

FOREST LOG

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Oregon Department of Forestry

2003 ANNUAL REPORT



From the State Forester

As the agency's new State Forester, it is a privilege to provide this Annual Report of activities for the Oregon Department of Forestry. Following in the footsteps of my predecessor Jim Brown is no small chore.

His 16 years of leadership have created an organization with outstanding staff, clear focus and an excellent reputation among stakeholders. I look forward to building upon this legacy in the future and working with all interests to promote sustainable forest resources in our State.

Deputy State forester Roy Woo announced his retirement in 2003. Roy held several leadership positions at the field and staff level during his 30-year ODF career, including his involvement in the Northwest

Oregon State Forest Management Plan. Maintaining and strengthening the Department's commitment to customer service and cooperation with landowners, the general public, and state and local agencies has been another one of Roy's priorities. Roy has agreed to stay on in a temporary role through August, primarily to work with co-chair Dan Shults and a large team of individuals who are conducting a fire program review.

His official send off will be in mid-October, and he will be missed.

Looking back on this first year, the agency was effective in carrying out its mission and active in putting a number of key efforts in motion that will maintain a course of continuous improvement.

The Board of Forestry formally adopted the latest *Forestry Program for Oregon*, intended to be the Board's guiding policy document for the next eight years. This is the fifth edition to be produced by the Board since 1977. The 2003 edition is an important milestone because Oregon is the first state in the nation to adapt an internationally-recognized sustainable

forest management framework for use in discussing and measuring forest issues at the statewide level. The use of this framework will hopefully lead to opportunities to find greater common ground on issues that have historically been dominated by polarized debates. It also provides a common language by which the State of Oregon can better report to its citizens and to the rest of the world the extent to which our forests are being sustainably managed.

In the fire protection program we kept the burned acreage at quite an acceptable level in spite of record, low fuel moisture indices and continuing drought conditions. At the same time we initiated a comprehensive review of the entire program. This review directly involves a host of stakeholders and will ultimately lead to recommendations on emergency fire cost funding, fire-related business management systems, fuels and hazard reduction, prevention, gaps in private landowner protection coverage, workforce capacity and capitalizing on new technologies. A diverse array of legislators, cooperators, interest groups, sister agencies and employees are directly contributing to the review and results should begin to emerge in 2004.

In order to serve private forest landowners more efficiently, we have merged what were formerly the Forest Practices Program and the Forestry Assistance Program. This allows us to immediately share field and administrative personnel between the two programs in a way that provides cost savings overall. At the same time we have set upon a course to redefine how we best serve our private landowner customers with programs that can offer value to their ownership. Blended with this initiative is direction from the Board of Forestry to build necessary support and scientific basis for changing how we

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FOREST LOG



"STEWARDSHIP IN FORESTRY"

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On the Cover: Lower left, going clockwise: In April, Marvin Brown was selected as Oregon's new State Forester by the Board of Forestry, and took the helm shortly thereafter; Children celebrate an Arbor Day tree planting event in Lebanon, Oregon; Governor Kulongoski addresses a crowd at a special Oregon Plan for Salmon recognition ceremony; State Foresters from around the nation gather at the National Association of State Foresters annual meeting in Portland last Fall. Center photo: State Forester Marvin Brown, and former State Forester Jim Brown, unveil a plaque at a dedication ceremony for the new Administration Building in Salem.



Board of Forestry

The Board of Forestry completed and approved the 2003 Forestry Program for Oregon. Updated approximately every eight years, this document is the Board's strategic plan, and provides guiding policy on Oregon's 28 million acres of forestland.

2003 was a year of major accomplishments for the Board of Forestry. The panel broke new ground completing and approving the 2003 Forestry Program for Oregon. Updated on an eight-year cycle, the document serves as the board's strategic plan for guiding policy on Oregon's 28 million acres of forestland.

To support the process, the board adapted an internationally recognized framework for assessing sustainability of forests that was crafted by 12 nations with forests similar to Oregon's. The set of strategies provides a language for discussion and measurement. The aim: to enable citizens and experts alike to have an ongoing conversation, come to a common understanding of forest sustainability, and work together to determine their own goals. The Board of Forestry adapted the framework to Oregon's particular circumstances.

Throughout the multi-year process leading up to adoption of the Forestry Program for Oregon, board members spent numerous hours in discussions with citizens reviewing a range of information assessing the conditions of Oregon's forests.

To ensure the 2003 Forestry Program for Oregon reaches a broad audience, the board directed the Department of Forestry to print a pocket guide as well as the full document, which are available at Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) offices or online. Both publications state the seven foundational strategies and the board's 20-year vision for Forestry in Oregon. To ensure implementation of the Forestry Program for Oregon, the document describes specific actions that must be taken to accomplish the strategies.



The Board of Forestry broke new ground in 2003 with the completion of the "Forestry Program for Oregon." Three new Board members (l-r), Barbara Craig, Steven Hobbs, and Jennifer Phillippi, came aboard in February of this year.

The Department of Forestry is working to complete a strategic plan in 2004 to serve as a companion piece to the Forestry Program for Oregon.

At its meetings last year, the Board of Forestry devoted considerable time to State Forest issues.

Implementation of the board's Northwest Oregon State Forests Management Plan attained a milestone in March when the board reviewed the district implementation plans and the State Forester subsequently approved them. These district plans outline how the management plan will be carried out over the next decade.

In December, a day was set aside for the board to discuss strategic planning for the State Forests Program. Ideas brought forth in this discussion provided the program with insight as it began developing the State Forests' portion of the 2004-2011 department strategic plan.

Water quality and riparian protection administrative rule concepts appeared regularly on board meeting agendas in 2003, as the Board of Forestry and the department worked through recommendations from two advisory groups aimed at strengthening the Oregon Forest Practices Act. The process of translating these recommendations into rule language is slated for completion in 2004.

Three members of the board - Chair Howard Sohn and members Brad Witt and Sam Johnson - completed their service in 2003 after eight years of diligent work on many important issues.

Information on the makeup, mission and activities of the Oregon Board of Forestry can be found on the board's web site, <http://www.oregonforestry.org>.

Forest Resources Planning Program

Forestry Program for Oregon

Forest Resources Planning Program staff provided support to the Board of Forestry as it completed the *2003 Forestry Program for Oregon*. The document describes the board's vision for the future of all of the state's forest resources. The *Forestry Program for Oregon* has formed the strategic foundation for the Board of Forestry's policies since 1977. Program Director David Morman noted that Forest Resources Planning has played a central role in developing all five editions.

The *Forestry Program for Oregon* provides a common language by which the State of Oregon can better report on the extent to which Oregon's forests are being sustainably managed. The document is on the Board of Forestry's website, <http://www.oregonforestry.org/fpfo/2003/>.

Eastern Oregon Development Study

Rapid growth and development in the Bend area and elsewhere in eastern Oregon have triggered the conversion of forest and agriculture lands to other uses. To gauge the extent of the shift, program staff worked with the Pacific Northwest Research Station and others to complete data analysis of land-use changes on eastern Oregon non-federal lands from 1973-2001. Prior to this study, comprehensive data did not exist to indicate how much farm, forest and range land has been converted to other uses.

Program staff sought to shed light on another unknown: How has development affected management of these lands and their environmental, economic and social values?

They looked for the answer in visual records, analyzing aerial photographs taken across eastern Oregon over a 30-year period. The photos were interpreted to determine dominant land use, number of structures, and the nearest distance to other dominant uses.

Data from the project will also be used to examine changes in the wildland-urban interface, rank fuel hazards, and assess the fire risk associated with interface areas in eastern Oregon. The results of the Eastern Oregon Development Study will be published following the July 2004 Board of Forestry meeting.

Study: Global Importance of Oregon's Forests

If Oregon can't meet the growing demand for wood products, suppliers in other parts of the world will be happy to assume the state's market share. A study funded and directed by the Forest Resource Planning Program predicts that if Oregon's timber harvest is constrained by environmental, economic and social conditions, Asia, Canada and the U.S. South have the capacity to take up the slack.

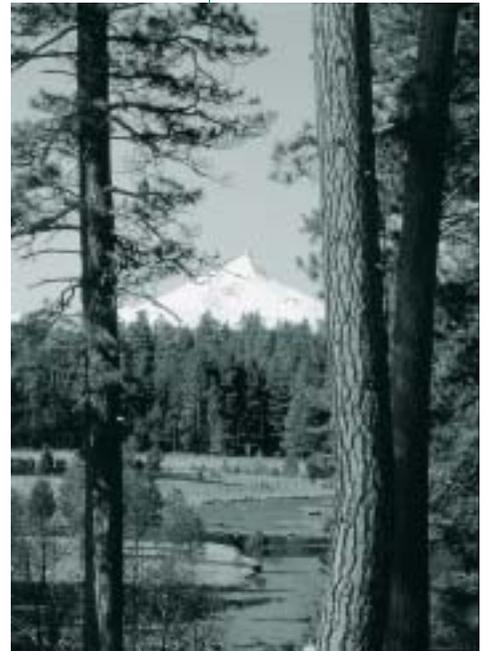
Conducted by John Perez-Garcia of the Center for International Trade in Forest Products, the study evaluated Oregon's forest management policies and their potential effect on the state's economic prospects. Any future shortfall in Oregon's timber harvests would also spur wood users to turn to other materials such as steel, concrete and plastic.

Gary Lettman, the program's forest economist, said the University of Washington study "will be useful in evaluating Oregon forest management policies and their potential effect on the state capturing economic development opportunities."

The study is available at <http://www.oregonforestry.org/reports/CINTRAFORWorkingPaper92.doc>.

"Adopt the pace of nature, her secret is patience."

– Ralph Waldo Emerson



The mission of the Forest Resources Planning Program is to lead the strategic planning and analytic services of the Department, and to actively promote Board of Forestry policies.

Employee Profile: Cathy Elfstrom

From small details to “Big Trees,” Cathy Elfstrom keeps the wheels turning in the Forest Resources Planning Program. As the program’s office manager, Cathy has her hand in many activities, including the department’s Big Tree Registry. Oregonians contact her throughout the year about trees they think could make the list.

In 2003, it was the program’s turn to host the Holiday Luncheon, and Cathy led the effort. The major undertaking drew 180 diners. She helped recruit and organize a small army of kitchen workers from among department employees and retirees for the potluck.

A union shop steward, Cathy is the go-to person for employees wanting to express their feelings and opinions about workplace issues.

“I consider myself one of the luckiest people that I am working in this program,” she said. “Forest Resources Planning has tremendous variety, and there is pride in knowing that our program is directed by the Board of Forestry.”

Oregon Hosts State Forester Annual Meeting

In 2003, the Department hosted the National Association of State Foresters (NASF) annual meeting in Portland, Oregon. The four-day meeting, held in September, gave State Foresters the opportunity to discuss important forestry topics including forest health, Farm Bill implementation, sustainable forestry and the role of the National Fire Plan in strengthening communities.

“Recent fire seasons have made it abundantly clear that continued implementation of the National Fire Plan is vital, both for the safety of communities and the surrounding landscape,” said Jim Sledge, NASF president and State Forester of Mississippi.

The meeting also included the signing of a memorandum of understanding

between NASF and the National Arbor Day Foundation, reaffirming the two organizations’ cooperation in the Tree City USA program.

“We were pleased to host the NASF annual meeting, our third time in the 84 years of the conference,” said Marvin Brown, State Forester of Oregon. “Oregon has been a central focus for a lot of key debates on forestry issues, which made it the perfect backdrop for this meeting’s national discussions,” he said.



Photo by Cynthia Orlando, ODF

Cathy Elfstrom, shown standing by a black walnut tree, above, keeps the wheels turning in the Forest Resources Planning Program. One of her many duties includes oversight of the department’s Big Tree Registry. The Big Tree Registry keeps track of state and national “champion” trees located in the state of Oregon.

What is “NASF”?

The National Association of State Foresters (NASF) is composed of the directors of the 50 state and eight territorial forestry agencies and the District of Columbia. Through public-private partnerships, NASF seeks to discuss, develop, sponsor and promote programs and activities which will advance the practice of sustainable forestry, the conservation and protection of forest lands and associated resources, and the establishment and protection of forests in the urban environment.

In 2003, the Department hosted the National Association of State Foresters (NASF) annual meeting in Portland. Newly arrived State Forester Marvin Brown, right, discusses forestry topics with a reporter from Oregon Public Broadcasting.



Photo by Cynthia Orlando, ODF

Private & Community Forests

New Program Rises to Meet Training Demand

The Private and Community Forests Program had a dramatic need for increased employee training during 2003, and this aggressive training schedule is planned to continue for the next two-to-three years. The training schedule will help facilitate the education of ODF “Stewardship” foresters (formerly known as Forest Practices Foresters and Forestry Assistance Foresters), which includes 18 new Stewardship foresters hired by the agency to fill existing vacancies. Their ODF training is also being enhanced through participation in the “Forest Landowner Tax Education Project” (FLTEP) and the Association of Oregon Logger’s (AOL) “Pro-logger” program.

Changes to forestland taxation in Oregon resulted in a large undertaking of “training-the-trainers” during a 10-session educational program. After the training was complete, these individuals were able to help educate forest landowners and others about the tax law changes and how they would be impacted.

Through participation in cooperative training with AOL, operators, landowners, consultants and others are also staying abreast of changes and updates relative to the Oregon Forest Practices Act.

Forest Health

A statewide aerial survey detected more than 570,000 acres of beetle-caused tree mortality in 2003. Beetle outbreaks were concentrated in southwestern and eastern Oregon.

The acres affected in 2003 increased substantially from the 347,000 acres identified with tree mortality in 2002. Most of the increase is attributed to fir engraver beetle outbreaks in white fir/grand fir stands and flatheaded fir borer infestations in Douglas-fir. The most likely factors for these outbreaks are over-

stocked stands and several years of below-normal precipitation. The most important defoliating insect detected by the 2003 survey was the balsam woolly adelgid (BWA). This (introduced) sucking insect destroys the crowns and vigor of older sub-alpine fir leading ultimately to tree death. Declining stands of sub-alpine fir, from BWA infestations were mapped on more than 109,000 acres in 2003.

Sudden Oak Death

Since the Department first discovered Sudden Oak Death (SOD) in southwest Oregon in 2001, we have been monitoring the disease and attempting to eradicate it in a multi-agency effort.

During 2003, we discovered 12 new infested sites, and saw expansion of eight of the previously known infested sites, bringing the total number of infested sites to 33. The discovery of a new site 1.8 miles north of previously identified sites prompted the Oregon Department of Agriculture to increase the size of the quarantine area from 9 to 11 square miles.



Photo by Alan Kanaskie, ODF

Eradication, by cutting and burning host plants, is now underway on approximately 60 acres of forest and forest interface lands near Brookings. Although the pathogen has survived the eradication treatments on many sites, the treatments thus far have successfully suppressed the disease and limited its spread.

“Nature is always hinting at us. It hints over and over again. And suddenly we take the hint.”

-Robert Frost

*ODF coordinates efforts to eradicate *Phytophthora ramorum*, the cause of Sudden Oak Death, on 60 acres of forestland in southwest Oregon near Brookings.*

Board of Forestry Deliberations on Riparian Rule and Fish Passage Concepts

The department initiated discussions with the Board of Forestry in April on riparian function and fish passage rule recommendations that considered the work of the Independent Multidisciplinary Science Team, the Forest Practices Advisory Committee, the Eastside Riparian Functions Advisory Committee and a joint evaluation between ODF and DEQ of the sufficiency of the Forest Practices Act in protecting water quality. During 2002, the Board approved rule changes based on water protection recommendations related to forest road usage and landslides. These rule changes became effective January 2003.

The deliberations on riparian functions and fish passage included 16 rule concepts that addressed statewide issues and differences between westside and eastside conditions. Through 2003, the Board continued to evaluate whether the individual draft rule concepts should proceed as rule changes, as voluntary actions under the Oregon Plan, or not proceed. Changes to current water protection rules aren't expected to be approved before April 2005.

Forest Practice Monitoring

The highlight for the year was continued installation of study sites and data collection for the unit's seven-year Riparian (i.e., Streamside) Function and Stream Temperature Study. The study is looking at conditions before and after different types of harvest operations. The data is compared to control streams, looking at stream temperature, channel characteristics (width, substrate material, instream wood, depth, flow and shade/cover) and streamside vegetation (including standing dead and down wood). Data is collected for two years before harvest and five years after harvest, using a "control, harvest and downstream reach study" site design. The study involves 35 sites located throughout the Coast geographic region and involves both cooperating private forest landowners and state-owned forestlands.

The study is addressing four monitoring questions:

- Are current water protection strategies effective in meeting state water quality standards for stream temperature?
- Are current water protection strategies effective in maintaining large wood recruitment to streams, down wood in streamside zones, and shade?
- What are the trends in the regeneration of new trees in streamside zones?
- What are the trends in overstory and understory streamside characteristics, and how does channel and topography relate to stream temperature and shade?

As part of the **Long-term Stream Temperature study**, monitoring staff are continuing stream temperature data monitoring. The purpose of this study is to monitor stream temperature within several stream basins in a forested watershed for the purpose of understanding patterns and trends in stream temperature, given the forest management occurring within the basin.

The Department continued its membership in the Watershed Research Cooperative and collaborative support of the research cooperative's Hinkle Creek paired watershed study and research demonstration area. Department staff worked with other key cooperators to facilitate the July 24, 2003 Board of Forestry tour of the Hinkle Creek study on Roseburg Forest Product forestlands in Douglas County.

The agency also continued its support of the Oregon Headwaters Research Cooperative by providing funds for a study evaluating the response of insects, spiders and other macroinvertebrates to both natural and forest management disturbances along western Oregon headwater streams. Funds were also provided to study stream temperature characteristics at the interface between fish and non-fish bearing portions of headwater streams.

Urban and Community Forestry Assistance

The mission of ODF's Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Program is to help Oregonians improve their quality of

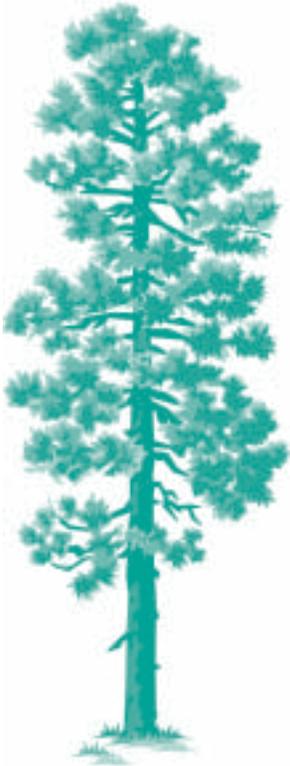




Photo by Paul Ries, ODF

City of Lebanon Maintenance Manager Rod Sell helps children with the Lebanon Boys and Girls Club plant a tree during 2003 Arbor Week festivities.

life by promoting community investment in our urban forests. Three professional urban foresters provide technical, financial, and educational assistance to cities, other state and local agencies, schools and universities, and non-profit and civic organizations.

Here are some of the success stories from the Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Program in 2003:

Community Tree Management Institute

One innovation unique to Oregon is the Community Tree Management Institute. The Institute is a crash-course in urban forestry for municipal employees who have tree related responsibilities, though not necessary just for those who hold the title of city forester. ODF first developed this course in 1994, and subsequent courses were held in 1996, 2000, and in 2003. For 2003, the program was expanded and jointly produced with the Washington Department of Natural Resources, with a total of 30 participants receiving eight days worth of instruction in five sessions throughout the year. This program is now gaining broader recogni-

tion, as the state of Texas Forest Service is now duplicating Oregon's effort.

Hazard Tree Mitigation Grant Program

In 2003, ODF administered a local grant program using funds provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and Oregon Emergency Management. Thirteen Hazard Tree Mitigation Grants provided \$90,000 in 75%-25% matching grants to local governmental units and non-profits in six counties (Benton, Coos, Curry, Douglas, Linn, and Lane) affected by the February, 2002 windstorm event. Eligible projects were tree care educational efforts and tree removal and replacement under powerlines.

An Urban and Community Forestry Research and Education Agenda

ODF produced *An Urban and Community Forestry Research and Education Agenda for Oregon*. It is the product of a year-long process to identify the most important research and education priorities in the state. This publication is designed to provide practitioners, researchers, policy-makers, and potential funding organizations and agencies with a blueprint for the future to help address critical issues in Oregon communities through the management of our urban forests.

Tree City USA

ODF administers the Tree City USA Program in Oregon in cooperation with the National Arbor Day Foundation. For 2003, Oregon had 37 designated Tree City USA communities. Receiving the award for the first time was the city of Klamath Falls. The city of Eugene received its 25th straight Tree City award.

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. For 2003, over 700 technical "assists" helped Oregonians increase the quality of life in their cities as they reaped the economic, environmental, and social benefits of trees.



TREE CITY USA

Public Affairs Program

Public Affairs was active in a variety of projects in 2003, including facilitating special events, providing fire information to media, and providing web and publications support to the agency.

To celebrate the completion of construction on the ODF campus headquarters, the Public Affairs Office coordinated a dedication ceremony that was held on October 23, 2003. The event recognized the efforts of those who helped make the multi-phased project a reality.

During the ceremony, Clark Seely, Associate State Forester, provided an historical overview of campus construction and discussed the agency's plans for the future.

Other presenters included State Forester Marvin Brown, Former Board of Forestry Chair Howard Sohn, and Jim Brown, Governor Ted Kulongoski's Natural Resource Policy Director and former State Forester.

Several measures were taken to ensure that the newly constructed campus buildings reflected the future, while still maintaining their past heritage. For example, the State Forester's building, stone pump house and stone walls on the surrounding grounds were retained, as well as the old Civilian Conservation Corp Headquarters building. Care was taken to ensure that materials were salvaged from existing buildings and incorporated into the new structures whenever feasible.

About 200 people stopped by to see ODF's new look, listen to speeches and enjoy refresh-

ments and good company during the reception.

In June, staff coordinated a celebratory gathering at the State Capitol. Several citizens who had taken voluntary measures to help protect Oregon's watersheds were recognized at a special Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds ceremony. Projects and contributions ranged from recycling water at a middle school and restoring wetlands, to managing animal waste at dairy farms, and protecting riparian areas while harvesting timber.

During the ceremony, Governor Kulongoski stressed his support for the Oregon Plan because of its means for achieving balance between ensuring healthy watersheds and fostering vibrant economies. "We know that over 26 percent of the jobs in this state are either directly or indirectly tied to our traditional natural resource industries," said Kulongoski.

Representatives from six sponsoring agencies presented the honorees with certificates of appreciation that were signed by Governor Kulongoski, as well as Senator Courtney, and Representative Minnis. After the ceremony, cake and beverages were served, and guests were able to personally congratulate the honorees. This special recognition event again



Photo by Gary Weber, ODOT

State Forester Marvin Brown, left, along with Jim Brown, Governor Kulongoski's Natural Resource Policy Director, and members of the Board of Forestry unveiled a plaque at a dedication ceremony for the new Administration Building at Salem Headquarters last Fall.



Photo by Arlene Whalen, ODF

Members of the North Salem High School Bel Canto String Quartet provided musical entertainment during an open house and building dedication event held in October.

took place in 2004, and is expected to continue as an annual event to recognize those who act, voluntarily, to improve the health of their watershed - because it is the right thing to do.

Public Affairs continued to provide its customers with a variety of publications, including the *Forest Log*, the 32-page legislatively mandated "*Oregon Forests Report*" which highlights the status and trends in Oregon's forests; publications assistance for the 76-page "*Forestry Program for Oregon*," a policy document which will guide the agency's work through 2011; and website support. In the last quarter of 2003, as a cost-savings measure, Public Affairs decided to reduce the *Forest Log* publication schedule, changing the *Log* from a bi-monthly to a quarterly publication. Public Affairs also assisted with the creation of a color poster for the International Fire Symposium in Sydney, Australia, and worked with media as a member of a team of ODF staff in the planning and facilitation of the National Association of State Foresters (NASF) annual conference in Portland.

Staff also coordinated the updating of a communication plan for the State Forest Program that identifies key messages for

target publics to help promote understanding of active management on state forest lands. Public Affairs also assisted with preparation for public interest and news media coverage of some timber sales, salmon anchor habitats, and a public hearing and decision on continuing to sell hardwoods to softwood exporters.

A media success story was a five-part series on the Tillamook and Clatsop state forests that appeared in The Daily Astorian newspaper. Public Affairs continued to actively participate in Elliott State Forest planning, including the facilitation of public involvement at key points in the process.

In late 2003, Public Affairs began planning a major news media outreach and public-involvement strategy for the Fire Program Review. This comprehensive examination of the department's Protection from Fire Program will seek to involve stakeholder groups and interested members of the public early in the process, with an aim to maintain and, wherever possible, improve this premier program.

"Most of the fundamental ideas of science are simple, and may, as a rule, be expressed in language comprehensible to everyone."

-A. Einstein



Governor Kulongoski addresses a crowd of award winners and well-wishers at a special Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds ceremony at the state capitol last June.

State Forests Management Program

“Joy in looking and comprehending is nature’s most beautiful gift.”

– Albert Einstein

The Oregon Department of Forestry manages about 789,000 acres of forest-land statewide, most of it within the five state forests – Tillamook, Clatsop, Santiam, Elliott and Sun Pass.

The mission of the State Forests Program for Board of Forestry lands is to manage for the greatest permanent value so that the state’s forests will, over time and across the landscape, provide a full range of social, economic and environmental benefits to Oregonians. ODF’s State Forests Program manages Common School Forest Lands, under agreement with the State Land Board and the Division of State Lands, to obtain the greatest benefit for the people of this state, consistent with the conservation of this resource under sound techniques of land management.

District Implementation Plans Approved

The State Forester in March 2003 approved implementation plans for the Astoria, Forest Grove, Tillamook, Cascades, West Oregon, Western Lane and Southwest Oregon districts.

Implementation plans (IP) describe the forest management approaches and activities a district will initiate and complete during a 10-year period in order to faithfully implement a forest management plan. The districts with IPs are those included in the Northwest Oregon and Southwest Oregon State Forests Management Plans, approved in January of 2001.

The IPs describe the management approaches and activities that will be carried out for the ten-year period from July 1, 2001 through June 30, 2011.

Along with approval of the IPs, the State Forester adopted direction for enhancements to timber harvest schedule modeling, watershed analysis, monitoring, forest inventory and salmon anchor habitats.

Some of the key issues addressed in these Implementation Plans are:

- Treatment of Swiss needle cast disease in the Tillamook district;
- Timber harvest levels;
- Landscape design identifying how and where future habitats will develop;
- Management approaches used to produce timber and revenue while encouraging stand structure and habitat development and;
- Management of sensitive resource sites and various other values.

The IPs for each district describe management by watershed basins, with an inventory of the current forest condition and a projection of outputs and habitat achievements over the next decade. The plans also specify the desired future condition of the forests expected to be achieved over several decades. The assessments are based on “stand structure” development as the forests mature.



Legislative Direction

During the 2003 Legislative Session, several notes were added to ODF’s budget to provide direction to the State Forests Program. A brief description of the budget notes follows:

- 1) Proceed with harvest modeling review and provide quarterly reports to Emergency Board; increase harvest levels to upper limit during this review,

- 2) Review salmon anchor habitats and recommend any changes to BOF; report to Board by September 2004,
- 3) Pursue Measure 66 Lottery funds to operate Tillamook Forest Center and report to Board by September 2004,
- 4) Provide cost-benefit analysis of selling Elliott State Forest compared to timber harvest revenue,
- 5) Review distribution of forest revenue to increase county share; report to 2005 Session.

Work on the first four of these areas is proceeding. The Legislative Joint Audit Committee chose not to pursue the fifth note dealing with forest revenue distribution.

Also during the 2003 Session, a bill that would have significantly increased harvesting on the Tillamook and Clatsop state forests garnered strong bipartisan support. The bill passed the House, but remained in a Senate committee as the session ended.

Harvest and Habitat Modeling Project

The Harvest and Habitat Modeling Project was initiated in 2003 to provide ODF with a better foundation to establish sustainable harvest levels in the future on forestlands managed under the northwest and southwest state forest management plans. This study was called for in the approved district implementation plans, and it is referenced in a budget note as a project that needs to proceed.

The project is using recently updated forest inventory data entered into a sophisticated computer program. It will develop a way to model timber harvest and evaluate economic and environmental goals in the plan. The project is scheduled for completion in the spring of 2005.

Salmon Anchor Habitat Review

In approving the Department of Forestry's 2003-05 biennial budget, the legislature directed the agency to form a work group of constituents, including counties and regulated industry to review the implementation plan for salmon anchor habitat strategies.

These strategies, approved with the 10-year implementation plans, are seen as a way to provide site-specific habitat protection to those streams that have the highest historic use by salmon while the larger landscape approach develops more habitat over time. This follows a recommendation from an independent scientific team that reviewed the landscape plan before it was approved.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife worked with ODF and Oregon Trout to identify 17 key basins in the northwest state forests. These basins rose to the top because they historically showed the strongest salmon runs and the highest quality habitat.

The basins – in areas of generally high concentrations of state-owned forest land – represent about 155,000 acres. Of that, about 15,000 acres are riparian management areas directly along streams.

The work group will review things such as impacts of listing decisions by NOAA-Fisheries, State of Oregon Endangered Species Act assurances efforts, monitor implementation of the strategies in each basin, and monitor impacts of salmon anchor habitat on harvest activity through the harvest level work plan.

The work group is to identify issues and make recommendations for necessary changes to the SAH strategies to the Board of Forestry. The Department is directed to report on the activities of the work group and its recommendations, accompanied by scientific evidence, to the Emergency Board no later than September 2004.

The work group has been designated, and includes three county commissioners, and representatives of Oregon Forest Industries Council, Oregon Trout and the Wild Salmon Center. The efforts of this work group will be facilitated and coordinated by the Institute for Natural Resources at Oregon State University in partnership with Department staff.

Public Involvement

The Department remained committed to proactively involving the public as part of the successful implementation of its

forest management plans. ODF sought to have the focus of public input be on its annual operations plans, a detailed explanation of on-the-ground activities to be carried out to move forest stands to their desired future condition.

The two primary mechanisms for gaining public input are a comment period on annual operations plans and an advisory committee representing diverse interests. The plans for each of the nine districts with ODF-managed state lands, along with maps showing locations of planned activities, were posted on the ODF website.

The State Forest Advisory Committee met four times in 2003, and discussed topics that included the harvest and habitat modeling project, recreation plans and accomplishments, annual operations plans, watershed analysis, hardwoods, adaptive management, and implementation plans.

The advisory committee provided a forum of diverse interests – environmental, recreational, timber industry and tribes – to discuss issues, opportunities and concerns. The committee provided advice and guidance relating to the implementation of plans for Northwest and Southwest Oregon State Forests. Members represent their respective organizations and act as a liaison to other interest groups.

Counties also were represented on the advisory committee through appointment by the Council of Forest Trust Land Counties.

Counties and FTLAC

The Forest Trust Land Advisory Committee (FTLAC) regularly met during 2003 to provide advice to the Board of Forestry on matters where counties may have a responsibility related to forest land managed by ODF. Counties depend on revenue generated from management activities on these lands. FTLAC is a legally mandated committee made up of seven commissioners who represent counties that in the past deeded lands to the state.

Over the last five years, about \$40 million in annual revenue – earmarked for

the 15 counties that have state forest land within their boundaries – has come from timber sales on county forest trust lands. Counties with forest trust land include Benton, Clackamas, Clatsop, Columbia, Coos, Douglas, Josephine, Klamath, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, Marion, Polk, Tillamook and Washington.

FTLAC passed a resolution in May 2003 supporting legislation identifying timber production and harvest as the primary purpose of Board of Forestry lands. In the same resolution, FTLAC indicated its support of the *Northwest Oregon State Forest Management Plan*. In another resolution, FTLAC endorsed and supported the Tillamook Forest Center.

Issues discussed by FTLAC included Implementation Plans (including projected harvest levels), Annual Operations Plans, a proposed Habitat Conservation Plan, land exchanges, watershed assessment, habitat for fish and wildlife, and forest health.

Annual Operations Plans

Timber sales, habitat management, young stand management, recreation projects, road construction and maintenance, and monitoring are some of the activities explained in annual operations plans. These action plans serve to link operational planning and accountability with ODF plans, policies, goals and budgets.

Draft plans undergo significant review by resource specialists and agency administrators, and include opportunity for public comment. District foresters consider input from all these sources before approval of the AOPs. District foresters also approve modifications of plans, when necessary, due to new information, changes in budget levels, or unforeseen circumstances.

The year 2003 marked the second formal public comment period for AOPs. This comment period was designed to provide local district constituents an opportunity to become informed about details of specific operations, evaluate draft AOPs for consistency with forest management plans, and provide input prior to finalizing AOPs for fiscal year 2004.

More than 200 summary comments were gleaned from submissions during the 45-day comment period from February 14 to March 31. Responses were provided to each of the summary comments, which spanned many areas, including the desired future condition, proposed management, estimated resource outputs and wildlife.

Watershed Analysis

ODF contracted to have pilot watershed analysis projects conducted in the Trask River basin of the Tillamook State Forest and in all basins of the Elliott State Forest. These pilot projects evaluated the interactions between ODF management and a watershed's physical and biological processes.

ODF watershed analyses are designed to be performed in several steps.

- The analyst compiles available information to describe current watershed condition.
- Based on this description, factors limiting important watershed functions are identified and assessed.
- The analysts and ODF resource specialists determine whether riparian and aquatic strategies are addressing the appropriate process and function concerns within the watershed.
- Information provided by watershed analysis is used to refine district implementation plans and, as necessary, contribute to a comprehensive review of forest management plan goals and strategies.

Results of these pilot projects are being used to develop a watershed analysis manual to help guide these analyses and show how the results can be incorporated into forest management. A subcommittee of the State Forest Advisory Committee has helped develop the manual.

Draft Strategies Developed for Elliott

ODF has developed details for revising the forest management plan and the habitat conservation plan for the Elliott State Forest.

These details are in the form of draft strategies to provide direction for carrying

out the three forest management concepts identified earlier as a general direction for the 93,000-acre forest near Coos Bay.

The concepts focus on 1) using structure to measure forest development, 2) having conservation areas for wildlife and 3) revising special treatment areas along streams.

A scientific peer review was conducted to ensure the draft management strategies meet the goals set out in the plan for wildlife and fisheries. Eight reviewers said ODF is taking a good approach, saying it was modern, integrative and will support sustainable ecosystem management.

Public meetings and updates are planned for key points of the revision process. Another round of public meetings is planned to review and obtain input on a draft landscape strategy.

Western Oregon Habitat Conservation Plan

Negotiations with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) have resulted in a set of conservation strategies for northern spotted owls, marbled murrelets and a list of other species.

ODF, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), and USFWS believe this set of strategies is sufficient to move forward into the National Environmental Policy Act process.

Negotiations with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries have not produced an agreed upon set of strategies for fish. ODF is proposing to use the aquatic and riparian strategies in the Northwest and Southwest Oregon State Forests Management Plans as strategies in the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP).

ODF, in coordination with ODFW, is currently developing an effects analysis for the Aquatic and Riparian strategies. Upon

Marbled murrelet

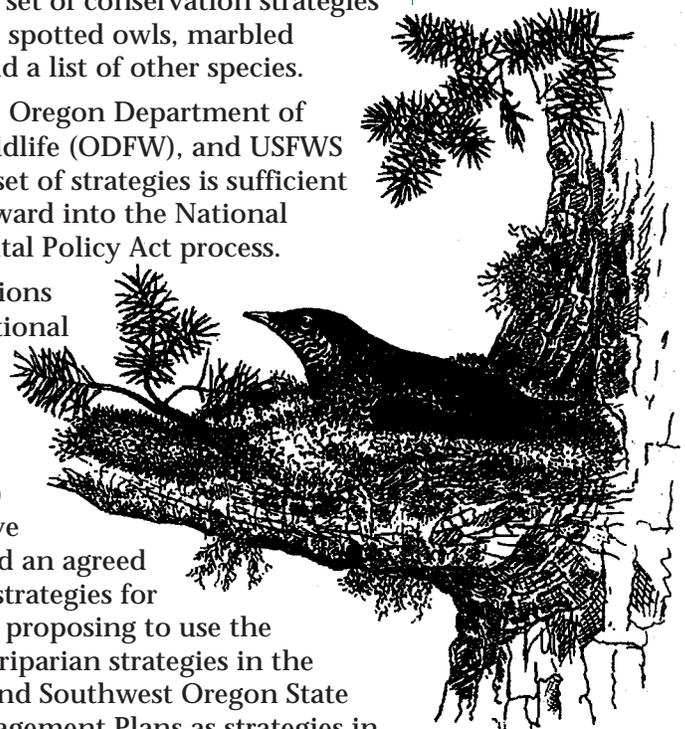


Illustration by Laura Lynn

completion of the effects analysis, further consultation will occur, and a decision will be made on how to, or whether or not to, consider including fish in the HCP.

Concurrently, discussion on moving forward with development of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) – required for the HCP – is underway.

The EIS process includes further public involvement and technical analysis of the proposed strategies and alternatives. The EIS process would likely take 12 to 18 months.

Completion of the EIS will incorporate updated modeling information from the Harvest and Habitat Modeling Project.

Timber Volume and Value

Through the implementation of comprehensive forest management plans, the State Forests Management Program brought in more than \$97.8 million in revenue from timber harvest on Board of Forestry and Common School Lands in 2003. The volume of 277.9 million board feet equated to approximately 81,000 truckloads of logs.

In Memoriam: Forest Education Loses Accomplished Leader

Tillamook State Forest Education Coordinator Mary Rellergert passed away on February 4, 2004 after an extended battle with breast cancer. She was 46.

During her seven years in the Tillamook State Forest Education and Interpretation Program, Mary earned a reputation for leadership, creativity and dedication. She led the development of several “institutions,” including the curriculum-driven approach to forest education programs; development of Forest Discovery Camp for kids; partnering with schools, teachers and volunteers to get important work done; and development and implementation of the Oregon Forest Institute for Teachers (OFIT). Above all, Mary knew how to connect with kids and how to create a sense of excitement for learning about forests. During her career at ODF, she touched the lives of tens of thousands of children, teachers, and parents through visits to the forest and to the classroom.

Mary was a forester by training, and as such was fascinated by the Tillamook.

She had a passion for forests and forestry and was able to translate that passion into memorable learning experiences for students of all ages. Mary’s husband, Mitch Taylor, is the Forest Grove Protection Unit Forester. Together they have three school-age children.

Mary’s legacy will be life-long for all of us fortunate enough to know her and work with her. In the too-short time we had together, she gave us all an appreciation for life, a model of strength and courage, and she inspired our curiosity about this forest and the natural world in general. We are all diminished by her loss.



Photo by Chris Friend, ODF

Tillamook State Forest Education Coordinator Mary Rellergert knew how to create a sense of excitement for learning about forests. We are all diminished by her loss.

Protection from Fire Program

The shoe that didn't drop

At the peak of the summer last year, high temperatures, lack of rain and parched forest fuels had combined to create record-setting fire conditions in Oregon. Fire experts comparing the 2003 and 2002 numbers concurred: Nature had set the stage for a fire season even worse than 2002, in which wildfires burned nearly 100,000 acres of forestland protected by the Department of Forestry at a suppression cost of \$50 million.

Months passed and the dire predictions continued. But by late October, state fire managers finally began to exhale. Only 9,347 acres had burned on the 16 million acres under their protection at a suppression cost of less than \$10 million.

A look at the department's fire statistics for the two summers tells the story. Lightning-caused wildfires totaled 353 last year - a few more than the 306 lightning starts of 2002. The big difference shows up in the area burned. Lightning fires torched more than 92,000 acres of state-protected lands in 2002, while only 4,015 acres were consumed by fire from the sky last year.

Nature accounted for much of the difference. In 2002, widespread dry lightning started hundreds of fires, which quickly overwhelmed the protection system. In contrast, last summer's electrical storms were smaller in scope and carried more moisture. The comparatively slow growth rate of these "wet starts" afforded firefighters time to attack them while still at manageable size.

Nevertheless, scores of 2003 wildfires bore potential to become major incidents. That they didn't can be credited in large part to the Protection from Fire Program's suppression planning aided by extra funds from the Oregon Legislature.

Pay a little now, save big later

The Legislative Emergency Board authorized the department to implement a severity plan using State General Fund money reserved specifically for fire emergencies. \$1.2 million was spent during the season as the Fire Program leased an air tanker and a lead plane from Alaska, and contracted with Oregon aviation firms to place several helicopters on standby. The extra dollars also enabled the department's protection districts to secure additional hand crews and fire engines prior to predicted peak fire periods.

Gauging how many fires did *not* grow into major blazes due to the beefed-up initial attack is impossible. But by assessing weather conditions, burning indices, fuel loads and other factors, Fire Program analysts drew inferences for dozens of

"Neither fire nor wind, birth nor death can erase our good deeds."

- Buddha

*Below:
Smoke from the Clark Fire drifts above private land located 12 miles northeast of Lowell, Oregon, in July of last year.*



Photo courtesy of Bernie Peneda, USFS

2003 wildfires at which severity resources were deployed. Looking at southwestern Oregon as an example, 21 fires in July-September that burned a total of only 771 acres had potential to consume more than 18,000 acres. On those fires, additional



Two fires - the Bear Butte and Booth Fires first reported on August 19 - burned together September 4th, and were renamed the "B&B Complex." The fire burned on the Deschutes and Willamette National Forests in mixed conifer, lodgepole pine, and bug-killed timber. ODF assisted with firefighting efforts. L-R: George Ponte, Bob Young, Deputy State Forester Roy Wood, State Forester Marvin Brown, Governor Kulongoski, Russ Lane, Jim Mair (back), and Paul Ries.

severity aircraft bolstered the mainstay district resources during initial attack. In every case, the extra retardant tanker and water-dropping helicopters helped firefighters achieve control at relatively small size.

In southwestern Oregon and elsewhere in the state, regular district forces did the lion's share of the firefighting. The severity resources were brought into play only when conditions had reached a threshold at which spending a little extra early on could preclude significant timber loss and large suppression costs later.

Contract fire crews

Oregon's contract fire crew industry, already the largest in the nation, continued its growth spurt in 2003, with 96 companies fielding a record 300 20-person crews. Monitoring the work performance, training programs and credentials of this booming business had become a daunting task for a contract administration unit that could meet in a phone booth with room to spare.

During the 2003 legislative session, the department requested authority to add contract manager and contract officer positions to the unit, along with a clerical position. The manager slot was filled in February, but the other two were delayed until 2004.

Despite understaffing, the contract administration unit recorded notable accomplishments during the year. The "army of two" - Don Moritz and Ed Daniels - took 54 contract actions for violations of conditions of the Interagency Fire Crew Agreement.

The unit performed checks on the training and experience records of all fire crew supervisors during the year. An increase in the number of Spanish-speaking fire crews prompted the unit to develop a standardized English reading skills evaluation process. And to achieve uniformity in the monitoring of firefighter training courses conducted by private-sector instructors, the unit developed a monitoring packet for each required training course. Several improvements were made to the Crew Agreement, including elevation of the qualification standards for attaining higher-level firefighting positions.

By season's end, Oregon's contract firefighters had logged 6,845 crew-days fighting fire in Washington, Montana, Idaho, Nevada, California, Utah, Wyoming, Colorado and their home state.

From Canada to Oregon: Thanks

Wildfire knows no political boundaries. In 2003, both the U.S. and Canada experienced periods of intense fire activity. Particularly hard-hit was British Columbia. When huge wildfires struck last summer, the province issued an urgent plea for outside help. The Oregon Department of Forestry responded by dispatching a complement of division group supervisors to assist Canadian firefighters. The gesture prompted Provincial Premier Gordon Campbell to formally recognize Oregon as a "Protection Partner." In 2002, Oregon was on the receiving end, as British Columbia sent down similar overhead personnel in answer to a department request.

The reciprocal aid between Oregon and Canada in 2002-2003 was made possible by the Northwest Compact Act, an agreement among several northwestern states and Canadian provinces that en-

ables sharing of wildland fire resources across borders.

Interface Fire Protection Act

The Oregon Forestland-Urban Interface Fire Protection Act of 1997, more commonly known as Senate Bill 360, took a big step toward implementation last year in Deschutes and Jackson counties.

Classification committees in these two counties selected for initial implementation of the Act completed most of the interface identification and classification work within their boundaries. Some 32,000 tax lots in Deschutes County and 11,000 tax lots in Jackson County fall within the classified interface. Landowners in the wildland-urban interface will have two years to complete fuel reduction around their homes.



A Sikorsky helicopter drops water during initial attack on the Sulphur Fire, near Mapleton, Oregon, last summer.

Photo by Ken Ockfen, ODF

Public response to this early phase of implementation was mostly positive, due in no small part to cooperative education efforts conducted by the department and its sister fire agencies. Interface residents are accepting the responsibility that comes with living in a fire environment and learning what they can do to protect their homes. Three public meetings held in Deschutes County drew nearly 800 landowners, and in Jackson County a series of six meetings attracted 1,000 landowners.

National Fire Plan

Few ventures yield a more substantial payoff on initial investment than money spent on fire prevention. In 2003, 3,100 Oregon landowners completed fire-prevention projects on 17,000 acres. The

Protection from Fire Program administered \$2.4 million in National Fire Plan grants to assist with the work.

The dollars helped interface residents create survivable space around their homes by pruning trees and trimming or removing other encroaching vegetation. Many landowner grant recipients performed the work themselves, while others relied on agency crews or private contractors.

The program also awarded federal grants to rural fire departments in order to improve their suppression capability. Some 71 rural departments received \$1.4 million in the 2003 fiscal year. The funds are helping the rurals keep pace with fire protection needs resulting from population expansion.

“Scores of 2003 wildfires bore potential to become major incidents.”



Administrative Services

“Great ability develops and reveals itself increasingly with every new assignment.”

- Baltasar Gracian,
16th Century
Philosopher

For the second consecutive fiscal year, replacement rates in Motor Pool Fleet Operations were reduced by 50 percent. The outcome of the reduction created budget savings for program and field operations.

Business Services

In 2003, the Salem Compound Construction project was officially completed. The project started in late 1993 with the development of the proposal for the first site master plan. Ten years later the project was completed. The project involved the complete redevelopment of the main compound and three-acre site. In all, six new buildings and one addition were constructed for approximately \$20 million in design and construction costs.

As a result of reorganization of the Services Division, the facilities unit became the facilities & procurement unit, taking on the personnel and duties of the procurement unit that had been part of finance. The facilities unit assisted seven field sites with extensive facility and project planning, construction management and coordination, and technical assistance.

Equipment Pool

The Equipment Pool Section was part of the reorganization of the Administrative Services Division and now resides within the Business Services Program. The section also went through major personnel changes with the retirements of the services section director, equipment pool section manager, communications coordinator, fleet manager and the resignation of one of two communication engineers.

Eulus Newton was promoted from the Support Services Section Manager to the Equipment Pool Section Manager and Paul Koreiva was promoted from the Facilities Maintenance Coordinator to the Transportation Manager.

The Motor Pool Fleet Operations replaced 50 vehicles and one piece of heavy duty equipment. For the second consecutive fiscal year, replacement rates were reduced by 50 percent. The outcome of the reduction created budget savings for program and field operations.

The Communications Program held its annual district meetings and replaced 70 pieces of equipment. In addition, 83 percent of the Equipment Pool staff helped support the 2003 fire season.

Business Services Unit

2003 was a year of growth for the Fiscal Services Section. We closed the agency books and reported for the second time under the Governmental Accounting Standards Board pronouncement 34, and for the first time under the new rules set forth in pronouncements 35 through 39. These pronouncements cover everything from the way we report infrastructure to the way we report our partnerships with other agencies.

One of the big external influences was the implementation of the Department of Administrative Services' new budgeting program, Oregon Budgeting Information System. With this new program we are mandated to reconcile the structure we have in Statewide Financial Management System with the new budgeting program. To do this we were given a new Accountant 2 position. Thomas Poon was hired from a local CPA firm into this position. He will be working with the Budget and Management Section to align the two programs so we can seamlessly report our budget from request through execution.

One of the areas that has increased dramatically is the use of federal grants and cooperative agreements which has required additional time to monitor, account for and report. To help with the new workload and increased emphasis of both the Legislature and the federal government on proper monitoring and reporting of federal dollars, two new positions were added. Keith Dehut moved into the Grant Accountant position, and Lynette Rothwell was hired from the Building Codes Agency as the Federal Funds Technician.

New Staff : This has been a year of big employee changes within Fiscal Services. In addition to the hiring of Lynette and Thomas, a new Disbursements Technician, Donna Oliver, was hired. She comes to us from the State Hospital. With Keith's move to the Grant Accountant, Diane Smithburg was hired to become the new Finance Systems Accountant, and to fill her old position of Reports Coordinator, Jerry Hood was hired. Jerry comes to us from the private corporate sector with many years of reporting experience.

To make the management of the section more responsive to our customers, three Fiscal Services employees were placed as team leaders over the three functions of the Section. Judy Wilder continues to be the leadworker over the Disbursements unit, Keith Dehut has taken on the responsibility of the Revenue unit, and Diane Smithburg is leading the General Ledger unit.

Budget Unit

2003 was a year not unlike the last several in that it was a year of budgetary challenge and tumult for the Department's Budget Management Unit (BMU). Continued unfavorable economic factors and declining General Fund revenue led to the longest legislative sessions in Oregon history. The outcome of the session had significant budgetary impact for the Department, which began the process with a Governor's Balanced Budget (GBB) of \$238M and ended with a 2003-05 Legislatively Adopted Budget (LAB) of \$226M for a \$12M reduction, a reduction of just over five percent of all funds. Reductions were not just a General Fund phenomena but impacted materially Other and Federally funded programs.

Of particular note is that contained within the department's budget were two additional staff positions for the BMU, bringing the level of staffing close to the

level of other agencies. These positions were the result of the efforts of Clark Seely, Associate State Forester, and Marti-Lea Graham, Business Services Director. Jill E. Wagaman and Catherine O. Smith were hired as budget analysts and have proven wonderful complements to the department. Even with these positions, the analysis of the department's close of legislative session budget has taken almost eight months of intensive work by the BMU to complete. The execution of the budget has proven equally as challenging, given two legislative Emergency Board appearances and the analysis and reporting on the Governor's Cost Avoidance Measure (HB 2148).

Marti Graham and John Borden want to acknowledge the efforts undertaken by programs and their staffs as they worked through the 2003-2005 budget. Also, they want to specifically acknowledge the dedication and untiring efforts of one of the Department's most outstanding employees, James Scarsce, Senior Budget Analyst. James' technical skills and expertise again proved invaluable. With

all the pressures of this past budget cycle his naturally positive disposition and 'can do' attitude never faltered or faded. He continues to be the backbone of the BMU and it is a distinct pleasure to work with such a truly remarkable employee.

Along with James, Information Technology Staff members Karl Kohler, Sharon Martin and Kris Cody continue to support the BMU in key facets of its

duties and responsibilities. Like James, they are extraordinarily professional and indispensable and the BMU would like to thank them for all their efforts.

Information Technology Program

The Information Technology Program provides support to the department's operational and administrative Programs in four areas. These are custom computer applications development and mainte-



*James Scarsce,
Senior Budget Analyst*

Photo by Cynthia Orlando, ODF

nance; technical support of computer infrastructure; geographic information systems coordination, data development and projects and administrative support.

During 2003, reorganization saw the Graphics/GIS Section of the Services Program brought into the Information Technology Program. With this change, the program now encompasses the vast majority of the department's centralized technology areas. With a new, coordinated approach, business computer applications and technical infrastructure now move forward using all available data and technologies. The result will be more robust business systems for use by the department and its customers.

Applications Development

Major progress was made on small but significant custom applications for use in aviation management and fire timekeeping. In addition, groundwork was laid for a major review of existing business processes to ascertain where technology can be used to make the department more efficient and effective.

Geographic Information Systems

The conversion of field protection maps continues with significant progress made towards completion. Also, work continues in obtaining, developing and cataloging data which will allow for more robust analysis of ground based natural resource issues. This Unit also provides significant support to wildfires during the fire season.

Technical Support

A major upgrade of field office based computer infrastructure was started with completion scheduled for 2004. When completed, the department, for the first time, will have a standard configuration of local computing throughout the State. This will greatly enhance the ability to provide support for these offices without having to increase staffing levels.

Administrative Resources

This unit continues to provide Word Processing support and administers the Log Brand statutes. It also provides records management to the Department, and

staffs an employee Help Desk. In addition, Sharon Martin and Kristin Cody continue to consistently provide outstanding word processing services to both Salem and district staff.

Human Resources:

A Year of Continuous Change

2003 saw yet another record number of retirements with six percent of our permanent staff retiring. Major changes to the PERS system have resulted in these record numbers. We continue to focus on developing, mentoring and training employees so they may step into the new opportunities being created as a result of these retirements.

To provide the necessary resources to do this, we filled the position of Learning and Organization Development Coordinator. Chris Roach has been essential in providing support for the Agency Leadership Program, Career Development Tour and Covey Plus training. All three of the programs were in a holding pattern until the resources were available. These are examples of the proactive steps being taken to ensure a smooth transition in the future.

Safety: A year of studies for the agency's Safety program.

Firefighters from southern Oregon and The Dalles Unit participated in a poison oak study sponsored by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and administered by Oregon's Health Services Division. The study came on the heels of the U.S.D.A. Forest service Biscuit Fire that drew national attention to the pesky plant that has been deemed by firefighters as the "scourge of the west." Poison oak plants have a coating of an oily substance that causes a very irritating rash when contacted. The oil can also travel on smoke particles that penetrate firefighter clothing causing rashes and in some cases can be inhaled and cause more serious systemic illnesses. The goal of the study was to test the effectiveness of a 12-hour application of a poison oak preventive lotion for

firefighters.

The agency concluded a noise exposure assessment program in 2003. Testing was conducted at our request by industrial hygienists from SAIF Corporation, the state's workers' compensation carrier. Findings from those assessments will provide a basis for the Department's Hearing Conservation Program to be launched during 2004 fire season.

Results from the agency-wide Safety Perception Survey were distributed to local safety committees this

Major changes to the PERS system have resulted in a record number of retirements.

We continue to focus on developing, mentoring and training employees so they may step into the new opportunities being created as a result of these retirements.

year. Overall, the agency received 77 percent positive responses from employees on its safety program. Highest marks were received by our seasonal firefighters.

The Safety Closing Report for FY2003 revealed a decrease in the agency's number of time loss claims, vehicle accidents and had its lowest number of injuries since 1996.

2003 Food Drive

Congratulations to all ODF employees who participated in the 2003 Food Drive. Last year, the overall accomplishment was again phenomenal! Statewide, the Department of Forestry average "pounds per person" was 339.58, up from 320 last year. ODF exceeded the goal of 326 pounds per person that was set for last year's Food Drive.

Here are all of the "winners" for the 2003 Food Drive:

★ Best Unit/Program in the Agency: Molalla
Total pounds: 23,422
Pounds Per Person: 3,346

Best in Eastern Oregon Area: Klamath
Total Pounds: 56,131.80
Pounds Per Person: 2,004.71

Best in Northwest Oregon Area: Molalla
Total pounds: 23,422
Pounds Per Person: 3,346

Best in Southern Oregon Area: Grants Pass
Total Pounds: 13,358.12
Pounds Per Person: 890.54

Best in Salem: Forest Management
Total Pounds: 14,446.96
Pounds Per Person: 294.84

★ Individual 10,000 Pound Club
Danny Benson, Unit Forester,
Klamath Lake = 31,068 lbs.

Dick Cunningham, former Forest Officer,
Klamath Falls = 13,534 lbs.

Last year's Food Drive Coordinator was State Forests Program Director Ross Holloway. The Oregon Department of Forestry continues to demonstrate the ability to pull together and help those in need. Thanks again to everyone for the hard work and efforts last year.

"ODF exceeded the goal of 326 pounds per person that was set for last year's Food Drive."



Areas & Districts



Eastern Oregon Area

About the Eastern Oregon Area:

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.

Klamath Lake

2003 Fire Season Summary

Fire Season was officially declared June 1, with additional public use restrictions put in place for the Klamath River canyon. Similar public restrictions for the remaining portions of the District were implemented on July 1. The District remained under these restrictions until November, for a total season length of 155 days. During this season, the Klamath-Lake District experienced 100 fires on state protected land that burned 520 acres. Only 21 acres were burned due to lightning compared to last year's devastating lightning fires that burned 34,919 acres of state protected land. 2003 was an incredibly successful year with the statistics

below showing the success of our combined efforts.

Community Service

The Klamath-Lake District employees are proud members of our local communities. Each year our employees contribute countless volunteer hours, individual financial support, and organizational support to local charitable groups, service organizations, and the communities of Klamath and Lake Counties.

2003 State Employee Food Drive

In February, through various food donations, fundraising activities and monetary gifts, District employees provided 59,398 pounds of food to the Lake and Klamath County Food Banks. The drive was a great success thanks to the dedication and hard work of the entire staff.

Klamath Tree League

The District is an active member of the Klamath Tree League. The group provided countless volunteer hours improving the livability of the local urban area by helping to develop and maintain a local preferred species arboretum, and promoting other local urban forestry programs. During the year, the group continued to conduct Arbor Week activities and implement the "Klamath Outstanding Trees" program to locate and recognize Klamath Falls best mature trees. In addition, KTL obtained a Title III grant for \$203,185 over four years. This grant will complete development of the arboretum. During this first year of the grant 67 new trees were planted, a deer-proof fence was installed, and the planted sections were mulched.

SMART Program

SMART (Start Making a Reader Today) is a privately funded book and reading program for elementary school children. District staff is committed to visiting elementary schools and reading to children. The SMART premise is that all

children can learn to read, and that the job of educating our children belongs to everyone. During the year, every SMART student is read with twice a week and receives 14 new books to take home and keep. This year, District employees collectively volunteered 80 hours, reading once a week at Fairhaven and Conger Elementary schools.

Northeast Oregon District

In 2003, the Northeast Oregon District experienced record-setting energy release components from mid-July to mid-August. With the potential for extreme fire behavior looming, the district submitted and received approval of a request for State severity funding to contract for a medium helicopter. General Aviation of Pendleton won the bid and based the water bucket-equipped ship locally for service to the entire district. The Bell 205 stayed busy throughout the season, flying initial attack on seven fires and extended attack on three fires. It delivered water rapidly to fires in inaccessible areas, preventing additional resource loss and firefighting expenditures.

Initial attack by the helicopter on the Deerhorn No. 2, Grouse Creek, Rattlesnake Ridge, Milepost 241, Harvey Ranch, Cable Creek and McKay Creek fires helped ground-based firefighters gain control quickly in spite of the tinder-dry fuels and parched conditions.

When Wallowa County received substantial lightning in mid-August, the district moved the helicopter to Joseph in anticipation of new fires resulting from the storm. One lightning start on federal lands, the Grouse Creek Fire, threatened to expand into a major fire with potential to jump to state-protected lands. With federal firefighting resources committed to other incidents, the severity ship played a key role in keeping this blaze small. Two other lightning-caused fires triggered by the thunderstorm on federal lands grew into major incidents, evidence that the Grouse Creek Fire could have blown up as well. The USDA Forest Service will reimburse the department for flight time logged, since the action occurred on

National Forest lands.

It is difficult to calculate a cost/benefit ratio for the severity helicopter. But two fires in particular, the Rattlesnake Ridge and Deerhorn No. 2 fires, couldn't have been stopped during initial attack without this additional air resource. Doing the math, the two blazes cost \$55,700 to suppress. The district estimates an additional \$160,000 would have been expended to control the fires had they not been caught early.



Photo by Lena Tucker, ODF

Corrections Inmate Fire Program

The Snake River Correctional Institute in Ontario and the Powder River Correctional Institute in Baker City continue to develop productive and cost effective endeavors in support of our District fire protection program. In 2003, ODF provided firefighter training to 125 inmates from these two facilities. These inmates were available in 10-person crews and had successfully passed the pack test. They were fully equipped with safety equipment, tools and communications.

In 2003, Department of Correction crews worked on eight different fires for a total of 560 person days, provided fire camp support on seven fires for a total of 760 person days, and supplied 10,466 lunches to fire fighters on a variety of fire around the State. In the near future, Department of Correction crews are planning to redesign and refurbish an out-of-date, no longer used ODF fire kitchen.

Large plume from the B&B Fire rises over Eastern Oregon last summer.

Once completed, this kitchen will be operated by the crews and be available to the district for use on fires in remote locations where providing food services have historically been a problem. This would be a tremendous asset to the district fire operations.

Central Oregon District
Fire

The John Day Unit experienced 67 days where the fire danger indices exceeded the 20-year historic high levels. Fifty-six days during the 2003 fire season exceeded the 90th percentile. Three large fires on the unit were during this period and all occurred at fire danger indices exceeding the 90th percentile. In 2003 the John Day unit hosted all three ODF fire teams. In each instance, teams were ordered so the unit could maintain some resemblance of an initial attack force and to provide the logistical support needed to manage these fires.

The Prineville-Sisters Unit had four major fires that threatened or burned onto district-protected land. The Davis fire started on June 28, and burned USDA Forest Service lands southwest of the Sisters sub-unit. It took the efforts of Sisters and Walker Range firefighters to build control lines in advance of the fire to keep it off of ODF-protected land. The Davis Fire was contained at 21,181 acres.

The Dalles Unit had a fire - pushed by easterly Columbia Gorge winds - start on the eastern edge of the City of Cascade Locks and rapidly burn into the city. The Herman Creek fire burned on USDA Forest Service, ODF, and City Fire Department lands, which required a unified command early on the initial-attack stages. In addition, initial-attack forces lost two structures out of the hundreds that were threatened by the fire advance. The governor invoked the Conflagration Act and mobilized resources to aid in the eventual control of the fire. The final fire size was 375 acres, of which 146 acres were

district-protected lands.

National Fire Plan

The National Fire Plan was a continuing success story for all three units this past year. The grants received have been used to educate the public about living in fire prone areas and treating many homes for defensible space. Stuart Otto, Stewardship Forester; Elden Ward, National Fire Plan Coordinator in Prineville; David Jacobs, Protection Supervisor in The Dalles; and Russ Lane and Mitch Mund, Stewardship Foresters in John Day, did a particularly outstanding job in the Central Oregon area in managing National Fire Plan dollars. Their hard work is appreciated.

Prevention, Urban and Community Forestry, Administration and Safety

The unit office was one of four offices across the state that received National Fire Plan funding to obtain a new Smokey Bear and Fire Danger Rating sign. The fiberglass Smokey Bear was designed by a Walt Disney animator and built by Display Dynamics, Inc. of Bend, Oregon.

In 2003, two Central Oregon District communities were recognized as a Tree City USA for their efforts in 2002. These were Madras (10 years) and the Sunriver Owners Association (23 years).

District administrative personnel audited \$8,565,715 worth of extra costs for the 2002 fire season. With the appropriate paperwork the district was able to recover \$3,934,455 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for fires that threatened structures. This saved the Emergency Fire Fund from having to pay those costs. Jackie Templeton, Colleen Conlee, Dana Tenold and Linda Lee were instrumental in completing the "heavy lifting" of paper to make this happen.

The District received third place in the State Forester's safety award process for 2003. Congratulations to all district employees! Everyone continues to project safe attitudes in all phases of their work. Constant vigilance by all employees is a major reason this honor was given to the district.



Eastern Oregon sunset, Summer 2003.

Special Section...

ODF EMPLOYEES ANSWER THE CALL IN 2003

In 2003, several Oregon Department of Forestry employees stepped up to the plate to serve their country in Iraq and elsewhere.

Steve Wetmore, a Stewardship Forester from the Grants Pass Unit, was called into active duty with the Army Reserves in January of last year, and served through September. Wetmore was stationed in Fort Lewis, Washington, where he ran the Engineer Operation Center. The training he provided was needed for individuals to learn the skills necessary to serve in Iraq, Afghanistan, or in the US for homeland defense.

Benjamin Duda, a seasonal Forest Officer in Santiam, was activated February 2003 and released in April 2004. He served with the Oregon National Guard, Bravo Company, 1-162 Infantry battalion, 41st Brigade. He was stationed in both Kuwait and Iraq. In Kuwait he was responsible for seaport security, and in Iraq he was in the south end of Baghdad where he performed patrol and security duties.

Casey Potts, a Seasonal Laborer with ODF, also from Santiam, is currently an officer on active duty stateside with the 1249th Engineers, Oregon National Guard. His unit was activated April 2003. His duties included construction and maintenance, and he spent part of the time at Fort Lewis Washington, as well as the Umatilla Army Depot.

Joseph Lynch, a forester with State Lands in Veneta and 14-year member of the National Guard's B-52 Engineering

Battalion of Albany, spent nine months in Iraq working to improve living conditions for the other troops. The camp trained local Iraqis in American building techniques, "although they were quite capable of building on their own." Says Joe, "What I hope for is a strong Iraqi government to emerge that represents all the people of the country, which is a very difficult thing."

Ron Zilli, Assistant District Forester in Astoria, was called into active duty in June, 2003 and released in April 2004. This was Ron's second tour of duty in the past three years. He served with the Navy Reserves Mobile Inshore Undersea Warfare Unit

and was stationed in Kuwait, where he was responsible for sea port security and coordinating training for Navy personnel. Ron was a Management Unit Forester in Astoria when he was activated for military duty, but successfully competed for the ADF position in a phone interview from a tent in Kuwait in

January, 2004. Ron started in his new position May 1 when he returned to Astoria.

The Klamath-Lake District has a Seasonal Forest Fire Lookout, **Jeff Gonzales**, who has been in Iraq with the National Guard out of Klamath Falls since March. Prior to that he was stationed in Texas. Gonzales' cooking skills are in demand overseas, and he is expected to be in Iraq for about a year.

In 2003, several Oregon Department of Forestry employees stepped up to the plate to serve their country in Iraq and elsewhere.



Joseph Lynch, a forester with State Lands in Veneta, spent nine months in Iraq working to improve living conditions for the other troops.

Southern Oregon Area

About the Southern Oregon Area:

Area Director: Dan Shults

Headquarters: Roseburg

Acres of Protected Lands: 5.8 million

Districts: Coos, Coos Forest Protective Association, Douglas Forest Protective Association, 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.

COOS

A watershed analysis for the Elliott State Forest was completed in October of 2003. Larry Sprouse, Project Coordinator for the Elliott State Forest Management Plan / Habitat Conservation Plan (FMP / HCP) revision, played a key role along with Dan Clough, State Forests Program Watershed Assessment Coordinator, in coordinating the completion of the analysis with the contractor, district employees, local watershed associations and other agencies. The analysis, which was initiated in 2001, will be used as a supporting component of the Elliott FMP and HCP revision and is one of two pilot projects being used to help develop ODF's Watershed Analysis Manual for other state forest lands. The analysis organizes and describes existing information on the forest, identifies data gaps, identifies broad patterns of cause and effect, and provides a scientific information base to help achieve the resource management goals for the forest.

Information in the analysis is being used to support the FMP/HCP strategies and will be used in developing the district Implementation Plan and for adaptive management after the plans are approved. Review and comment on the draft documents included ODF, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife and Department of Environmental Quality technical specialists as well as local watershed association representatives.

Overall the analysis found that the forest is being effectively managed to

address key issues affecting wildlife and water quality. A number of opportunities were also identified that would further protect and improve stream, riparian and upslope habitats.

Coos Forest Protective Association Accomplishments

Fire Season - The 2003 fire season wound up longer and drier than the previous year, which had seen the state's largest incident, the 500,000-acre Biscuit Fire, to CFPA's backyard on the Siskiyou National Forest.

The district suppressed 87 fires in 2003 that burned 303 acres. The largest of the summer, the Hoodman Road Fire, came early in the season. The fire started July 26 in the Coos County Forest between Coos Bay and Bandon, and closed an eight-mile stretch on Highway 101 for two days. It burned 63 acres of Coos County forestland in a stand of young trees that had been replanted in 1995. Local firefighters, who had spent much of their lives on the coast, said that the fire behavior they witnessed at Hoodman Road was the most extreme they had seen for the month of July.

Youth County Crew Program

Coos, Curry, and Douglas county Commissioners approved and allocated funding (Title III dollars) to fund a Youth Fire Crew Program. The crew employs 16-17 year-olds for basic fire suppression, hazardous fuels mitigation, and mop-up capacities. The Youth Fire Crew Program, which got its start over 30 years ago in Douglas County, proved successful in its inaugural year in the Coos District.

It is CFPA's hope that it will continue in all three counties for many years to come, as it provides employment for local youth and supplies additional fire capabilities to the district.

Protection Study

A committee composed of landowners and CFPA management put the finishing touches on a five-year study of the fire protection program in the Coos District. The committee, chaired by Rod Greene of Lone Rock Timber Company, reviewed



and assessed the level of protection CFPA provides its landowners on over 1.5 million acres. Their findings were compiled and published in the form of a "Protection Study" that will be utilized as working guidelines for district operations.

Douglas Forest Protective Association

Like much of the rest of Oregon, Douglas County was faced with fire conditions reminiscent of the volatile 2002 fire season. And like the year before, Douglas Forest Protective Association rose to the challenge, successfully keeping 59 fires under 200 total acres. The district's 10-year averages are 86 fires, 303 acres burned.

Two factors played key roles in the low fire numbers for the year. First, lightning packed thunderstorms passed DFPA by. Second, the Association's fire prevention tactics showed outstanding returns.

Mike Jackson's work with the Industrial Fire Program kept operator fires in check. Jackson and a host of forest officers conducted more than 500 industrial inspections reminding timber workers of the fire threat. Tom Fields' public fire prevention efforts in the schools and local media brought awareness to new heights. DFPA would like to thank everyone that played key roles in protecting the private, county, state and BLM lands in Douglas County.

Employee in Iraq

Forest Officer Harold Gilpin has been with DFPA since 1991. Over the course of the year ahead, Harold will serve with his Oregon National Guard Unit in Iraq. DFPA and ODF personnel in Douglas County wish Harold success and a speedy return home. Thoughts go out to Harold's wife, Kay, and their two children, as well as the rest of the Gilpin family.

Landowner Activation Plan

DFPA's Landowner Activation Plan garnered statewide attention. Introduced as a proactive approach to respond to the statewide budget crunch, the plan identified high-risk areas and landowner representatives responsible for patrols during high fire danger or lightning

events. The plan includes a detailed landowner database complete with radio, telephone and e-mail contact information. It also addresses detection and mobilization procedures in the event that the plan is activated.

WUI Grants

DFPA received \$945,000 in federal grants for 2003-04 to reduce fuel loads in Douglas County's high-risk urban interface areas. According to grant administrator Dennis Sifford and project coordinator Mike Coffel, more than 500 homes and 750 acres have been treated since the program's inception in 2001.

Southwest Oregon

ODF Gets Assistance from Alaska Air Tanker 51

The 2003 fire season in Oregon was predicted to be severe due to several years of drought. The potential for increased fire load and the possible shortage of USDA Forest Service airtankers and lead planes prompted the Oregon Department of Forestry to procure airtanker and ASM/leadplane support from the State of Alaska under the Northwest Compact Act. Oregon arranged to acquire up to two DC6-B's, Tanker 51 and Tanker 46, along with a State of Alaska, Aerial Supervision Module (ASM), PC7 aircraft. Both aircraft are federally approved and carded for use on all interagency land ownerships.

Based at Medford, Airtanker 51 and the ASM provided direct support for ODF's Fire Protection Program through out the state of Oregon and was made available to cooperating agencies as situations dictated. The aircraft was also used in surrounding states to help ODF meet established mutual-aid agreements.



"Douglas Forest Protective Association would like to thank everyone who played key roles in protecting the private, county, state and BLM lands in Douglas county."



Photo by Ken Ockfen, ODF



Photo by Darrell Parker

Joe Lynch, ODF State Forests, Veneta, gets a warm welcome home from his nine-month assignment with the National Guard in Iraq.

Western Lane

2003 was like no other when it comes to fire indices. The district hit moderate fire danger in June and remained hot and dry until October. With this came three spells of 100+ degree weather. After an ominous start, in which the Sulphur Fire spread rapidly in June to over 700 acres, the rest of the fire season was kept in check. Only 14 acres burned after the bad start on the Sulphur Fire. Quick response and constant readiness accounted for the success.

Employee Dispatched to Iraq: In January 2003, Joe Lynch received an assignment that few would want. He was given his orders from the B Company of the 52nd Engineering Battalion to report for oversea duty in Iraq. Joe arrived in Iraq in March and spent the year building military camps and helping rebuild the infrastructure in Northern Iraq. It was a life-altering experience living among a totally different culture and environment for a year with the threat of danger constantly lurking around every corner. In March of 2004 he returned safely to his Western Lane District family and his job in the State Forest's Program.

D.L. Phipps Nursery

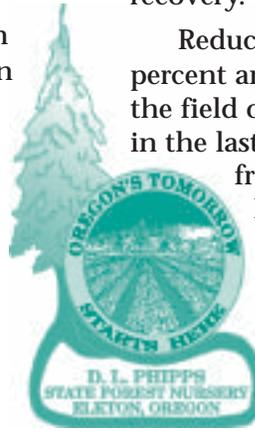
The Nursery had 3,551,539 seedlings available for non-industrial private forestland owners in 2003 and sold 2,963,769. Species selection included 29 conifer, seven hardwood, and nine shrubs and small tree varieties. This year 1,024 small woodland customer's planting needs were met, with 1,726 orders for reforestation and 51 orders for riparian / conservation plantings. In addition, the Nursery donated seedlings for Arbor Week and Earth Day educational events.

Harry Brown announced that he would retire from the Nursery on March 31, 2004. His accomplishments with Forestry have been many during his 22-year career, but none will be remembered more than the events he has faced during his last two years as Nursery Manager.

Harry had been Manager for only a few months when, on October 31, 2002, a record-breaking freeze damaged a large portion of the nursery's crop scheduled for harvest that winter. Harry immediately began evaluating the losses and looking at what actions the nursery needed to take to stay in business. He and the knowledgeable nursery staff were able to work through the crop losses and develop a plan to put the nursery on the path to recovery.

Reducing permanent staff by 30 percent and increasing the efficiency of the field operations has reduced expenses in the last two years. Increasing orders from small woodland owners, BLM, industry and ODF Districts will raise future revenue.

Harry worked diligently the past year-and-a-half to restore the Nursery's position as a producer of high quality seedlings. With his leadership and commitment the nursery was able to survive the devastating freeze event and remain a leader in supplying reforestation seedlings to Oregon's family forestland owners. He will be missed.



After 22 years with the Department, Nursery Manager Harry Brown, above, announced in 2003, that he would be retiring.

Northwestern Oregon Area

About the Northwest Oregon Area:

Area Director: Mike Bordelon

Headquarters: Forest Grove

Acres of Protected Lands: 3.3 million

Districts: Astoria, Cascade District, Forest Grove, Tillamook, West Oregon, 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.

Astoria District

Increased Workload , No Additional Resources

2003 was a year of change, challenge and adaptation for the Oregon Department of Forestry and the Astoria District, as it was for most Oregonians. The difficult economic times caused all of us to look for ways to accomplish our goals in more efficient and effective ways.

One of the challenges that the Astoria District faced involved trying to handle increasing workloads with no additional resources.

Also, the district had four of its veteran employees retire during the year and due to some hiring freezes on vacant positions, the district had to do without some of its workforce for significant periods of the year.

The Astoria District responded and adapted to these challenges. Each unit manager and employees dug in and looked for ways to meet their goals and workloads.



A foot bridge (one of three) is part of two miles of a hiking trail along Soapstone Lake. A recently completed plan calls for more recreation opportunities in the Astoria District.

Developmental Assignments

A number of the districts experienced employees took on developmental assignments and worked as acting managers or resource specialists, while still holding on to some of their normal duties. This allowed the district to meet all of its program goals. Special recognition is appropriate for Ty Williams, Ashley Lertora and Alan Berry for their initiative and good leadership in these roles. Congratulations go out to Dan Goody and Steve Wilson on their promotions to Unit Forester positions.

State Forests Management

The district's State Forests personnel also deserve special recognition for their accomplishments. During 2003, Astoria District sold 11 timber sales with an estimated 65 MMBF for a bid value of \$16.8 million.

Recreation Program

In addition, collaborative discussions and planning efforts with the Clatsop Recreation Advisory Committee has helped in making significant progress towards implementing the Astoria District Recreation Plan.

Two miles of hiking trails were developed at Soapstone Lake, including construction of three

footbridges and a 100-foot-long elevated walkway over a system of beaver dams and ponds.

Improvements to the Henry Rierson Spruce Run Campground have continued, including the construction of a log stringer bridge by South Fork. Over 20 miles of off-highway vehicle (OHV) trails in the Nicolai Mountain area have been inventoried, the first step in developing a master trail plan.

The master trail plan will be used to determine the best locations for new trail construction for recreational users. Plans for the construction of the Northrup Creek Horse Camp have been finalized, and construction is anticipated to start in the summer of 2004.

Retirement

Bill Lecture, the Assistant District Forester, who retired in the fall, leaves a legacy of leadership and dedication to managing the Clatsop State Forest in order to provide a balance of social, environmental and economic benefits and honor our special relationship with Clatsop County.

Cascade District

2003 Highlights Include Fire and Teamwork Success - On the afternoon of Sunday July 13, a few miles East of Lowell, Oregon, three air tankers, sixty local firefighters, and 10 fire engines from the USDA Forest Service, ODF and Rural fire districts responded to what was to be later named the Clark fire.

A USFS campground host reported the fire, which was spreading at a significant rate. The fire immediately threatened several USFS campgrounds and private property with structures resulting in evacuations of residents, recreationists and livestock. By the following morning the fire had grown to 800 acres and the NW Oregon Interagency Management Team took over management of the fire.

As the fire grew in size and complexity and the threat to state protected lands increased, the fire was tackled using a Unified Command with ODF and USFS. The Unified Command worked hand in hand with Forest staff, the District, and several private landowners including Weyerhaeuser Company and Rosboro Lumber Company, to develop suppression action including a large-scale burn out plan to successfully contain the fire. Suppression and protection of the Clark fire was a very coordinated effort by all agencies and cooperators, who fought the fire aggressively while providing for public and fire fighter safety and successfully containing the fire at just under 5000 acres.

Northwest Oregon Operator of the Year

Brent Parries, Pacific Forest Contractors, Estacada, OR, earned the Northwest Oregon Operator of the Year Award for a 41-acre operation that included a wetland area and two fish bearing streams. Parries and his crew took extra precautions to avoid altering or disturbing these areas. Trees were felled away from the wetland area and a temporary stream crossing was constructed for equipment. Much time and expense was expended to place wood for structure in the streams, creating pools and rearing habitat for fish.



Brent Parries, right, Pacific Forest Contractors, Estacada, Oregon, is congratulated by ODF's Dave Degenhardt for earning the title of Northwest Oregon Operator of the Year.

Despite the increased cost, low ground pressure log loaders were used for the operation instead of skidders and dozers, to ensure less ground disturbance. The crew made sure that slash piles were clean and high to burn completely, decreasing the chance of holdover fires during slash clean up. Stewardship Forester Jeff Hepler said "the biggest decision I had to make for operator of the year wasn't who to nominate, but which operation. Brent was selected for his consistency and professionalism."

Gaining Efficiencies with Technology

The Cascade District has made the commitment in the Private and Community Forest Program to become fully functional in the computer technology called Geographic Information Systems (GIS). District personnel use two GIS software applications, FANS or ArcView.



Astoria Assistant Forester Bill Lecture retired after 31 years with ODF.

The Clark Fire, just east of Lowell, was tackled in July using a unified command with ODF and the USFS

The applications offer a single view of multiple maps: aerial photos, topography, streams, roads, tax lots, wetlands, soils, protected bird sites, etc. Administrative staff in each unit office can use FANS to quickly make computer maps for notice of operation applications and Stewardship Foresters can review resource issues from the application maps. Incorporating this technology has allowed the District to gain operating efficiencies in processing information, which allows the foresters to spend more time with landowners and operators.

Santiam State Forest

2003 was another busy year for the Santiam State Forest. While dealing with personnel changes and the demand to back up fire fighting resources on the District as well as statewide, staff was able to ensure all of our planning processes stayed on track, and all operational requirements were met or exceeded. In 2003 more than 23 MMBF of timber was harvested and over \$5.6 million was generated in revenue.

Forest Grove District

Protection from Fire - As with many Districts, Forest Grove had record-setting fire danger indices the summer of 2003.

Although Forest Grove had 24 percent more fires than the 5-year average, the total number of acres burned was 74 percent less than the average. On August 5, there was also a "lightning bust" which resulted in 13 fires across the District. Highly effective fire prevention programs, excellent fire detection and patrols, as well as excellent initial attack (especially during times of critical fire danger) were credited for a very successful summer.

Land Exchange - Forest Grove District completed a 9,000-plus acre, \$68 million, 3-party, 4-County, multi-public meeting State Parks, Longview Fibre, ODF land exchange. The County Commissions, Board of Forestry and State Land Board approved it in 2003. The exchange required multiple public meetings.

Along with consolidating State Forests, this exchange will enable a new State Park to be created in

Washington County.

State Forest Management

Other important accomplishments on State Forests in Forest Grove District:

- 56 million board feet of timber was harvested, generating \$26 million in total revenue
- 20.5 miles of road were constructed; 36.8 miles were improved; and 250 miles were maintained
- Tree planting occurred on 396 acres and 80 young plantations were monitored
- 3.2 miles of new recreation trails were created; 5 miles were improved; and 70 miles were maintained
- Volunteers worked 5,300+ hours on recreation-related projects
- 9,000+ campers enjoyed staying at one of our four improved campgrounds.

Personnel and Safety

Steve Ellis and John Henson retired, Kirstin Pulioff resigned, and Matt Frison, Kelly Niles, Kelly Foster, Thomas Whittington, and Carson Hundrup became new employees at the District. Mitch Taylor returned to the District as the Forest Grove Protection Unit Forester. Forest Grove received the State Forester's Safety Award for 3rd Place.

Tillamook District

Protection from Fire

In the year 2003, Fire Season began on June 26, and regulated use went into effect on July 3. The fire crews stayed busy



A retention "clearcut" on the Tillamook State Forest reveals a number of leaf trees. State forest management often uses variations of clearcuts, as well as heavy and light thinnings, to promote a range of habitat across the landscape.

through fire season both in and out of the District. They again were very busy with fire prevention efforts, educating a large number of people while on patrol.

District fire crews responded quickly to 58 fire calls, of which 28 were uncontrolled statistical fires. Due to effective initial attack, only 24 total acres were burned. The Tillamook District provides forest fire protection to approximately 486,380 acres. The five-year average for the District is approximately 21 fires, which burn approximately 31 acres.

In the Oregon Smoke Management Program, the burning trend continues to show fewer acres being broadcast burned and more acres being piled before being burned. In 2003, 56 units were burned, totaling 713 acres. Most of these units were landing and pile burns.

Forest Practices

In 2003, the workload remained high for the Forest Practices Foresters (FPFs) in the Tillamook District with a total of 373 Notifications of Operations and 73 renewals. The FPFs were able to meet with the operators on site before they started, for the majority of the operations. The 283 pre-operation inspections allowed both parties to mutually determine the necessary resource protection measures.

Fallon Logging, Inc. and Coast Range Road Construction, Inc., all contractors working within the Tillamook District, received Letters of Commendation for their exemplary work. Our FPFs also assisted Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife with nominations of Stewardship Awards to Longview Fibre and Simpson Resource Company.

State Forest Management

State forestlands are managed to provide healthy, productive and sustainable forest ecosystems that, over time and across the landscape, provide a full range of social, economic and environmental benefits to the people of Oregon.

The Tillamook District manages 244,000 acres of Board of Forestry Lands, 5,000 acres of Common School Lands owned by the State Land Board and 1,800

acres of land owned by Tillamook County for a total of 250,800 acres.

Two-thirds of the revenues from Board of Forestry Lands are distributed to the counties in which the lands are situated for distribution to local taxing districts. The State retains one-third to cover land management costs. Revenues from Common School Lands go into the State Common School Fund.

The district contracts with the Tillamook County Sheriff for deputies to patrol the forest. Funding (55 percent) comes from the Oregon ATV (all terrain vehicles) Fund and 45 percent from department funds. The deputies have been successful in reducing vandalism and illegal dumping and improving compliance with Oregon's ATV laws.

Volunteers have worked 2,645 hours this past year assisting with many activities including trash clean-up, fish habitat improvement, trail construction and maintenance, and acting as campground hosts.

Twenty-two timber sales on about 5,600 acres produced an estimated 57 million board feet. Estimated revenue on these sales was \$12.5 million. The district issued 534 wood cutting permits for 1,068 cords.

Engineering accomplishments included 27 miles of road improvement, 7.5 miles of vacated roads and 2 miles of new roads. Maintenance occurred on 364 miles of roads. Eight sites saw structure placement for fish habitat.

Reforestation accomplishments included initial tree planting on 788 acres and interplanting on 454 acres in existing stands.

Recreation Program

In public recreation, more than 12,000 campers were registered, with campground use generating revenue of \$33,000. Hiking trail construction totaled 3.75 miles, and 8 miles of non-motorized trails received maintenance. A half-mile of off-highway vehicle (OHV) trail was constructed, and 25 miles of OHV trails were maintained.

Measuring Fish Production

Ongoing questions about the number of fish produced on Tillamook State Forest lands prompted ODF's Tillamook District to enter into an agreement with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife several years ago. A couple of non-lethal fish traps were placed in a tributary of the Wilson River and a tributary of the Kilchis River. Another trap is planned for the Trask River next year.

The 2003 data are impressive. The Little North Fork of the Wilson River is 12.3-mile-long stream that drains into the Wilson River. The average age of the forest is 60 yrs. The upper portion of the drainage was destroyed in the Tillamook Burns. In 2003, a little over 1 million Chinook salmon fry out-migrated from this stream alone. Almost 200,000 Coho salmon out-migrated past the trap.

The numbers are less in the 10-mile-long Little South Fork of the Kilchis River but still remarkable. Over 40,000 Chinook and 46,000 coho out-migrated past this trap in 2003.

West Oregon District

Protection from Fire

The 2003 fire season got off to a hot and heavy start even before the district declared the beginning of fire season. On June 4, the Savorski Fire started as the result of a slash burning operation in Polk County. This fire actively burned for two days and consumed a total of 376 acres, the largest slash burn related fire in the West Oregon District in 22 years (Rowell Creek Fire, 1981).

The district protection staff and some of the major industrial landowners also had their hands full in late October – well after fire season was lifted – when unseasonably warm weather caused several piled burns to rekindle and broadcast burn through the slash units.

Fire season remained in effect for 104 days, terminating Oct. 7, when the fall rains arrived, with the Dallas office measuring .53 inches of precipitation on this date.

Fire season itself was typical of past years. District suppression forces responded to 48 fires, which burned a total of 431 acres (88 percent of which was involved in the Savorski Fire). Both permanent and seasonal staff members were dispatched to fire incidents in eastern and southern Oregon, though the duration of assignments on these fires was far less than in 2001 and 2002.

For three of the last four years, slash burning on West Oregon District was accomplished without any smoke intrusions into restricted areas. This represents quite an achievement, considering in the 1980s and early 1990s the district regularly produced 10-plus intrusions to the restricted areas on a yearly basis.

Stewardship Forestry

2003 brought significant changes to the Forest Practices and Forestry Assistance Programs within the Department of Forestry. The two programs were integrated into a new Private and Community Forests Program in September.

The integration also created a new title – Stewardship Forester – for the field foresters within the consolidated program. This reflects combining both Service Forestry and Forest Practices Foresters (FPFs).

The department changed the program for several reasons, most notable that the two programs' objectives – particularly education and technical assistance – had become increasingly similar during recent years. The integration of Service Forestry and Forest Practices should improve customer service and efficiency.

Fire Prevention and Training

Due to the State of Oregon budget crisis, no seasonal staff was available for school fire prevention programs. Accordingly, the districts' Smokey Bear Prevention Program for schools was not conducted in 2003.

Even so, youngsters in and around



SMOKEY SAYS -
Care will prevent
9 out of 10 woods fires!



Remember. Only
YOU Can Prevent
Forest Fires!

West Oregon District still had the opportunity to see Smokey and be reinforced with the wildfire prevention message as district staff (plus Smokey) participated in four parades, one county fair, and two fire department open houses during the summer months.

Additionally, the Toledo office presented a wildfire suppression tactics course for both Plum Creek and Miami Corporation loggers and staff. The Miami training also included a one-acre broadcast burn and fire mop-up exercise. In August, West Oregon District fire protection personnel put on a Single Resource Boss training session to certify 16 industry workers as single resource bosses to be used on district fires should they be needed.

This year, Polk County joined the ranks of Lincoln, Benton and Yamhill

Counties with the implementation of a burn ban once fire season was declared. The Dallas unit saw a positive effect from this ban, with a reduced number of debris fires as compared to previous years, especially in the early fall.

composition of 60 percent western hemlock, 21 percent western red cedar, 13 percent Douglas-fir, 4 percent Sitka spruce, and 2 percent grand fir. Two culverts were replaced for fish passage.

Recreation Program

State forestland continued to provide important recreational opportunities. The Mt. Baber ATV (all terrain vehicle) club held seven scheduled riding events. In addition, riders used the 20.5-mile loop on a consistent basis throughout the year.

Improved facilities at Baber Meadows included a restroom, informational kiosk, all weather road access, and five surfaced trailer camp sites with fire rings and picnic tables.

The Black Rock area continued to receive increased use by mountain bike enthusiasts. The Black Rock Free Ride Association completed 3.6 miles of trail. The Oregon Mountain Bike Racing Association held a race in July that attracted 120 participants.

Schroeder Seed Orchard

The J.E. Schroeder Seed Orchard has identified a number of Douglas-fir families as being tolerant of the Swiss needle cast (SNC) disease. A special seed lot is being created by collecting cones from SNC tolerant families in the Nehalem orchard block. Some of Schroeder's other orchards are also being upgraded to include SNC tolerant families.

The Nehalem block is in process of being upgraded to include additional SNC tolerant families in order to increase future seed production. Currently, seed supplies are limited and available only to Nehalem orchard cooperators and family forest landowners.

Schroeder Seed Orchard is expecting a good crop of western hemlock cones this year. Hemlock is an alternate species for planting in coastal areas that are susceptible to SNC. The original hemlock orchard has been rogued to upgrade its genetic quality, and a second hemlock orchard is about to come on line for seed production.



Orchard workers apply pollen to cone flowers during Schroeder's first controlled mass pollination project in the Burnt Woods orchard block. The seed will be deployed to State and private forestlands west of Philomath.

State Forest Management

State Forest personnel in the district manage approximately 38,000 acres of forestland in Lincoln, Benton, and Polk counties.

These lands are managed in accordance with the Northwest Oregon Forest Management Plan to provide healthy, productive and sustainable forest ecosystems that, over time and across the landscape, provide a full range of social, economic and environmental benefits to the people of Oregon.

The timber volume sold from five sales totaled 8.3 million board feet (mmbf), with an estimated value of about \$2.5 million. Harvest volume on nine sold sales totaled 16.7 mmbf at a value of \$5.1 million. Nearly 105,000 tree seedlings were planted on 270 acres, with a species

In the Burnt Woods orchard, Schroeder staff are doing a “supplemental mass pollination” project on a trial basis. The goal is to produce high-gain seed by doing controlled crosses on selected trees, using a large number of pollination bags. The usual way of growing seed is through open pollination, relying on wind to randomly distribute pollen throughout the orchard.

South Fork Inmate Camp

During 2003, South Fork Camp trained 240 inmate fire fighters for crews that responded to 28 fires. Twenty-five fires were within Northwest Oregon Area (NWOA). Crews traveled to Southern Oregon for the Cassidy Creek Fire, 9-05 Medford Fire Complex, and to Central Oregon for the Hell’s Half Acre Fire.

Reforestation crews treated more than 7,000 acres of young stands, and recreation crews built 5 miles of hiking trail, maintained 15 miles of trail and 17 recreation facilities within NWOA.

The inmate work program generated 24,913 inmate worker days for the year.

Education and Interpretation

A new forest education facility, expanded forest education and interpretation programs, and continued fundraising success marked 2003 for the Tillamook State Forest Education and Interpretation Program as it nears its 2005 target for opening the Tillamook Forest Center.

The six-person staff, currently based in Forest Grove, serves as the nucleus for the team that will operate the center when it opens next summer.

In a very sad development during this last year, the program lost visionary Education Program Coordinator Mary Rellergert, who passed away in early February 2004 after an extended battle with cancer. (See tribute to Mary, page 11).

Smith Homestead and Forest Learning Shelter

The Smith Homestead Day Use Area and Forest Learning Shelter was opened to

the public in August 2003. The facility is the first phase of the broader Tillamook Forest Center project, and involves a 2,000-square foot enclosable shelter, interpretive trails, a picnic area, and restrooms, all conveniently located just off the Wilson River Highway (Oregon 6) in the Jones Creek Area.

Many project partners helped make the “Smith Place” a success including the Tillamook Rotary Club, the Northwest Oregon Economic Alliance, the Oregon Forest Resources Institute and the Oregon Department of Transportation. The shelter (pictured here) serves as the base for education programs and is available to rent for picnics, gatherings, weddings, etc.

Field Trips and Summer Programs

The program provided quality forest learning opportunities for more than 5,000 students, many of who attended full-day field trips to the forest. Staff also brought forest education programs into classrooms throughout the west metro and north coast areas.

New public offerings provided dozens of hikes and forest programs that reached more than 1,000 members of the general public on weekend evening and afternoons, and during the week at new “brown bag” lunch programs offered Wednesday and Thursday afternoons in Hillsboro and Tillamook.

Tillamook Forest Center

Preparation of the Tillamook Forest Center site was begun in 2003, including development of the future demonstration forest. Construction documents were finalized and groundbreaking is planned for summer 2004. To date, the public-private partnership overseeing fundraising for the center has raised \$7 million toward construction.

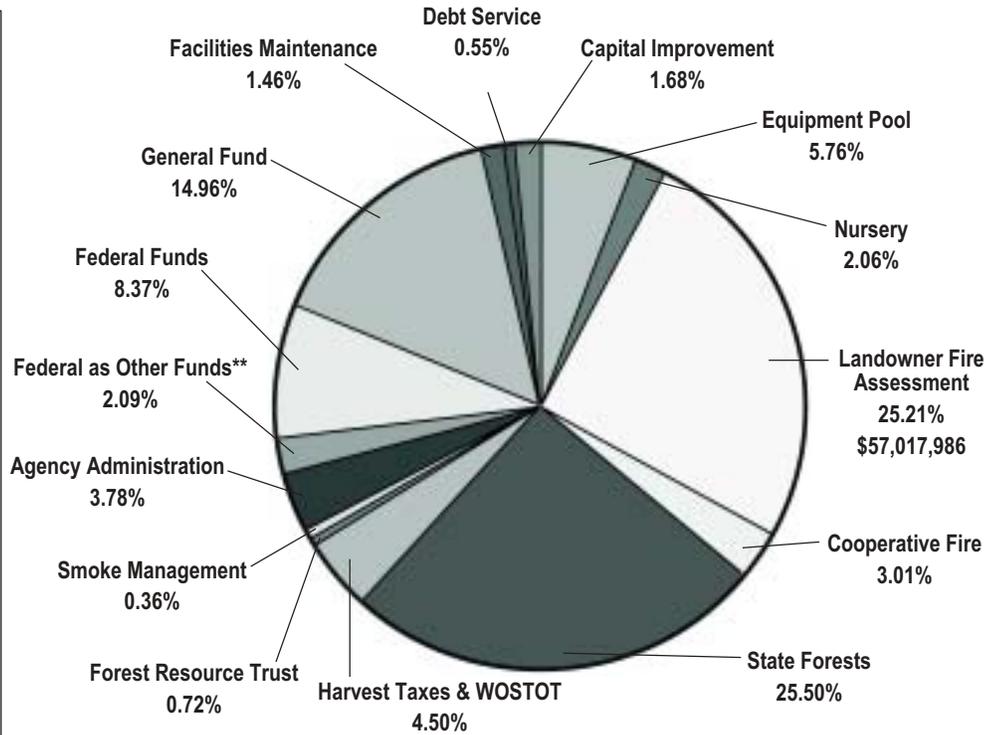
Visit the Tillamook Forest Center online at www.tillamookforest.org. Information about interpretation and education programs in the Tillamook State Forest is available at <http://159.121.125.11/TSF/TSFhome.htm>.

ODF Revenue & Expenditures

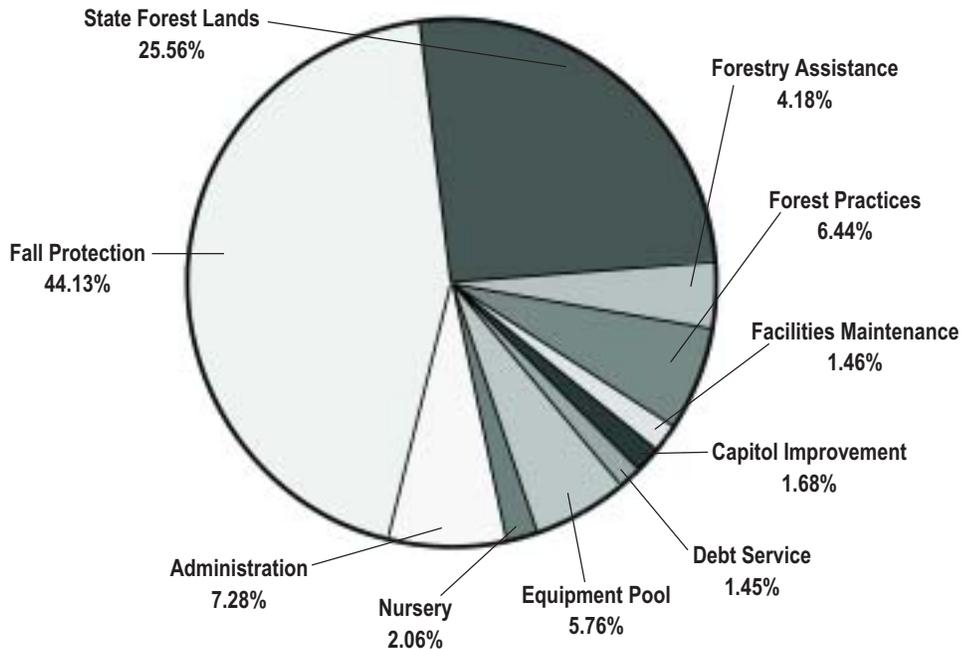
Oregon Department of Forestry
 2003-05 Legislatively Adopted Budget
 (Total \$226,187,124)

Major Revenue Categories

Please note, these two charts are based on the Department's 2003-2005 Legislatively Adopted Budget at the close of the legislative session. During the interim, two noteworthy changes occurred. The Department was granted, at three separate Legislative Emergency Board appearances, supplemental expenditure limitation totaling \$15.6M which related primarily to the 2003/2004 fire seasons as well as State Forests harvest efforts. Also, the Department's budget has been reduced by \$0.8M for cost avoidance activities stipulated under Oregon Law Chapter 734 (HB 2148). In combination, the department's Legislatively Approved Budget currently totals \$241M for an increase of +\$14.8M



Major Expenditure Categories



State Forester (continued from page 2)

approach forest practices regulation. Central to this new approach will be the growing recognition that forest-related ecosystems are dynamic systems where disturbances, via various processes, are historical ecosystem functions not well-reflected in current regulations.

We continue to implement the Northwest and Southwest State Forest Management Plans adopted by the Board of Forestry in 2001, but not without continued controversy, particularly surrounding the Tillamook and Clatsop State Forests. During this past year, staff have accelerated the development of information that can guide the Board's deliberation about how these plans need to evolve in the future. These include an important stakeholder group looking at Salmon Anchor Habitat Strategies, the Harvest and Habitat Modeling Development Group, increases in Stand Level Inventory, ongoing Watershed Analyses and further analysis of the economic and

endangered species value of a formal Habitat Conservation Plan. At the same time, substantial effort has also gone into a proposed revision of the Elliott State Forest Management and Habitat Conservation Plan.

All of these endeavors, across the full range of agency programs, should position the Department of Forestry to continue serving the citizens of Oregon in the most effective manner possible. An important attribute of any successful organization is an ability to change and improve as the environment within which we operate presents new challenges and opportunities. We look forward to reporting on the progress of these, plus any new efforts in the future, and hope that you find these reports informative.



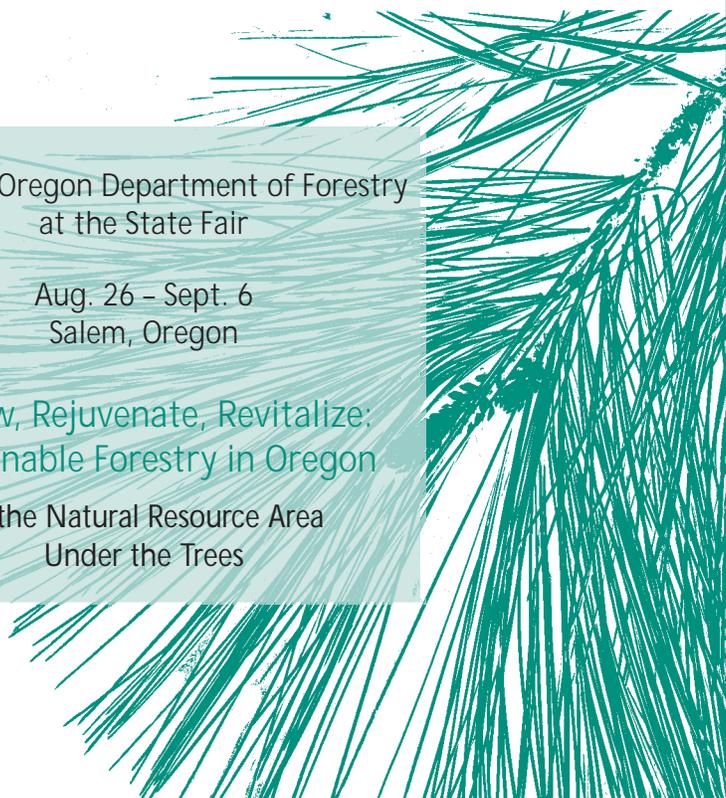
“An important attribute of any successful organization is an ability to change and improve as the environment within which we operate presents new challenges and opportunities.”

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at the State Fair

Aug. 26 - Sept. 6
Salem, Oregon

Renew, Rejuvenate, Revitalize:
Sustainable Forestry in Oregon

In the Natural Resource Area
Under the Trees



Forestry Calendar of Public Meetings

Date	Time	Meeting	Location
July 16	8:00 - 4:30	Tillamook State Forest Community Leader Tour	Tillamook ODF Office
July 23	8:00 - 5:00	Board of Forestry Meeting	Redmond
August 4	9:00 - 3:00	Family Forestlands Committee	Sun Pass Room, Salem Headquarters
August 13	9:00 - 3:00	Forest Trust Land Advisory Committee	Salem Headquarters
August 23	10:00 - 3:30	Northwest Oregon Forest Practicen Regional Committee	Tillamook Room, Salem Headquarters
August 24	10:00 - 3:30	Southwest Oregon Forest Practice Regional Committee	DFPA / ODF Office, Roseburg
August 25	10:00 - 3:30	Eastern Oregon Forest practice Regional Committee	Crook County Library, Prineville
September 8	8:00 - 5:00	Board of Forestry Meeting	Tillamook Room, Salem Headquarters



OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY
2600 STATE STREET
SALEM, OR 97310

