

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY

# 2005 ANNUAL REPORT

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## From the State Forester



**State Forester  
Marvin Brown**

Dear Readers,

Welcome to our 2005 Annual Report, summarizing accomplishments of the Board and Department of Forestry in the management of Oregon's rich forest resources.

This year we are summarizing our activities and achievements in a more concise format that we hope you will find useful.

During 2005, the Board began to realize the benefits of a new decision system adopted late in 2004 to help set priorities among many, complex issues. The Board made progress during the year on its seven priority areas, which you'll find listed on page 3 of this report. The Board also conducted an "issue scan," inviting the public's suggestions on priorities. The input largely indicated that the Board was already working on the issues of highest priority, but also suggested some areas for future work, including the management of invasive species.

The year also brought passage of key state legislation directing us to explore and promote the use of forest biomass, and to work more closely with the federal government in shaping the future of federal lands, which account for more than half of Oregon's forest land base.

On the following pages, you will read about our achievements in many areas, including protecting some 15.8 million acres of forestland from fire, re-evaluating and refining our management of state-owned forests, and helping private landowners meet their land-management goals.

Our activities are too numerous to summarize here, or to describe fully in the following pages. But I hope you will take away this important message: Oregon's forests – whether they're owned privately or by a government or non-profit entity, provide resources of value to all Oregonians. The benefits include clean water, wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, and jobs, revenue and timber products for our economy. Even our urban forests – trees along streets and in parks and other areas – add important value to our communities.

Through our programs and services, we strive to provide a sustainable flow of these benefits – to today's Oregonians and to those who will follow.

## Contents

<b>From the State Forester</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>The Oregon Board of Forestry – A new way to organize work</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>ODF's New Web Site</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Fire Program</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>State Forests Program</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Private Forests Program</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Urban and Community Forest Program</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Areas</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Budget</b>	<b>11</b>

**On the cover:** Clockwise from top, ODF Foresters Jack Dunaway, Grant Smith, and culvert installed for fish passage; Tillamook Forest Center under construction; Firefighters at the 2005 Blossom Fire; Loggers complete choker-setting, Tillamook State Forest; Urban Forester Paul Ries explains the value of urban forests at a Board of Forestry Tour; American Bald Eagle; Steelhead, North Fork Salmonberry River.

*Cover photos by Chris Friend, Arlene Whalen, Jeff Foreman and Cynthia Orlando.*

Over the past year, the **Board of Forestry** revamped the way it works by implementing a new decision-making system that includes work plans and a periodic issue scanning procedure. This was done to better manage the increasingly lengthy and complex set of issues regularly facing the Board. In December 2005, the Board decided on its first set of seven priority issues, and the following work plans were then developed:

1. *Forestry Program for Oregon Implementation*
2. *State Forests Management*
3. *Forest Vitality*
4. *Outreach to Urban Populations*

5. *Dynamic Forest Ecosystems*
6. *Forest Regulation*
7. *Wildfire Risk Management.*

During future issue scanning, the board will seek advice from stakeholders and Oregon's citizens about which additional issues should guide the Board's work.

To learn more about the Board of Forestry – including the Board's decision system process, current work plans, and the 2005-06 issue scan – click on [www.oregon.gov/ODF/BOARD/index.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/BOARD/index.shtml).

## THE OREGON BOARD OF FORESTRY: A NEW WAY TO ORGANIZE WORK

## FOREST RESOURCE PLANNING PROGRAM

During 2005, the Forest Resource Planning Program:

- Published *Forests, Farms and People: Land Use Change on Non-Federal Land in Eastern Oregon, 1975-2001*. This piece complements the previously-completed *Forests, Farms, and People: Land Use Change on Non-Federal Land in Western Oregon, 1973-2000*. These reports and the data that the program continues to collect on the forest land base over time support the *2003 Forestry Program for Oregon* and feed directly into Oregon Benchmark #81 (Percent of Oregon non-federal forest land in 1974 still preserved for forest use). It is also particularly timely given the passage of Ballot Measure 37, since it will allow for tracking of how the measure affects the forest land base.
- Began developing sustainable forest management indicators, organized around the seven strategies of the *2003 Forestry Program for Oregon*. These indicators ultimately will provide the means to identify outcomes and measure progress towards the goals of sustainably-managed forest resources.
- Facilitated development of the agency's Strategic Plan which describes the high priority actions the agency will undertake between 2004 and 2011 to meet its statutory mandates and assist the Board of Forestry in achieving the strategies, actions, and vision expressed in the *2003 Forestry Program for Oregon*.

### ODF's New Web Site:



[www.oregon.gov/ODF](http://www.oregon.gov/ODF)

In 2004, the State of Oregon began implementing an enterprise-wide content management software system for all state agencies. The statewide initiative results in a more standardized appearance (content and formatting), and increased user-friendliness, for those who are accessing [www.oregon.gov](http://www.oregon.gov) web sites.

In early 2005, ODF migrated old web site information into the new statewide format –resulting in a very different look for the agency's web pages. ODF's migration was very successful, with minimal disruption for users. Web page improvements have continued since then as staff are becoming more familiar with the new environment, and how it can be used as a valuable communication tool to offer more information to citizens and stakeholders.

## FIRE PROGRAM

To apply a football metaphor to last year's wildfire season, a tenacious defense successfully contained an explosive running game. As parched conditions persisted week after week across the 15.8 million acres of forestland protected by the Department of Forestry, several high-potential fires threatened to go large. The department countered with heavy air attack – retardant-dropping tankers and bucket-toting helicopters – as well as beefed-up ground resources. Victory was seldom assured as the drama played out across much of the state.



Blossom Fire '05, photo by Chris Friend, ODF

### Fire Statistics for 2005

Lightning-caused: 139 fires  
 Human-caused: 810 fires  
**Total: 949 fires,**  
*11,701 acres burned*

### 10-year average

Lightning-caused: 307 fires  
 Human-caused: 739 fires  
**Total: 1,046 fires,**  
*22,000 acres burned*

*These figures are for the 15.8 million acres of Oregon forestland that are protected by the Oregon Department of Forestry.*

When a sudden wind shift blowtorched 400 additional acres on the Rhinehart Road Fire near La Grande, Salem headquarters prepared to deploy an incident management team to take over the firefighting operation from the local district. As the team waited for the call, fire managers launched an aerial blitz so intense that it drew townspeople out of their homes to witness the spectacle. The helicopters and tankers eventually halted the fire's advance, and the team stayed home.

Sometimes trouble comes in twos. Such was the case when the Marlow and Camas Creek fires broke out nearly simultaneously in Coos County. As with Rhinehart Road, either of these volatile blazes could have burned big had it not been for aggressive air and ground attack mounted by the Coos Forest Protective Association.

When fall rains finally brought the season to an end, state forces had held the total forestland burned to under 12,000 acres. It was a notable feat amid fire conditions that lingered for months in the high to extreme range. For the names of the project fires, see page 10.

### Fires controlled at 10 acres or smaller

2005: 95 percent  
 (Goal: 94 percent)

### Cost of fire suppression

**2005:** \$22.5 million



The Harvest and Habitat Modeling Project provided preliminary reports in Fiscal Year 2005 on harvest-level projections through the use of computerized modeling that simultaneously considered habitat development. A final report was later completed in spring 2006.

The planning process for the Elliott Forest Management Plan (FMP) and Habitat Conservation Plan continued, resulting in a final draft FMP at the end of 2005.

Contractors completed watershed analysis on the Miami River in August 2005 and on the Upper Nehalem in December 2005.

Three years of stand level inventory (SLI) contract work were completed through May 2005. SLI provides site-specific information on trees, downed wood and understory vegetation on state forestlands. It is a primary source of information for operational intensive management planning and decision making, harvest scheduling, monitoring, watershed assessment, wildlife habitat suitability, and stand structure classifications. Approximately 39 percent of the total stands have been measured.

In research and monitoring:

- A Swiss needle cast study indicated that trees did respond to thinning in a positive manner, but the degree of response declined with increasing Swiss needle cast severity. Within 18 miles of the coast in northwestern Oregon, the disease reduced recent annual volume growth of 10- to 30-year-old Douglas-fir plantations by an

*(continued on page 6)*

## STATE FORESTS PROGRAM



*Totalling nearly 780,000 acres, state-managed forestlands are located in 15 counties.*

### Revenue to Counties & Schools from State Forest Timber Harvests

Fiscal Year	Revenue to Counties <sup>1</sup>	Revenue distributed	
		to Common School Fund <sup>2</sup>	Total
'05	\$48,589,600	\$19,092,180	\$67,681,780
'04	\$47,918,084	\$15,360,073	\$63,278,157
'03	\$49,801,650	\$ 8,550,000	\$58,351,650
'02	\$42,690,822	\$13,671,493	\$56,362,315
'01	\$34,605,675	\$16,787,101	\$51,392,776

1) Revenue allocated to counties according to harvest location. Counties in turn pass some revenue to school and other local taxing districts. Applies to 15 counties that deeded lands to the state in the mid-1900s (these "Board of Forestry lands" are primarily in northwest Oregon, including the Tillamook, Clatsop and Santiam State Forests).

2) Federal government deeded these lands to Oregon at statehood. ODF manages the lands, now owned by the State Land Board. Revenue goes to Common School Fund, which helps fund K-12 education statewide.

## STATE FORESTS PROGRAM

*(cont'd from page 5)*



### Recreation on State Forests Numbers at-a-glance:

	FY01	FY05
Number of developed campgrounds	7	14
Number of campsites	165	247
Trail Miles (non-motorized)	113	186
Trail miles (motorized)	210	248



### Reforestation on State Forests Numbers at-a-glance:

Fiscal Year	Acres Reforested	Seedlings Planted
2005	5,663	1.9 million
2004	7,348	2.2 million
2003	4,037	1.2 million
2002	4,517	1.6 million

average of 23 percent, with some plantations experiencing growth loss in excess of 50 percent.

- Northern spotted owls Surveys of the Tillamook State Forest Burn resulted in no responses in the first three of 15 sampling units. The results of these surveys will allow ODF to determine if and when it is appropriate to begin considering the “Burn” as potentially suitable habitat for northern spotted owls.

Recreational use continued to increase on Oregon’s state forests, and new projects implemented in FY 05 provided much needed additional facilities and trails. Camping, hiking, horseback riding and mountain bicycling experienced significant growth in popularity across all state forests, and off-highway vehicle recreation continued as the most popular trail use on the Tillamook State Forest.

## PRIVATE FORESTS PROGRAM

*During 2005, 1,136 landowners received assistance with various management activities that affected approximately 95,116 acres of forestland.*

During 2005, stewardship foresters from the Private Forests Program provided technical assistance to non-federal forest landowners to help them grow and harvest trees in accordance with the Forest Practices Act. The Act includes rules and regulations that ensure important soil, air, water, fish and wildlife resources are protected and available for future generations. Healthy private forestlands provide values, from economic activity to clean water, that benefit the state as a whole.

Forest landowners who plan to do a commercial forest activity are required to submit a “Notification of Operation” form to their local Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) stewardship forester. The stewardship forester, in turn, uses this as an opportunity to consult with the landowner to discuss planned activities and help identify special resources that may need to

be protected. During 2005, 19,697 notification forms were processed.

To help private landowners with some of their forest management activities, ODF stewardship foresters also advise landowners about federal and state financial cost-share assistance they may be eligible for and then administer the distribution of funds. During 2005, 1,136 landowners received assistance with various management activities that affected approximately 95,116 acres of forestland.

### Monitoring

A key component of Oregon’s Forest Practices Act is using adaptive management, or strategies to continually reevaluate our forest practices and policies, to ensure they are effective over time in maintaining and protecting resources. During 2005, the Forest Practices Monitoring Section of the

Forest Health and Monitoring Unit completed a project to determine if the rules used to help protect bald eagle nesting sites were effective. They also continued efforts to monitor rules relating to streamside forests and stream temperature, wildlife trees, and downed wood and trees left for wildlife habitat. To learn more about ODF monitoring projects, visit: [egov.oregon.gov/ODF/PRIVATE\\_FORESTS/fpreports.shtml#Monitoring\\_Technical\\_Reports](http://egov.oregon.gov/ODF/PRIVATE_FORESTS/fpreports.shtml#Monitoring_Technical_Reports). To view ODF's monitoring strategic plan, visit: [egov.oregon.gov/ODF/PRIVATE\\_FORESTS/docs/fp/Strategy2002.pdf](http://egov.oregon.gov/ODF/PRIVATE_FORESTS/docs/fp/Strategy2002.pdf).

### Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds

The *Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds*, established in 1997, is Oregon's home-grown response to restore salmon runs, improve water quality and achieve healthy watersheds and strong communities throughout the state. The plan relies on the spirit of volunteer actions to ensure that these valued resources are protected.

In 2005, the Department of Forestry collaborated with other state and federal agencies on a two-year study, the *Oregon Coastal Coho Assessment*, to determine the level of implementation and effectiveness of measures used in the state to enhance Coastal coho salmon populations. Results from the study helped influence a decision in 2006 not to list coho under the federal Endangered Species Act.

While this work was underway, a local citizen group, the Coastal Coho Stakeholder Team, was also meeting to determine the number of coho desired to produce a range of benefits, such as numbers of fish needed to support recreational and commercial fisheries. The team's work will help guide the creation of Oregon's first conservation plan, which will be used to help decision-makers determine and prioritize key actions and channel funding accordingly. To learn more about the study or the team's work, visit: [oregon-plan.org](http://oregon-plan.org).

### D.L. Phipps Nursery

In recent years, concerns surfaced that Phipps may be competing with private nurseries that are now better equipped to provide speculatively-grown tree seedlings than they were when Phipps was formed. Workgroups were formed to explore leasing Phipps to a private grower, or forming a cooperative of private nurseries to grow seedlings needed by family forestland owners. Both options were determined not viable.

Seedling sales at Phipps have declined over a period of years; in fiscal year 2006, Phipps incurred financial losses. Phipps' market share is expected to be around 5 million seedlings in the foreseeable future. Financial projections indicate that Phipps cannot remain financially solvent when selling only 5 million seedlings. This information was presented to the Board of Forestry, and the Board gave the Department direction to investigate details related to a potential sale of Phipps.

If the sale of Phipps occurs, an alternative option will be explored: a "clearinghouse" to assess potential seedling demand and confidentially monitor the number, type and parent seed zone of seedlings that private nurseries plan to grow. Information about production gaps would be shared with private nurseries so they could opt to grow any additional seedlings needed to meet the demand. When necessary, ODF would contract with private nurseries to grow small quantities of specific seedling types where a need is anticipated. In the meantime, Phipps continues to produce quality seedlings both speculatively and on contract. A new irrigation system is able to protect 100 acres of seedlings from frost. All outstanding contract obligations with landowners will be honored, and the agency will continue to play an important role in ensuring tree seedlings are available at a reasonable cost.

## PRIVATE FORESTS PROGRAM

(cont'd)



## URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM

*Governor Kulongoski recognizes the efforts of ODF and others during a 2005 Arbor Week ceremony at the state capitol.*



ODF's UCF (Urban and Community Forestry) Assistance Program works to improve quality of life by promoting community investment in Oregon's urban forests. In 2005, staff continued to provide technical, financial and educational assistance to cities, schools, local and state agencies, non-profit and civic organizations, and others throughout Oregon.

To celebrate Arbor Week 2005 and increase public awareness of the contributions trees

make to quality of life, ODF worked with public agencies, non-profit groups, and local chapters of the Society of American Foresters to host local tree walks throughout the state.

**Tree City USA communities reported the following statistics:**

- 27,355** trees were planted.
- 3,131** hazard trees were removed.
- 52,749** trees were pruned.
- \$10.7** million was invested in caring for Oregon's urban forests.

Oregon continues to provide an innovative, cost-effective, high quality urban forestry program that benefits quality of life in Oregon's communities.

## AREAS

### NORTHWEST OREGON AREA

ODF's field units in the Northwest Oregon Area carried out the department's missions in the Fire Protection, Private Forests, and State Forests programs, with hard work and help from their local communities. The area's headquarters is in Forest Grove, and the Area Director is Mike Bordelon.

#### Fire Program

Some 173 fires consumed just 228 acres across the Northwest Oregon Area in fiscal year 2004-05. Rural fire departments, local communities and continuing strong partnerships with landowners helped ODF staff keep all fires small despite hot, dry conditions. ODF staff also put a lot of effort into fire prevention through the Smokey Bear program and other community outreach efforts. Most notable among these was the Clackamas County Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Completed in 2005, this plan coordinated fire planning efforts in Clackamas County between citizens, local fire departments and county, state, and federal governments.

#### Private and Community Forestry

Local stewardship foresters continued their work this year with landowners, contractors and industry, administering Oregon's Forest Practices Act and helping landowners meet their forestland objectives while sustaining Oregon's forests.

#### State Forestland Management

Active management of state forests continued in 2005. Districts sold a combined total of \$74 million of timber from state forestland, returning two-thirds of the revenue to local counties, schools and taxing districts. The recreation program continued to build through development of trails and facilities. Reehers Camp Campground opened in 2005, with equestrian facilities, camping and a day use area along the Nehalem River in Western Washington County. Construction continued on the Tillamook Forest Center, which opened in April 2006.

ODF's Eastern Oregon Area (EOA) encompasses some 5.5 million acres of land in Eastern Oregon. The Area is headquartered in Prineville, and Cliff Liedtke is the Area Director.

In 2005 the Eastern Oregon Area experienced an average fire season, recording a single large incident, the 2,225-acre Simpson Fire in the Klamath Lake District. When the fire grew too large for local resources, the district handed it off to an ODF incident management team. The Central Oregon District had numerous other challenging fires and one significant lightning bust during the season. The Northeast Oregon District responded to many fire calls and hosted smaller Type 3 teams over the course of two months. None of these fires reached large, "project" size, due to close cooperation with ODF's federal partners and the availability of fire severity dollars and resources to enhance district forces.

EOA staff supported and implemented Oregon's Forestland-Urban Interface Fire Protection Act (Senate Bill 360) in Deschutes, Klamath and Union counties. Staff also continued to work with local communities to develop community wildfire protection plans, along with leveraging federal grant dollars, state dollars, and private landowner dollars to accomplish hazard fuel reduction across the landscape.

In addition, ODF's Lake Unit worked with the Oregon Department of Corrections to establish additional fire crew resources at the Warner Creek Correctional Facility in Lakeview.

In 2005, EOA's stewardship foresters continued to improve the blending of forest practices rule administration with cost-share incentive program delivery, assisting private landowners with forestry matters, fish passage, and Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watershed measures and projects. Gordon Foster, formerly a unit forester at John Day, was hired as rangeland fire protection coordinator. Foster worked with private landowners and rangeland fire protection associations to assist in establishing and maintaining fire protection organizations in areas where limited fire protection existed.

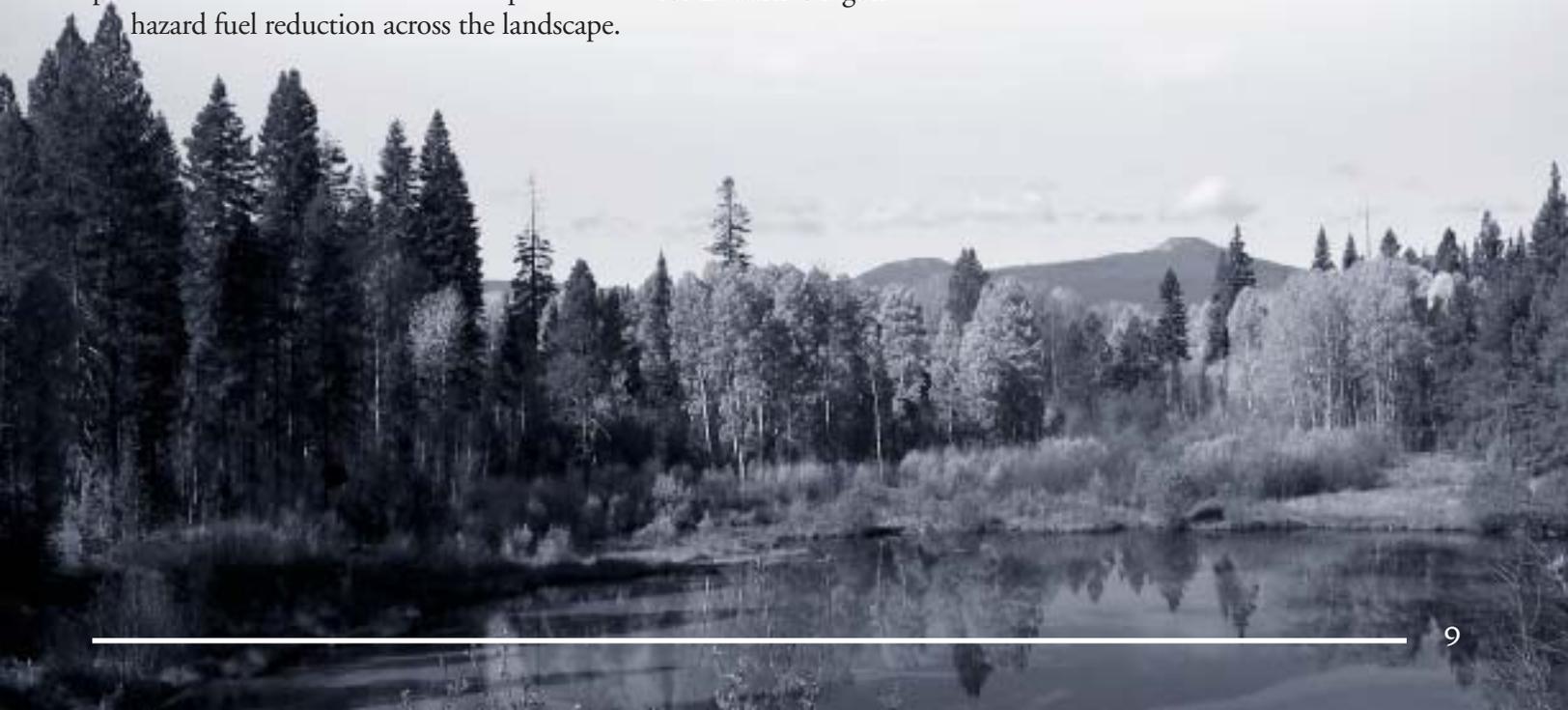
Urban Forester Katie Lompa worked closely with the cities of Redmond and Bend to help them establish and maintain their community forests and their Tree City USA status.

In the summer of '05, EOA hosted a Board of Forestry tour. Board members met at the Warm Springs Reservation where discussion topics included biomass, forest vitality and sustainability issues.

All in all, 2005 was a very successful year for Eastern Oregon.

## AREAS *(cont'd)*

### EASTERN OREGON AREA



**AREAS** *(cont'd)*

**SOUTHERN OREGON AREA**

A diamond and gold anniversary, an active 2005 fire season, critical forestland protection agreements, and consolidation of a district's boundaries and functions are some of the highlights for the Southern Oregon Area in 2005. ODF's Southern Oregon Area's headquarters is in Roseburg and the Area Director is Dan Shults.

In July 2005, the Elliott State Forest celebrated two anniversaries: diamond – 75 years since the forest became Oregon's first state forest; and gold – 50 years since the department began formal management of this unique forest. Three former Coos district foresters helped the district celebrate with a tour that illustrated the forest's past, present, and planning for the future.

The Southwest Oregon District hosted three ODF fire teams in the summer of 2005:

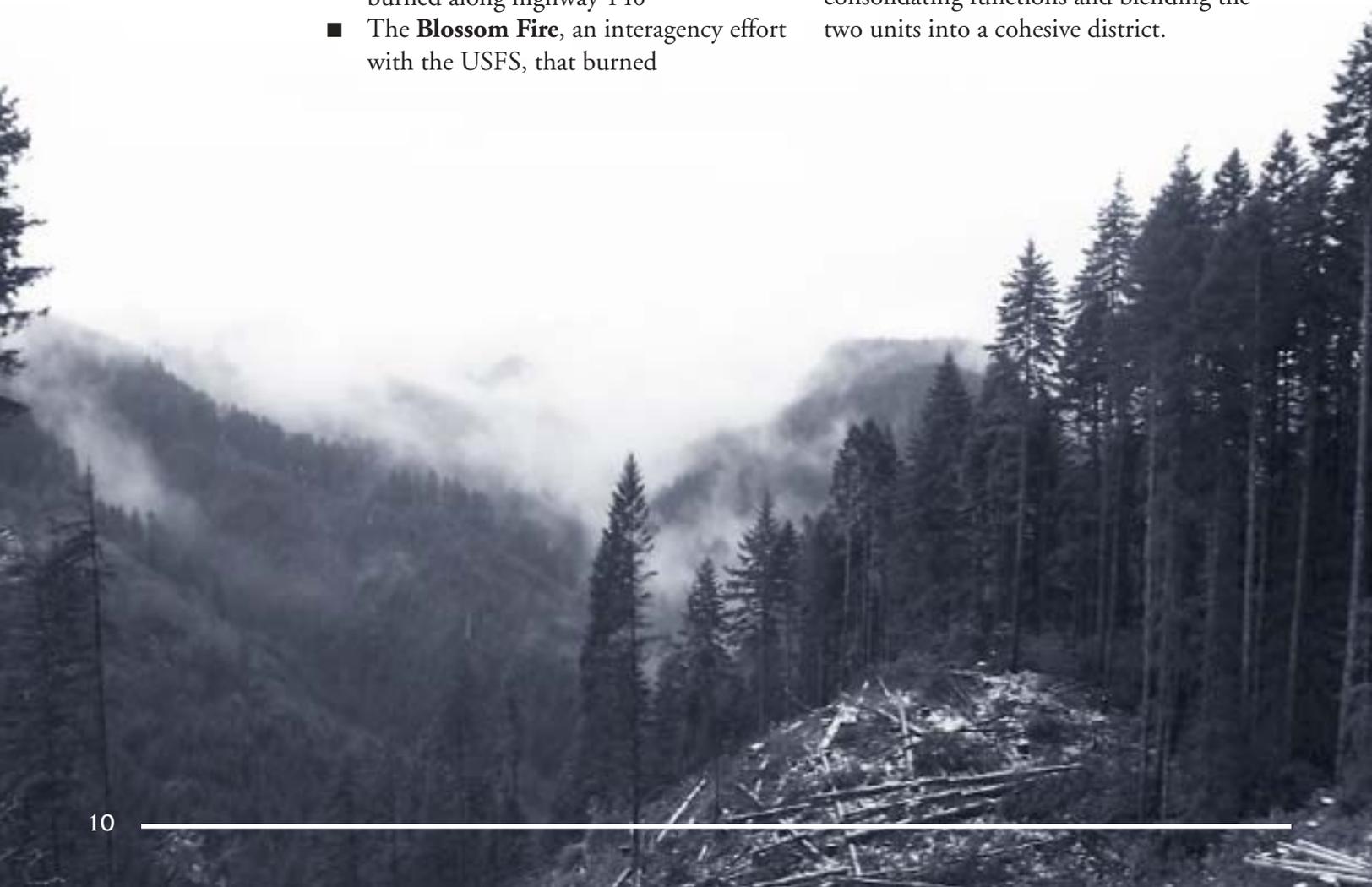
- The 1500 acre **Wasson Fire**, which burned along highway 140
- The **Blossom Fire**, an interagency effort with the USFS, that burned

approximately 16,300 acres in and around the Wild Rogue Wilderness, with about 1800 acres of ODF-protected BLM land involved

- The **Deer Creek Fire**, which burned 1,546 acres in the Illinois Valley and destroyed 12 structures.

Updated forestland protection Agreements between the State Forester, Board of Forestry and the Douglas and Coos Forest Protective Associations were completed. These agreements – providing for Association protection of non-member lands in the respective districts – are key to southern Oregon's complete and coordinated fire protection system.

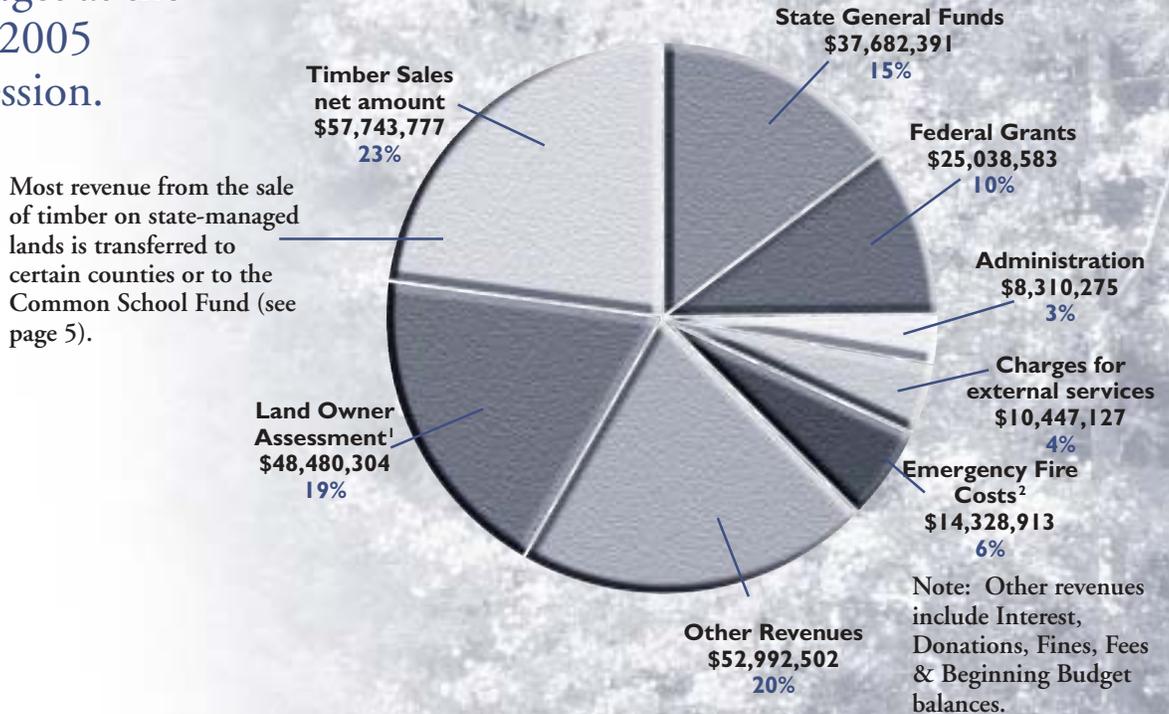
The South Cascades District, with help from many cooperators and the Linn and East Lane Protection Association Boards, completed work establishing district boundaries, and staff continued consolidating functions and blending the two units into a cohesive district.



**BUDGET**

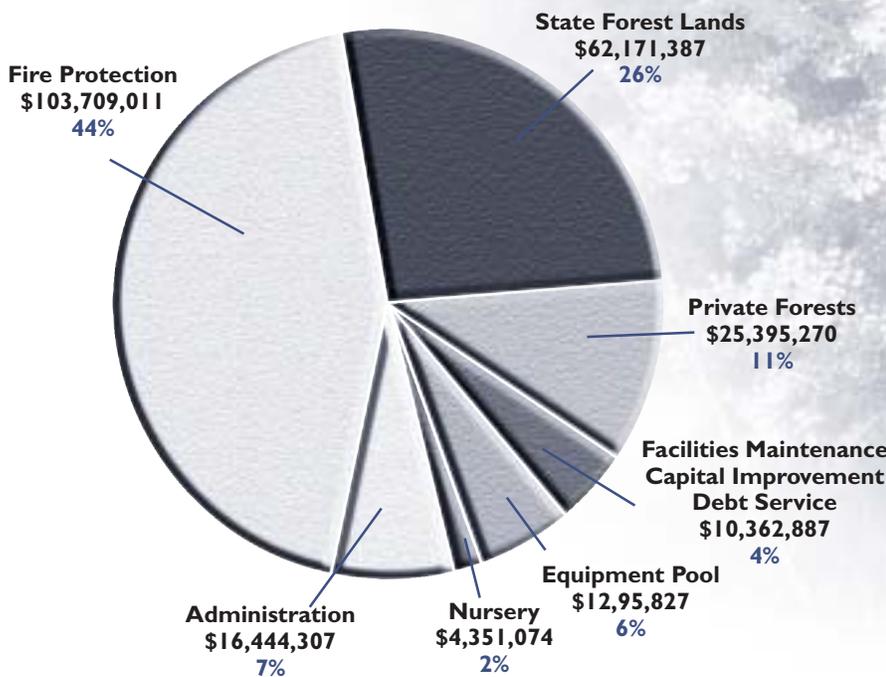
These charts are based on the Department's 2005-2007 legislatively adopted budget at the close of the 2005 legislative session.

**MAJOR REVENUE CATEGORIES  
(TOTAL \$255,023,872)**



Most revenue from the sale of timber on state-managed lands is transferred to certain counties or to the Common School Fund (see page 5).

**MAJOR EXPENDITURE CATEGORIES  
(TOTAL \$235,389,763)**



<sup>1</sup> Monies derived from forest landowner fees related to regular and emergency fire protection.

<sup>2</sup> Monies derived from federal reimbursements (FEMA, US Forest Service) and insurance and cost recoveries.

**ABOUT  
THE  
OREGON  
DEPARTMENT  
OF FORESTRY**



"STEWARDSHIP IN FORESTRY"

Oregon's forestlands are one of the state's most valuable assets, and comprise 28.5 million acres or 46 percent of Oregon's total land base.

Of that, the Oregon Department of Forestry's 700 permanent and 700 seasonal employees:

- *protect* 15.8 million acres of private, state, and some federal forestlands from fire;
- *manage* 780,000 acres of state-owned forestlands;

- *administer* the Oregon Forest Practices Act on all state and private forestlands; and,
- *assist* private forest landowners local government and community groups.

The department is administered at the Salem headquarters. Throughout Oregon, directly implementing the department's programs, are three area and 13 district offices, and additional, smaller, units and sub-units.

To find a field office location, go to <http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/offices.shtml>.

**SEVERAL  
NEW  
PUBLICATIONS  
AVAILABLE  
FROM ODF**

Several new and interesting publications were produced by ODF in 2005, and copies of these are available upon request. Titles include the small color brochure, "*Homeowner's Guide to Tree Care*," "*Forest Fire Protection in Oregon*" by ODF retiree Larry Fick, which chronicles historical fire information over Oregon dating back to the 1800's; Vol. 3, No. 1 of the *Oregon Forest Practices monitor* newsletter, which highlights forestry, water quality, and best management practices; and the legislatively mandated *2005 Oregon Forests Report*, which looks at the many forest ownerships we have in Oregon – federal, state, private, tribal and others – and the economic, environmental and social values represented. To request copies of any of these publications, please call (503) 945-7200.

