

FOREST LOG

NEWSLETTER OF THE OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY • FALL 2004



SPECIAL FIRE ISSUE

Inside:

- ▼ Bland Mountain Fire #2
- ▼ Kulongoski Visits ODF
- ▼ ODF's Jim Brown Retires
- ▼ Fire Program Review
- ▼ Those Dynamic Forest Ecosystems
- ▼ . . . and more!

From the State Forester

I'm knocking on wood right now, but it looks like we've come through the summer's fire season in good shape. As usual there were plenty of challenges. Fuel moisture hit dangerously low levels in a number of locations, on a number of occasions. We had several episodes of multiple lightning strikes. And, our whole preparedness function was thrown off stride when the federal airtanker contract was cancelled in mid-May.



Marvin Brown,
State Forester

Once again, legislative support was critical. In this case we were allowed to access severity resource dollars to help supplant federal air suppression equipment, as well as preposition equipment and crews where we needed them at critical times. I hope, if you have the chance, that you will thank our elected representatives for continuing to give forest fire protection its needed priority.

Certainly, I want to thank them, as well as the involved landowners who work diligently at the state and local level to keep this program effective and efficient.

Our emphasis on aggressive initial attack would have been impossible to successfully implement without these resources, including the airtankers we eventually contracted on our own. I think you could talk to anyone in the southern and eastern districts and hear stories about how this strategy kept the loss of economic, environmental and even community values to a minimum. To tell folks... "You did an excellent job," is an understatement, but in fact you did.

Eventually, we did have one project fire, Bland Mountain #2, so named because it followed an almost identical path to a 1987 fire. Most unfortunate was that it damaged a portion of the young stands that had been established after the last fire. This one was kept to a third the size of Bland Mountain #1, though.

Good job to the Douglas Fire Protection Association and committed local landowners who were there throughout to provide needed assistance, and to Oregon Department of Forestry Incident Management Team Two.

There are a number of other items to note, although I may not have room for all of them here. First, Deputy State Forester Roy Woo, a key player in the fire program, has retired. I'm going to miss his efforts, as well as his counsel. I know there are many others who feel the same.

We are also welcoming a new member to the executive team. Tim Keith has been appointed Assistant State Forester for the Fire Program. Tim is absolutely grounded in what makes the fire program work, having most recently served as our Northeast Oregon District Forester.

A comprehensive review of the fire program, originally lead by Roy and Area Director Dan Shults, is now in the hands of Dan and Tim. Results and recommendations are starting to emerge. These cover the gamut, from funding the Emergency Fire Fund and catastrophic insurance to improving fire protection on non-protected lands in the east to improving fire related business systems. Results from the overall review provide an excellent roadmap for how to keep this program one of the premier fire protection efforts in the country.

Smokey celebrated his 60th Birthday at the Oregon Sate Fair this year and everyone got to share cake and ice cream, thanks to Keep Oregon Green. As always, the best way to fight fires is to prevent them. When that's not possible we'll continue working to keep them small!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marvin Brown".

FOREST LOG



"STEWARDSHIP IN FORESTRY"

Fall Issue 2004
Volume 74, Number 4

State Forester
Marvin Brown

Editor
Cynthia Orlando, APR

Writers
Cynthia Orlando • Rod Nichols
Arlene Whalen • Jeff Foreman

Business & Circulation Manager
Darlene Downey

Special Contributors
Brian Ballou, ODF Public Information Officer
Tom Fields, Douglas Forest Protective
Association
Mary Ellen Holly
Keep Oregon Green

Forest Log (ISSN 0015-7449)
is published four times per year
(Winter / Spring / Summer / Fall)

POSTMASTER
Send address changes to:
FOREST LOG
Oregon Dept. of Forestry
2600 State Street
Salem, OR 97310

Periodical Postage paid at
Salem, Oregon

Anyone may reprint, with credit
to the Oregon Department of Forestry,
any article or graphic in the Forest Log unless
copyright is otherwise noted.

www.odf.state.or.us

Cover Photo: Governor Ted Kulongoski chats
with firefighters Matt Roby (L) and Bryan Focht
(R) during a tour of the Oregon Department of
Forestry headquarters this summer.

Contents

From the State Forester 2

Kulongoski Pays Visit to Salem Headquarters 4

2004's Fire School a Success 5

Seeking the Best in Fire Protection 6

Hundreds Attend Hoffman Funeral 8

State May Acquire Forestland 9

Urban Interface Act Implemented in
Deschutes, Jackson Counties 10

Thousands of Young Trees Destroyed in Bland Fire 11

Phipps Nursery Gets New Irrigation System 13

Supplying Seedlings to Small Woodland Owners 14

ODF's Former State Forester Retires 16

ODF's Deputy State Forester Retires 19

Those Dynamic Forest Ecosystems 20

Keep Oregon Green: Program Update 22

Smoke Management 23

ODF Terminates Firefighting Crew Agreement 24

Aviation Program Plays Crucial Role 25

ODF Mourns Loss of Crew Chief 28



SMOKEY Turns 60

This illustration of Smokey Bear, left, appeared in a commemorative poster issued ten years ago. Smokey turned 60 in August of this year.



Oregon's Governor Kulongoski Pays Visit to Department of Forestry in Salem

Cynthia Orlando, ODF Public Information Officer

On Friday, July 16, ODF was honored by a visit from Governor Kulongoski, who came to the Salem office to talk about fire preparedness and tour the facilities.

Meteorologist Nick Yonker demonstrated the fire weather software ODF uses for the fire danger rating system, and talked about weather data addressing thunderstorm probabilities.

Photo by Cynthia Orlando, ODF



At the conclusion of the tour, the Governor, right, and State Forester Marvin Brown, took questions from the media

At 10 a.m. sharp, the governor arrived at ODF's Operations Building where State Forester Marvin Brown, Fire Program Director Bill Lafferty, and a number of journalists from Salem and Portland greeted him. The Governor was accompanied by former State Forester Jim Brown.

The group headed over to Salem's fire warehouse area next. Two ODF firefighters from The Dalles Unit – wearing full firefighting gear – greeted the governor and answered his questions about their firefighting experiences. The group ascended the stairs of the mobile fire kitchen, where the intricacies of food preparation and fire camp provisions were explained. There, the governor learned that a fire kitchen can serve up to 2,000 firefighters in a day.

A 'fire preparedness tour' wouldn't be complete without a visit to Salem's fire cache, which is where the Governor headed next. As Kulongoski strolled through the fire cache warehouse, he made a point of asking an aide from his office to remember the warehouse as a source of Nomex, should the need arise. Fire Cache Manager Jim Liesch showed the governor where ODF's firefighting equipment is stored, and explained how the fire cache supplies our firefighters.

The Governor also stopped to examine a fire investigation van, where Fire Investigator Jeff Bonebrake briefed him on the fire investigation program, and showed him some forensic gear.

During and following the tour, when Kulongoski took questions from news media, he expressed concerns that National Guard troops – who are often assigned to fight wildfires – are now deployed in Iraq and elsewhere.

"My guess is that at some time, depending on the severity and how many fires are burning in the West, the federal government is going to have to step in (and help)," he said. "I think the Department of Forestry is one of the most prepared and better trained forestry departments in this country," he added.

Kulongoski paid a visit to Salem's Fire Coordination Center where Belinda Boston, Fire Operations, explained the functions and activities of dispatch, showed the governor how lightning is tracked by computer, and introduced him to dispatch staff. He spent some time examining a large wall map of Oregon, and discussing fire-ready resources, including tankers and aircraft, available at various sites around Oregon.

Photo by Cynthia Orlando, ODF



The Governor learns about statewide firefighting resources from Amie Warren, Aircraft Dispatch, left, and Bill Lafferty, Director, Protection from Fire, right.

A quick walk down the hall brought the governor to the Meteorology Office, where ODF's Meteorology Manager Mike Ziolkko briefed him on short and long range weather topics, including existing and predicted snowpack, drought, and fuels moisture levels around the state.

2004 Fire School Helps Agencies Prepare for Season

Cynthia Orlando, ODF Public Information Officer, and Linda Smith, Eastern Lane

Federal and state agencies in western Oregon again combined their fire schools this year to provide the best possible training for their firefighters. The training, jointly hosted by the USDA Forest Service, US Department of Interior Bureau of Land Management, and the Oregon Department of Forestry, took place in June this year and was a success for all.

Planning for the training was led by ODF's Steve Elefant, a Forest Unit Supervisor at West Oregon District. His efforts paid off. More than 200 firefighters participated at the intensive training, considered essential for the safety and effectiveness of Oregon's fire crews.

During the four days of training, beginning firefighters attended classes on basic fire behavior, map and compass use, air operations, and as always, an emphasis on firefighter safety and survival. They also received hands-on training on the use of engines, portable pumps, hose lays, and hand tools.

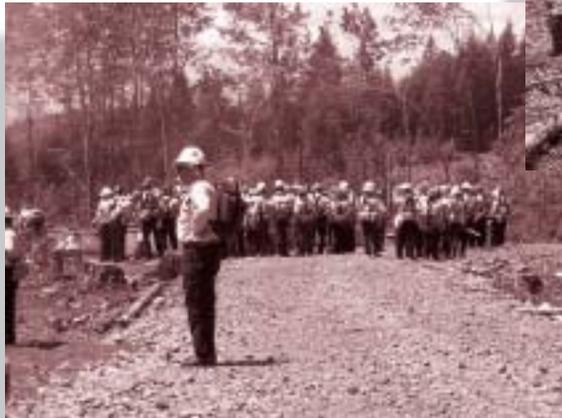
The "final exam" to the training was a real fire exercise near Sweet Home. It provided firefighters an opportunity to practice the skills they learned, and was also a good opportunity for local media to begin to get the fire prevention message out.

In terms of media coverage, "it was pretty good," said ODF's Linda Smith, who works at East Lane and helps coordinate the training each year. "We had a couple of television stations, including KVAL (CBS affiliate) and a couple of newspapers, including the *Eugene Register-Guard*."

A writer with *Home and Fire* magazine also attended. The magazine's focus is on protecting homes from fire.

As in seasons past, the training was held at Foster Elementary School in Sweet Home. Attendees were sent by the Willamette, Siuslaw and Umpqua National Forests, the Bureau of Land Management from Eugene and Salem Districts, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, US Fish and Wildlife, Oregon State Lands, and Department of Forestry.

To make the experience as valuable and "real life" as possible, Smith said there were two incident commanders, one from ODF and one from the Forest Service, during fire school.



Dave Warren, recently retired from USFS Detroit Ranger District, foreground, waits while crews line up for a fire line construction exercise.



Joy Corliss, ODF-Western Lane District, and Chris Simmons, USFS Cottage Grove Ranger District, take a break between lessons.

"The idea is to teach the trainees how to use the tools, and to teach them how to fight fire safely," added Smith. In addition, with all of the agencies participating in the endeavor, consistency in training is guaranteed, and costs are reduced.

"The idea is to teach the trainees how to use the tools, and to teach them how to fight fire safely."

**- Linda Smith,
ODF's East Lane
District**

Fire Program Review: Looking for the Best in a Fire Protection System

Rod Nichols, ODF Public Information Officer

The Fire Program Review drafted numerous recommendations to address the far-reaching issues of forest fuel buildup and the hazard posed to communities from wildfire.

What would an ideal fire protection system look like in Oregon? That question was posed at the kickoff of a sweeping review of the Department of Forestry's Protection from Fire Program early this year. Not to suggest that the current system of protecting Oregon's 28 million acres of forestland is flawed: It is widely recognized as one of the premier wildland fire protection programs in the nation.

But since the last review of the fire program in the 1960s, environmental and social conditions in Oregon have evolved. Today, forest fuel buildups and a climatic shift are producing larger, more severe and more frequent wildfires. And the fire season has grown longer.

Urban sprawl has further heightened the challenge of providing efficient, cost-effective fire protection for Oregon's forests and adjacent communities. The growing number of homes in and around unimproved lands has complicated wildland firefighting and increased its cost – this at a time when state budgets are tight and the baseline costs of fire prevention, readiness and suppression continue to rise.

Oregon's firefighting workforce is in flux as well. Fire agencies and forest landowners have experienced a loss of institutional knowledge and overall firefighting capacity. An apprenticeship occupation, wildland firefighting has traditionally maintained its high level of competency via veterans imparting their know-how to recruits. Aging of the workforce and the attendant increase in retirements has interrupted this crucial transfer of knowledge.

The purpose of the 2004 Fire Program Review is to assess the existing program in light of these trends and recommend ways to maintain

and improve the program to ensure quality wildland fire protection in the future.

The review had its beginnings in the 2003 Oregon Legislature. That body directed the Department of Forestry to form a work group to review the funding mechanisms for the State's fire program. State Forester Marvin Brown decided to expand this fiscal review into a comprehensive assessment of all aspects of the fire program.

The department formed a steering committee to serve as guide for the journey. The diverse panel includes resource agency administrators, governor's office staff, forest landowners (both corporate and family), academics, elected officials and others with an interest and stake in Oregon's forest future.

The committee's first order of business was to draft a set of desired outcomes for the Fire Program Review process. These include:

- ▼ greater protection of forests and homes;
- ▼ reduced wildfire size and intensity;
- ▼ better fuel management;
- ▼ sufficient funding;
- ▼ well-trained workforce;
- ▼ maintain firefighter safety;
- ▼ enhanced firefighting technology;
- ▼ better community defense strategies;
- ▼ close cooperation with other firefighting agencies;
- ▼ favorable regulatory climate.

Oregon's wildland fire protection program is large and multi-faceted. To ensure adequate attention to all of the key elements, the Fire Program Review identified several focus areas and addressed them individually. The Steering Committee is writing a comprehensive report that will bring together the findings and recommendations developed through this process. Following are some highlights of the



recommendations contained in the draft. They are preliminary and subject to change as the final version of the report is completed.

Funding

The Fire Program Review found the current system of funding the Fire Program to be basically sound. It recommended modifications designed to achieve greater equity among the recipients of wildland fire protection and ensure adequate budgets in the future. The general public receives considerable benefits under the current system and should share more of the costs of fire protection with forest landowners, the review concluded. The most effective way to hold down suppression costs is to control fires at small size. The draft report states this can best be accomplished by maximizing prevention, readiness and initial attack. The cost of Oregon’s catastrophic insurance coverage could be substantially reduced by raising the deductible and sharing it with the State General Fund – a move the report claims could shave as much as \$2 million off the premium. These dollars could be reinvested in the State’s severity fund, which plays a crucial role in severe fire seasons by funding additional firefighting resources.

Workforce

The Fire Program Review tackled the challenge of maintaining the wildland fire workforce on several fronts. Recommended changes to firefighter training and certification standards for non-department personnel would streamline the recruitment procedure, enabling fire managers to bolster their suppression capability quickly in times of need. An internal survey to identify critical gaps in overhead position staffing would help the Fire Program target recruitment and training to fill key fire jobs.

Expansion of the department’s mission and increased job specialization have resulted in lower involvement of agency personnel in fire. The report calls for renewed emphasis on employee participation in fire protection to better utilize this internal resource. Private firefighting contractors have become an

essential component of Oregon’s wildland fire system. It is recommended that Fire Program funding and staffing be maintained at a level that would ensure effective administration of the Interagency Fire Crew Agreement.

Communities

The Fire Program Review drafted numerous recommendations to address the far-reaching issues of forest fuel buildup and the hazard posed to communities from wildfire. Community wildfire protection planning is well underway in Oregon, and several recommendations would increase department support to this process. The review identifies actions to increase community involvement in reducing wildfire risk, provide technical resources to local governments, and streamline the process for obtaining federal grants to perform fuel-reduction work.

Fuels

Other recommendations would initiate closer tracking of forest fuel conditions, including follow-up monitoring of fuel-reduction projects. And better coordination among participating agencies and communities in the collection and maintenance of fuels data is needed as a guide to planning efforts.

Legislation should be sought to stimulate Oregon’s fledgling biomass industry. A strong market for the tons of wood waste produced by fuel treatments would strengthen the incentive for landowners to conduct more thinning and brush-clearing projects in overgrown forests.

One recommendation: in areas where significant potential exists for fire on unprotected lands to spread onto Department jurisdiction, a protected buffer should be established between the two.



Photo by Ann Walker, ODF

Jeff Behan, left, OSU Institute for Natural Resources, and Bill Lafferty, ODF, right, contemplate proposals at a recent Fire Program Review meeting.

continued on page 27



Larry Hoffman, Unit Forester, ODF, is remembered for his skill as a forester, his leadership, and, his enthusiasm.



Hundreds Attend Funeral for Hoffman

Some 800 friends and firefighters from throughout the Northwest gathered in The Dalles on June 11 to pay final tribute to Larry Hoffman, ODF's unit forester for that area. Hoffman died June 5 while taking the Work Capacity Test (pack test) prior to fire season. He was 51.

A Michigan native, he was born in Detroit and earned a bachelor's degree in forest practices from Michigan Technological University. Hoffman then attended the University of Idaho and earned a master's degree in silviculture. He was hired in 1976 to be a service forester on ODF's Klamath-Lake District. Hoffman also worked as a forester on the Astoria District (1978), the Pendleton Unit (1979) and the Prineville Unit (1987). He became the unit forester at The Dalles in 1989.

He is remembered by those who worked beside him for his enthusiasm, his leadership, and his skill as a forester. Many also remember him as a good friend, and as a good husband and father.

Hoffman was active in the Oregon Society of American Foresters, and was chair of the Columbia Gorge chapter.

Oregon Society of American Foresters is creating a scholarship fund in Hoffman's name. Anyone wishing to make a donation to the fund may send a check to:

The Larry Hoffman Memorial
Scholarship Fund
c/o The Society of American Foresters
5400 Grosvenor Lane
Bethesda, MD 20814-2198

Hoffman is survived by his wife, Karen; a daughter, Teri; his father, Robert; his brother, Mark; and his sister, Fran Casadei.



Eastside State Forestland Acquisition Eyed for Long-term Management

Jeff Foreman, ODF Public Information Officer

It didn't work out this time around, but the prospect of the state acquiring eastside Oregon forestland remains a distinct possibility.

The Oregon Department of Forestry took a long look this summer at 90,000 acres for sale in Klamath and Lake counties. Called the Longbell Tree Farm, the forestland northeast of Klamath Falls was advertised for a base price of \$21 million.

A bid was required by Sept. 15, and ODF determined that although they had garnered a great deal of local support, there was more work to do in obtaining the authority to sell bonds than time would allow under the seller's schedule.

The timing was off for this particular sale, but the state definitely remains interested in eastside forest management to preserve working forests.

"Our concern is that forestland may be converted to other uses," said State Forester Marvin Brown. "Or its sustainable productivity could be forfeited by buyers whose interest revolves around harvesting the timber assets quickly then reselling in smaller blocks."

ODF is looking at the long term – a steady flow of timber to help support local mills and maintain stability in rural communities.

"We also have concerns about loss of wildlife habitat, public access and recreation opportunities," Brown said.

That's what made the Longbell tract so attractive to the state. It offered economic, environmental and recreational opportunities.

The land lies next to national forest and Sycan Marsh, a Nature Conservancy preserve. Like much of the drier, slower-growing eastside forests, the land had been over-harvested. But it

potentially could provide consistent, sustainable timber harvests in one to two decades.

"We see private ownership as the preferred option for maintaining working forests," Brown said. "But if long-term private ownership is not likely to achieve that goal, then state ownership may be a way to keep these lands as working forests."

Local officials warmed to the idea of state ownership of forestland after several conversations with ODF. Although ODF chose to pass on this land sale, Brown said the research and local visits that went into consideration of the potential purchase provided an opportunity to find support for such a venture.

The idea of the state buying land to keep it as a working forest aligns with proposals being explored by Gov. Ted Kulongoski's staff. Under the Governor's concept, timber revenue from newly acquired state-owned lands would be used to support higher education.



A stream flows past a stand of young pine and willow on the Longbell Tree Farm, northeast of Klamath Falls.

Photo courtesy Realty Marketing Northwest

Fire Protection Act Enlists Property Owners in Reducing Fuels

Brian Ballou, ODF Public Information Officer

The implementation of the Oregon Forestland-Urban Interface Fire Protection Act has taken long strides forward in recent months. Forestland-urban interface identification and classification maps were finalized in both Deschutes and Jackson counties, the first two counties in which the act is taking effect. In late summer and fall of

category which requires fuel-reduction measures on unimproved lots.

The fire-risk classifications are the product of several factors: a county's Wildfire Weather Hazard Value (both counties are at the extreme end of the scale), the general topography of the forestland-urban interface area in which a property is located, and the general vegetation cover within the forestland-urban interface area. Classifications are used to determine fuel break size around structures.

In most cases, the fuel-reduction measures property owners must take include creating a 30-foot primary fuel break around structures, removing tree branches near chimneys, removing dead vegetation overhanging a structure, and either moving or covering firewood and lumber piles. Some property owners will need to create a secondary fuel break, which extends beyond the primary fuel break. The secondary fuel break requirement applies to properties with the highest fire-risk classifications, and which have structures with untreated cedar shake roofing. In addition, properties with driveways longer than 150 feet must have fuel breaks along the driveways to ensure clear passage for fire trucks, and reduced-fuel areas for firefighters to work in.

Once a property owner completes the necessary fuel-reduction measures, it is then necessary to return a certification card to ODF. A property owner has two years after receiving the notification from ODF to return the certification card. Certifying a property absolves the owner from potential cost-recovery liability under the act. Re-certification must take place in five years, or whenever a property is sold or a structure is added. To administer the program, ODF has added limited-duration positions in its Central Oregon, Klamath-Lake, Northeast Oregon and Southwest Oregon districts. These positions will be funded by National Fire Plan grant dollars earmarked for implementation of the act.

Before clearing



Overgrown driveways can make a tight fit for engines. Driveway access for fire vehicles is one focus area of the act.

After clearing



Photos courtesy ODF Grants Pass Unit

For more information about the Oregon Forestland-Urban Interface Fire Protection Act and how it affects Deschutes County residents, call (541) 549-6761. For information about how the act affects Jackson County residents, call (541) 664-3328. Information is also available on the ODF World Wide Web site at www.odf.state.or.us.

2004, the owners of nearly 44,000 urban fringe properties will receive official notice from the Department of Forestry that they will have two years in which to comply with the act's fuel-reduction standards.

In Deschutes County, the act affects 31,668 lots. A total of 6,496 lots were given a fire-risk classification of "High," 22,930 lots were classified "Extreme," and 2,242 lots were classified "High-Density Extreme." In Jackson County, 12,007 lots were included in forestland-urban interface areas. Of these lots, 1,146 were classified "High" and 10,861 were classified Extreme."

None of the lots in Jackson County met the criteria to be classified "High-Density Extreme," which is the only classification

Thousands of New Young Trees Destroyed in 'Bland Mountain Fire #2'

Tom Fields, Douglas Forest Protective Association

The Bland Mountain Fire #2 not only started near one of the state's most historical fires; it was practically a carbon copy.

The report of a natural cover fire 40 miles southeast of Roseburg came in at 4:50 p.m. Friday, August 20 from a Douglas Forest Protective Association (DFPA) lookout. As DFPA personnel heard the call and realized the fire's location, many of them flashed back to July 15, 1987, when the first Bland Mountain Fire burned over 10,000 acres, leveled 14 homes and took two lives.

"We knew right away that this fire was very close in proximity to the 1987 fire," recalls DFPA District Manager Melvin Thornton. "We immediately sent both helicopters (DFPA's contracted medium from Billings, Montana, and an additional medium state severity-funded ship) and initiated calls for air tankers."

DFPA and local fire district crews arrived on scene and found about two acres of grass burning toward a hillside covered in blackberries and small trees. The wind was beginning to pick up as the crews worked their 200-gallon engines around the perimeter while a DFPA bulldozer began building containment lines. The fire was nearly corralled when it reached the blackberry bushes. The bulldozer had just maneuvered around the main fire when it began spotting across the line. And off she went.

Ironically, the fire followed the same path as the 1987 blaze (see map on page 12). It made its way over a hill into the Lavadore Creek drainage and then was sucked into a canyon where a north wind grabbed and pushed it over the South Umpqua River towards a subdivision of about 40 homes.



Just two hours after the fire started it had already reached 1,000 acres - 2,500 acres by the end of the day.

Photo courtesy Dave Steinbach

Bland Mountain Fire 2004

A structural task force comprised of several Douglas County volunteer fire departments was quickly mobilized to protect the community. By the time the fire had been contained several days later, only two residences and three outbuildings had been destroyed. Many homeowners had learned their lesson from the first fire and created defensible space around their property that allowed firefighters easy and safe access to provide the necessary protection.

By 7 p.m. four helicopters and four air tankers were hitting the fire hard from above while 200 firefighters from DFPA, rural fire departments and the timber industry worked tirelessly on the ground. Just two hours after the fire started it had already reached 1,000 acres - 2,500 acres by the end of the day.

DFPA wasted no time and called for an ODF Incident Management Team. Team #2, headed by Incident Commander Jim Mair, was on rotation and arrived at Myrtle Creek Airport's French Field (fire camp) Saturday at 5 a.m.

All of the aircraft waited patiently on the ground most of the day Saturday as the fire

continued on next page

The 2004 Bland Mountain Fire burned 4,705 acres of 12- to 15-year old trees, grass, brush, timber and madrone.

...Bland Mountain Fire (continued from previous page)

simmered under a heavy blanket of smoke, known as an inversion, that reduced visibility from the air. When the smoke lifted, the fire took off and increased to 4,100 acres by Sunday morning. Personnel working on the fire also went up, going from 435 Saturday to over 1,200 Sunday. At the height of the fire Tuesday afternoon, total resources included 1,760 personnel, 11 helicopters, 10 bulldozers, 54 engines and 28 water tenders.

The 2004 fire seemed to almost plagiarize the 1987 blaze, not only by following its path, but the conditions as well. Seventeen years ago, a storm front arrived two days after the fire started. The rain allowed crews to gain the upper hand and eventually put the fire out. Once again favorable weather arrived two days later when scattered rain showers arrived Sunday afternoon to slow fire #2's spread.

Throughout the morning and afternoon of August 20, DFPA prepared for the tour by producing maps and gathering statistics. Just as the coordination efforts began to fall into place, the familiar fire tone sounded over the radio.

The tour proceeded on August 24, as planned. Only instead of seeing lush green hillsides portraying rebirth, the group of about 20 landowners looked in dismay upon the old wounds that were reopened from nearly two decades ago. As the visitors trekked through the ashes, thoughts of starting again from scratch brought a somber ending to what was initially intended to be an uplifting visit.

The 2004 Bland Mountain Fire burned 4,705 acres of 12- to 15-year old trees, grass, brush, timber and madrone. Private landowners called their assets a total loss with no salvage opportunities. Fire suppression costs exceeded \$7 million.

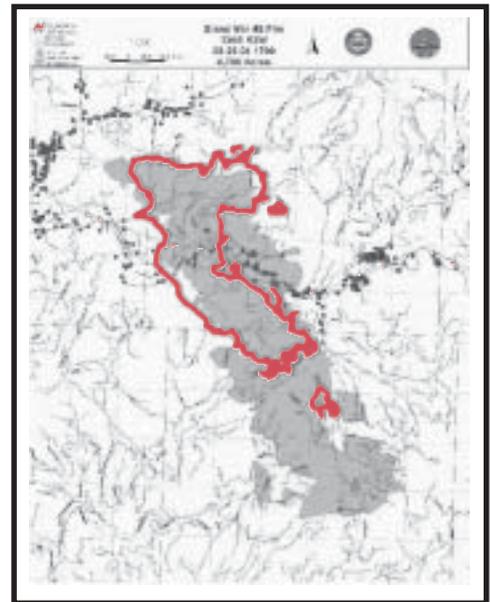


Photo by Paul Ries, ODF

A Skycrane helicopter at the Bland Mountain Fire 2. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

The events leading up to and during the 2004 Bland Mountain Fire were a bit eerie to say the least. During the Douglas County Fair one month earlier, a representative from the

Douglas Timber Operators approached DFPA about conducting a tour of the 1987 Bland Mountain Fire area that would show the public the benefits of reforestation after a catastrophic fire. The 12- to 15-year old trees had covered the old scars and the once blackened landscapes were beginning to return to the lush green hillsides that Oregonians had grown accustomed to. The tour was set for August 24.



Map, above, shows the boundaries of the first Bland Mountain Fire, 1987, and the Bland Mountain Fire 2, in red.

New Irrigation System at D.L. Phipps Nursery will Protect Tree Seedlings from Frost

Arlene Whalen, ODF Public Information Officer

Frost has been a recurring threat to the D.L. Phipps Nursery, which is located just south of Elkton. Cold weather in 1985 and 2002 resulted in extensive severe crop injury with significant economic loss to the nursery and its customers. Unfortunately, the nursery has lacked sufficient irrigation capacity to frost-protect susceptible species, and the present irrigation system's main line has been at serious risk of breaking during another freeze event.

"Our risk management insurance was cancelled, but on October 1, we will once again have coverage," said Ken Kearney, D.L. Phipps Nursery Manager. "Unfortunately, it will only cover a percentage of our loss – not enough to compensate for large losses that are incurred. This exacerbates the problem and increases our risk considerably. A significant loss could very well wipe out the nursery financially, with no hope of recovery without additional funds."

Work has begun on the design and engineering of an irrigation system at the nursery, which will protect all tree seedlings from frost. If all goes according to plan, the \$400,000 system will be installed and operational by October 2004.

When water is applied and turns to ice, it releases energy in the form of heat. This heat keeps the plant temperature at or near 32 degrees. According to Kearney, the irrigation system will considerably mitigate the risk of seedling damage. "If we use it this year, we'll be protecting a crop worth \$5 million per year for the next couple of years. Over the long-term that equates to big savings." Kearney notes that the irrigation system will also add value to the property if the nursery is later sold or leased.

One of the things that had to be weighed when deciding to install the new system was the risk of applying an amount of water that favored the development of some root diseases. "That can happen," said Kearney, "but the question that needs to be asked is, 'Is the risk of crop failure from root disease greater than the risk from cold injury?' If you don't frost-protect, you're guaranteed to lose a crop. If you do frost-protect, you may have some areas of root disease develop, but by no means will you lose the whole crop. We'll take the risk of a loss over a guaranteed loss."

There are no significant cost increases associated with operating the new irrigation system, and water for the system will come from the nearby Umpqua River.

Obviously, the future success of Phipps depends on whether the nursery is able to provide high quality reforestation seedlings. "I don't want to be in the position of deciding whose trees should live and whose should die," said Kearney.

"I want to give all of my customers the very best treatment. The new irrigation system will give us the means to do that."



The first shipment of irrigation pipe arrives at the nursery.

When water is applied and turns to ice, it releases energy in the form of heat, thus keeping the plant temperature at or near 32 degrees.

Hitting a Moving Target: Providing Forest Tree Seedlings for Small Woodland Owners in Oregon

Arlene Whalen, ODF Public Information Officer

The niche occupied by the state nursery has been its ability to provide a safety net for family landowners to obtain the seedlings they need to complete their reforestation projects, as required by Oregon's Forest Practices Act

A new task force is taking a fresh look at alternatives to provide a reliable and stable supply of tree seedlings for family forest landowners in Oregon.

This work will include evaluating opportunities to privatize the production of tree seedlings being grown by the state-owned D.L. Phipps Nursery. This builds on the work of the D.L. Phipps Forest Nursery Review Task Force, established through an Oregon Department of Forestry budget note during the 2003 legislative session. The original task force also reviewed the financial solvency of the nursery. Combined, the recommendations from both groups will help determine the nursery's future.

The new task force will focus first on the broader goal of maintaining a reliable and stable supply of forest tree seedlings for small woodland owners. This work will identify additional opportunities for partnership between the state and private nurseries. It will also address the specific direction of the

Legislative Emergency Board to "work with representatives of private nurseries and other appropriate individuals to resolve issues on privatizing the production of seedlings."

seedlings compared to 20 years ago, and concerns that the state nursery is competing with private nurseries in the production of tree seedlings.

The estimated demand for small woodland owner tree seedlings is about 14 million trees each year. The state nursery and private nurseries both contribute to meeting this demand. At the state nursery, most seedlings are produced on speculation for small woodland owners, but many seedlings are also grown for State Forests, Bureau of Land Management and industrial owners on a contract basis.

The niche occupied by the state nursery has been its ability to provide a "safety net" for family landowners to obtain the seedlings they need to complete their reforestation projects, as required by Oregon's Forest Practices Act (FPA). Under the FPA, landowners are required to reforest within two growing seasons. The new trees must be "free-to-grow" (of an acceptable species for site conditions vigorous, and out-competing other vegetation) within six years. Family forest landowners often find it difficult to plan ahead and contract for seedlings, since they often have limited experience with tree harvesting, timber prices are often volatile, and harvest decisions may be based on short-term personal needs, such as college education or retirement. Therefore, purchasing seedlings that are grown on speculation is more practical and attractive than engaging in contract obligations with nurseries.

"Speculation growing versus contract growing is a much trickier business," said Ken Kearney, Nursery Manager. "You don't always know what the demand is going to be, and matching up demand and supply is difficult. It takes two years



Controversy over the need for the state to continue operating D.L. Phipps Nursery stems from a changing state budget situation, the changing ability of private nurseries to produce

...Providing tree seedlings (continued)

to produce a crop, and family owners decide when to harvest based on more immediate market and family conditions.”

“In addition, it is tough to estimate the stock family owners will need for the correct seed zones they are in and the elevations they have to work with. To do so requires a lot of coordination, communication, planning and service. If seedlings aren’t readily available in low demand seed zones, it’s likely off-site stock (trees not adapted for site conditions) will be planted instead. The potential for failure is then much higher.”

D.L. Phipps has provided seedlings to this niche market as a non-profit service. Smaller seedling orders actually increase the costs of handling and record keeping. Currently, the nursery is 100 percent self-sustaining – costs are covered through the sale of seedlings, without any other state funds being used. The nursery does do some contract selling of seedlings to government and private industry customers to help cover operating costs and to help offset the cost of growing and selling seedlings speculatively.

In considering alternatives such as privatizing the production of these tree seedlings, an important aspect will be whether some form of certainty can be provided to ensure that speculation seedlings are produced on a stable and continuous basis. Such a guarantee involves accepting certain risks and costs.

“Projecting the needs of family landowners is not a perfect science,” said Mike Bordelon, task force co-chair and ODF Northwest Oregon area director. “You will never exactly meet the demand – you either shoot too high or too low. Trying to meet 100 percent of the demand will likely result in significant surplus seedlings for any given year. Growing surplus seedlings to meet most of the demand constitutes the cost of doing business in a non-contract, speculation environment.”

The task force will look at several models for providing a reliable and stable supply of tree seedlings for landowners, including what is being done in other states. So far, the task force has agreed that any new approaches must be consistent with FPA reforestation requirements, and be aligned with the Board of Forestry strategic direction – the Forestry Program for Oregon. “We have an excellent group working on this,” said Bordelon. “Group members are objective and practical. They are focused on working together to find solutions that are good for Oregon.” Whatever the outcome, Bordelon emphasized that the nursery will honor current contracts and other obligations.

The group expects to produce findings and recommendations for Board of Forestry and Legislative E-Board review sometime this fall. Questions may be directed to Mike Bordelon, 503-359-7430.

In conjunction with the task force’s work, the Department of Forestry has pulled together an internal employee review team to examine the impacts, procedures and legalities of implementing proposed alternatives.



“Group members are objective and practical. They are focused on working together to find solutions that are good for Oregon.”

**- Mike Bordelon,
Task Force
Co-chair**

Task force members include: Co-chair Mike Bordelon, ODF Northwest Oregon Area Director; Co-chair Mark Simmons, Oregon Association of Nurseries; Mark Thompson, Industrial Forestry Association Nurseries, Inc.; Sarah Lieman, Coast Range Conifers; Ray Abriel, U.S. Forest Service, Cooperative Forestry; and Dick Courter, forestry consultant.

Advisor to Governor, Former State Forester, Retires After 36 Years of Service

Cynthia Orlando, ODF Public Information Officer



Photo by Cynthia Orlando, ODF

Photo, right: Jim Brown, State Forester for ODF for 16 years, provided vision and strategic thinking to the Department. Just this year, Brown received the Distinguished Achievement award from the University of Washington, College of Forest Resources Alumni Association.

James (“Jim”) E. Brown, State Forester for the Oregon Department of Forestry for 16 years, retired from government service in September. Appointed the Governor’s Natural Resource Policy Director in January 2003, Brown served as advisor to the Governor of Oregon on natural resource issues that affect the state’s environmental, social, and economic well being.

For many years in his former position as State Forester, Brown represented the Board of Forestry in carrying out its policies affecting private, state, and federal forests in Oregon, and served as administrator of the Oregon Department of Forestry.

Brown completed a Master of Forestry degree from Yale University in the spring of 1963 and went to work for a short time with Scott Paper Company in Winslow, Maine. It was here he met his wife-to-be, Mona.

Brown, 63, held a number of positions during his 36-year career with ODF. He was first employed in 1960 as a forester trainee at Coos Bay. Starting in 1965, he worked full time for two years in timber sale preparation and as a reforestation forester at Coos Bay. Brown recalls that at that time, reforestation in Coos Bay was very difficult.

“We had changed from aerial seeding, which wasn’t working, to planting. By comparison, when I went to Astoria to do reforestation work, it seemed relatively easy to plant trees there. They had a saying that when you planted a tree, you had to be careful because it grew so fast, it might poke you in the eye.”

Following his positions at Coos, Brown left the department to work as a research forester for the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Forestry at Petawawa. Three years later, he returned to ODF serving as timber

management forester at Veneta for one year, and as reforestation forester at Astoria for another year. In August 1972, he was promoted to resource analyst in Salem. He held this position a year and a half before becoming Service Forestry Program Director, a position he held for six years. “Staff at Salem were just beginning to make timber supply projections using a computer,” recalls Brown. “At that time, Walt Schutt was starting to do computer work-up of permanent plot inventory and Ray Miller was using early versions of G.I.S.”

In early 1980, Brown was appointed Forest Practices Program Director at Salem, and served in that position for three years. “The Forest Practices Act passed in 1971, but the Department got no funding for the Service Forestry Program,” says Brown. “In ’73, the legislature told the Department to use the employees we had. When I was Service Forestry Program Director, there were only two positions in Salem and three in the field. Over a six-year period, we built the program up to over 30 positions, but the ’81 recession wiped a lot of that out.”

They had a saying that when you planted a tree, you had to be careful because it grew so fast, it might poke you in the eye.

...Jim Brown (continued)

Recalls Brown: “In the mid 1980’s, the forest landowner community was just figuring out that the public wanted more than timber production. There was a lot of political risk to forestry, in addition to natural risk, such as fires and windstorms. Also, a few landowners were not meeting reforestation requirements and it wasn’t clear whether the logger or the landowner had responsibility for it. So, in 1983, an amendment to the Forest Practices Act was passed to clarify that the landowner was responsible.”

In January 1983, Brown transferred to Forest Grove to become Northwest Oregon Area Director. The following January, he was promoted to Assistant State Forester in charge of the Forest Management Division at Salem, and in 1985 he was again promoted, this time to Associate State Forester.

In June of 1986, Jim Brown became Oregon’s tenth State Forester.

During his tenure – particularly his first years as State Forester – Brown oversaw several major changes under House Bill 3396. These included changing the makeup of the Board of Forestry, precluding the counties from regulating forest practices, clarifying roles between the Land Conservation Development Commission and the Board of Forestry, and the Forest Practice Act’s governance of riparian management areas, threatened and endangered species, significant wetlands, and significant ecological and biological sites.

“It took us about six years to implement this bill, because it was very complicated,” adds Brown. “We learned how valuable and meaningful the public involvement process is. That has been a major change in the way we do business.”

In 1991, Senate Bill 1125 was passed. The bill addressed public concerns over issues such as clearcut size and spacing, visual corridors along major highways, reforestation, and

riparian management. Then-Senator Joyce Cohen was concerned about the lack of good information during the debate of the bill. As a result, she asked the agency to conduct a cumulative analysis of all the values associated with Oregon’s forests. “The Montreal Process gave us internationally accepted data points and gave us a good starting point for analysis.

Brown also recalls some particularly challenging fire seasons.

“The ’86 and ’87 fire seasons were very bad,” recalls Brown. “We spent something like \$30 million in 1987, in ’88 we had to appeal to the state legislature for \$15 million through the Emergency Board, helping prevent an enormous fiscal impact to the forest landowners.” In the end, the 1989 legislative assembly altered how fire control costs were funded.

Another milestone Brown recalls is the creation of the Northwest Management Plan. “High environmental standards are not necessarily in conflict with providing high economic values,” says Brown. “The agency has tried to do two things in managing state forest lands: meet the trust responsibilities to the counties and provide assurances to the public that the non-economic values are being well managed,” he adds.

As State Forester for more than 16 years (longer than any of his predecessors except Francis Elliott), Brown has guided ODF through some of its greatest challenges and changes as an agency. From major revisions of the Forest Practices Act, to forest management and habitat conservation planning on state forests, to development and revision of the *Forestry Program for Oregon*, he has provided vision and strategic thinking that have enabled ODF to claim its place as a national and international leader in forest stewardship.

“High environmental standards are not necessarily in conflict with providing high economic values.”

**- Jim Brown,
Oregon State
Forester,
1986 - 2003**

continued on next page

As State Forester for more than 16 years (longer than any of his predecessors except Francis Elliott), Brown has guided ODF through some of its greatest challenges and changes as an agency.

...Jim Brown (continued from page 17)

“The Oregon Forest Resources Institute greatly benefited from Jim Brown’s leadership at the time our mandate was being developed by the Oregon Legislature in 1991,” says OFRI Executive Director Leslie Lehmann. “Jim helped make certain that OFRI would become a respected source of forestry information and education for landowners and the public. He promoted collaboration with ODF and the OSU College of Forestry to ensure that our programs are based on sound science. OFRI board and staff members over the years have been grateful for his wise counsel and many contributions to our success.”

“I first met Jim in 1992,” says State Forester Marvin Brown, “in Savannah, Georgia, actually. We were attending the National association of State Foresters Annual Meeting. I was newly appointed to the State Forester’s position in Missouri, and Jim was presenting a ‘New State Foresters Orientation.’ I was impressed then with the aura of credibility and focus he represented, and continue to feel the same to this day.”

Brown remains active in many organizations and has been a national leader in forestry issues through his involvement with the National Association of State Foresters, where he has served as western representative, treasurer, vice president, and president, and chairman of the Federal Lands and Sustainable Forestry Implementation committees. Brown has been active in the Boy Scouts of America, having served as scoutmaster and as a member of the Cascade Area Council executive committee and the Cascade Pacific Council advisory board. This year, he received the Distinguished Achievement award from the University of Washington College of Forest Resources Alumni Association. He currently serves on the boards of the World Forestry Center and the Foundation for Voluntary Land Exchanges. He also serves on the National Commission on Science for Sustainable Forestry.

Jim and his wife, Mona, have two children – Laurie, who works for ODF at the Forest Grove District, and Scott, a computer expert who lives with his family in the Seattle area.

In addition to the changes Brown has overseen in Oregon forestry, he’s also proud of the “people” side of things.

“The agency recognized we had an age demographic within the organization that was going to result in a large number of retirements,” says Brown. “So, we created ‘ALP’ (Agency Leadership Program), and began presenting the Stephen Covey training as a way to prepare the next generation of leaders.”

Other reflections?

“My biggest surprise was coming to the Department originally to be a so-called ‘dirt forester,’ but coming to the realization that policy is where it’s at.” He adds, “Every supervisor I had was, in the end, a great mentor. Every job I had – including being State Forester – was a learning process, a trail of discovery.”

“I feel lucky for a career where I had the kind of opportunities the Department, the Board, and Governor Kulongoski provided me.”

Deputy State Forester Roy Woo Retires after 30 Years of Service

Cynthia Orlando, ODF Public Information Officer

Roy Woo, who served as Deputy State Forester for the Oregon Department of Forestry for the past four years, retired in March after 30 years of service.

A 1972 graduate of Washington State University with a degree in forest management, Woo had a long and illustrious career with the Department. He held a wide variety of positions, including Northwest Oregon Area Director, Klamath Falls District Forester, Assistant Personnel Director in Salem, and forester positions in Coos Bay, Dallas, Tillamook, and Prineville.

“My first job with ODF was on the Elliott State Forest as timber management forester on one of their management units. I worked for Jerry Phillips in sale preparation and overall management,” says Woo. From there, Woo took a position in the reforestation unit of Coos Bay, and was later promoted to reforestation forester.

In 1975, Woo accepted a new position as Assistant Human Resources Director, and moved to Salem for about seven years. During this time, Woo also worked in a developmental position as a unit forester at Dallas.

From 1983 until 1986, Woo worked as Protection Unit Forester on the Tillamook District. “I have known Roy for over 30 years,” says Mark Labhart, Tillamook District Forester. “He worked for me when I came to Tillamook as the District Forester in 1984. Roy enjoyed his work and you could tell it in how he handled problems. He was a true professional forester. He truly cared for what was best for the agency and the citizens he was representing.”

“I learned a lot about the Forest Practices and Fire Program during this time,” says Woo, “I particularly remember a slash burn in May of one year that got away and burned onto BLM

land.” Most important to Woo during this time was his growing commitment to “help the landowners with forest practices, and with fire protection objectives.”

From 1986 through 1989, Woo served as Assistant Director to the Eastern Oregon Area Director in Prineville. “I learned a lot about good organizational leadership, and ODF’s business functions,” says Woo.

In 1989 Woo became a district forester at Klamath Falls, where he crafted numerous successful partnerships with forest users. A notable example is the Klamath Lake Forest Health Partnership. While at Klamath, he led an effort to complete the Eastern Oregon Area Long-Range Forest Management Plan. “The Sun Pass Management Plan is a good example of how to manage a sustainable forest,” says Woo. “I also remember Fire Season ’92,” says Woo, “when thousands of acres were burned on state-protected lands.”

Assistant State Forester Tim Keith also remembers it well. “ODF’s Team 2 went to Klamath four times for six different fires,” recalls Keith. The fires included the Lake Fire, Sand Creek, John Springs, and Robinson fires. In ’94, Team 2 returned again to work on the Spence Fire. “We worked together really closely, and it was a lot of fun,” says Keith.

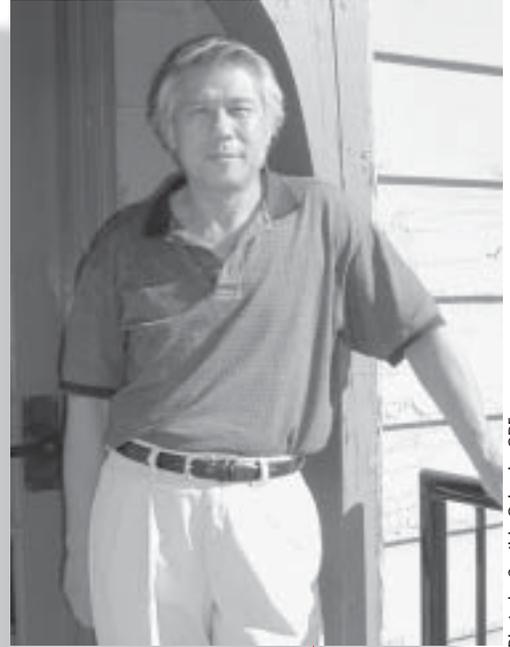


Photo by Cynthia Orlando, ODF

After 30 years of service, Roy Woo, who worked with Governor Kitzhaber on the Ten Year National Fire Plan, retired this year from ODF.

continued on page 30

Ecosystems are Dynamic...not Static

Arlene Whalen, ODF Public Information Officer

“By better considering key ecosystem processes and cause-effect relationships, we may be able to achieve less costly and more efficient and effective protection strategies.”

**- Ted Lorensen,
Resources Division
Policy Chief**

A white paper presented to the Board of Forestry envisions a shift in our approach to protection of forest resources. Instead of thinking about how to *prevent* disturbances, the paper addresses how we might begin thinking about disturbances as potential *opportunities* that can be used, or mimicked, to meet forest management objectives.

Ecosystems are constantly changing over space and time. Tree growth and succession, wildfires, drought, disease and insect infestation all play an important role in the overall long-term health of a forest. Current science supports the notion that disturbances often help to maintain and create biodiversity, as well as enhance ecosystem productivity.

“We know from our current experiences that protection measures are resulting in consequences that are inconsistent with the objectives of our forest management approaches,” said Ted Lorensen, ODF Resources Division Policy Chief and author of the document.

“We’ve got to do something different or we’re going to keep getting what we’re getting, and this includes catastrophic fires and disincentives for people to do restoration or management work that’s helpful for fish and our economy,” Lorensen said.

Lorensen stresses that the white paper is intended to provoke discussion and reflect opinions, not to point to conclusions at this time. “The Board is trying to promote sustainability, and often what we’re seeing now in terms of forest management isn’t sustainable...economically, socially or environmentally. Part of that is because of the way we are thinking about ‘protection.’ There is opportunity, however, to synthesize the science and determine pathways that will be more sustainable.”

There has been considerable debate in the scientific community about how to define “protection” and decide what forms or levels of protection are adequate. Some people view *protected* forestland as “reserve” land where natural processes manage the forest. Others may view reserve land as *unprotected*, vulnerable to the ravages of nature, such as fire, insects and disease. Despite these differing perceptions, Lorensen’s paper acknowledges that natural processes will ultimately change the landscape or ecosystem at any number of scales.

“This schism in the scientific community, between those who see nature as dynamic and robust and those who see it as static and fragile, complicates the understanding of the issues for policymakers and the public,” said Lorensen.

The department is especially concerned about situations where protecting a single forest value today has an adverse impact on the long-term protection of Oregon’s forests. Examples include fire protection policy, and federal Clean Water Act and Endangered Species Act rules. These rules promote practices that protect from any short-term, adverse effects and “limit disturbance,” with the assumption that current environmental conditions will continue.

“Unfortunately, this is not reality,” said Lorensen. “Some of our most successful protections in the short-term have created conditions for uncharacteristically intense disturbances that our forests have not evolved to accommodate.”

A prominent example of this is policy that recognizes the need to manage for ‘dynamic’ landscapes, yet relies on ‘static’ strategies that shun active management and promote fire suppression. When tree density increases and trees become stressed by competition for water

and nutrients, they are more vulnerable to insect attack and disease outbreaks. The resulting dead and dying trees create more fuel, which increases the potential for catastrophic fire.

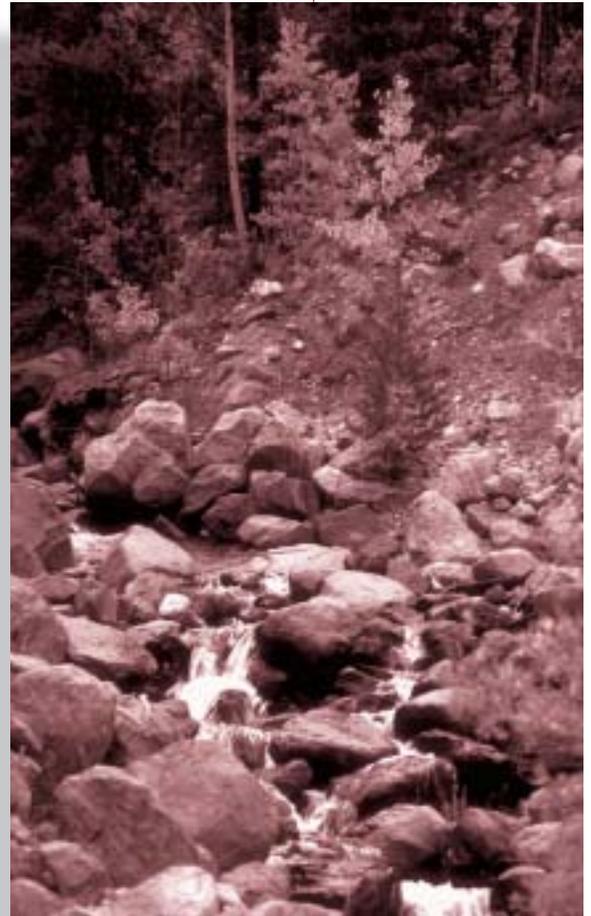
So-called “best forest practices” evolve over time. Lorensen points to years past when timber sale contracts often required the removal of in-stream wood after harvesting trees. This was in reaction to perceptions that log jams on river systems were causing increased flooding and obstacles for fish passage. So, people started taking wood out of streams, straightening channels and armoring them to create a more static, predictable system. Today, studies show that dynamic, more complex systems are beneficial for habitat. As a result, forest landowners and operators are now deliberately placing large wood debris in streams, which helps deposit aggregate and sand on stream bottoms for juvenile fish rearing. The large wood also helps form pools and undercut banks to create suitable riparian habitat.

Landslides and debris flows, too, have historically been thought of as natural events that needed to be controlled because they caused damage. “Damage is a human term,” said Lorensen. “In a dynamic system, that is an oxymoron. Landslides also provide benefits. Talking about them just in terms of ‘damage’ is pretty simplistic, as they can produce changes that we want, as is the case when they deposit gravel, large wood and boulders in rivers and streams and improve habitat over the long-term.

“We need to learn not to ‘fix’ or attempt to prevent impacts that have historically been viewed as damage,” stressed Lorensen. “There is emerging scientific evidence that the basic underlying premises about forest protection are flawed. By better considering key ecosystem processes and cause-effect relationships, we may be able to achieve less costly and more efficient and effective protection strategies.”

Lorensen believes it is ironic that forests are described within a context of disturbance, followed by recovery, through succession to mature forest. He feels terms like ‘protection’ and ‘recovery’ reinforce a static view of forests and the notion that protection means preventing change. “In my ongoing evolution of thought on this matter, I am beginning to think that it is just as reasonable to view disturbance as the recovery,” said Lorensen. “Certainly, the Oak Savannah restoration efforts being undertaken today provide a clear example of that.” (Oak trees that were once cultivated by Native Americans using low intensity burns are now competing fiercely with each other in some areas, producing stands of thin and crowded trees. This has impacted the forest ecosystem, changing the plant and animal species that inhabit such areas.)

The Board of Forestry’s *Forestry Program for Oregon* (FPFO) emphasizes that different forestland ownerships play varying roles in achieving sustainable forestry. Lorensen’s white paper states that because ownerships and objectives vary, the blanket application of a rule or concept is often inappropriate. A better



continued on page 26

Keep Oregon Green: Fire Prevention Prevails

Mary Ellen Holly, KOG; and Cynthia Orlando, ODF Public Information Officer

The Fire Prevention Working Group has recommended new beginnings in some areas of the prevention division, and improvements in others. Keep Oregon Green (KOG) hopes their findings and conclusions will result in greater emphasis on wildfire prevention within ODF, including development

of prevention training programs, and emphasis on citizen involvement in the prevention programs. In the words of one member, the vision is that “within the near future, everyone will recognize that they are responsible for wildfire prevention.”

due to the election year, KOG was unable to purchase billboard media space.

A \$6,000 grant awarded to Keep Oregon Green from The Weyerhaeuser Foundation, as well as a \$2,000 grant from GI Joe’s, will be used towards marketing projects. Several other grants applications are being processed.

KOG Road Signs

The Oregon Department of Transportation has determined that the installation of the KOG road signs will be \$150 per sign or \$16,800. KOG has submitted a grant requested from Spirit Mountain Community Fund which may assist with up to \$3,900 for the 26 signs that will be installed on roads in 13 counties that encompass their member tribes.



Photos by Cynthia Orlando, ODF

Jeni Jensen greeted visitors at the KOG booth during the Oregon State Fair.

Marketing

Two Smokey Bear television advertisements describing campfire safety have been produced and were aired during July and August. The focus was on Southern, Southwestern, and Central Oregon due to the high fire danger in those areas. Michael Magaurn, a well-known producer/director out of Portland, and Trip Gruver, a writer/director from Los Angeles, have produced excellent advertisements for KOG. Thanks to District Forester Dave Johnson and his staff in Forest Grove for all their assistance during the filming.

In addition, Governor Kulongoski has been reminding adults to use their ashtray while traveling, to check to see that campfires are dead out, to check with local fire districts to see if debris burning is allowed, and to follow all burning restrictions.

Mary Ellen Holly offered a wildfire safety message for radio media. These spots aired from the 9th of August through Labor Day on the Lars Larson Show, as well as on most “Clear” Channel radio stations throughout the state. Unfortunately,



Mary Ellen Holly, President, Keep Oregon Green, helps Smokey cut his birthday cake at the State Fair in August.

Smokey Bear’s Exhibit and Birthday

The World Forestry Center and ODF partnered with KOG to purchase a national Smokey Bear 60th exhibit. It was displayed around the state by ODF districts and then returned to Salem for the Oregon State Fair. Now that the 60th celebration is over, the display may be modified for use at other wildfire prevention events.

Although Smokey’s birthday was actually Aug. 9, on Aug. 27 some 3,000 state fair attendees celebrated his 60th birthday, eating cake and having their photos taken at the KOG and ODF booths.

Smoke Management Plan Review

Rod Nichols, ODF Public Information Officer

At its Sept. 8 meeting in Salem, the Board of Forestry received a status report on a comprehensive review of the Department of Forestry's Smoke Management Plan. The two-year process will culminate in the presentation of a set of recommendations to State Forester Marvin Brown early in 2005.

Since December 2002, a 10-member committee has been working through the plan, which regulates prescribed burning on forestlands to meet air quality standards, minimize smoke intrusions into populated areas, and protect visibility while maintaining burning as a forest management tool.

Key questions being explored by the panel that were contained in its charter from the State Forester include:

- ▼ Are air quality standards being met?
- ▼ Are burning objectives being met?
- ▼ What changes may be needed to address projected increases in prescribed burning for forest health reasons?
- ▼ What changes may be needed to address regional (i.e., multi-state) air quality issues?
- ▼ How should wildfire vs. prescribed fire smoke impacts be addressed?
- ▼ Are designated areas and smoke-sensitive areas adequately identified?
- ▼ How may the administrative rules be changed to reflect current and future fuels and operational issues?
- ▼ What are feasible alternatives to burning and how should they be applied in the administration of the Smoke Management Plan?

Other smoke-management issues that the committee identified as being important to address include: economics and funding, communications and education, visibility and nuisance effects of smoke, and impacts related

to the adoption by the Environmental Protection Agency of the Regional Haze Rule.

The committee has already provided comments on issues that arose during the course of its work. The panel submitted comments on the department's adoption of fee changes for pile burning, best management practices for the use of polyethylene covering for slash piles, and on the Board of Forestry's policy document, the *Forestry Program for Oregon*.

Smoke Management Plan Review Committee Chair Stephen Fitzgerald framed the tasks faced by the panel.

"Smoke management is a complex issue, and it's getting more complex. The committee's work for the last two years has been to look at ways to maintain our ability to burn to meet land management objectives while protecting public health and visibility. With new or changing federal regulations, such as Regional Haze, this will become even more challenging in the future," Fitzgerald said. "Each of our committee members has put in an enormous amount of personal time on this, and all are committed to developing recommendations for the Department of Forestry that will work for Oregon."

The Smoke Management Review Committee includes representatives of the USDA Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, regional and county governments, and the



"The committee's work for the last two years has been to look at ways to maintain our ability to burn to meet land management objectives while protecting public health and visibility."

- Stephen Fitzgerald, Committee Chair

Agreement Terminated for Fire Crew Contractors

Rod Nichols, ODF Public Information Officer

“This investigation prevents inadequately trained firefighters from being put in harm’s way.”

- Don Moritz, Fire Contract Services Manager.

In early August, the Department of Forestry terminated its agreement with firefighting crew contractors Mountain Forestry and Westwood Resources, Inc., over contract violations. The administrative actions were the culmination of intensive investigations by the Protection from Fire Program’s Contract Services Unit.

Independence-based Mountain Forestry was dropped from the 2004 Interagency Fire Crew Agreement for “material breach of agreement.” Inspection of the company’s training records by a department compliance officer uncovered falsified and undocumented training records.

Westwood Resources, a fire crew contractor with crews offered in Klamath Falls, was terminated for not having authorized dispatch locations.

The termination letters prohibited all 16 of Mountain Forestry’s 20-person firefighting crews and both of Westwood Resources’ crews from participating in the Crew Agreement, which is administered by Oregon Department of Forestry for the states of Oregon and Washington and five federal agencies.

Loss of the 18 crews is not expected to affect Oregon’s firefighting preparedness for the remainder of the 2004 season. The department has approximately 269 other fire crews under agreement.

Fire Contract Services Manager Don Moritz said the administrative actions are an important step to assure the safety of Oregon’s wildland firefighters.

“This investigation prevents inadequately trained firefighters from being put in harm’s

way,” Moritz said. “The Contract Services Unit has set training record inspection and dispatch location monitoring as a priority for ongoing investigations and future administrative actions.”

The compliance officer investigating Westwood Resources interviewed landowners, who provided a statement that the company was not authorized to use their property. The agreement prohibits dispatch locations from being changed once the bid solicitation closes. Verified dispatch locations ensure that firefighters meet performance and work/rest standards including traveling safely under conditions of the agreement.

The Department of Forestry initiated the first crew agreement in 1988 to provide fire crews for dispatch within Oregon. Eventually, the contract was expanded to include other fire agencies, and in 1998 the Interagency Contract Committee was recognized by the Pacific Northwest Coordination Group.

The onset of intense fire seasons in the West in the late 1990s created a strong demand for firefighters. Oregon contract companies proliferated, and the roster of crews under the agreement grew, jumping from 106 crews in 2000 to 300 last year.

With only two staff assigned to monitor crew performance and contract compliance for the 2003 Crew Agreement, the Department of Forestry faced a daunting challenge to keep up with the rapid growth.

“Recently, we were able to add two full-time positions to the Contract Services Unit, and that is enabling us to expand our compliance monitoring,” Moritz said.



Aviation Program Answers Call

Tom Fields, Douglas Forest Protective Association

On May 10, following recommendations by the National Transportation Safety Board, the USDA Forest Service announced it had canceled its federal contract for 33 air tankers, seven of which were stationed in the Pacific Northwest.

State Forester Marvin Brown immediately declared a state of emergency and instructed his staff to begin scouring the countryside for additional helicopters and any other available air tankers to offset the loss of the federal fleet.

The value of aerial firefighting resources is immeasurable. Tankers filled with up to 3,000 gallons of reddish-orange retardant are geared to attack the head of the fire to slow its spread. By cooling the fire down and starving it of oxygen, the fertilizer-type material works on two sides of the three-sided fire triangle. Retardant and water drops can't put the fire out, but they can enable crews on the ground to gain access to build and secure containment lines. The lack of these resources could only result in larger, more destructive fires.

The Forest Service canceled the air tanker contract when the NTSB (describing portions of the air tanker fleet) declared that "there is no effective mechanism that currently exists to ensure the continuing airworthiness of these firefighting aircraft." Tankers that fly for the Forest Service are considered public aircraft, which means the agency takes full responsibility for the safety of these planes. This was a risk that the Forest Service did not want to take. To make up for the lack of resources nationwide the Oregon legislature approved severity funding for ODF to contract with helicopter companies. The department secured seven helicopters and placed them in the state's highest risk areas: Klamath Falls; Central Point; Grants Pass; Prineville; Roseburg; John Day; and Pendleton.



ODF's persistence to prepare for what forecasters were calling another volatile fire season paid off when the department secured resources under civil aircraft regulations, which put the responsibility of the aircraft and their safety under the Federal Aviation Administration for U.S. aircraft and Transport Canada for Canadian owned planes.

The first piece of good news came when air tanker and lead plane support from the state of Alaska was secured under the Northwest Compact Act. The Compact facilitates the sharing of fire resources among the member states and Canadian provinces in times of need. Alaska supplied one DC-6B tanker and an Aerial Supervision Module (lead plane) with air attack that was placed in Medford. A separate contract was made with Butler Aviation out of Redmond for three DC-7 air tankers. Butler agreed to move one tanker to Medford to balance the east and west side of the state. The quick response to a national problem provided direct support for ODF's Fire Protection Program throughout the state of Oregon.

continued on next page

The value of aerial firefighting resources is immeasurable. Tankers filled with up to 3,000 gallons of reddish-orange retardant are geared to attack the head of the fire to slow its spread.

“Due to those severity aircraft,” says ODF Fire Operations Director John Boro, “we caught fires that we may not have otherwise.”

...Aviation (continued from page 25)

Early in September, the media reported that the 2004 fire season was slow and uneventful due to the low number of large wildfires that kept contract crews at home. The reason for the “slow season” can be traced to quick initial attack forces at the district level combined with the severity resources.

“Due to those severity aircraft,” says ODF Fire Operations Director John Boro, “we caught fires that we may not have otherwise.” Boro is quick to point out that while the severity aircraft played a key role in keeping acres burned to a minimum, the concept of aggressive firefighting by the fire protective associations and ODF districts is what sets Oregon apart as one of the nation’s leaders in natural resource protection.

The Redwood Highway Fire near Cave Junction Aug. 4 is a perfect example of severity ships at work. ODF Prevention Specialist Dennis Turco, who works out of the Central Point office, said that several homes in the fire’s path were saved because of the work done from the air.

“The fire was kept out of town due to the work of the severity aircraft,” Turco said. “When it looked as if one home was going to be lost, one of the air tankers cut the fire off with one drop. If that home caught on fire, chances were that the entire neighborhood could have been lost.” The fire burned 210 acres and one residence.

As of Sept. 14, 843 fires had burned 5,459 acres of private, county, state and BLM lands statewide. The Bland Mountain Fire #2 accounts for 4,705 of those acres.

“It’s a pretty good insurance policy,” adds ODF Aviation Director Jim Ziobro. “By taking the initiative under civil aircraft regulations, the Department (of Forestry) was able to take a proactive approach to wildland fire protection.”

Boro says that the decision made by the Forest Service to cancel its contracts with the air tanker fleet opened the door for Oregon landowners to pursue opportunities in the retardant aircraft business, the only state in the nation to do so.

...Ecosystems (continued from page 21)

strategy, he suggests, is to try to emulate natural processes, keeping in mind that different tools and applied protection strategies are needed to produce a variety of desirable outcomes. “As we move forward, it will be important to recognize that considerable intellectual and scientific horsepower will be needed to think out of the box and avoid falling back into the more comfortable approach of ‘forest protection means preventing change.’ ”

Lorensen predicts this will be the start of a very long process. The department is currently drafting a work plan that will bring the neces-

sary players to the table to begin scientific discussion. “The ‘fight over the forest’ stems from people’s views that there ought to be a single objective,” said Lorensen. “You’ve got some folks who want to manage forestland as industrial tree farms and others that want it untouched as reserves. The Board emphasizes that we need to have a mix of uses. That creates conflict and will require a paradigm shift for some people. Considerable energy will be needed to overcome existing barriers and develop and move potential new concepts to reality.”

...Fire Program Review (continued from page 7)

Expanding fire protection coverage to currently unprotected lands would require an unprecedented level of cooperation and collaboration at all levels, from local governments to federal resource agencies. The Fire Program Review recommends the Department of Forestry hitch onto an existing effort – community fire planning – and add improved fire protection to the objectives of that process.

Rangeland fire protection associations are an effective tool to extend protection to lands that pose a fire risk to forestlands. The department should help equip and train association firefighting personnel as part of a larger effort to establish relationships with all parties affected by the wildfire threat. The agency's partners in protection – both traditional and non-traditional – must be brought together to define their roles in an expanded fire protection system, the reviewers said. Decision-making, funding and other issues must be resolved during this process.

While many of the Program Review's recommendations for meeting the challenge of unprotected lands are broad in scope, one lays out a specific solution to a key aspect of the problem: In areas where significant potential exists for fire on unprotected lands to spread onto department jurisdiction, a protected buffer should be established between the two.

Along with smoke and ashes, paper has traditionally been a major byproduct of Oregon wildfires. In analyzing the intricate accounting systems and procedures used to pay firefighters, purchase equipment and supplies, and manage a myriad of other business functions, the Fire Program Review identified several ways the department could reduce paperwork, cut administrative overhead costs, and become more fiscally efficient. An automated fire finance processing system is envisioned by an internal work group, and some field-testing has occurred. It will expedite payment for suppression resources and dry up the torrent of mailings and faxes formerly

used to conduct fire business. The increased automation will also enable closer monitoring of expenditures and payments received, with the twin outcomes of greater accuracy and tighter fiscal accountability.

Experience in other states has shown a direct cause-and-effect relationship between stepped-up prevention efforts and a significant drop in the incidence of human fire starts. Citing this link, the Fire Program Review underscored the importance of prevention outreach and education in Oregon's fire protection system. Statewide planning should occur with an aim to deliver consistent wildfire prevention programs to the public. A theme of the review's recommendations for improving fire prevention is to work smarter. An in-depth study of the department's existing prevention activities would yield an accurate assessment of their effectiveness and help managers target messages to key fire causes.

The review calls for enlarging the role of the prevention program within the department's Fire Protection Division. This would include reallocating duties of existing personnel, as workloads allow, to increase prevention outreach. Looking outside the department, the review noted the potential benefit of expanding citizen involvement in wildfire prevention programs, with a goal to foster a better awareness of the role of each individual in preventing wildfires.

Oregon State University's Institute for Natural Resources is assisting the Fire Program Review Steering Committee in the writing and synthesis of its final, comprehensive report. It will be submitted to the State Forester this fall.

Expanding fire protection coverage to currently unprotected lands would require an unprecedented level of cooperation and collaboration at all levels, from local governments to federal resource agencies.

ODF Mourns Loss of Crew Chief



Ben Isenberg, an inmate crew chief at ODF's South Fork Camp in Tillamook, was killed September 13 in Taji, Iraq, when his military vehicle was attacked by enemy forces using small arms fire and an improvised explosive device. Posthumously promoted to sergeant, a rank he had earned all his points for and was in line for when he died, Isenberg was assigned to the Oregon Army National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry out of Corvallis.

Patrick Quiner, a fellow crew boss at South Fork, praised the dedication that Ben brought to every task – as a father, husband, soldier and wildland firefighter. “No matter what hat he wore,” Quiner said, “he was totally devoted to that role.”

Ben's platoon leader, 2nd Lt. Peter Wood, wounded in the same attack that took Ben's life, said Ben's skillful handling of the unit's Humvee saved the lives of others in the vehicle.

A traditional soldier's memorial, including Ben's boots, his rifle and his helmet, had a prominent position at the front of the church. One at a time, uniformed officers, including two brigadier generals, approached the memorial. Each stood at attention and saluted before turning sharply and marching away. Several of them left a “commander's coin,” a medallion used to honor excellence in military service.

When it was 2nd Lt. Wood's turn at the memorial, he reached out and touched Ben's dog tags, draped over the rifle, before saluting with his bandaged right arm.

Governor Kulongoski took a moment to kneel in front of the memorial.

Isenberg is survived by his wife, Rachel; sons Jeremiah 4, and Kraig, 2, of Sheridan; parents Lt. Col. Robert and De Ann (Pourroy) Isenberg of Moscow, Idaho; brothers 2nd Lt Trevis Isenberg, currently assigned to Ft. Ruecker and Tim Isenberg, Oregon; and sister, Tanna.

Cards, letters and donations may be sent to the family in care of:

**Adamson Sheridan Funeral Home
Post Office Box 10
Sheridan, Oregon 97378**

Isenberg was born in Grafenworth, Germany on September 22, 1976. Raised in Oakdale, California, he moved with his family to Dallas Oregon in 1993. He graduated from Dallas High School in 1994, joined the Oregon National Guard in 1995, and graduated from Western Oregon University in 2000 with a degree in geology.

Prior to working at South Fork Camp, Isenberg was a forest officer out of the Dallas office and worked on a hot shot fire crew for several years. He loved the out-of-doors, hunting, fishing and four wheeling. He participated in the State Shooting team, the Honor Guard, and represented the State of Oregon in various shooting competitions.

More than 350 people attended his memorial service at the Sheridan Church of the Nazarene in Sheridan, Oregon, including many in the uniforms of ODF, the military, and law enforcement and fire services.

In his eulogy, Governor Kulongoski praised Ben as a “strong, caring patriot who never hesitated to defend his community and nation.”

Three pastors, and one of Ben's closest friends, spoke of Ben's deep commitment to faith, family and friendship, all central forces in his

“These young men – and all the men and women of the Oregon National Guard – are truly the best this state has to offer. They exchanged their civilian clothes, jobs and lives to perform their duty in the Guard.”

- Governor Ted Kulongoski

...Smoke management (continued from page 23)

Oregon Forest Industries Council, as well as private individuals.

The committee has been tasked to review statutes, rules and directives pertaining to Smoke Management Program operations. Mike Ziolkko, the Department of Forestry's Meteorology and Fire Intelligence Manager, noted that the current review comes at a particularly appropriate time.

"Air quality regulations are changing, demographics are changing, there are potential increases in wildfire and prescribed fire smoke," Ziolkko said, "and all of that is being taken into account by the committee."

Proposed revisions to the Smoke Management Plan will be coordinated with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), which is also acting in an advisory role to the committee. The Department of Forestry and DEQ will eventually hold public hearings on any proposed changes to the Smoke Management Plan. These proposed changes will be presented to the State Forester for approval. Any approved changes will go next to the Environmental Quality Commission for its approval. Final changes will then be submitted to the federal Environmental Protection Agency as part of the State of Oregon Clean Air Act Implementation Plan.

The Smoke Management Plan regulates prescribed burning on private, state, county and federal forestlands throughout Oregon to minimize the impact on air quality. Prescribed burning is employed to accomplish several purposes: remove logging slash to prevent wildfire and prepare harvest sites for reforestation, manage wildlife habitat, and attain and maintain forest health.

The plan addresses factors such as weather, volume of material to be burned, distance of the burning from designated areas, burning techniques and provisions for cessation of further burning under adverse air quality conditions.



"Air quality regulations are changing, demographics are changing, there are potential increases in wildfire and prescribed fire smoke."

While the committee's focus is chiefly on current smoke management concerns, the Department of Forestry has also tasked the panel to look ahead.

"They're evaluating whether there are shortcomings in the Smoke Management Plan that could become problems in the future," Ziolkko said. "We've also asked them to identify barriers to implementation as well as opportunities. And a key question is, 'How do we measure success in a changed environment five years down the road?'"

...Agreement Terminated (continued from page 24)

Under the Interagency Fire Crew Agreement, contract firefighters must complete a nationally standardized course that includes training in fire behavior, firefighting tools and techniques, and safety. Contractors are required to maintain records on the training and certification of all firefighters in their employ.

In its investigation, the department found that Mountain Forestry had falsified the training records and identifications of some of its crewmembers. Termination of all of the company's crews for the remainder of the 2004 agreement, with consideration for the safety risk to unqualified crewmembers, is an appropriate response for a material breach under the terms of the agreement, Moritz said.

Following announcement of the actions against Mountain Forestry and Westwood Resources,

representatives of the fire crew contracting industry publicly commended the department.

"I think it is a fairness and equity issue for them," he said. "Most of our contractors work hard to follow the terms of the agreement, and they expect their peers to do the same."

The 90-plus companies signatory to the 2004 Crew Agreement fill a vital niche in Oregon's, as well as the nation's, wildland fire protection system. Oregon crews are regularly dispatched to the southeastern U.S. in spring, when the fire season is at its peak there. In June, the action moves to the Southwest. The Fourth of July historically marks the beginning of significant fire activity in Oregon, and the firefighters find themselves back home again to take on local wildfires.

...Roy Woo (continued from page 19)

Keith recalls one fire when a T-shirt vendor raised Woo's ire. "Roy didn't want any T-shirt vendors at fire camp," says Keith. "He thought they were too commercial to allow, and the vendor moved his wares off-site."

However, one day Woo's wife Judy accompanied him to fire camp, and quickly donned one of the vendor's t-shirts. "After that, Roy grew to appreciate the T-shirt vendors," says Keith with a chuckle.

In 1998, Woo was promoted to Northwest Oregon Area Director at Forest Grove. In this capacity, throughout the late 90's, Woo played a key role in planning for the future management of some 600,000 acres of state forestland in northwestern Oregon, and in the adoption of the Northwest Oregon State Forest Management Plan.

As director of the Northwest Oregon Area from 1998-2000, Woo devoted his energies to

ensuring that ODF's field foresters could properly implement the groundbreaking State Forests Management Plan.

"That job was the key turning point for me in the leadership of the Department," says Woo. "The biggest challenges for me there were insuring that the prescriptions and actions identified in the plan were doable and were carried out, and communicating with external stakeholders. What was most important for me was realizing the good people we have in the Department and the strategic planning that took place."

Similar skills would be required in his next position as Deputy State Forester. Challenges during this time included reorganization of the agency, and of course, fire seasons. Woo was responsible for staffing and organization of ODF's field operations and offices. He exercised leadership during the 2002 fire season, the most severe in recent history, by

providing statewide strategic focus and directing resource priorities. As deputy, he also worked closely with forest landowners to reorganize a portion of western Oregon field operations.

Staying in touch with the field organization was a natural for Woo, and as deputy, he oversaw ODF field operations and field staff. Concentrating his efforts on ensuring that program plans were implemented, and “working through the barriers and challenges, including budget reductions,” were key. “Assisting in developing plans to meet the agency’s core values was also key,” adds Woo. Woo’s people skills also came in handy during timber sale protests over the Acey Line Thin Timber Sale on the Tillamook State Forest. Working with the staff, the field, the Governor’s office, and public affairs, Woo was successful in protecting public safety and making sure lines of communication stayed open.

Woo also worked with Governor John Kitzhaber on the Ten Year National Fire Plan. Protecting people and sustaining resources in fire-adapted ecosystems were focuses of the plan, which also prioritized treatment on high-risk areas, emphasizing restoration and healthy ecosystems. “Accomplishing accountability” was high on Woo’s list of accomplishments.

Woo served as the agency’s Acting State Forester from January to June, 2003. Challenges included the legislative session, and Fire Season 2003. Last year, Woo attended the “Third International Wildfire Conference and Exhibition” in Sydney, Australia. The conference provided fire managers from around the world the opportunity to participate in discussions on a broad range of fire and emergency service topics. Woo participated as one of 80 poster presenters at the conference. “I had a lot of Australians talk to me about how Oregon provides fire protection utilizing landowner resources,” said Woo.

“Roy had two traits that I very much admired in him,” says Labhart. “One was his unique ability to develop and maintain relationships. This ability served the agency well as we dealt with tough fire issues, budget issues and legislative



The Winter Fire was one of numerous large fires suppressed by ODF in the 2002 Fire Season, during which time Woo, as Deputy State Forester, exercised leadership and communications skills for Oregon landowners, Oregon communities, and for the agency.

issues during his tenure as Deputy State Forester. His second strong trait was his professionalism.”

Adds Labhart, “Roy put in for quite a few jobs in his career. At one time after not getting a couple of jobs he asked Tom Lane, then Deputy State Forester, if he was ever going to get a promotion. Tom said ‘Stay tuned Roy, your time will come.’ Well, it sure did. He became the number two man in the agency. Well deserved.”

On a more humorous note, Roy loves to hunt and fish. Folks say he had an uncanny way of finding out who was going fishing or hunting the next week, and always seemed to find a way to get himself invited on just about every hunting and fishing trip that came along. “I guess you just can’t say no to the guy,” says Labhart with a smile.

As Woo prepares to leave the agency for new pursuits, he reflects upon the changes and events he’s experienced at ODF. “The history and culture of the agency will be a big asset for the Department, and help it move through the future,” Woo predicts.

“What was most important for me was realizing the good people we have in the Department and the strategic planning that took place.”
Roy Woo,
Deputy State Forester

Forestry Calendar of Public Meetings

Oct 7	9:00 - 3:00	Committee for Family Forestlands	Santiam Room, Salem
Nov 1	10:00 - 3:00	Northwest Oregon Regional Forest Practice Committee Meeting	Tillamook Room, Salem
Nov 2	10:00 - 3:00	Southern Oregon Regional Forest Practice Committee Meeting	DFPA, Roseburg
Nov 4	10:00 - 3:00	Eastern Oregon Regional Forest Practice Committee Meeting	Crook County Library, Prineville
Nov 8-10	8:00 - 5:00	ODF 2004 Administrative Workshop	Bend
Nov 17	9:00 - 2:00	Committee For Family Forestlands	Santiam Room, Salem



OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY
2600 STATE STREET
SALEM, OR 97310

"STEWARDSHIP IN FORESTRY"

