

# Astoria District Annual Report



**2015**

# Table of Contents

District Forester Comments	3
Protection	4-5
Private Forest	6-7
Administration	7
Assistant District Forester Comments	8
Marketing	8-9
Forest Roads	10
Reforestation	11
Recreation	12-13
Organizational Chart	14
Employees	15



South Jetty Fire

# District Forester Comments



2015 was another challenging and rewarding year for the Astoria District. I want to start by thanking all of the District professionals for their service and hard work. I also want to recognize our District Managers, who continue to help in administering our Programs effectively and efficiently. Their commitment to planning with stakeholder input, working collaboratively with our many cooperators and their leadership and investment in developing employees continues to make us successful.

At the beginning of the year, everyone was doing their part to make sure that we were on schedule to successfully meet our goals for managing our Protection from Fire, State Forests and Private Forest programs. This involved a lot of planning, budgeting and monitoring of our progress along with the important input from our stakeholders and members of the public.

In the Spring, we started developing our fire prevention plans, scheduling training for various fire classes and preparing for recruitment of our seasonal fire fighters. At the time, none of us realized how important this work would be in the months ahead, including a third record statewide fire season. The 2015 fire season provided several opportunities to hone the District's suppression skills within the Astoria District and the Northwest Oregon Fire Protection Association District, such as the South Jetty Fire in August.

Due to strong leadership in our Protection Unit, extra efforts in fire prevention and pre-fire suppression from our seasonal firefighters, and good support from our cooperators, the Protection from Fire Program staff was able to keep most fires small here in Clatsop County and allow many District staff to help fight large fires out of District. An early June Type 3 fire in Forest Grove turned out to be the starting whistle for another marathon fire season...once July came District employees were dispatched around the state to help fight very large and aggressive fires.

Managing all of the activities on the Clatsop State Forest is a yearlong endeavor and due to continuing demand for logs, there were a significant number of active forest operations throughout the year. These operations not only provided jobs to local operators and mill workers and significant revenue to Clatsop County and taxing districts, they also allowed the District to enhance wildlife habitat, perform stream improvement projects and maintain our developed recreation campgrounds and trails.

The District's two Stewardship Foresters were also busy this past year administering the Forest Practices Act and ensuring that operators and private forest landowners understood the rules and were protecting water quality and the forest resources in the District.

The District understands that there is a lot of interest from the public and our stakeholders in what we are doing in Clatsop County and District employees were involved in a number of public meetings throughout the year. These included participation at a number of the Clatsop Board of Commissioners meetings, field trips, local meetings and the annual Community Leaders Tour. We appreciate the local media's willingness to share our information regularly.

In closing, I want to state how essential all of our stakeholders, volunteers and the public are to the District. Clatsop County Commissioners and staff, local Fire Departments, forest industry, operators, landowners and many other local agencies and private organizations have helped make the District successful over the past year. Thank you all!

I hope you enjoy this report. It is also available on ODF's website at the link below.

<http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/Pages/Reports.aspx>

**-Dan Goody**

# Protection

For the third year in a row, the Oregon Department of Forestry experienced a very intense fire season. There were a total of six Incident Management Team deployments during the summer of 2015. The first Team deployment occurred on June 28<sup>th</sup>, and the last Team deployment occurred on September 12<sup>th</sup>. Many District personnel were able to gain valuable experience in a dynamic, ever changing environment.

Neal Bond completed his 4<sup>th</sup> year as the Protection Unit Forester. Dave Horning finished his 7<sup>th</sup> year as the Wildland Fire Supervisor. Brad Kobielusz was hired as the seasonal Wildland Fire Dispatcher. The Unit continues to work very hard to safely prevent and suppress fires on forestland in a manner which minimizes costs and resource loss.

Fire season started early for all of Oregon in 2015 and the Astoria District was no exception. The District was in high fire danger for most of the summer, and we set new records for the Energy Release Component (ERC). Fire season started on June 16<sup>th</sup> and ended on October 19<sup>th</sup> for a total of 126 days. During fire season this year, NW-1 spent 110 days at an Industrial Fire Precaution Level (IFPL) 1 and 16 days at an IFPL 2. NW-2 spent 56 days at an IFPL 1, 54 days at an IFPL 2, and 16 days at an IFPL 3. Regulated use started on June 19<sup>th</sup> and ended on October 8<sup>th</sup> for a total of 112 days. Both fire season and regulated use were well above the 10 year average.

The first engine that was sent out of District occurred on June 13<sup>th</sup> for the Sunset Grade Fire and we were able to fulfill engine requests all summer long. The Protection Unit was able to fulfill a total of 12 off District engine requests, three overhead requests, and two Infrared (IR) camera requests. In total, the Protection staff had 199 man days off District for 2015.

The fire crew responded to 54 fires, 23 Stat fires, 0 Non Stat fires and 31 Non Fire Crew Action's (NFCA). The 23 Stat fires burned 27.55 acres. The South Jetty Fire started on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, and grew rapidly due to the dry fuels and strong wind. This fire totaled 27.0 acres. **-Neal Bond**

Smoke Management	Number of Units	Acres	Tons
Registered	97	3,848	46,854
Planned	51	1,933	26,669
Accomplished	51	1,782	24,897



**South Jetty Fire**

Fire year 2015	Number of Fires	Cost	Acres Burned
NFCA	31	\$4,620	N/A
Stat Fires	23	\$60,466	27.55
Non Stat	0	\$0	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>\$65,086</b>	<b>27.55</b>

# Protection



Left to Right: Neal Bond,  
Maverick Johansen



South Jetty Fire



# Private Forest

The Astoria District had another very successful year in the Private Forests Program. Ashley Lertora completed her 19<sup>th</sup> year as a Stewardship Forester. The landowners and operators continue to benefit from her knowledge, experience and consistency. Jasen McCoy completed his 3<sup>rd</sup> full year as a Stewardship Forester. He has gained a solid understanding of the Forest Practices Act and is working well with the landowners and operators. Ashley and Jasen work very well together, challenging each other, and striving to give each customer a high level of service. They both had a number of challenging operations this past year, and their dedication and knowledge has led to positive outcomes.

The Astoria District processed 659 notifications this year, which was up from previous years. The five year average for the District is 550. This increase can be attributed to customers becoming more familiar with the Forest Activity Electronic Reporting Notification System (FERNS). The office staff does an outstanding job of helping customers navigate through FERNS, which allows the Stewardship Foresters to maximize their time out in the field. This increased field time allows them more opportunities to work with landowners and operators on site to discuss difficult situations, and come up with win/win solutions.

The Stewardship Foresters work very hard with the landowners and operators before an operation starts so that the end result is desirable for resource protection as well as operability. Ashley and Jasen do a great job of working with the landowners, so that they can accomplish their goals, while still maintaining all of the resource protection required by the Forest Practices Act. Ashley and Jasen strive for education first, and then enforcement in dealing with landowners and operators. The Stewardship Foresters make pre-operation, active operation, post operation, reforestation checks and industrial fire inspections a priority. Both Stewardship Forester’s know the importance of these duties, and their diligence has prevented several situations from becoming potential violations.

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) continues to be an active partner with the Stewardship Foresters job. OWEB relies heavily on the Stewardship Foresters knowledge and expertise to maximize the benefits of their projects. The Stewardship Foresters are also active in landowner assistance, reviewing stewardship plans and harvest operations. ...Continued on next page

<b>Stewardship Forestry</b>	<b>2015</b>
Number of Notifications	659
Written Plans Processed	296
Number of Pre-Operation Meetings	147
Number of Active/Post Operation Inspections	388
Industrial Fire Inspections	35
Reforestation Inspection	91
Management Plans Reviewed	1
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Projects—# of days spent on OWEB review team.	5



**Jasen McCoy inspecting culverts**

# Private Forest

During the summer months fire suppression continues to be a priority for both Ashley and Jasen. Ashley had two fire assignments last year, one locally and one out of District. She continues to build on her solid Public Information Officer (PIO) skills and does a great job on ODF Incident Management Team 2. Jasen continues to work on gaining more experience as a Situation Unit Leader and is always willing to help out on District Fires. **-Neal Bond**

Year	Notice of Operations	Complaints	Unsatisfactory Conditions	Citations
2011	478	4	4	0
2012	514	5	0	1
2013	538	2	3	0
2014	564	3	4	1
2015	659	3	6	2



**Ashley and Jasen working with a landowner on road improvements**

# Administration

The Administrative Unit serves as the first point of contact and “the face” of the Astoria District. The staff also expertly provides all clerical, administrative, and business management support to the District. In 2015, the admin staff issued 651 wood cutting permits and 66 Miscellaneous Forest Product permits.

There were many administrative staff changes in 2015. Lisa Shepard was hired as an Office Specialist 2 in April. Lisa’s main role is to provide administrative support to the State Forest unit. Allison McCoy, Office Specialist 2, retired in October after 9 years of service in the Astoria District and Lisa Sprague, Office Manager, resigned in August to pursue other interests. During the fluctuation of personnel, part time office specialist’s Wendy Metcalf and Angela Beck stepped up to full time and provided excellent customer service internally and externally. Brad Kobielsuz, seasonal dispatcher, extended his season to also provide administrative support to the district. Debbie Queen, Office Specialist from Tillamook District, filled in as Office Manager until the position was filled by Kim Titus in late October. Entering 2016 the Administrative Unit is fully staffed and eager to provide excellent customer service to both our internal and external customers. **-Kim Titus**



**Left to Right: Lisa Shepard, Wendy Metcalf, Brad Kobielsuz, Angela Beck, Kim Titus**



**Left to Right: Wendy Metcalf, Lisa Shepard**

# Assistant District Forester Comments

State Forest lands are managed to provide healthy, productive and sustainable forest ecosystems that, over time and across the landscape, provide a full range of social, economic and environmental benefits to the people of Oregon. The Astoria District manages 137,000 acres of the 145,000 acre Clatsop State Forest with minor portions being managed by the Forest Grove and Tillamook Districts. State forests in Astoria are managed with four sub units: two Timber Marketing Units, Reforestation and Forest Roads. Motorized recreation is managed within the Forest Roads Unit and non-motorized recreation is managed within one of the Timber Marketing Units. State forests staff also contribute significantly to the local and statewide fire effort.

I could not be more proud of the accomplishments of all the staff this past year. They consistently produce quality work that adds value to the Clatsop State Forest and the lives of Oregonians. **-Ron Zilli**



**Ron Zilli and an Entomologist Looking for Forest Pest's**



**Offending Critter: DF Beetle**



**State Forest Board's at the Saw Mill**

## Marketing



Forest Products	Number	Estimated Volume	Estimated Net Revenue
Timber Sales FY 15	13	71.4 MMBF	\$25,082,418
Timber Harvested		79.7 MMBF	\$33,791,984
Misc. Forest Products	66	Permits	\$14,400
Woodcutting Sales	651	1,302 cords	\$13,020
Commercial Woodcutting Sales	1	30 cords	\$426.96
Partial Cut Acres	417		
Clear Cut Acres	1,413		



# Marketing

Timber harvesting operations which include thinning, regeneration harvests, and patch cuts continued as the primary tools used to actively achieve stand structure targets set out in the Forest Management Plan. Timber harvest volumes for FY15 comprised 79.7 MMBF generating approximately \$33.8 million in timber revenue, with just over \$21.5 million distributed to Clatsop County and local taxing districts.

State Forest marketing is done collaboratively between two management units. The Jewell Management Unit, led by Ty Williams, is comprised of Natural Resource Specialists (NRSs) Jenny Johnson, Derek Bangs, Kevin Berry, Dave Rygell, Nick Haile, Skip Cadman, and Forest Management Technician (FMT) Erik Burgher. The Sunset Management Unit, led by John Tillotson, is comprised of NRSs Jon Long, Ed Holloran, Andrew Arvin, John Choate, and Bryce Rodgers, and Information Systems Specialist (ISS4) Billy Harris. In the past fiscal year, the District's two management units were able to complete all of the fieldwork and contract preparation for all FY15 timber sales, using an integrated forest management approach involving input from the District's Forest Management, Reforestation, and Forest Roads Units.

Timber Sale auction bids were down approximately 10% from the previous year, as the reduced demand overseas for U.S. grown logs cooled the domestic log market. The District's FY15 Sale Plan consisted of 13 timber sales. Project costs of the prepared sale plan totaled (\$4.0M) 15% of the estimated gross revenue and 14% of the estimated sold gross revenue. Rock crushing continues to be the District's highest project cost as a percentage of planned work.

The District experienced a large decrease of 31% in fire wood permit sales this year from 936 permits in 2014 to 651 in 2015. This may be attributed to an improving economy and a longer than usual fire season that limited wood cutting days. Permits are available by management basin and are for sale five days a week (outside of fire season) during business hours. There is no limit to the number of permits sold per basin but we still have a limit of five permits per individual and household.

Demand for special forest products was nearly identical to 2014 with two more permits being sold but there was a decrease (28%) in revenue as a result of less harvesters per permit. Moss and salal are the two forest products that generate the most commercial interest from the public. Sixty-six commercial permits were issued generating \$14,400 of revenue during 2015. Other special forest products include boughs, ferns, mushroom, vinemapple, spruce-poles, pulp decks, and miscellaneous plants. One commercial woodcutting permit with an estimated 30 cords of firewood was auctioned for \$426.95 during 2015.

**-Ty Williams and John Tillotson**



**Left to Right: Ed Holloran, Jon Long, John Choate, Robby Lefebvre**



**Klaskanine Ridge Combo Timber Sale  
Sunset Unit**

# Forest Roads Unit

The Forest Roads Unit on the Clatsop State Forest, works collaboratively with District and department staff to provide support and recommendations in forest transportation planning, motorized forest recreation, fish passage upgrades, rock quarry management, forest road infrastructure maintenance, land survey needs, district easements, special use permits and timber sale project plans. The Forest Roads Manager is Frank Lertora. Steve Aiken, David Bailey, Cullen Bangs, Dewain Farner, Kraig Kirkpatrick, Will Lawrence, and Aaron Schlosser are members of the Forest Roads Unit. Emily Campbell was hired to fill in behind an employee on extended leave. The unit supported the timber management units with the Annual Operating Plan by providing specialized assistance and assembling components of timber sale contracts.

As part of the Forest Roads Unit, the district road crew performed a wide range of projects across the forest, including road maintenance activities and recreation facility improvements. **–Frank Lertora**

**Drilling Buster Quarry**



**Dewain conducting stream enhancement**



**Accomplishments**

Miles of Road Improved	63
Miles of Road Constructed	14
Miles of Roads Vacated	3
Fish Passable Culverts Installed	4

**Road Processing Training**



**Homesteader Sorts Road**



# Reforestation Unit

The Reforestation Unit, led by Charley Moyer, is responsible for reestablishing trees and young stand management after the completion of harvesting. This is done through various methods, such as slash piling, site preparation, thinning, mechanical and chemical vegetation control and planting the site with the appropriate tree species and stock type to achieve a specific desired future condition.

The unit is staffed with Brad Catton, Robert Lefebvre and Jeff Brown. Brad joined the unit in October 2014 followed shortly by Robert Lefebvre in November 2014. Jeff Brown transferred to the Astoria Reforestation program in late 2012 from a position with the South Fork Inmate Camp. Jeff's long career with South Fork has provided him with experience in a variety of reforestation program activities.

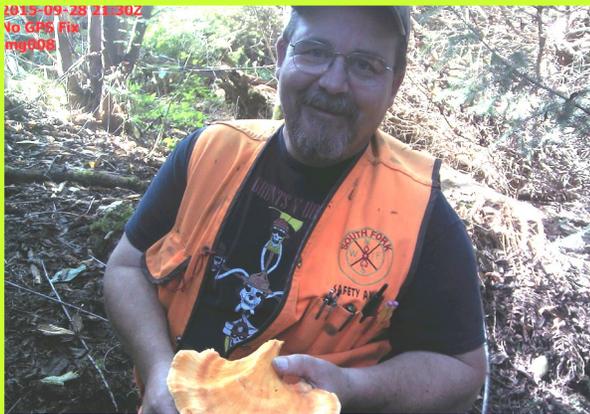
South Fork inmate crews continue to provide extensive support to the district Reforestation Program through trapping, mechanical and chemical vegetation control work, thinning, noxious weed control efforts, and other reforestation activities.

Damage to newly planted units has been mainly from mountain beaver, deer and elk browse. The district invested in some larger container seedling stock for planting this year as a potential approach to addressing animal damage. The district will monitor the success of this larger container stock along with the bare-root stock in consideration of purchasing seedlings in the future. **-Charley Moyer**

Reforestation Accomplishments	Acres
Tree Planting Acres /Initial	1,192
Tree Planting Acres/Interplant	221
<b>Total trees planted</b>	<b>449,860</b>
Chemical Site Prep Acres/Aerial	1,243
Site Prep Pile Burning Acres	198
Pre-commercial thinning	946
Roadside Spray	376 Miles



**Robbie Lefebvre inspecting seedlings at a contract nursery**



**Jeff Brown checking out a conk that grew on a conifer**



**Brad Catton at Scotchbroom spray project on Nicolai Mountain**



# Recreation

During 2015, recreation management on the Clatsop State Forest continued with the integrated management organization that was implemented in 2010. Non-motorized recreation continues to be managed by Ty Williams, Jewell Unit Forester, with assistance in the day-to-day operations by Natural Resource Specialist 1 (NRS1) Skip Cadman and Forest Management Technician (FMT) Erik Burgher. Management includes facility maintenance for four overnight camping facilities at Henry Rierson Spruce Run Campground, Beaver Eddy Campground, Gnat Creek Campground, Northrup Creek Horse Campground and several dispersed camping sites. The Recreation Unit also maintains 20 miles of non-motorized trails.

Motorized recreation on the Clatsop State Forest continues to be managed by Frank Lertora, Forest Roads Unit Manager. The OHV Team is made up of David Bailey, NRS1 and Aaron Schlosser, FMT. The OHV Team maintains 30 miles of trail, which is open to motorcycles, quads, side by sides, and now 4x4's. Continued funding was through an intergovernmental agreement between Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) and Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) to provide staffing for two OHV positions and limited service and supply for development and maintenance of the Nicolai Mountain OHV riding area. Inmate crews from South Fork assisted with trail construction, maintenance, and kiosk construction.

For 2015, budget restrictions continued, directing only facility maintenance and operations for the general recreation program and not engaging in any developmental activities.

South Fork inmate crews conduct a significant amount of maintenance and make improvements to all the District's recreation facilities. Their high quality work continues to be essential to the success of the recreation program. They also provided campground and trail maintenance improvements which included the Lost Lake Day Use Area, Northrup Creek Equestrian Trail and the Gnat Creek Campground.

Budget levels did allow the District to continue the partnership with the Clatsop County Sheriff's Office to provide a law enforcement officer on the Clatsop State Forest through the peak of our recreation season. The Sheriff's Office, in turn, continued to provide funding for the law enforcement position they acquired in 2009 that focuses on OHV education and enforcement along with forest patrol and general law enforcement issues.

**-Frank Lertora and Ty Williams**

## Construction of Viewpoint Site



<b>Overnight Campers</b>	<b>19,311</b>
<b>Campground Revenue</b>	<b>\$57,961</b>
<b>Hiking Trail Construction</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Non-Motorized Trail Maintenance</b>	<b>20 Miles</b>
<b>Motorized Trail Construction</b>	<b>0 Miles</b>
<b>Motorized Trail Maintenance</b>	<b>38 Miles</b>
<b>Volunteer Hours</b>	<b>1,023</b>



**Emily Campbell and Erik Burgher at 6th Grade forestry event**

# Recreation

**New Vault at Lost Lake**



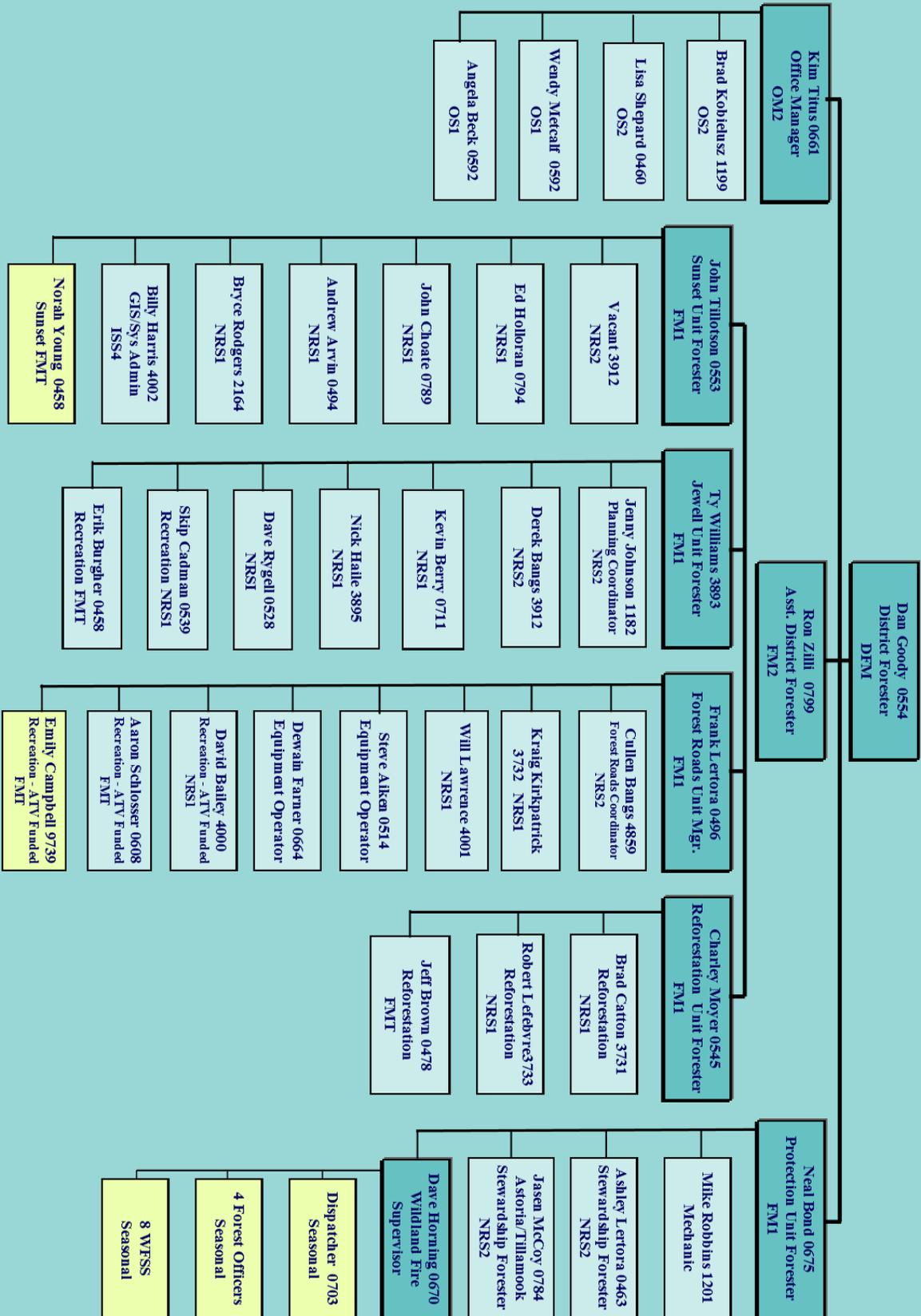
**New Vault at Viewpoint Camp**



**David Bailey giving a tour of the Nicolai Mountain OHV Area**



# Organizational Chart



# Employees

Service Awards	Year's
Derek Bangs	15
Jeff Brown	30
Erik Burgher	15
John Choate	5
Dave Horning	15
Ashley Lertora	25
Frank Lertora	25
Dave Rygell	5



**Left to Right: Emily Campbell, David Bailey, Kraig Kirkpatrick, Steve Aiken, Dewain Farner, Cullen Bangs, Frank Lertora**



**Billy Harris**

New Employees	Position
Charley Moyer	Reforestation Unit Manager
Mike Robbins	Automotive Technician 2
Lisa Shepard	Office Specialist 2
Kim Titus	Office Manager



**Left to Right: Ashley Lertora, Dave Horning, Jasen McCoy, Neal Bond, Mike Robbins**



**Left to Right: Brad Catton, Robbie Lefebvre, Jeff Brown, Charley Moyer**

# Beautiful Clatsop State Forest

