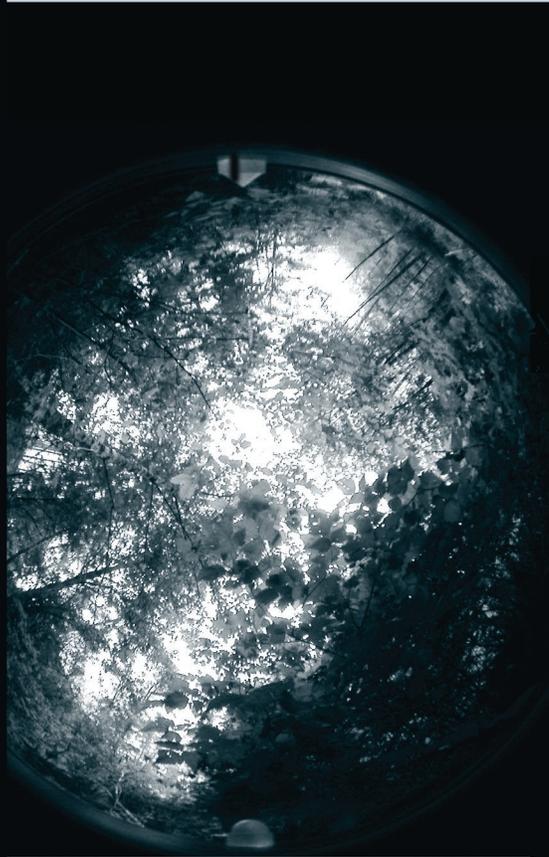


FOREST LOG

NEWSLETTER OF THE OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY • SUMMER 2005

2004 Oregon Department of Forestry Annual Report



From the State Forester

Welcome to our Annual Report issue of the Forest Log. In 2004 the agency was effective in carrying out its mission and continued to try to identify new ways to refine and improve its effectiveness as stewards of Oregon's forests.



State Forester
Marvin Brown

The Board of Forestry adopted a new decision system to help deal effectively with a lengthening list of complex forestry issues.

Using its 2003 Forestry Program for Oregon (FPFO) as a guide, the Board has established seven key priority areas on which it and the department will focus in 2005 and possibly beyond. The FPFO is an important milestone because Oregon is the first state in the nation to adopt an internationally recognized sustainable forest

management framework for use in measuring forest issues at the statewide level.

In October the Board visited both state and private forestland in northwestern Oregon, where the focus was on water quality standards and related activities, including voluntary stream protection measures. The following day, Governor Kulongoski addressed the Board at a meeting in Tillamook, where he emphasized that forest management policy in Oregon should be set by the Board — which is well equipped to integrate science, stakeholder views and other considerations — rather than through legislation or at the ballot box.

Last year the Department continued its efforts to combine its Forest Practices and Forestry Assistance programs, and to work with its stewardship foresters

in creating more efficient and effective ways to provide benefits and services to landowners and customers. ODF also continued to participate in several research projects, including the Hinkle Creek paired watershed study, which compares two watersheds, one where timber harvest takes place and one where harvesting is absent. The study covers about 5,000 acres of Roseburg Forest Products land. Scientists are looking for opportunities for other paired watershed studies to supplement the Hinkle Creek results.

Our Fire Protection program completed a yearlong review with help from Oregon State University's Institute for Natural Resources. The outcome is a set of recommendations we hope will maintain the high level of wildfire protection Oregonians have come to expect. Also last year, two completely portable computer systems were purchased and built by Information Technology staff for fire camp use during fire season. These systems are now ready to set up and use at any location.

Our State Forests Program moved forward with the development of a new forest management plan and new habitat conservation plan for the Elliott State Forest. Under the direction of the State Land Board, policy teams comprised of numerous stakeholders worked together to ensure that planning efforts meet the objectives for the management of Common School Lands.

ODF's watershed analysis program completed two pilot watershed analysis projects, finalized the State Forest's watershed analysis manual and began work on two new projects on the Miami

Continued on page 39

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"STEWARDSHIP IN FORESTRY"

**Summer Issue 2005
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Black-capped chickadee (*Poecile atricapillus*).



photo by Lesley Mattuchio
www.lesleymattuchio.com

On the Cover: Clockwise, from upper left: Forest canopy in western Oregon as seen through a camera lens; hiking into a streamside area to study the effectiveness of Oregon's Forest Practices Act; a salamander rests on a rock near a stream in western Oregon (photo by Cynthia Orlando, ODF); American Dipper Bird (*Cinclus mexicanus*) surveys a creek near ODF's new Tillamook Forest Center (photo by Chris Friend, ODF).

Oregon Board of Forestry



Stephen D. Hobbs,
Ph.D.



Marvin Brown,
Secretary, State Forester



Barbara Craig



Chris Heffernan

Before a Board of Forestry meeting convenes, even a first-time visitor can pick out the board members in the room: they're the men and women lugging in giant notebooks full of reports, regulations and other must-read material. The board faces a lengthening list of complex issues and tasks related to the sustainable management of Oregon's forestland.

To deal effectively with this workload, the board in 2004 instituted a decision system based on structured work plans and yearly issue "scans," or reviews. Board of Forestry Chair Stephen Hobbs views the decision system as a valuable tool to "increase our effectiveness as leaders in crafting public policy, and to ensure that we stay on track in implementing the visions described in the Forestry Program for Oregon."

Other Board Activity

When Governor Kulongoski addressed the Board of Forestry at its Oct. 22 meeting in Tillamook, controversy swirled around a ballot measure that proposed to place half of the lands encompassed by the Tillamook and Clatsop State forests in a no-harvest "reserve" status.

In his speech, the governor underscored his support for the existing system of policy setting and scientific management that has served these public forests well.

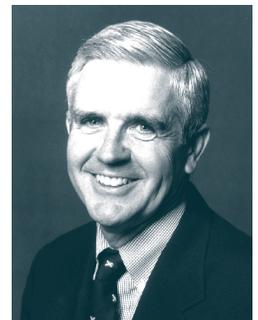
"The more the public learns about — and discusses — healthy forest management, the better," Gov. Kulongoski said. "The question is who is best qualified — and the most prepared — to lead this discussion? My answer is: the Board of Forestry."

On the day prior to the Tillamook meeting, the Environmental Quality Commission and the Board of Forestry conducted a joint tour. A visit to Stimson Timber Co. forestlands in northwestern Oregon focused on water quality standards and related management practices. The members also saw examples of voluntary stream-protection measures that exceeded requirements of the Oregon Forest Practices Act.

At the Oct. 22 meeting, the two panels discussed the commission's processes for establishing state water quality standards and the board's processes for meeting those standards through the Forest Practices Act.



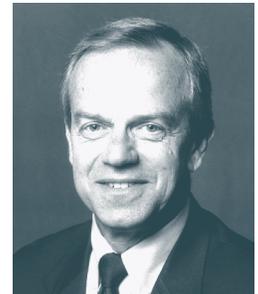
Diane Snyder



Larry Giustina



Jennifer Phillippi



William Hutchison

Private and Community Forests Program

Many honored at Oregon Plan recognition ceremony

On Wednesday, May 18, 2005, Governor Ted Kulongoski, legislative leaders and others gathered to celebrate the achievements of more than 30 citizens, landowners, industry leaders, public servants, and organizations committed to restoring watersheds and recovering salmon. The annual recognition ceremony took place on the steps of the State Capitol in Salem.

Hosts for the “Oregonians Working for Healthy Watersheds” event included Kulongoski’s Chief of Staff Theresa McHugh and Louise Solliday, Willamette Legacy project manager (on behalf of the Governor’s Office), Senate President Peter Courtney, House Speaker Karen Minnis, and the interagency Oregon Plan Outreach Team. Participating state agencies included the Departments of Forestry, Energy, Fish and Wildlife, Agriculture, State Lands, and Water Resources; the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, and the Governor’s Natural Resources Office. Through their voluntary actions and cooperative efforts, the honorees demonstrated strong leadership and commitment to overcoming obstacles and finding solutions that support the goals of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds. Their exemplary efforts show how Oregon’s citizens, private landowners, timber companies, conservation organizations, tribes, and governments can work together to ensure that future generations will inherit a sustainable and profitable Oregon.



Photo by Dan Saedler, ODOT

Those nominated by ODF for recognition included:

The Eastern Oregon Regional Operator of the Year is **Bob Bottorff**, owner of Moonlight Timber, LLC, of Klamath Falls. Bottorff and his crew carefully logged on a cushioning layer of snow in a streamside area of a significant wetland on U.S. Timberlands property.

The Northwest Oregon Regional Operator of the Year is **Ken Fallon**, owner of Fallon Logging Inc. of Tillamook, who put in extra effort to provide for forest health, stream enhancement and road reconstruction on a Board of Forestry lands operation.

The Southwest Oregon Regional Operators of the Year are **Mike and Gary Brownson**, owners of Brownson Logging Inc. of Myrtle Creek. Mike and Gary carefully guided their logging crew

Left to right: Ken Fallon; Bob Bottorff; Board of Forestry Chair Steve Hobbs; Mike and Gary Brownson.

Private and Community Forests Program

Recognition (cont.)

photo by Dan Siedler, ODOT



Left to right: Gary Brownson, Ken Fallon, State Forester Marvin Brown, Bob Bottorff, and Steve Woodard (not pictured: Mike Brownson).

in a difficult downhill cable yarding operation across a streamside area on Roseburg Forest Products land.

In addition, six merit awards were presented to runner-up candidates:

Eastern Oregon:

Mel and Jan Plemmons, Mel Plemmons Contracting, for streamside restoration on the Middle Fork John Day River after a tornado.

SDS Lumber Company, for post-wildfire salvage, restoration and reforestation.

Boise Cascade Corporation, for outstanding bridge design and construction.

Northwest Oregon:

Dan Luoto, Dan D Company, for careful harvesting on steep ground with two fish-bearing streams in the same harvest unit.

Melcher Logging Company Inc., for judicious cut-to-length commercial thinning for forest health and stand improvement.

Southwest Oregon:

Tommy Ireland, Cascade West, for harvesting on high-landslide-hazard slopes above a scenic highway corridor.

Tree Farmer of the Year 2004

Steve Woodard of Cottage Grove was selected to receive this award for planting 6,000 to 7,000 trees per year, hosting educational tours for the public, creating ponds in wetland areas to improve habitat, enhancing fire protection access and recreational opportunities, and keeping wildlife in mind while performing forest management activities.

At additional local events, Oregon Department of Forestry districts gave letters of commendation to forest operators



Left to right: Dick Courter and Bettie and Steve Woodard.

demonstrating responsible application of the best management practices.

2004 Fish and Wildlife Steward of the Year Awards

The Fish and Wildlife Steward Awards recognize the efforts of forest landowners who implement the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds by improving

He that plants trees loves others beside himself."
Thomas Fuller
(1654 – 1734)



Private and Community Forests Program

fish and wildlife resources. Both ODF and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife submit nominations, and a regional selection committee determines the winners.

Non-industrial Forest Landowners Category:

Eastern Oregon – The Cherry family (Jeff, Nancy, Lee and Steven) of Redmond, recognized for undertaking pasture, streamside and forest habitat improvements.

Southwest Oregon – Kim McLaughlin of Sutherlin, for a stream restoration and barrier removal project.

Northwest Oregon – David and Charlotte Bontrager of Dexter, for a wetland and streamside restoration project in the Lost Creek watershed.

Industrial Forest Landowners Category:

Southwest Oregon – Dan Newton and Dick Beeby, Roseburg Forest Products, for streamside restoration work and their role with the Hinkle Creek paired watershed study.

Northwest Oregon – Paul Chapman, Pacific West Timber Company, for road removal and fish habitat improvement work along Lietel Creek.

Bald Eagle Nesting Sites

The first comprehensive review of forest practices rules for bald eagle nesting sites was completed in 2004. The project looked at the relationships between nesting bald eagles and forest management practices activities on non-federal forestlands in Oregon. The rules have been effective at reducing disturbance to nesting bald eagles and protecting nest trees from destruction or abandonment.



Two immature bald eagles look out from their nest.

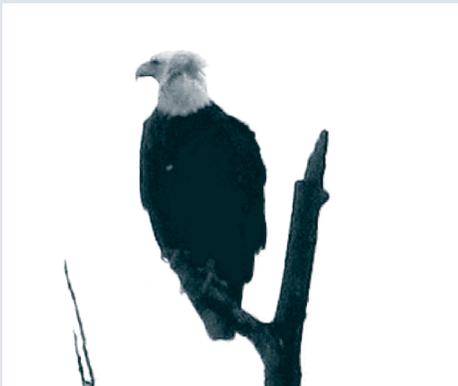


Photo courtesy Laura Erickson

Approximately 450 breeding areas are occupied by bald eagles in Oregon, and 37 percent of bald eagle nest trees occur on state and private lands. Consequently, the administration and implementation of forest practices rules for bald eagle nest trees are important for maintaining bald eagle conservation efforts on non-federal forest lands in Oregon.

Private and Community Forests Program

Forest Health

Forest Insects and Diseases

Fir engraver beetle galleries etched into the sapwood of a dead grand fir.



photo by Dave Overhulser, ODF

ODF and the Forest Service completed their 58th annual cooperative aerial survey of Oregon's forests for insect and disease infestations and damage from bears. ODF also completed special surveys in western Oregon for Swiss needle cast and continued aerial and ground surveys for sudden oak death along Oregon's south coast.

Continuing drought has led to an increase in bark beetle infestations in Oregon's forests, primarily in eastern Oregon. Pests include mountain pine beetle, fir engraver beetle and western pine beetle. In cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service, ODF's Forest Health Protection Program has secured more than \$1 million in cost-share funds for bark beetle mitigation. Funds will help private forest landowners conduct pre-commercial thinning to improve forest growth and vigor and, hence, resilience to bark beetle infestations.

Sudden oak death disease (caused by the pathogen *Phytophthora ramorum*) is being eradicated within the 11-square-mile quarantine area of Curry County. Treated sites show little recovery but the number of new infected trees discovered each year has declined since 2001, when the pathogen was first discovered.

The 2002 Pandora moth outbreak is spreading in the Klamath basin and around LaPine, resulting in reduced growth from repeated defoliation of ponderosa pine.

Permanent study plots in northwest Oregon show increased foliage retention and improved tree volume growth, suggesting a slight reduction in damage from Swiss needle cast.



photo by Dave Overhulser, ODF

White fir trees killed by fir engraver beetle attack in eastern Oregon.

Continuing drought has led to an increase in bark beetle infestations in Oregon's forests, primarily in eastern Oregon.

Private and Community Forests Program Forest Practices Monitoring



*Man masters
nature not by
force but by
understanding.
Jacob
Bronowsky
(1908 – 1974)*

ODF stream crew members Tom Oliver and Jennifer Fleuret record stream data, including gravel, bedrock, boulders and percentages of each.

In 2004 ODF began a monitoring study in the Coast Range to evaluate compliance with the Forest Practices Act and to collect data to fully characterize the types of trees and downed logs being retained. Sixteen randomly selected harvest units were measured by field interns from Oregon State University's College of Agriculture and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The Oregon Forest Practices Act requires leaving at least two standing dead or live green trees and two downed logs per acre on clearcut harvest units 25 acres or larger.

The Long-Term Stream Temperature study continued in 2004. ODF is monitoring stream temperature in several basins in a forested watershed to increase understanding of patterns and trends in relation to the forest management occurring within the basin.

The Department continued its participation in several other research projects, including the Hinkle Creek paired watershed study, which compares two watersheds, one where timber harvest occurs and one where harvesting is absent.

Private and Community Forests Program

Monitoring: Riparian Streams Study Underway

A cooperative analysis by ODF and Oregon State University of pre-harvest water-quality and streamside data in Oregon's Coast Range was completed in 2004. The study will compare pre- and post-harvest conditions to evaluate the effectiveness of the Oregon Forest Practices



Act in protecting water quality and in-stream large woody habitat for fish.

Thus far, data about small fishbearing streams is variable, i.e., some streams seem to be naturally cooler than others. This natural variability

will make analysis of temperatures in smaller streams complex.

“For the first time, we’ve really undertaken more of a research-grade monitoring study looking specifically at the effectiveness of the forest practice rules in the context of water quality and fish habitat,” says ODF’s acting monitoring manager, Jim Cathcart. “We have the whole picture corralled through a rigorous study design... allowing us to support our conclusions via statistical analysis.”

The study will look at both state-owned and private forestlands, focusing on the effectiveness of forest practice rules on private lands and the effectiveness of aquatic conservation strategies on state-owned lands.

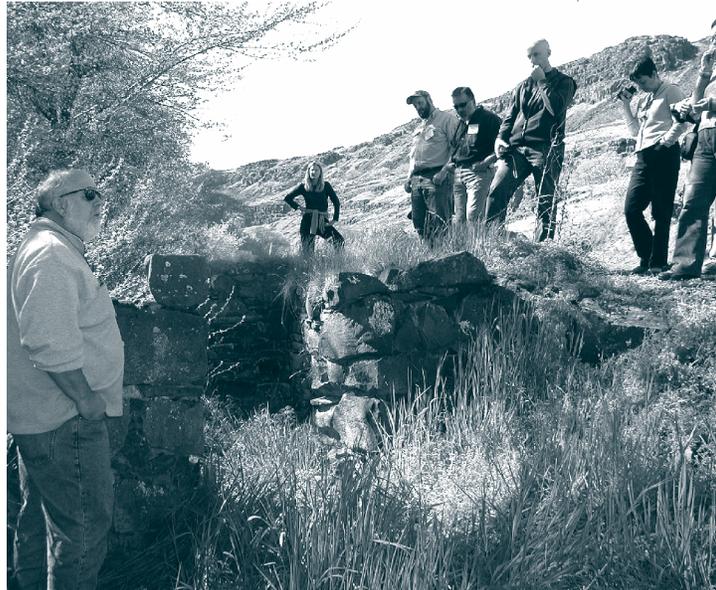
Private and Community Forests Program New Archeology and Cultural Resources Training

To help improve awareness and understanding of the importance of preserving state archaeological and cultural resources, the Oregon Department of Forestry collaborated with the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department to develop a new annual training program for employees from both agencies. Approximately 35 students attended the three-day training, held in The Dalles.

Through on-site field exercises and classroom instruction, ODF foresters and other participants were taught how to identify prehistoric and historic objects and sites, such as old logging camps and homesteads, burial sites, Native American ceremonial grounds and early stone tools.

Policies and procedures relating to resource protection were explained.

Tribal representatives were also on hand to provide Native American per-



A milk cooling shed constructed in the late 1860s by settlers who operated a dairy can still be viewed from roadside SR 14 along the Washington side of the Columbia Gorge.

spectives and offer advice on how to improve communications with Oregon's various tribes.

As a steward of public lands, ODF is directed by state and federal laws to preserve and protect objects and sites that have archaeological and cultural significance. The Board of Forestry has directed the department to assist landowners and operators in complying with protection laws by sharing relevant site information and providing land management advice on how to best protect such resources from damage and destruction.

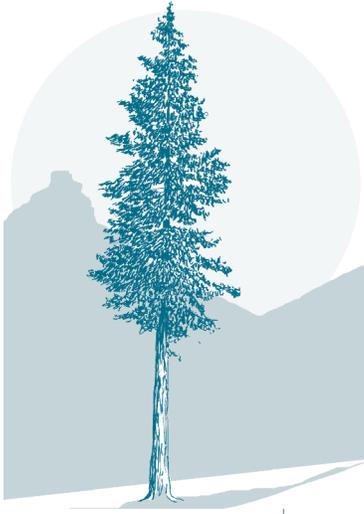
*“Learn from yesterday, live to today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is not to stop questioning.”
Albert Einstein
(1879 – 1955)*



Students from ODF and Oregon Parks and Recreation Department examine remnants of an historic homestead located near the Columbia Gorge.

Private and Community Forests Program

Carbon Storage



As forests grow, they remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store it in wood, branches, leaves, roots, snags, down wood and soil. Thus, they help reduce atmospheric carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas thought to be contributing to rising global temperatures.

Many national and international businesses are looking for ways to offset their carbon dioxide emissions by supporting actions elsewhere that keep carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere. Such interest may lead to markets where companies purchase forestry carbon offsets — transferable certificates or notes representing a

measured amount of carbon dioxide removed from the atmosphere and stored as carbon.

In 2004, ODF participated in two collaborative studies of this idea. It also provided technical assistance to Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski's Advisory Group on Global Warming; ODF staff chaired a technical subcommittee, and based on this committee's work, the advisory group recommended several carbon dioxide mitigation strategies for Oregon, including:

- Reduce wildfire risk by creating a market for woody biomass.
- Consider greenhouse effects in farm and forest land use decisions.
- Establish a program to restore urban trees.

Policy & Program Development

In December 2004, the Board of Forestry held a workshop to develop procedures to refine its decision-making process. They developed a draft "decision system" that summarized continuing and emerging issues the board would like to address.

ODF has continued work on a revised set of water protection rules and voluntary recommendations for the board to consider. These revisions are based on recommendations from the Forest Practices Advisory Committee, the Eastside Riparian Functions Advisory Committee, the Independent Multidisciplinary Science Team (which has scientific oversight of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds), and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

The department held a forest practices and water quality workshop for the board

in September of 2004, and met with the Environmental Quality Commission in October to review forest practices and water quality issues.

In 2004, Oregon voters approved Ballot Measure 37, entitling landowners to seek either compensation or a waiver of the rules if a land use regulation is deemed to reduce fair market value of their property. The implementation of Measure 37 may significantly affect the administration of the Forest Practices Act. Over the next year, as legal and policy determinations are made on Measure 37 and the issue of "regulatory takings" in general, the board and Department will contribute their opinions on how these determinations might fulfill conservation principles expressed in the Forest Practice Act and *Forestry Program for Oregon*.

Private and Community Forests Program

Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds

The Oregon Plan, nearly a decade old, has become so integrated into ODF's culture and day-to-day routine that our progress can seem imperceptible. These day-to-day actions add up. Take a moment to reflect on what the Department and private forest landowners have accomplished:

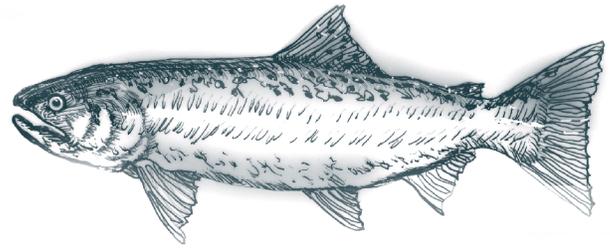
Coho Assessment: A first serious attempt to evaluate Oregon Plan success was completed this year. Oregon officials from a variety of agencies including ODF worked to complete a draft analysis of coho salmon conservation efforts and population viability.

The assessment relies on a definition of recovery for anadromous salmonid populations enacted by Oregon Legislature

in 2003, which is consistent with federal Endangered Species Act requirements.

Participation by private forest landowners constitutes more than 70% of what is reported to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board.

Oregon Plan accomplishments for calendar year 2004 are not yet fully tabulated by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, but the following figures give a good indication of past accomplishments.



Oregon Plan Accomplishments:

Privately Managed Forests

- 654 miles of road surveyed
- 199 miles of road improved
- 5 miles of road vacated
- 28 miles of road closed
- 0.3 miles of road relocated
- 1,088 surface drainage improvements
- 91 stream crossings improved for fish passage
- 24 large wood placement projects
- 6 other instream projects
- 201 voluntary tree retention riparian projects

State Managed Forests

- 10 miles of road surveyed
- 130 miles of road improved
- 10 miles of road vacated
- 247 surface drainage improvements
- 24 stream crossings improved for fish passage
- 6 large wood placement projects
- 1 instream project
- 5 voluntary tree retention riparian projects

Private and Community Forests Program Genetics and Seed Orchard Program

Seed Bank



Photo by Thomas D. Landis, USDA Forest Service

Ponderosa pine
bareroot seedling.

During the past year, the Oregon Department of Forestry made great strides in providing Oregon's family forest landowners with genetically improved tree seed and seedlings. In many parts of the world where plantation forestry is practiced, all landowners — both industrial and non-industrial — plant primarily genetically improved stock. Oregon's industrial and public landowners also use mainly genetically improved seedlings, but family forest landowners

have lacked the means to get genetically improved stock if they wanted it.

The Oregon Department of Forestry uses only traditional selective breeding in its tree improvement and seed orchard activities. The seed has not been "genetically engineered," and trees produced from it are not genetically modified organisms (GMOs).

In 2003, ODF started a Forest Tree Seed Bank with the goal of making genetically improved seed available at a reasonable cost to Oregon's family forest landowners directly and to the forest nurseries serving them. During the

2004/2005 sowing season, the Forest Tree Seed Bank became a major supplier of forest tree seed. Eleven nurseries and two organizations growing stock for family forest landowners purchased 275 pounds of seed valued at \$79,370. Enough genetically improved Douglas-fir seed was sold to produce 3.5 million seedlings and reforest about 7,000 acres of land.

J.E. Schroeder Seed Orchard

Last year was a busy year at ODF's seed orchard. In 2004, for the first time, the orchard conducted an operational trial of controlled mass pollination, in which trees with desirable traits are crossed by hand to produce operational quantities of fully pedigreed seed. The trial was a success, and plans are underway to perform control mass pollination in five additional seed orchard blocks.

Additional upgrading projects were conducted to produce seed with more desirable genetic characteristics, including increased tolerance to Swiss needle cast.

Tree Improvement

ODF continued to play a major role in regional tree improvement, including a new site for studies designed to assess the genetic characteristics of select trees on the Cascade District.

Site preparation also began on a unit in the Coos District so that a similar site can be installed for the South Central Coast Tree Improvement Cooperative.

Urban Forestry Program

ODF's Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) Assistance Program helps Oregonians improve their quality of life by promoting community investment in our urban forests.

In 2004, program staff continued to provide technical, financial, and educational assistance across the state to cities, schools, universities, local and state agencies, non-profit and civic organizations. The program is staffed by 2.5 full-time federally funded professional positions.

Grant Programs

ODF's 2004 Hazard Tree Mitigation Grant Program provided matching grants to local governmental units to help them deal with tree risk assessment and hazard tree management. UCF staff administered these local grants using funds provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Oregon Emergency Management.

ODF's grant program provided funds for a hazard tree assessment in the city of Lebanon, which facilitated the removal of public trees growing under power lines by Pacific Power in Lebanon.

"We had a storm go through causing a lot of damage," said Rod Sell, Lebanon's Maintenance Services Division manager. "ODF allowed us to get a lot done. First we did an assessment and a tree inventory, identified our most dangerous hazard trees and rated them for hazard and removal. Our number one criteria was power lines and trees endangering power lines."

After these steps were done, says Sell, "we were able to plant the right trees, including several kinds of ash, cherry, and maples in the right places, and we don't expect to have any issues with those trees."



Photo by Cynthia Orlando, ODF

"The best thing for an urban forester is to have the right trees. We're very happy with our experience with Oregon Department of Forestry. The expenses associated with that project were used towards the city of Lebanon qualifying for Tree City USA status. This was our third year for a growth award, and our fourth year as Tree City USA."

"We don't have a forester, so it was ODF's expertise that helped us do the job right," says Sell. An additional benefit from the project was the firewood created from the hazard trees, which has been distributed to local families in need of wood for heating. In addition, by using the grant funds the city of Lebanon was able to create a new informational brochure for citizens about tree care.

Portland's Park Blocks

A new study conducted in 2004 by Portland State University (PSU), Portland Parks Bureau, and the Oregon Depart-

ODF's urban forestry program helps Oregonians by promoting community investment in our urban forests.

Urban Forestry Program

ODF's urban forestry program helps cities make an investment in the future of their communities and helps improve the quality of life for all Oregonians.

ment of Forestry (ODF) revealed that the trees in Portland's South Parks Blocks have an appraised value of more than \$3.4 million.

The \$3.4 million figure was developed using the Council of Tree and Landscape Appraisers evaluation method, a nationally recognized formula that considers tree health, size, and location. The effort by the PSU students to evaluate the South Park Blocks trees was recognized with an award from Oregon Community Trees and ODF at the recent state urban forestry conference in Eugene. The PSU students won in the Student Project Award category.

awareness of fire issues in the wildland/urban interface.

The project includes reducing fuels on the museum's 135 acres, developing a 1,700-square-foot exhibit dedicated to the history, ecology and behavior of fire, and an interpretive trail focusing on fire and defensible home landscaping.

Community Assistance

In a consulting role, the UCF program helps citizens all over Oregon. Urban and Community Forestry Assistance staff provides a consulting role to communities throughout the state. In some cases, staff serve as defacto city foresters for Oregon's smaller cities, which may not have the funds or the need for full-time urban foresters. UCF assists these communities by helping make tree evaluations and recommendations on hospital grounds, university campuses, the grounds of Oregon's state capitol, and in city parks.

New Publication

ODF, in partnership with the Pacific Northwest Chapter, International Society of Arboriculture, produced a new guide for homeowners, "How to Recognize and Prevent Tree Hazards." This publication helps people understand how trees can become hazards and what they can do to keep trees healthy.



Photo by Cynthia Orlando, ODF

Trees in Portland's South Park Blocks have an appraised value of more than \$3.4 million.

High Desert Museum

ODF urban forestry staff assisted the High Desert Museum in Bend during 2004 with the development of its education and outreach activities. The High Desert Museum received four grants through the National Fire Plan totaling more than \$650,000 to develop a model education initiative and raise public

Urban Forestry Program

Tree City USA

ODF administers the Tree City USA Program in Oregon in cooperation with the National Arbor Day Foundation. In 2004, 38 Oregon communities met the requirements needed to receive the Tree City USA designation.

Oregon continues to provide an innovative, high quality urban forestry program at little cost. The program helps cities make an investment in the future of their communities and helps improve livability for all Oregonians.

Urban Forestry 2004 Numbers at a Glance:

- Urban Forestry staff provided 671 “technical assists” in 2004

Tree City USA communities reported the following statistics:

- 25,761 trees were planted
- 2,494 hazard trees removed
- 35,268 trees were pruned
- \$9.9 million was invested in caring for the urban forest



TREE CITY USA



Photo by Rod Nichols, ODF



Photo by Rod Nichols, ODF

Future forest: Trees planted in Wilsonville’s Memorial Park will provide the community with a multitude of benefits. City Mayor Charlotte Lehan says an awareness of urban forestry issues “permeates city of Wilsonville staff.”

Protection from Fire Program

Air Tanker Scramble



In 2004, the fire program led an interagency effort to identify and assess the risk of wildfire to Oregon communities.

Staff in the Department of Forestry's Fire Program routinely cope with the unexpected. But the nature and timing of the first "incident" of 2004 understandably caught fire staff off guard. In May, the US Forest Service canceled the federal contract for large air tankers due to a ruling by the National Transportation Safety Board that the agency must certify the air tanker fleet's airworthiness, something they were not able to do on short notice.

With the seven-odd heavy air tankers normally available to the Pacific Northwest suddenly grounded, Fire Program contracting staff scrambled to lease enough fire retardant-dropping planes to meet the state's needs. By the start of the season, they had secured four tankers and seven firefighting helicopters.

During the summer of 2004, the department's quickly assembled "air wing" proved its worth time and again, most notably in curbing the Redwood Highway

Fire, a fast-moving blaze that threatened the town of Cave Junction.

Contract Crew Turnaround

A few years ago, Oregon's private contract fire crew industry faced an image problem: Flagrant contract violations had become commonplace. The Fire Program set out to turn the situation around with the help of its federal partners and the many reputable fire crew contractors. Added staffing enabled closer oversight and stepped-up investigations, and numerous administrative actions against substandard fire crews and contracting firms ensued. For its successes, the Fire Program's Protection Contract Services Unit received recognition by the Oregon Department of Administrative Services as a 2004 "Purchasing Hero" award winner.

Real-time Weather

During the year, the department upgraded several of its remote automated weather stations to meet new standards for fire danger data collection and reporting. The upgraded stations provide satellite telemetry of weather data, key information used by Fire Program meteorologists to calculate fire danger throughout Oregon and support fire analysis work. The weather station upgrades will be completed in 2005.

Smoke Management Plan Review

Funding for the Smoke Management Program shifted to landowners when the 2003 Oregon Legislature removed State General Fund monies, with the intent to

Protection from Fire Program

use burning fees to support the program. Fees for the burning of piled material were increased from \$2 to \$5 per acre beginning in January 2004.

The Smoke Management Review Committee continued its work to evaluate the program's success in meeting air quality standards and forest management goals related to the use of prescribed fire. Revised air quality laws and regulations, changes in fuels and forest management practices, and shifting demographics will be key considerations as the committee prepares its recommendations for delivery to the state forester in 2005.

Gauging Risk, Guarding the Interface

In 2004, the Fire Program led an inter-agency effort to identify and assess the risk of wildfire to Oregon communities. The results will feed into a national initiative to update the list of "communities at risk" from wildfire and help at home in development of a statewide hazard reduction strategy.

Implementation of Oregon's Forestland-Urban Interface Fire Protection Act (Senate Bill 360) moved ahead in 2004. Committees in Jackson and Deschutes counties completed a yearlong process of classifying more than 40,000 land parcels that will be subject to provisions of the Act. In the fall, the department began notifying landowners in Deschutes County of their obligations to reduce vegetative wildfire hazards on their property.

Fire Program Review

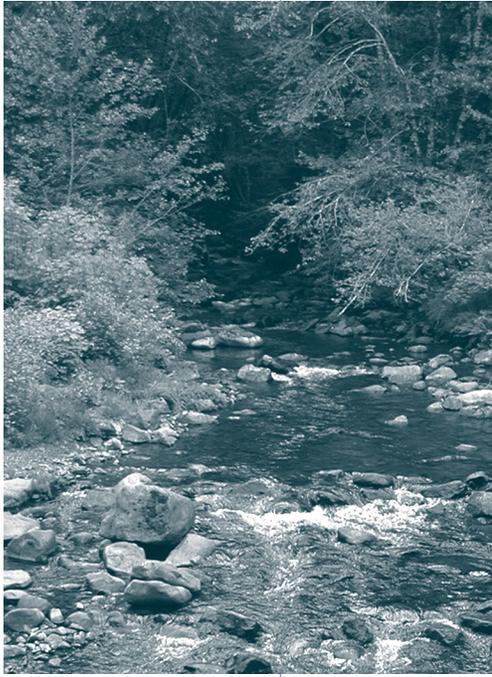
When State Forester Marvin Brown launched a sweeping review of the Fire Program early last year, it was no solo act: He asked for and received considerable help from the department's many partners. Brown tapped Oregon State University's Institute for Natural Resources to help design the process and perform editorial duties.

A steering committee comprising a diversity of interests guided the process. The yearlong review produced a set of recommendations designed to maintain the high level of wildfire protection that Oregonians have come to expect. In 2005, the department and its partners will begin implementing the Fire Program Review recommendations.

ODF was able to secure the use of four tankers and seven helicopters by the start of last year's fire season.



State Forests Program



Social, environmental and economic benefits are all considered in the integrated management of state forestlands. The 780,000 acres of state forestland make up about 3 percent of Oregon's forests.

The Oregon Department of Forestry manages about 780,000 acres of forestlands in five forests — the Clatsop, Elliott, Santiam, Sun Pass and Tillamook state forests.

There are also a number of scattered smaller tracts located primarily in western Oregon's Coast Range. State forestlands represent about three percent of Oregon's forests.

Planning

The Elliott State Forest continued development of both a new forest management plan and a new habitat conservation plan. Policy teams comprised of numerous stakeholders worked together at the direction of the State Land Board to ensure that the policy framework for the planning effort meets the objectives for the management of Common School Lands.

The Western Oregon State Forests Habitat Conservation Plan is undergoing analysis as part of the "Harvest and Habitat" Project. The results of the analysis will be used by the Board of Forestry to determine whether or not to continue development of the plan.

An independent ad hoc advisory group studying the effects of salmon anchor habitat (additional streamside protection measures) reported its findings and recommendations to the Board of Forestry. The Board will use this report, along with other information, in an adaptive

management process to consider changes to the northwest and southwest forest management plans.

Watershed Analysis

The watershed analysis program is an important component of the implementation of the Forest Management Plans. Watershed analysis projects collect the needed information at both watershed and site-specific levels and analyze collected information.

The ODF watershed analysis program completed two pilot watershed analysis projects, finalized the State Forests watershed analysis manual, and has begun work on the next two projects on the Miami and Upper Nehalem watersheds.

Technical Services

The pileated woodpecker is named as an "indicator species" in the Eastern Oregon Area Plan. A research project on pileated woodpecker foraging ecology was designed. Study results will be reviewed by ODF to see if management practices should be adjusted.

Staff provided major contributions to the multi-agency level assessment of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds, and developed road inventory and risk assessment methods for the Miami and Upper Nehalem watersheds.

Research and Monitoring

A pilot project was initiated on Northwest Oregon Area districts to assess implementation of annual operations plans and offer insight on meeting Forest Management Plan objectives.

State Forests Program

The Swiss needle cast/commercial thinning issue was examined as a test of our adaptive management model to determine if changes are necessary in our management of SNC-infected stands.

A second year of baseline measurements was completed on half the study sites in the Riparian Function and Stream Temperature study. Post-harvest measurements have been conducted on eight sites. An assessment was made to determine which wildlife species could be monitored via various habitats being developed through active management.

Stand Level Inventory

Stand level inventory has been conducted on 35 percent of the total stands to date. The fourth year of stand level inventory began in May 2005.

Harvest and Habitat Modeling

The project replaces the previous “comparison” figures used in January of 2001 when the Board of Forestry (BOF) approved the Northwest and Southwest Oregon Forest Management Plans.

Using the approved Northwest and Southwest Oregon Forest Management Plans as a foundation, the H&H Project has created a computer model that explores options as they would appear on the ground to determine optimal timber harvest outputs while also describing the achievement of various forest stand structures and habitat conditions over time. The model will analyze four different “alternatives” to provide a comparison of various forest management strategies: 1) The Current Plan (assumes a Habitat Conservation Plan), 2) The Current Plan with “Take Avoidance” (no HCP), 3) Wood Emphasis, and 4) Reserve-based. The

BOF will use the modeling outputs as part of their science-based, adaptive management process to determine if modeling information should lead to changes.

Harvest

In fiscal year 2004, ODF harvested 241 million board feet of timber valued at \$81,701,000. The harvest generated \$47.7 million for Oregon counties and \$14.2 million for Oregon schools (32.5 million board feet).

Asset Management

Much of the information frequently requested by our customers and the general public is now on the ODF website and includes information on timber sales, log prices, reforestation contracts, and land exchanges.

ODF is updating third party scaling “Memoranda of Agreements” that ensure ODF’s ability to perform checks of scaling services at scaling locations, as well as require compliance with scaling and utilization requirements in the timber sale contracts.

New Forest Center

The Department continues to make progress on the construction of its new Tillamook Forest Center on the Wilson River Highway. Construction is expected to be completed in late Fall or early Winter this year.

Ongoing studies on watersheds and Swiss needle cast disease are examples of research and monitoring that continually seek improvement and clarity in forest management.



Administrative Services Division

During the year, the concept of shared leadership was initiated across the department. The idea is based on the premise that all employees assume responsibility for the success of the agency as a whole, and that we build our organizational systems around the work to be done locally and agency-wide. This perspective results in greater trust and reliance on one another and more effective communications because all empower it to occur between the people who need to talk.

To convey the idea tangibly and to recognize performance during the year, “Shared Leadership” pins were distributed to all Department employees.

Business Services

Fiscal Services

For the third year in a row, fiscal services earned the Gold Star Award. This award is for excellence in financial reporting for the state’s Consolidated Annual Financial Report (CAFR).

The Budget Management Unit continues to improve on information delivery to its internal customers. The Budget Unit recently redesigned its web site to provide current, meaningful information at the click of a button. The most significant addition is the inclusion of the agency’s internal “FORBITS” budget reports as viewable documents. This not only makes

the information more accessible, it also saves staff time and costs.

Quality Assurance Program

At mid-year, the department established the agency’s Quality Assurance Program with the hiring of Pam Stroebel as the new Director of Quality Assurance.

Pam is working to build the program to encompass internal controls, performance management, process improvement, orga-



Pam Stroebel, ODF’s new director of quality assurance.

nization and delivery, risk assessment, ethics, information security, and monitoring policy compliance. She is also working with executive management to establish an independent audit committee, and she serves as the agency’s external audit liaison.

Photo by Cynthia Orlando, ODF

Administrative Services Division

Governor's 2004 Food Drive

ODF employees made substantial contributions to food banks to help feed the needy in 2004. The Department collected the equivalent of 174,545 pounds of food, and 113 employees who met the Governor's Challenge of donating the equivalent of \$60 through payroll deductions or cash were awarded certificates.

State Forester's Challenge:

Five offices and programs met the State Forester's challenge of collecting an average of more than 322 pounds per employee.

Molalla: Jeff Hepler, Coordinator

Wallowa: Matt Howard, Coordinator

Klamath Falls: John Pellissier, Paula Jones, Coordinators

Lakeview: Angie Forbes, Coordinator

Forest Resources Planning: Joe Misek, Coordinator

Special Individual Awards

There are two employees, both from Klamath Falls, who made significant individual efforts this year to raise more than 10,000 pounds of food apiece. John Pellissier garnered 10,630 pounds and Danny Benson was responsible for collecting 10,325 pounds.

Best in Area or Program

Eastern Oregon Area: Klamath Falls, John Pellissier and Paul Jones, Coordinators (2,311 lbs./employee)

Northwest Oregon Area: Molalla Unit, Jeff Hepler and Jesse Batson, Coordinators (2,638 lbs./employee)



Danny Benson and John Pellissier raised more than 10,000 pounds each in food donations for the food drive.



Southern Oregon Area: Grants Pass Unit, Brad Tally, Coordinator (303 lbs./employee)

Salem: Forest Resources Planning, Joe Misek, Coordinator (432 lbs./employee)

Best Overall in the Agency

Molalla Unit: Jeff Hepler and Jesse Batson, Coordinators

On average, the Molalla Unit collected an average of 2,638 pounds of food per employee. This is the second consecutive year that Molalla has received this award. The amount of food that the Molalla office contributes amounts to approximately 60 percent of the food collected by the local food bank during the entire year.

ODF captured first place for its size class for the fifth consecutive year, and has held the first place trophy since 2000.

Congratulations to all of these participants and to the coordinators who helped make it happen.

Administrative Services Division

Work is an extension of personality. It is achievement.

It is one of the ways in which a person defines himself, measures his worth, and his humanity.
Peter Drucker (1909 –)

Information Technology

Forestry Business Improvement Initiative

Launched in late 2004, the Forestry Business Improvement Initiative seeks to review all of the agency's business systems and processes and identify areas of improvement. These improvements will help lower costs and improve customer service, and use technology in ways that free resources for other needed areas.

The Business Improvement Initiative is broken into two phases. The first phase, already underway, has identified potential improvement projects that will provide immediate benefits.

Phase two, which will begin mid-2005, is aimed at a broader, more expansive look at the Department's business systems. This phase of the project will seek to take a strategic look at the work that is done on a day-to-day basis and challenge the organization to ask the question, "is there a better way?"

Fire Camp Computer Systems

Under the leadership of Bill Lafferty, fire protection program director, two completely portable computer systems were purchased and built by the agency's information technology program. Each system has 15 notebook computers, a file server, and a combination printer/fax machine. These systems were built using wireless technologies so they can be set up in any location.

One of these systems was successfully deployed on the Bland Mountain Fire in Douglas County in 2004. Because of the remote location of some fire camps, the computer systems can operate independently or, when available, can

be hooked to the regular ODF computer network and operated just like any other computer.

Human Resources

Effective December 1, 2003, the OR-OSHA Division 7 Rules, which govern forest activities, went through a major revision. In 2004, these rules were implemented agency-wide. Human Resources has been active in the implementation of these rules.

In the area of training and development, 2004 was a busy year. An agency-wide Training and Development Steering Committee was established that developed a charter and action plan. During 2004, a number of department-wide training sessions were held, including Coaching for Employee Success (three sessions); the year-long Agency Leadership Program; Covey Plus (four sessions); Dealing with Difficult People (two sessions); Meyers Briggs (one session); Customer Service for Administrative Staff (one session); Facilitator Training (one session); and Collaborative Communication (one session). A statewide Administrative Workshop was also held.

Resources Planning

In 2004, staff coordinated with the Governor's Office on acquiring working forestlands and providing funds for public education.

At the request of the Governor's Office, program staff developed a white paper analyzing possible ways to maintain "working forests" and use the resulting timber revenue to provide long-term funding for public education, particularly higher education.

A number of threats exist to maintaining our working forests. The most

Administrative Services Division

immediate threats are in central and eastern Oregon.

The consequences of changing a working forest to a “residential” forest or to non-forest uses include:

- Reduced investment in timber management and reductions in timber inventories and outputs;
- Particularly in eastern Oregon, loss of manufacturing infrastructure necessary to support a viable wood products industry;
- Loss of public access;
- Impairment of other forest values such as wildlife winter range and recreation;
- Changing owners that have progressively less interest in long-term timber management;
- Increased wildfire risks and suppression costs.

The white paper concluded that in the long-term state-owned forestlands can be prudent investments. State ownership can produce both a strong financial return, as well as other important social and environmental values.

Strategic Plan Development and Agency Performance Revision

In 2004, the Forest Resources Planning Program coordinated development of the Oregon Department of Forestry Strategic Plan 2004 to 2011. The plan describes the high-priority actions the agency will undertake from 2004 through 2011. These actions will enable the department to meet its statutory mandates and assist the Oregon Board of Forestry in achieving the strategies, actions, and vision in the 2003 Forestry Program for Oregon.

This is the first strategic plan to be a companion document to the Board of Forestry’s strategic plan and to look at the same eight-year time frame. The agency strategic plan may be viewed at <http://oregon.gov/ODF/index.shtml>



Publications

Forestry, grazing, and agriculture have traditionally been important parts of eastern Oregon’s economy. It is therefore important to monitor and maintain the land base that supports those industries. “Forests, Farms, and People: Land Use Change on Non-Federal Land in Eastern Oregon 1975-2001” was published in 2004. This report is a companion to a 2000 report for western Oregon on land use changes.

These two reports are providing a timely and valuable reference to stakeholders, legislators and others contemplating the future of land use planning in Oregon. The study was a joint effort by the Department of Forestry and the Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station.

Both the FPF and “Forests, Farms, and People” reports may be accessed on the Department of Forestry web site at http://oregon.gov/ODF/STATE_FORESTS/FRP/Charts.shtml

In cooperation with the Oregon Forest Resources Institute and the Oregon Forest Industries Council, the Forest Resources Planning Program authored “Protecting Oregon Forestlands: A Graphical View.” The publication gives a broad picture of forestland protection in

In areas with a high timber production capacity and land values consistent with that capacity, state ownership can produce both a strong financial return, and other important social and environmental values.

Administrative Services Division

The speed of communications is wondrous to behold.
Edward R. Murrow
(1908 – 1965)

Oregon by providing a graphical view of the whole range of protective mechanisms in place on the state's forestlands.

The report identifies three strategic approaches by which all Oregon's forestland is managed: reserve, multi-resource and wood production forests. A series of maps shows layers of protection in each category by laws regulations, and reserves. The maps also show layers of protection imposed indirectly, by management plan restrictions, wildlife-management and special-area designations, and other administrative or voluntary measures, and by watershed enhancement projects.

The publication shows that protection of forests means more than simply reserving them from logging. The evidence suggests that a too-narrow emphasis on using reserves as the single strategy to provide environmental values may move Oregon's forests away from sustainability in some important ways. Copies of the report are available from the Oregon Forest Resources Institute.

Agency Affairs

Agency Affairs assists the Board of Forestry and the department by helping create an atmosphere of public support for responsible forest stewardship of Oregon's 30 million acres of forested lands. The Agency Affairs program seeks to inform the public so that people understand what ODF does and why, and, involve the public so that the agency best understands how to earn their consent.

Primary accomplishments for agency affairs in 2004 included facilitating public events, providing support to the Committee for Family Forestlands (a group established by the Board of Forestry), providing web and publications support to the agency, involving the

public in dialogues about state forest management, and, insuring information flow to media during fire season. 2004 highlights include:

New Agency Affairs Director



New Agency Affairs Director Dan Postrel.

Dan Postrel joined ODF as director of the Agency Affairs Program in September.

In addition to supervising the public affairs staff, Dan also serves as the department's legislative coordinator.

Dan came to ODF from the state Department of Human Services (DHS), which provides a wide range of social-services programs, including mental health and addiction treatment, child protection, welfare, and public health. Dan was with DHS for about six years, working first as a communication officer, and then as administrator of the agency's Office of Public Affairs.

Before joining DHS, he worked for 20 years for the Statesman Journal in Salem, where he was a reporter, editor and columnist. He spent much of his reporting career covering forestry and other natural resources issues.

"It's good to be back working in the natural resources area," he said. "ODF and the Board of Forestry have a great story to tell about the sustainability of forests, and about the many benefits of forests. I'm looking forward to helping us connect with Oregonians and build understanding about this rich resource."

Administrative Services Division

Fire Protection and Prevention

Agency Affairs assisted ODF districts and fire teams in disseminating information on fires to news media, other fire agencies, elected officials and ODF personnel; raised public awareness about the use of severity funds to minimize resource damage and prevent fires from growing larger; and promoted fire prevention through communication pieces including news releases about hunter fire safety and fire prevention tips for owners of homes in wooded areas.

Assisting Forestland Owners

The program supported the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds with informational materials, web copy, exhibits, and recognition events that honor landowners' achievements in stewardship; developed brochures and other information for landowners, including a "Tips When Harvesting" publication, and a newsletter highlighting the role and findings of scientific monitoring and forest practices rules; and, provided support to the Committee for Family Forestlands including development of a web site with information about committee meetings and members.

State Forests Support

Agency Affairs coordinated development, implementation and updating of a communication plan for the state forests

program; provided public affairs advice, counsel and support on high-profile issues including the Tillamook Forest Center, marbled murrelet management, Measure 34, harvest levels and timber sales; assisted with revisions to the Elliott State Forest's management plan and habitat conservation plan, and coordinated media events to assist in public understanding of forest management issues.

In 2004 agency affairs staff also:

- Assisted with production of the 2004 *Forestry Program for Oregon*, the guiding strategic document for the Board of Forestry and the department;
- Supported the department's urban forestry program through radio stories, media relations and publications;
- Provided support to the Board of Forestry, including publicizing meetings, assisting journalists with coverage, and preparing materials for the board;
- Coordinated legislative bill tracking and analysis;
- Coordinated major changes to the department web site;
- Produced the "Forest Log," the department's quarterly newsletter for people interested in the work of the Department and the board.

Northwest Oregon Area



Photo by Cynthia Orlando, ODF

Northwest Oregon
Area Director
Mike Bordelon

Area Director:
Mike Bordelon

Headquarters:
Forest Grove

Acres of Protected Lands: 3.3 million

Districts: Astoria, North Cascade District, Forest Grove, Tillamook, Tillamook Forest Center, West Or-

egon, South Fork Inmate Camp, J.E. Schroeder Seed Orchard.

Unique Features: Approximately three-quarters of the state's 790,000 acres of state forests are in Northwest Oregon Area.

Recreation is an important consideration in the Northwest Oregon Area. With state-managed forests close to metropolitan areas, it's no surprise that people from urban areas are interested in nearby recreation opportunities.

Tillamook State Forest

Tillamook State Forest, less than an hour's drive from Portland, probably comes to mind first for most people. It has camping, motorized and non-motorized trails, picnic sites, and scenic viewpoints. It's also had a recreation plan in place for more than 10 years that — along with ongoing public input — has guided the development of recreation opportunities.

Two other states forests are now joining Tillamook as a recreation destination. Clatsop State Forest to the north of the

Tillamook and Santiam State Forest east of Salem have begun to implement their own recreation plans.

The Oregon Department of Forestry manages these state forests to achieve a range of social, environmental and economic benefits. Harvesting is designed to be compatible with other uses. It's used to improve forest health, develop diverse wildlife habitat and preserve water quality.

Harvesting also contributes revenue to local schools and counties, and it helps fund the development of recreation opportunities.

Clatsop State Forest

Recreation on the Clatsop State Forest is a diverse program with many opportunities for overnight camping, hiking, and a future motorized recreation area. The program has been adding staff to carry out its recreation plan since 2002. Full-time staff members dedicated to implementing the program have made significant strides.

Renovation of the Henry Rierson Spruce Run campground is expected to be completed by late spring 2005. At another site, Gnat Creek, renovation was completed in 2002 and is now a primitive walk-in campground.

During the past three years, about 13 miles of non-motorized trails have been constructed, including development of the Bloom Lake trail, the Soapstone Lake trail, and an equestrian loop trail near Northrup Creek. More than 36 miles of motorized trails have been inventoried. The district has completed a variety of larger projects, including design of the Northrup Creek Horse Camp near Jewell, conceptual designs for Lost



Northwest Oregon Area

Lake, and significant planning for a trail network suitable for off-road enthusiasts.

Santiam State Forest

Hikers can soon look forward to expanded trails in the North Cascade District, which manages the Santiam State Forest. An agreement with Silver Falls State Park and the Bureau of Land Management will connect the Shellburg Falls Recreation Area's three miles of trail through BLM ownership and into the Silver Falls State Park trail system. Parking, tent sites, restrooms and hand-pumped water are now available at Shellburg Falls.

An adopt-a-trail program was formed for free-ride mountain bike opportunities near Shellburg Falls. The North Cascade District helped local mountain bike enthusiasts form their own club.

Fourteen volunteers from the club have donated more than 100 hours on projects this winter.

Construction on the Santiam Horse Camp near Gates is expected to be completed in the summer of 2005. Volunteers from Oregon Equestrian Trails and local horseback riders helped the district locate, design and construct five miles of new trail. Forty equestrian riders have donated hundreds of hours and equipment to this project.

Four campsites close to Rock Creek near Mill City were designed and constructed. Squatters and vandals once misused these sites. The rehabilitation of this area is aimed at attracting responsible users.

The Trailhead at Natural Rock Arch Trail was expanded and improved, giving visitors greater parking and a day-use area for picnicking near the trail.



In October, Governor Ted Kulongoski along with Mike Carrier, Natural Resources Policy Advisor, addressed the Board of Forestry. Kulongoski emphasized incorporating the latest sound science in the Northwest Oregon State Forests Management Plan.



Eastern Oregon Area



Photo by Cynthia Orlando, ODF

Eastern Oregon Area
Director Cliff Liedtke

Area Director: Cliff Liedtke

Headquarters: Prineville

Acres of Protected Lands:
5.5 million

Districts: Central Oregon,
Klamath Lake, Northeast
Oregon, Walker Range

Unique Features: The largest of the three areas, the Eastern Oregon Area covers two-thirds of the state. Lightning-caused fires account for 50 percent of all wildfires.

address road and stream enhancement. In addition, Joe serves on one of the Department's statewide fire teams as a division supervisor and heads the statewide task force on employee fitness standards.

Denis Perilli in Pendleton serves Umatilla County. Dennis provides leadership in forest stand treatments to reduce fire hazard and increase pest resistance. Dennis also works with local partners to improve road and stream conditions in Umatilla County and blends this with his Forest Practices work. He also serves as a fire behavior analyst.

Mike Shaw in Wallowa serves Wallowa County. Mike blends the use of cost-share incentives to improve long-term forest sustainability with his work in Forest Practices.

Rick Wagner in La Grande serves Union County. Rick administers the Forest Practices rules, serves as the ODF liaison with the Blue Mountain Demonstration Area, and serves on a statewide Biomass Utilization task force.

Diane Partridge in La Grande serves Union and Baker Counties. Diane specializes in forestry assistance for the district, including applying for and tracking grants such as the bark beetle mitigation grant. Diane also works closely with the U.S. Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) to secure environmental quality improvement program funds for forest improvement work, and serves on the Snake River Basin team and local working groups. She works with local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) and the Grande Ronde Model Watershed on Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board grants, and writes planting plans for the Conservation

Northeast Oregon District

The Private and Community Forest Program is administered in Northeast Oregon District by five stewardship foresters, with one each in Baker City, Pendleton, and Wallowa, and two in La Grande. Each of these stewardship foresters delivers forest practices and forestry assistance advice and counsel to provide a more seamless, efficient, and effective service.

Meet these Stewardship Foresters:

Joe Hessel in Baker City serves Baker County, blending the administration of the Forest Practices rules with technical advice and cost-share incentive delivery. He works closely with partner organizations such as the Powder River Watershed Council and Baker County Soil and Water Conservation Districts to develop and implement projects to



Eastern Oregon Area

Reserve Enhancement Program. Diane also serves as a division supervisor on fires.

The 2002 Monument Fire burned more than 640 acres of private lands at a very high intensity, creating significant negative impacts on the watershed. In 2004, Diane worked with the landowners, NRCS, SWCD, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to develop and implement a reforestation and rehabilitation plan for this land. Significant coordination was needed to ensure all resource needs were met and the project was successful.

All the district's stewardship foresters continue to improve the blending of forest practices rule administration with cost-share incentive program delivery, and to explore methods to increase biomass utilization as well as increase efficiencies. Strong partnerships deserve the credit for the success of this work, including forest consultants, operators, landowners, and other government agencies. In 2004, more than 3,090 acres were non-commercially thinned with fuel treatment. Many of these acres were done in a comprehensive treatment with some commercial harvest leaving the forest stand in a vigorous, pest and fire resistant, sustainable condition. At least 2,359 acres of wildlife habitat were enhanced.

Insect and disease activity continued in the district, and as a result stewardship foresters responded to requests for advice on 6,171 acres. This advice was blended with forest practices administration, cost-share projects, marketing advice, and other field duties.

Walker Range

In conjunction with the national fire plan and grant monies, staff at ODF's Walker Range district worked with land-

owners in northern Klamath County on education and defensible space concerns and solutions. Homeowners concerns for birds, wildlife, soil and water protection, as well as homeowner concerns for shade, dust and visual barriers have been primary to staff projects, as well.

Northern Klamath County has a high percentage of low income, disabled senior citizens who understand the fire dangers that exist in this area but do not have the resources to make their environment safer. Employees at Walker Range developed a program to help meet this need, providing free hazardous fuel reduction work in the form of tree thinning, tree pruning, brush removal and chipping.

In 2004 the Walker Range District developed a fire resistant garden around their offices featuring fire resistant landscaping and defensible space.



Fire Resistant Garden

In 2004 Walker Range was awarded grant monies to design and develop a fire resistant garden around their offices. The project provides wildfire information and education for homeowners, businesses, community leaders, and educators using fire resistant landscaping featuring



Eastern Oregon Area

defensible space practices. The garden, an outdoor classroom that is open to the public, includes components commonly found in Oregon homes such as fences, raised beds, seating areas and walkways.

Another view of Walker Range's fire resistant garden.



On properties which have no structures but are classified 'high-density extreme,' fuelbreaks are required along property lines and roadsides.

There were many people involved in the start-up of the program and all had to work hard to provide the needed products that made the program run smoothly. At the statewide level, Rick Gibson, ODF's fire policy and prevention manager, provided excellent guidance with the history and legislative intent of the act. Jim Wolf and Brian Ballou provided additional technical expertise.

The district's fire protection act coordinator, Tom Andrade, was instrumental in pulling ODF personnel and cooperators together in implementing this far-reaching and important program. Prineville Unit Forester George Ponte and his staff furnished the horsepower to accomplish needed tasks and provide information to the public. The unit's Stewardship Forester, Stu Otto, along with Eldon Ward, the unit's national fire plan coordinator, and Christy Donham, the unit's fire prevention specialist, all kept the implementation plan working.

Unfortunately, central Oregon has been plagued with large wildland/interface fires the past several years. However, these recent memories in landowners' minds have also contributed to the success of the implementation of the act.

District personnel enjoyed implementing the Fire Protection Act, not only because it is a challenging project, but also because it enabled staff to meet and work with many exciting people that live in central Oregon. In short, living in central Oregon doesn't mean having to be afraid of wildfires; it just means being prepared for them!

The Central Oregon District

Staff of the Central Oregon District implemented the Oregon Forestland-Urban Interface Fire Protection Act (SB360) in Deschutes County this past year. The Deschutes County Forestland-Urban Interface Classification Committee determined the areas that met the criteria for forestland-urban interface, and assigned fire risk classifications to those areas. The classifications assigned in Deschutes County were high, extreme, and high-density extreme. In order for landowners to self-certify, they have to establish fuel breaks around structures and along driveways.



Eastern Oregon Area

Klamath Lake District

A pileated woodpecker research project was started in Sun Pass State Forest in 2003 as prescribed in the Long Range Plan. The research was conducted in partnership with the Pacific Northwest Research Station. Dr. Keith Aubry and Catherine Raley are the principal investigators.

Marcia Humes and Jeff Brandt with State Forests Staff, and Ed DeBlander guided the project on the district. Forest Entomologist Dave Overhulser and Forest Pathologist Alan Kanaskie also provided input and assistance. In addition, Klamath-Lake District state lands forester Jason Pettigrew spent several weeks on the project assisting with sampling of snags and down logs.



Dr. Keith Aubry, principal investigator, left, and Dave Overhulser, ODF, right, inspect a log to identify the types of insects found in the diet of the pileated woodpecker.



The field portion of the project was completed in 2004. This study will provide the district with quantitative data that can be used to refine existing guidelines for maintaining or improving pileated woodpecker habitat. Providing habitat maintains viable populations of this species in managed landscapes resulting in a variety of additional ecological benefits, including habitat for other cavity-using species.

Photo courtesy Laura Erickson



Southern Oregon Area



Southern Oregon
Area Director
Dan Shults

Area Director:
Dan Shults

Headquarters:
Roseburg

**Acres of Protected
Lands:** 5.8 million

Districts: Coos, Coos
Forest Protective
Association, Douglas
Forest Protective Asso-
ciation, South Cascade
District, Southwest
Oregon, Western
Lane, D.L. Phipps
Nursery

Unique Features: Two of the state's
three forest protective associations
are located in the Southern
Oregon Area.

Automatic Vehicle Locators (AVLs) Provide Communication Advantages

Does it seem like someone is looking over your shoulder? Well, in a sense, that's what's happening when automatic vehicle locators (AVLs) are used, according to Dan Thorpe, District Forester, Southwest Oregon District. "AVL's allow a small global positioning system (GPS) receiver to send a signal through a radio system and computer software, which then displays a specific location on a map," says Thorpe.

Ideally, the system would allow dispatchers, fire managers, and incident commanders to know the exact location of all their resources.

"The obvious value is providing safety for fire crews," Thorpe said, "but there are also a variety of other benefits." Thorpe said a critical advantage might be determining the location of the fireline during initial fire attack. Crews that are using the technology could be deployed around the flanks of the fire to provide a reasonably accurate map of the fire and spread, even when the crews themselves do not know exactly where they are.

Southwest Oregon District has installed two of these simple devices on bulldozers. The system tracks where they are, as well as where they have been.

"It's easy to see when we have "hooked" a fire and are well on our way to having it lined — the dozer line on the map (shown on a computer screen) begins circling back towards the fire's origin," said Thorpe. "With the plot on the map, this makes determining burned acreage simple."

The system, which was developed by Tyson Schultz and others on ODF's Southwest District, includes a GPS satellite receiver, a normal district radio used by the crew, and an AVL control unit (ACU) that transmits data to a mountain-top repeater network in bursts. The data signals are then re-transmitted through radio modems to the rest of the District.

As this work continues, the next crucial step will be for incident commanders at the scene of a fire to be able to use the data from the system. It would increase efficiencies and improve their ability to keep resources safe. It isn't unrealistic to think that someday the system could even incorporate text messaging capabilities and allow access to weather forecasts.



Southern Oregon Area

Last year, the District used the system a couple of times on a limited basis to work out the bugs, and early trials are testing and validating the concept. Three districts are working together to acquire grant funding to purchase additional hardware and further develop the system.

Severity Aircraft Play Pivotal Role in Cave Junction Fire

When a report of a house fire near Cave Junction came in to Oregon Department of Forestry's Grants Pass office in the afternoon of Aug. 4, fire managers knew they had a dangerous situation on their hands.

"We immediately sent five wildland fire engines, a dozer and a hand crew to the address one mile south of town," Unit Forester Rick Dryer said. "The first engine arrived at 2:27 p.m. to find two-plus acres of wildland fire rapidly moving north toward the city."

Driven by winds reaching 30 mph, the blaze had become too dangerous for ground forces to confront head on. Dryer quickly called in air support: two bucket-toting helicopters and a pair of tanker airplanes. This intense aerial attack eventually slowed the fire's spread enough for crews and fire engines to begin building containment lines.

Wildland firefighters are a pragmatic lot and not given to speculation. But the Redwood Highway Fire's volatile behavior drew clear inferences of what might have been. In its sprint toward Cave Junction, the fire jumped several roads and even leapfrogged the Illinois River, propelled by the gusting winds through parched brush, grass and timber.

At the peak of fire activity, structural fire engines marshaled from throughout the Rogue Valley took positions in the city to protect homes, while the Department of Forestry helicopters and air tankers bombarded the head of the fire with water and liquid retardant. By mid-afternoon, the blaze had grown to 150 acres and was threatening the U.S. Forest Service's Illinois Valley Ranger District office on the west side of town. All employees were ordered to leave the compound. Some 180 homes in the city were evacuated, as well, in anticipation of the flames sweeping into residential areas.

As is common with active wildfires, this one launched its own "air attack." Just before 5 p.m., embers flung a mile ahead of the main body of the fire igniting a two-acre blaze. This development posed increased risk to human life, as well as to natural resources and property.

"We would have had the whole city of Cave Junction trapped with fire on both ends of it, north and south," Dryer said, "which also happens to be the only access in or out of town." The two heavy helicopters rushed to the spot fire and began dumping water on it. They were able to hold it until ground forces arrived.

"We were able to throw a lot of severity resources at it early on," he said. "The helicopters and the tankers hitting the head of the fire slowed it enough for ground forces to do direct attack and work toward containment."

Although burning through several Cave Junction neighborhoods in the end, firefighters stopped the Redwood Highway Fire at 200 acres, with minimal damage to structures. The fire destroyed



Southern Oregon Area

“We would have had the whole city of Cave Junction trapped with fire on both ends of it, north and south,” Dryer said, “which also happens to be the only access in or out of town.”

one home, a vehicle and several outbuildings. Post-incident analysis points to many reasons for the operation’s success. Nature contributed as wind subsided in the late afternoon, slowing the fire’s advance. But it is clear to Dryer that the air attack played a pivotal role in preventing significant property damage and possibly loss of life.

Severity Resources

Oregon Department of Forestry’s “severity resources” consisted of four large air tankers, an aerial supervision module and seven helicopters under contract via funds allocated by the Legislative Emergency Board last year.

Prior to the 2003 fire season, the emergency board set aside a special-purpose appropriation from the State General Fund of more than \$3 million. The department was given authority to tap this “severity fund” whenever extreme fire conditions prompted the mustering of additional aircraft, fire engines and ground crews. The Redwood Highway Fire experience epitomized the pre-emp-

tive intent of the fund: to hit fires hard early on when they are relatively small and thus avoid the high cost and damage wrought by large “project” fires.

The severity helicopters and air tankers are positioned throughout the state to respond to wildfires. These leased aircraft are in addition to other helicopters and fixed-wing planes contracted by the Department of Forestry through its regular district fire budgets.

Three of the air tankers were DC-7s from Butler Aircraft in Redmond and one was from Conair of Canada contracted through the State of Alaska. The ASM/Lead plane, a PC-7, was also from the State of Alaska.

Two severity air tankers based in Medford and the two Type I helicopters (1 from Grants Pass and 1 from Medford) contributed significantly to the control of the fire. The District ran some fire behavior calculations after the fire and speculated that the fire could have destroyed resources exceeding 10,000 acres.



Summary of Legislation

As of early July, the Legislature had passed bills addressing wildfire suppression insurance for this season, production of seedlings for family forestland owners, and other forest-related topics. However, key issues, including the Department's budget for 2005-2007, remained unresolved as this edition of the Forest Log went to press.

Bills that had passed included:

HB 5160, which authorized purchase of a \$25 million policy, with a \$25 million deductible, for this fire season. A related bill, **HB 2327**, which makes a variety of changes in fire financing, and which would authorize landowners to reimburse the state for half of the \$1.35 million premium, passed the House on June 30 and headed to the Senate.

SB 177, which relieves forest protective association firefighters of liability for injury to people or property when they are working under the direction and control of the State Forester. The bill did not change the substance of existing law, but remedied what some experts believed was a technical flaw in the current law's language.

SB 786, which gives the Board of Forestry various options, including establishing a cooperative of nursery growers, and continuing to maintain the Phipps nursery, to provide a broad selection of reasonably priced seedlings for forestland owners.

HB 2729, introduced by Rep. Chuck Burley, R-Bend, which allows local governments to create non-profit Community Forest Authorities. These entities could issue revenue bonds or

other obligations to buy forestland, repaying the debt with revenue generated by the timberland. Specific decisions about management of the land would be made locally.

The Department supported this bill, which could provide a useful means of addressing loss of commercial forestland to development or other uses.

In other developments as of early July, the House and Senate continued to operate with separate budget committees, having discontinued the typical joint Ways and Means process due to ongoing budget disagreements. **HB 5160**, the House version of the department's budget, passed that chamber on July 1. A Senate version of the budget, which differed from the House version, was still pending.

The Department was also working with Sen. David Nelson, R-Pendleton, on **SB 1072**. This legislation would support greater state involvement in management decisions on federal forestland, and would encourage commercial use of biomass as a means of reducing fire danger and enhancing forest health.

The bill passed the Senate Rules Committee on June 29 and headed to the full Senate.

A fuller report on the 2005 legislative session will be included in the next issue of the Forest Log.



Oregon's state bird, the Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*).

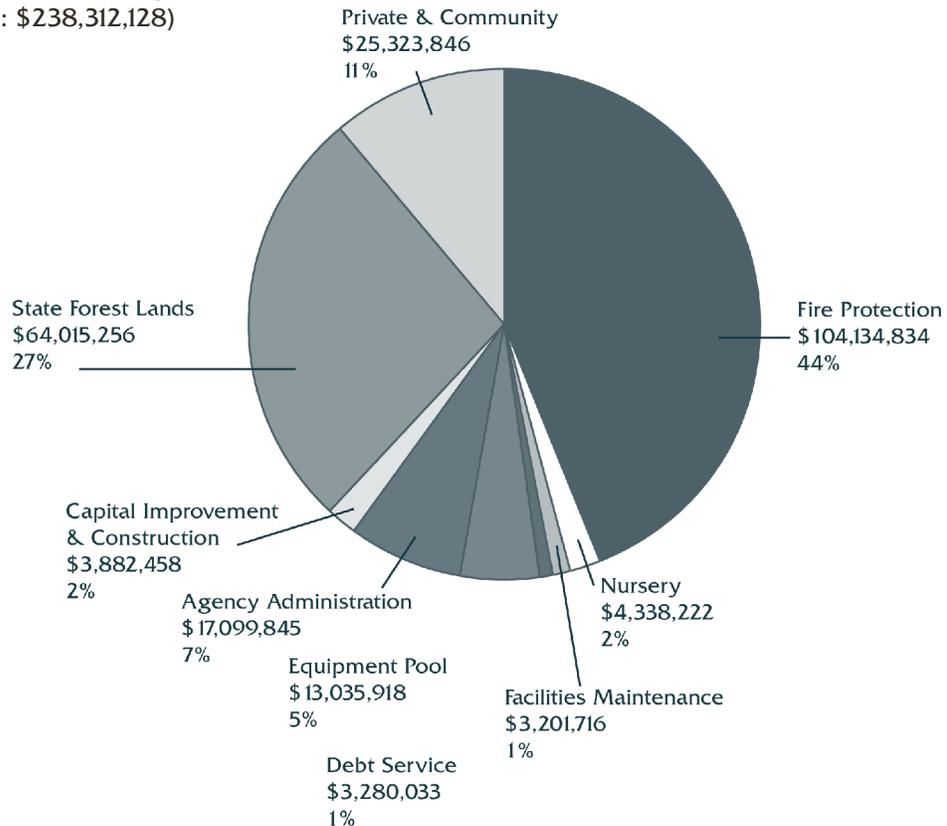
Revenue and Expenditures

The 2005-2007 Governor's Recommended Budget includes 7 policy packages that are in addition to the agency's base budget. They are:

Policy Package:	Dollars:	Positions:	FTE:
National Fire Plan	\$ 3,511,219	22	30.88
Federal Watershed Grants	\$ 510,117	1	1.00
Smoke Management Fee	\$ 306,956	3	2.24
Reforestation Tax Credit	\$ 394,069	2	2.34
Forest Management Plan Implementation	\$ 2,687,226	23	24.34
Tillamook Forest Center Operations	\$ 1,386,412	9	6.42
Cooperative Forestry Assistance	\$ 320,000	0	0

Oregon Department of Forestry 2005-2007 Governor's Recommended Budget

Major Revenue Expenditures
(Total: \$238,312,128)

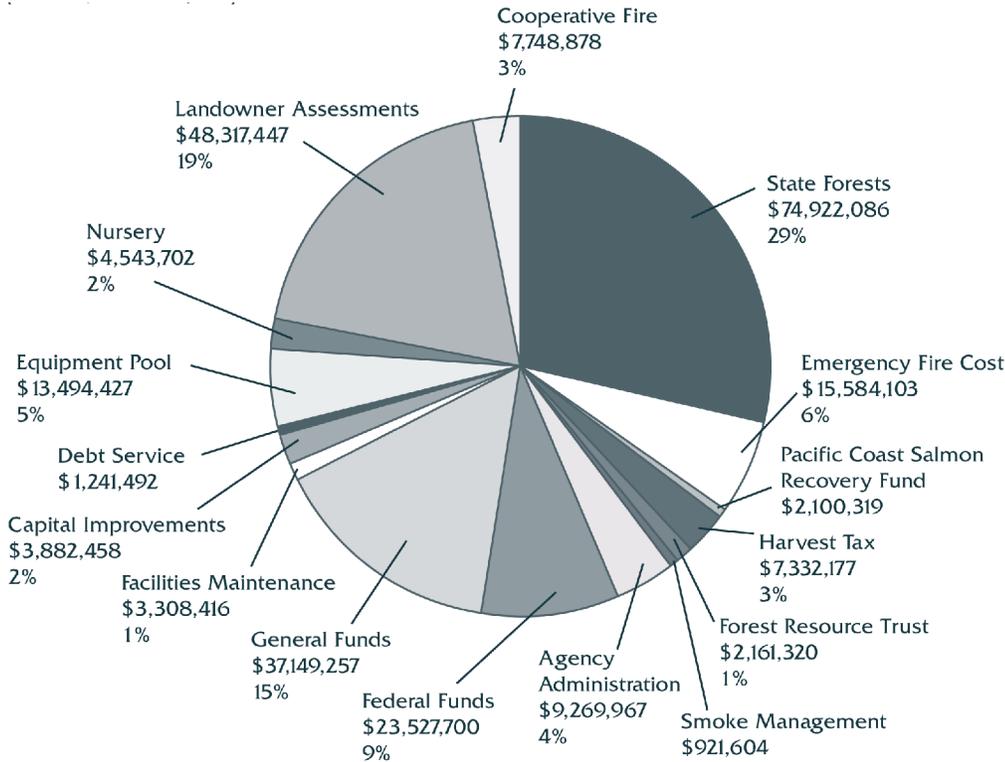


Revenue and Expenditures

Oregon Department of Forestry 2005-2007 Governor's Recommended Budget

Major Program and Revenues

(Total: \$255,505,353)



From the State Forester *(continued from page 2)*

and Upper Nehalem watersheds. The Western Oregon State Forests Habitat Conservation Plan is undergoing analysis as part of the "Harvest and Habitat" project; results will help the Board decide how to proceed with state forest management.

Amidst all the activities of various programs and projects, agency employees should feel proud that, during the Governor's 2004 Food drive, they again made some substantial contributions to the state's food banks. The agency captured

first place for its size class for the fifth year in a row.

There were many more accomplishments than I can summarize here. You will learn much more as you leaf through this report.

We hope you enjoy reading about 2004's highlights, and as always, let us know when you see ways that we can serve you better.

Forestry Calendar of Public Meetings

July 13	9:00 – 3:00	Committee for Family Forestlands	ODF Sunpass Conference Room, Salem
July 15	9:00 – 3:00	State Forest Advisory Committee	Forest Grove
August 1	10:00 – 12:00	HB 3264 Rulemaking Hearing	Central Point
August 3	10:00 – 12:00	HB 3264 Rulemaking Hearing	Bend
August 5	10:00 – 12:00	HB 3264 Rulemaking Hearing	Eugene
August 10	8:30 – 4:00	Board adhoc Sustainable Forestry Indicator Advisory Committee	Tillamook Room, Salem
August 11	10:00 – 12:00	HB 3264 Rulemaking Hearing	La Grande
August 12	9:30 – 3:00	Forest Trust Land Advisory Committee	Salem
Sept 16	9:00 – 3:00	State Forest Advisory Committee	Forest Grove
Oct 7	9:30 – 3:00	Forest Trust Land Advisory Committee	Salem



"STEWARDSHIP IN FORESTRY"

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