

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	3
INTEGRATED FOREST MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS	4
Timber Harvest Operations.....	4
Overview of Timber Harvest Operations.....	4
Forest Roads Management.....	7
Overview	7
Road Construction.....	8
Road Improvement.....	8
Road Access Management.....	8
Road Maintenance	8
Land Surveying.....	9
Young Stand Management.....	9
Rehabilitation	9
Site Preparation	9
Planting	10
Vegetation Management	10
Tree Protection	10
Precommercial Thinning (density management).....	10
Fertilization.....	11
Pruning.....	11
Recreation Management	11
Overview of Recreation Management	11
Facilities (Campgrounds, View Points, Trail Heads, etc.).....	11
Trails	12
Land Exchange.....	12
Other Integrated Forest Management Operations.....	12
Planning (and Information Systems).....	12
Stand Level Inventory and Other Vegetation Inventories.....	12
Fish and Wildlife Surveys	13
Watershed Assessments	13
Research and Monitoring	14

Other Planning Operations..... 14
Public Information and Education 14
Administration 14
APPENDICES..... 17
 A. Summary Tables.....
 B. Pre-Operations Reports.....
 C. Public Involvement.....

COOS DISTRICT

2006 ANNUAL OPERATIONS PLAN

INTRODUCTION

This annual operations plan covers the state forestlands managed by the Coos District for the fiscal year 2006, which runs from July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006. This plan describes how the activities and projects planned will achieve the goals and objectives of the Elliott State Forest Management Plan and the Elliott State Forest Habitat Conservation Plan (refer to these documents for details on strategies). These activities include the following integrated forest management operations: commercial harvest operations; road construction, road improvement and maintenance; reforestation and young stand management; recreation; and planning.

Because of the detailed nature of the Elliott Management Plan and the Elliott Habitat Conservation Plan, the Coos District has no separate 'Implementation Plan'. Detailed information on each proposed timber sale is included in it's respective Pre-Sale Operations Report. This summary document will give an overview of the operations, and includes tables giving a number of details including estimates of volume and acres to be harvested, project costs, and gross and net revenues, and acres and cost estimates of planned reforestation and young growth management operations. A public involvement summary will be added to the final plan.

Coos District manages 97,276 acres of state forestland primarily in the southern coast range, but with some scattered tracts in the Klamath Mountains in southern Coos and Curry counties. About 91 % of the lands managed by the Coos District are Common School Lands owned by the State Land Board and managed for them by ODF. The main ownership is the Elliott State Forest, which is one block of about 93,000 acres located just south of the Umpqua River between Reedsport and Scottsburg on the north and between Coos Bay and Allegany on the south. The Elliott is divided into 17 management basins, each with a target rotation age ranging from 80 to 240 years. Additionally, some 4200 acres of Common School Land small tracts are scattered between the California border in the south, up to the South Slough Estuary on the west, adjacent to Winchester Bay to the northwest, and to about Winston and Elkton on the east.

Table 1. Annual Operations Plan objectives compared to annual objectives identified in the Coos District Harvest Schedule (Table A-1). All values are acres.

Silvicultural Activity	Elliott Mgmt & HCP	2006 AOP Objective
	Annual Objective	
Conifer Partial Cut	500	0
Conifer Clearcut	510	525
Hardwood Partial Cut	NA	0
Hardwood Clearcut	0	0
Rehabilitation	NA	0
Reforestation (Initial Planting)		530-750
Precommercial Thinning	NA	100
Fertilization	NA	0
Pruning	NA	0

The above conifer clearcut acreage objective of 525 acres is 15 acres over the annual clearcut objective of 510 acres to help compensate for previous years that were below the HCP acreage target. The amount of clearcut harvests sold in FY 2003 was 384 acres, 75 acres below the objective. Amount sold in FY 2002 was 415 acres, 44 acres below the objective, and the amount of clearcut harvests sold in FY 2001 was 388 acres, 71 acres below the objective. The amount sold in FY 2000 was 424 acres, 35 acres below the annual objective. Thus, for these four years Coos District is 225 acres below it's allowed harvest level. In 2004 we met our goal and in 2005 we planned for 652 acres, still leaving us 53 acres below the allowed harvest level. The primary reason for the shortfall was the discovery of a large number of stands occupied by murrelets.

The FY 2006 operations plan includes both activities that take place "on the ground" within the fiscal year as well as operations that have contracts prepared within the fiscal year, but are actually accomplished in a future fiscal year. Activities that will be accomplished on the ground this fiscal year include reforestation, precommercial thinning, and road maintenance. Contracts that are prepared this fiscal year, but are accomplished in a future fiscal year include commercial forest management operations and road construction.

INTEGRATED FOREST MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS

Timber Harvest Operations

Overview of Timber Harvest Operations

The FY 2006 AOP is in compliance with the strategies employed in the ESF MP and the Elliott Habitat Conservation Plan (ESF HCP). Significant amounts of mature forests are protected under the current plan. Twenty-three percent of the forest is in reserves; rotation lengths across the forest vary from 80 to 240 years; in the long term, 49% of the

forest will be maintained in nesting, roosting, foraging habitat for the spotted owl; the total amount of superior spotted owl habitat (over 160 years old) will increase from the current 1% to 29% of the forest; currently the annual harvest on the forest is about one-half the estimated sustainable level of 50 million board feet per year.

Certain sales in this plan are referred to as “wildlife habitat focus” sales. This term is defined on page V-37 of the ESF Forest Management Plan, and is inserted here: “One perspective focuses on a high level of wood production, with a moderate focus on creating forest structure and managing wildlife habitat. This perspective will favor wildlife species that prefer younger forests, although some habitat and structure will be provided for species that prefer older forests. The other perspective focuses on a high level of creating and maintaining forest structure and wildlife habitat, with a moderate level of wood production. This perspective will favor species that prefer older forests, although habitat will still be provided for species that prefer younger forests. Both perspectives will be used in managing the Elliott.” Timelines demonstrating how these two approaches will be implemented over time are contained in pages V-38 through V-49 of the ESF FMP.

Under the ESF HCP and ESF MP, surveys for sensitive species and northern spotted owls is not required. However, no-take protocol surveys are required for marbled murrelets per ODF's Marbled Murrelet policies in potential suitable habitat - defined as stands 18" dbh or larger, or stands with a lower DBH that have a component of residual trees. These surveys have been done or are in progress for all planned sales. Surveys have also been conducted or are planned to determine stream classification of Elliott streams. The 2006 AOP is the third year we will have incorporated the aquatic-riparian strategy from the “Northwest Oregon State Forests Management Plan, January 2001” into all of the sales. Please refer to this plan for detailed information on the strategy. Whenever the current Elliott Riparian strategy provides more protection, it is used.

Old Growth

Reserving remnant old-growth trees, trees originating prior to the year 1830, is a district policy. Care is taken to walk through the units and mark the residual old-growth as green tree retention. The only exception to this policy is if an old-growth tree is located where it impedes operability and causes a hazardous situation.

Clearcut Harvests

During the first decade, which began in FY 1995, the ESF HCP and ESF MP provide for the clearcut harvesting of 439 acres of conifer and 20 acres of hardwoods on an annual basis and 500 acres of plantation thinning as stands are available. During the second decade of these plans, which begins with this fiscal year (2005), the clearcut acreage increases to 510 acres per year. This harvest increase is displayed graphically on page III-17 of the ESF HCP. This graph displays harvest levels for four different alternatives. Alternative A is the alternative that is being implemented. This graph displays the harvest level for “THE ENDING YEAR OF THE DECADE”. So the point corresponding to the harvest level for decade one is displayed above the year 2003, which was planned to be the last year of decade one. It displays the harvest level for decade 2 above the year 2013, the planned last year of decade 2. The 2006 Operations Plan goal is to provide 540 acres of conifer final harvest and no acres of main cover alder harvest. This increase above the 510 acre annual harvest level is to compensate for the 4 years where acres of clearcut fell below the annual target due to murrelets. To help insure that the HCP target of 510 clearcut acres per year would be reached, a number of alternate sales were

selected and surveyed in addition to the annual sale plan acreage. Four FY2006 sales have completed and cleared the two-year murrelet survey protocol thus far. These include, Fish Divided, Cougar Divided, Elkhorn Ridge #6, Locked Marlow for a total of 322 acres. Three additional sales: Kentucky Plantation, Mill Creek Bridge No. 2, and Double Barrel do not contain murrelet habitat, and do not require surveying, totaling 291 acres. The remaining sales, totaling 115 acres have not cleared survey. These unsurveyed sales have resulted from occupancies in earlier plans, requiring replacement by sales planned for future fiscal years, causing a continual shortage of cleared sales. Because of the uncertainties due to second year surveys for the uncleared sales, the final conifer regeneration harvest acres in this sale plan are not known at this time.

The clearcut timber sales in this plan have been selected to maintain adequate dispersal habitat acreage for the northern spotted owl in each basin, and to minimize fragmentation of larger blocks of timber. This practice is designed to maintain a balance of age classes in the Elliott in keeping with the ESF MP Balanced Landscape objectives.

Clearcutting is planned for both 80-year rotation basins and 160-240 year basins. The desired future condition for harvest units in 80-year rotation basins is to provide an appropriate level of bio-diversity, and to begin providing owl dispersal habitat by about age 30. There is no goal to produce either owl nesting/roosting/foraging habitat or murrelet habitat in the seven 80-year basins, beyond those in existing reserves. The ten basins provide those habitats with rotations longer than 80 years (135-240 years) and the reserves located in all basins. Regeneration harvesting in the 160-240 year basins are in younger, non-habitat stands. Harvesting these stands meets our harvest schedule target for the younger age stands within those basins.

The clearcut harvest timber sales in this plan have a high volume and value because of the size of the wood and volume per acre. The estimated gross revenue for this plan is \$10.4 million. Project costs are estimated at about \$377,000 with a net revenue of about \$10 million.

Commercial Thinning

There is no planned commercial thinning in the FY 2006 plan. Thinning acres were eliminated this year because Coos District will have a new Forest Management Plan within a year. When we have the new management plan we will know the trajectory these stands should take. It is conceivable the new plan could require some of these stands to be clearcut in the next decade. Thinning them now would cause a significant economic loss due to the increased logging costs both at the time of thinning and clearcutting (due to lower volumes per acre).

ODF's primary long-range plan to deal with SNC is to plant a greater diversity of species in the fogbelt portion of the Elliott that is affected most by SNC. ODF is a member of the SNC Cooperative, which is looking for additional ways to control this disease. In addition, Douglas-fir resistance to SNC is being tested by the South Central Coast Tree Improvement Cooperative. Coos District is a member of this cooperative.

Port-Orford cedar root rot, which can potentially kill both Port-Orford cedar and Pacific yew, is not a significant issue on the Elliott. Though the Elliott is within the range of Port-Orford cedar (POC), no natural POC has been documented in an inventory of the Elliott. A total of about 5-7 acres of Port Orford cedar has been planted on the Elliott, and most of that was planted in the last 2 years. Scattered Pacific yew does exist in the Elliott. The only known location of the POC root rot is in a 1-2 acre plantation that was planted on the

lower end of Palouse Creek. Vehicle access to this area is blocked off year round to protect fish and wildlife, which effectively prevents spread of POC root rot through vehicle traffic. To our knowledge POC root rot does not exist elsewhere on the Elliott.

Sudden Oak Death has not been identified in the Elliott. Locations in Oregon where it has been identified have been quarantined by the Oregon Dept. of Agriculture to prevent its spread. ODF, in cooperation with the USFS conducts annual statewide aerial surveys to identify areas with insect and disease problems, including Sudden Oak Death.

Forest Roads Management

Overview

The following is a summary of forest road projects that are anticipated to be accomplished as part of the proposed timber sales in the 2006 fiscal year. The actual numbers will not be known until the murrelet surveys are completed in 2005. All sales planned in the FY'06 AOP have had an office review by an ODF geotech specialist. As needed, the geotech will make site-specific road and engineering recommendations for practices to achieve resource and economic goals for the forest consistent with the Elliott FMP and HCP. For detailed information on the risks associated with clearcut harvesting on steep slopes in the Tye Core Area, please refer to the following research paper: Robison, E.G., K. Mills, J.T. Paul, L. Dent, and A. Skaugset. 1999. Oregon Department of Forestry 1996 Storm Impacts Monitoring Project: Final Report. Forest Practices Technical Report #4. Oregon Department of Forestry, Salem Oregon, Oregon . 141pp.

Table 2. Summary of Road Management Activities. All values are in miles.

	Mainline (High Use)		Collector (Medium Use)		Spur (Low Use)	
	AOP	IP ¹	AOP	IP ¹	AOP	IP ¹
Road Construction	0	NA	0	NA	1.1	NA
Road Improvement	0	NA	0	NA	3.3	NA
Road Closure/Vacation	0	NA	3.65	NA	1.0	NA
Road Maintenance – District²	200	NA	150	NA	20	NA
Road Maintenance – Active Operations³		NA		NA	20	NA

1. N/A

2. The road maintenance estimates include only the work to be completed during Fiscal Year 2006 by the district road crew or Public Works contract.

3. This is a broad estimate of the road maintenance that may be accomplished during the fiscal year, through active commercial operations. However, the exact amount can not be predicted at this time.

Road Construction

At present 1.1 miles of new road construction is planned for FY 2006. However, further analysis during sale preparation may determine that in some cases the addition of new roads would provide better options in regard to safety and environmental impact. For example there may be a more suitable location to position a yarder for guyline anchors and skyline road alignment. Project work that results in exposing bare soil will receive an application of grass seed during the first seeding season following construction to assist with erosion control. The method commonly used in this process involves mechanical hand seeders. A proven mix of grass seed referred to as coastal erosion mix is used.

All sales planned in the FY2006 AOP have had an office review by an ODF geotech specialist. As needed, the geotech will make site-specific road and engineering recommendations for practices to achieve resource and economic goals for the forest consistent with the Elliott FMP and HCP. Plans for road improvement and construction are in compliance with ODF's Forest Roads Policy.

Road Improvement

All proposed timber sales have existing forest roads that will require upgrading to meet access requirements. Various prescriptions for road renovation will be required, including but not limited to, resurfacing with hard crushed quarry rock, replacing culverts that are damaged or undersized, installing culverts at new locations in order to achieve proper spacing and ditch water diversion, grading and ditching, widening, and roadside brushing. Also, potential hazards associated with the road systems, such as old sidecast material or sub-surface drainage problems, will be identified and corrected. Primarily the objective is to minimize the impact forest roads have on slope stability, water quality, wildlife and in general the surrounding environment and at the same time provide an adequate, safe and efficient transportation system.

Road Access Management

All of the roads that fall under this operations plan that are not surfaced will be closed to traffic, with the exception of ATV'S, once the operation is complete. The standard practices are to water-bar the road surface at intervals proportional to gradient and block the entrance to the road. In most instances this involves the placement of boulders or digging a wide ditch (tank-trap') across the entrance. Seasonal water-bars and closure may be necessary if an operation continues through two or more seasons.

Spur roads in two of the Fish Cougar Divide units will be evaluated to determine if vacating them is appropriate. All roads that were considered to be high priority for vacating were completed in previous years

Road Maintenance

Road maintenance activities that will occur during Fiscal Year 2006 include grading road surfaces to maintain a smooth, stable running surface and to retain the original surface drainage. Surfacing material will be added or replaced as necessary on road segments

that experience a breakdown or loss of surface material. Culverts, catch basins and ditches will be cleaned as necessary to ensure proper drainage. Worn out, damaged or undersized drainage structures will be replaced as necessary. Cut and fill slopes will be monitored for any changes that could result in damage. Problems most often encountered include raveling, erosion and slumping. Slides in roadbeds will be removed and old sidecast material will be pulled back from the road shoulder where slumping or tension cracks occur. Roadside vegetation control measures will be taken to improve visibility, drainage and slope stability.

Land Surveying

Four of the proposed sales require some type of action relative to land surveying measures prior to sale preparation and logging activities. Survey corner monuments that are near or within sale area boundaries need to be located, marked in such a way so that they are perceptible to others and referenced for future relocation. Two of the proposed timber sales border privately owned lands. In both instances, the Oregon Department of Forestry has surveyed the property lines, but the surveys were conducted several years ago. Also, the timber on the private lands has been cut up to or near the property lines. Property lines separating state and private lands will need to be evaluated and possibly resurveyed. All survey corners within of near sale boundaries will be revisited upon completion of logging activities in order to reevaluate their condition. Survey corners damaged as a result of logging will be restored and corner reports filed with the County Surveyors Office.

Young Stand Management

Note: Disease issues are contained in the commercial forest management section above.

Planned operations in the FY'06 AOP were designed to be in compliance with the current ESF MP, ESF HCP, and state and federal laws. Herbicides are applied in compliance with the label and the rules of the forest practice act.

Rehabilitation

No rehabilitation operations are planned.

Site Preparation

The goal of site preparation projects is to reduce vegetative competition and minimize tree seedling mortality during the first five years after planting. The primary and most cost-effective site preparation tool used by Coos District is aerial application of herbicides. Coos District practices integrated pest management and uses means other than herbicides when appropriate such as mechanical release (i.e. chainsaws). District policy

requires that about 10-15% of each year's regeneration harvest acreage (units) not be treated with herbicides to promote growth of forage for deer and elk. Units are typically aerial site-prep sprayed once during the rotation length of the stand (i.e. 80 years).

Planting

This operations plan will include several planting densities, stock types, and a mix of species. Planting densities and species mix will vary to meet the goals of the desired future condition of the stand. The stock type will vary to provide the best balance of vigorous cost effective stock. We have increased the amount of minor species that we are planting to provide for diverse habitat, and reduce the effects of Swiss needle cast. Small patch cuts that don't regenerate naturally are being planted with minor species to increase diversity and improve habitat.

Vegetation Management

Release operations: These treatments are planned as needed to reduce competition from brush species. The purpose is to keep stands free to grow, keep tree stands vigorous and healthy and to increase return on investment. Most release treatments will be ground treatments. Hack & squirt with the herbicide Arsenal, thin-line with Garion-4 for scotch broom, if needed a dormant Garlon – crop oil treatment may be done aerially to a small number of acres to control scotch broom, and manual release by inmates with chain saws will be the main ground treatments. Aerial release operations, if needed, will be late foliar release with Accord (glyphosate) in the fall.

Noxious or non native plant control: The Coos District is currently developing a noxious weed / non- native plant policy for the Elliott. Until the policy is complete we are working to control such plants as gorse, scotch broom and other plants of concern identified as noxious by the Oregon Department of Agriculture. An integrated pest management approach will be used that may include the use of a range of control measures including mechanical, herbicides, and biological control including the overtopping of some plants by conifer plantations.

Tree Protection

Damage by mountain beaver can have significant impacts on stand stocking and growth. Mountain beaver trapping is prescribed on all clearcut harvest units under the 2006 AOP. This is done to reduce the mortality and damage to acceptable levels. Species other than Douglas-fir may be treated with vexar tubing or big game repellent to help reduce the damage caused by deer and elk.

Precommercial Thinning (density management)

Pre-commercial thinning (PCT) may be applied to stands with more than 500 trees per acre. Thinning reduces the amount of time for a stand to become large enough for

commercial thinning and, where planned, to become spotted owl dispersal and nesting / roosting / foraging habitat.

Harvest units are typically thinned to about 222 trees per acre, which will produce about an 11 inch diameter at breast height(DBH) 'take tree' at the first commercial thinning around age 25-30. In some stands where the goal is to meet wildlife objectives for forage or structure, or where it is impractical to do an early commercial thinning, the distance between leave trees will be increased to keep them from becoming stagnant at a young age.

In past years the effects of Swiss needle cast (SNC) were thought to be accelerated by PCT. The areas most affected by SNC on the Elliott are at the moderate level of infection. ODF's forest pathologist, researchers at Oregon State University and the SNC Coop are convinced that at moderate infection levels, PCT does not increase the effects of Swiss needle cast on Douglas-fir. At the present time the recommendation is that the Elliott's infection level does not warrant a delay in PCT treatment.

Due to the change in minimum density to 500 TPA for PCT a minimal number of acres will be PCT's in 2004-2005. Red alder is recognized as a crop tree and will be considered a leave tree under certain circumstances by inmates and the PCT contractor (if used).

Fertilization

None Planned

Pruning

None Planned.

Recreation Management

Overview of Recreation Management

Based on past assessment of needs and policies, there is very little formal recreation management on the Elliott State Forest. The Elliott is relatively lightly used for recreation, much of it occurring along the roads, rivers, and streams. The recreation that does occur is mostly confined to hunting, fishing, camping, and picnicking. Most recreation use is informal dispersed recreation, with the main users being the local residents who live in nearby communities. Local residents are attracted to the Elliott because it is primitive and unregulated, with few recreationists competing for favorite sites.

Facilities (Campgrounds, View Points, Trail Heads, etc.)

At the current time there are only two developed camp sites on the forest. The Girl Scout Camp has been developed since ODF acquired the land from Weyerhaeuser many years

ago. The other site is the historic Elkhorn Ranch, which was partially developed in cooperation with the Coos Back Country Horsemen of Oregon (CBCHO).

Trails

Coos District is participating with a group of cooperating agencies and landowners named the Coos Regional Trails Partnership. Their purpose is to develop a plan for building trails within the county to attract tourists. Members of this group include ODF, BLM, USFS, Coos County, and the Coos Bay and North Bend Chambers of Commerce.

Land Exchange

None planned for fiscal year 2006. A small land purchase is being considered for FY2007. The purpose of the purchase would be to facilitate the successful completion of Coos District harvest objectives

Other Integrated Forest Management Operations

Cooperation and participation with Coos Watershed Association and the Tenmile Lakes Basin Partnership will continue during the 2006 AOP period. Stream enhancement, restoration projects, and watershed and project monitoring are likely activities during this period. The Coos District will continue to sell permits to harvest special forest products on a request basis, consistent with product availability and protection requirements. This has amounted to an average yearly revenue of approximately \$700/year for the last several years.

Planning (and Information Systems)

The major planning activity scheduled for FY 2006 is the continuing work on the Elliott's revised Forest Management Plan and Habitat Conservation Plan (FMP/HCP). The primary reason for the revision is the expiration of the Elliott's incidental take permit (ITP) for murrelets on October 3, 2001. The revised HCP is intended to include the spotted-owl, marbled murrelet, coastal coho salmon and other species at risk for future listing that may occur on the Elliott.

Stand Level Inventory and Other Vegetation Inventories

Stand Level Inventory. Approximately 8 percent of the Elliott will have a stand level inventory (SLI) during the 2006 AOF. This inventory will collect comprehensive stand data including detailed information about trees species, size and stocking, other vegetation and stand structural characteristics. In addition, the process of transitioning from the old OSCUR inventory system should be completed during the FY06 AOP period.

Stocking surveys and young stand fixed plots: These inventory projects will identify stocking levels and growth rates and will be used to develop stand management prescriptions. Prescriptions can include inter-planting, release, animal damage control, and PCT. This data will also be used to evaluate stands for characteristics and opportunities for improving wildlife habitat.

Fish and Wildlife Surveys

Under the ESF HCP and ESF MP, surveys for northern spotted owls is not required. Surveys for marbled murrelets will be completed on stands proposed for inclusion in the fiscal year 2006, 2007, & 2008 sale plans to meet harvest objectives until a new ITP is issued through the HCP revision. Additional ODFW protocol fish presence surveys are planned for FY2006.

Table 3. Summary of status of T&E surveys.

Operation	Species (NSO/MM)	Status
Fish Divided	MM	Protocol surveys complete, no occupancy.
Cougar Divided	MM	Protocol surveys complete, no occupancy.
Elkhorn Ridge No.6	MM	Protocol surveys complete, no occupancy.
Bowl Bound Beaver	MM	Second year survey required in 2005.
Locked Marlow	MM	Protocol surveys complete, no occupancy.
Trout Head	MM	Second year survey required in 2005 for Areas I and III.
Double Barrel	MM	Survey waiver required.
Kentucky Plantation	MM	Survey waiver required.
Mill Creek Bridge No.2	MM	Survey waiver required.

Watershed Assessments

The Coos District completed a watershed assessment of the ESF in FY 2004 as part of the ongoing revision process for the ESF FMP and HCP. The objective of the assessment was to compile information on water, fish, and wildlife issues that the Elliott State Forest will face in the near future and assess the historic, current, and future conditions of these resources. The assessment was tailored specifically to objectives for the Elliott State Forest and will provide assessment for the Coos, Tenmile Lakes, and Umpqua watersheds within the Elliott. Additionally, the assessment includes an evaluation of social issues, such as human uses of the forest. The assessment is being used to inform and support the Elliott's current Forest Management Plan revision process and for future adaptive management.

Research and Monitoring

Coos District has been a participant in the Northwest Tree Improvement Cooperative since its founding over 30 years ago. The district is currently in the process of second generation testing. The district is also a participating member of the Stand Management Coop. A test site is located on the Elliott and district staff has been assisting in the measurement and maintenance of these plots since the beginning of the research. Forest-wide permanent plots were established on the forest about 3 year's ago. We also participate in the Swiss Needle-Cast cooperative and have some plots installed in some young commercial thinning stands as a part of a study by this cooperative.

A project designed to characterize marbled murrelet habitat on the Elliott State Forest was initiated in the spring of 2002 and completed in FY 2004. The project will provide information to assist in developing murrelet management strategies for a revised Management Plan for the Elliott State Forest.

Permanent plots are being monitored on both the Lower Skunk Stand Management sale and the Hidden Valley Stand Management sale. These sales were designed to enhance owl and murrelet habitat and are in a 240-year rotation basin.

Other Planning Operations

Public Information and Education

The most significant planned activity in this area will be public meetings, newsletters and possible field tours for the revised Elliott FMP/HCP planning process.

District personnel routinely participate in and are voting members of both the Coos Watershed Association and the Tenmile Lakes Basin Partnership watershed council. This activity enables the district to keep the council informed of district operations, to participate in planning watershed enhancement activities, and to receive information from neighboring landowners and other interested parties on concerns they have about the Elliott State Forest.

Each year the district participates with other landowners and agencies in the Lower Umpqua Tree Planting Day, which gives local school children an opportunity to plant trees.

Administration

It is anticipated that there will be about 22 Full-Time-Equivalent positions (**FTE's**) at the Coos District whose primary responsibility is to implement the FY 06 Annual Operations Plan. The Coos District is organized into four primary teams:

The Administrative Staff which includes the District Forester, Assistant District Forester, Office Manager, Office Specialist, GIS Specialist/Lan Manager, Southern Oregon Area Wildlife Biologist, and General Mechanic.

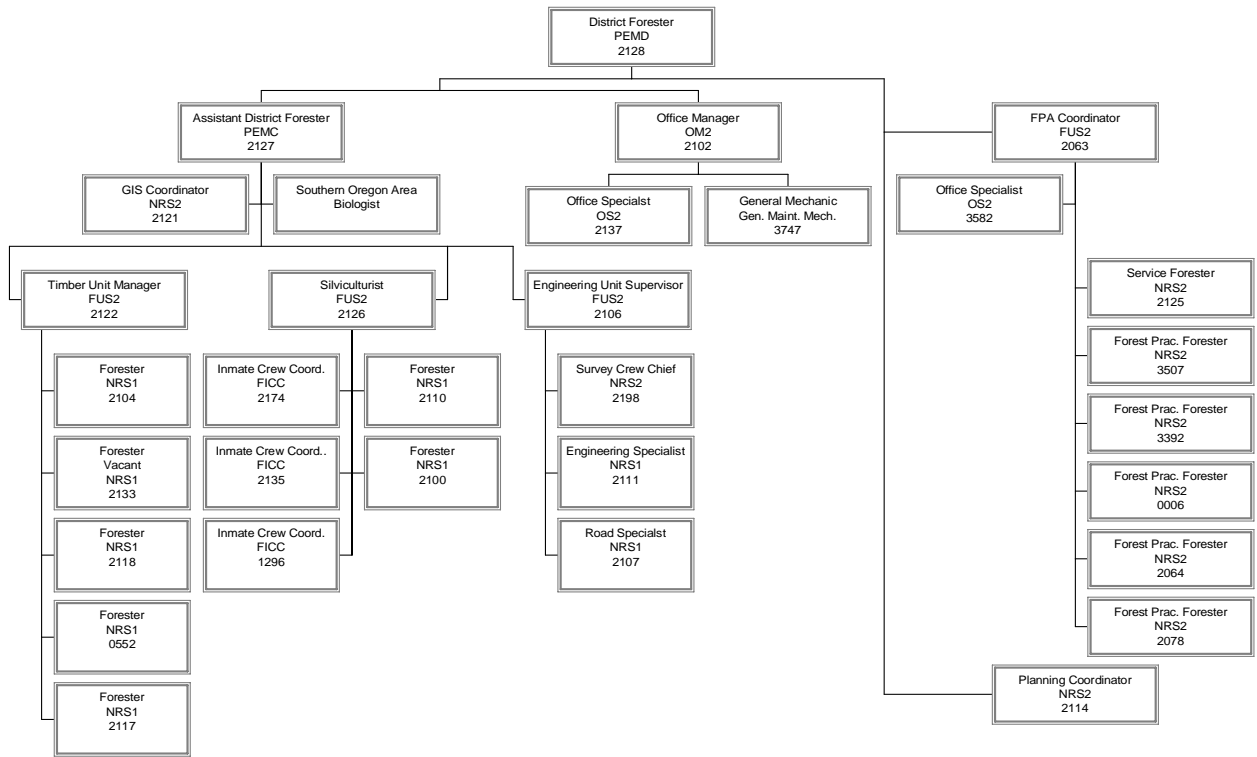
The Silviculture Team which is composed of a Silviculturist, two Natural Resource Specialists and three Forest Inmate Crew Coordinators. This team handles all noncommercial silvicultural treatments from site preparation through precommercial thinning. In addition, firefighting is a very significant workload for the inmate crew coordinators and silviculturist.

The Resource Team (a.k.a. Timber Team) which is composed of a supervisor and five Natural Resource Specialists. This team prepares Pre-Operations plans for timber sales, timber sale contracts, and administers timber sale contracts. They also are heavily involved in long range planning.

The Engineering Team which is composed of a Forest Engineering Unit Supervisor, a Road Specialist, Survey Crew Chief, and Engineering Specialist.

Many of the above personnel are involved in wildland firefighting activities during project fire situations in addition to normal duties. The Coos District staffing levels are in compliance with current budget instructions. See the organization chart below.

COOS DISTRICT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



APPENDICES

A. Summary Tables

B. Pre-Operations Reports

C. Public Involvement