedar. Resprouting big-leaf maple that were overtopping planted conifer was treated by hack and squirt on one hundred acres of plantation. Thirty acres of plantation were backpack sprayed to control scotch broom.



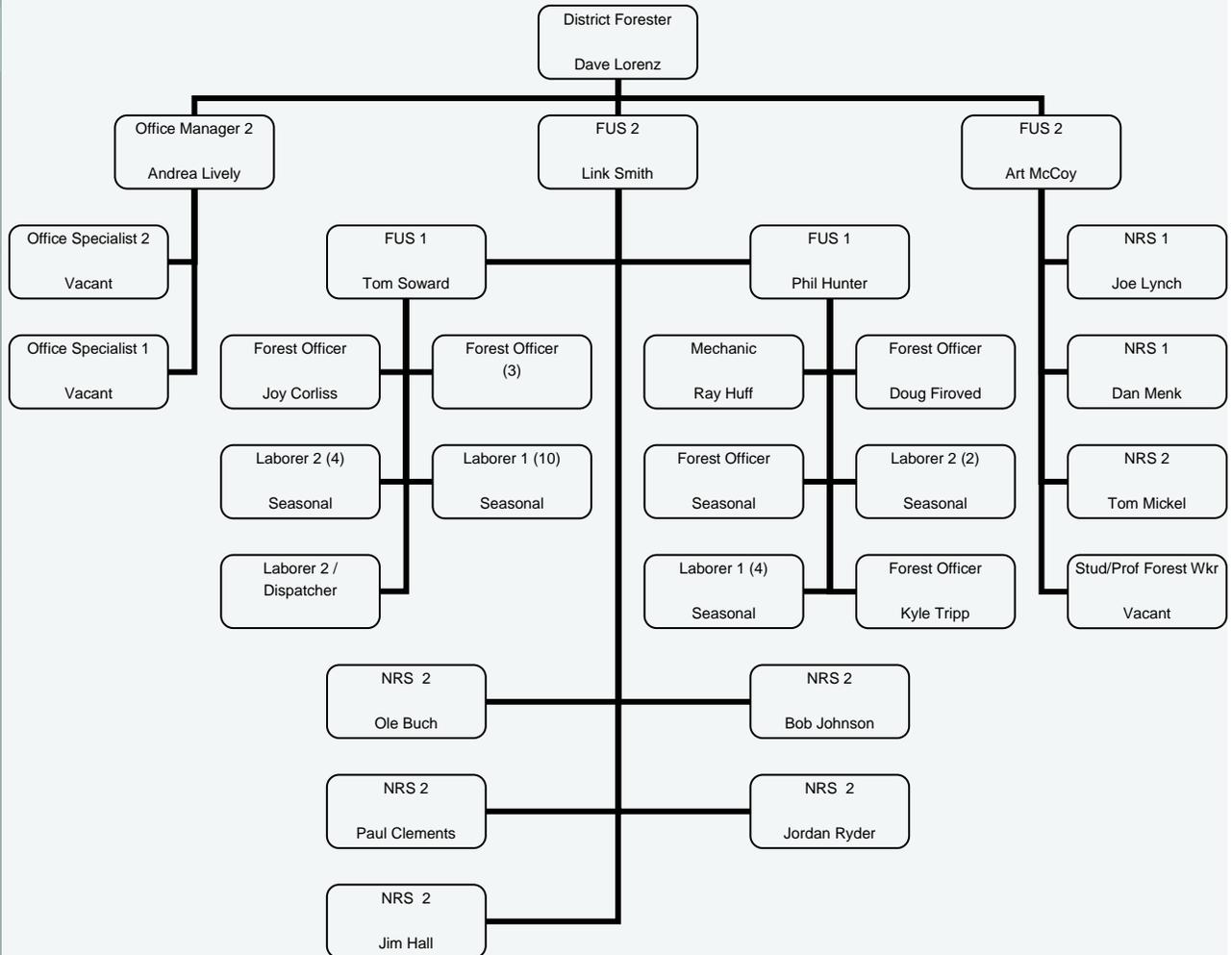
*'The State Forests Program manages approximately 26,000 acres of forest land within Lane County.'*



Haynes Horizontal Salvage

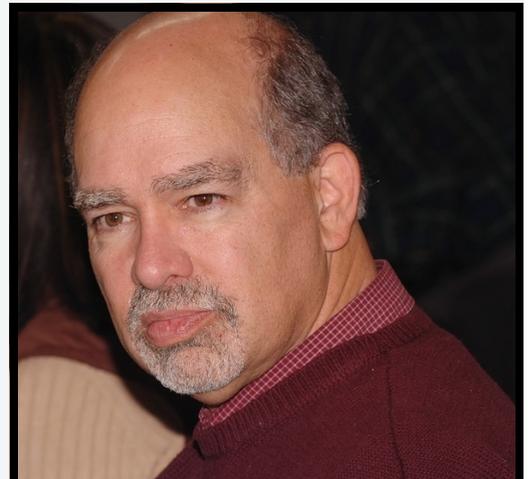
# ADMINISTRATION

## Western Lane District Organization



*Left: Melissa Van-Damme resigned after 14 years with the District, to stay home with her twin boys.*

*Right: Rick Rogers, District Forester, retired with over 30 years of service.*



# *WESTERN LANE DISTRICT*



***"STEWARDSHIP IN FORESTRY"***

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