

Central Oregon District



Bailey Butte Fire (Waterman Complex)
crossing the road near the Ochoco Divide

Annual Report

2014



FROM THE DISTRICT FORESTER

Dear Reader,

It is my pleasure to present the Central Oregon District's *2014 Annual Report*. In the pages that follow you will find details about the district's many accomplishments of the past year. I hope you find this information informative and useful. My thanks go to the John Day Unit and specifically to Sherry Rose for compiling and publishing this report.

The 2014 Fire Season was a very arduous and long one for Central Oregon District (COD) and our landowners. This was due to severe drought conditions across the district, abundant lightning, and questionable human activities. COD firefighters responded to 179 fires on ODF protected lands. In addition they responded to 105 fires on lands protected by other agencies or which were unprotected. The combined acres burned for all agencies (state and federal) in COD's area of concern exceeded 300,000 acres. Nearly all the project fires in COD were multi-jurisdictional fires that burned across ownership boundaries and which required issuing ten Joint Delegations of Authority to eleven Incident Commanders and negotiating ten Supplemental Cost-share Agreements. There were times during the season, especially the month of July, when the district's resources were depleted to near zero and our folks were physically exhausted. We got through these periods with the assistance of other ODF firefighters and fire managers from across Oregon and we are extremely grateful for their help.

Long after the smoke has disappeared from a fire, the district's administrative staff are busy dealing with the fiscal aftermath. Each large fire represents hundreds of invoices that must be paid to contractors, vendors, etc. This often requires assembling a "payment team" of other administrative professionals from across the agency. However, even after the initial bill paying has been done and the team has gone home, our folks are involved with multiple audits of fire expenditures. This tedious but critical work continues through the fall and winter and into the following year. And, of course, with more fires comes more work.

Our seven Stewardship Foresters were also very busy this year. They played a vital role in our fire program as part of the "militia." Their roles range from fire investigation and fire operations to fire safety. An uptick in timber markets added increased demands on their time for forest practices administration and industrial fire prevention as well as providing forestry assistance and ongoing grant administration. On top of all that they were involved in the roll-out of a new online forest activity notification system (FERNS). While this system will help make their jobs more efficient in the long run, as with any new system, there were few bumps which took time to work through.

Finally, the district has continued efforts to assist the Ochoco and Malheur Forests with timber pre-sale work by providing some of our seasonal firefighters to supplement their timber marking crews. This is accomplished outside of fire season and extends the employment period for our folks. Funding for this work is provided by the Oregon Legislature with the intent of increasing the pace and scale of restoration effort on federal forests and providing opportunities for rural economic development.

Overall, I consider 2014 a very successful year for the Central Oregon District. This success is a result of a combination of the great work of our dedicated employees and from the strong support of our landowner community and our partners. For that, I thank you all.

George Ponte

COD District Forester

PROTECTION FROM FIRE – DISTRICT IN REVIEW

2014 was another busy year for the Central Oregon District. With the continued drought conditions and abundant lightning, the district had a total of 185 statistical fires. By the end of the season the 185 statistical fires had burned 16,572.31 acres.

COD Fires the last 10 years			2014 Fires by Cause		
Year	Stat Fires	Acres	Type	Stat Fires	Acres
2014	185	16,572.31	Lightning	107	6,012.53
2013	193	23,427.61	Equipment Use	24	2,844.73
2012	102	1,318.58	Recreation	7	687.26
2011	130	632.28	Smoking	6	0.20
2010	88	5,130.84	Debris Burning	23	9.65
2009	153	3,947.68	Arson	6	7,014.55
2008	173	4,513.29	Juveniles	0	0.00
2007	192	41,329.54	Miscellaneous	11	8.18
2006	220	772.10	Under Investigation	1	0.50
2005	94	235.34			
Average	153	9,787.96		185	16,577.60

“....Protection is what we do and we do it well....”

PROTECTION FROM FIRE – JOHN DAY/FOSSIL



Bailey Butte Fire – Waterman Complex

The following morning, the fire had come within 50 meters of this dozer line.

photo by Neil Bauer-local operator

JOHN DAY UNIT ~ The John Day Unit started out as a relatively normal fire season. We brought on crews early to assist with the Two Bulls fire in early June. After that we were able to complete all of our training before things started to get busy on the unit.

July 12 a car accident started the Service Creek incident and grew to 385 acres and from there things never slowed down. July 13 we were hit with a lightning storm that ignited multiple fires in the area and by that night most of our crews were out fighting fire. On July 14 the weather and fuel conditions aligned for large fire growth and there were multiple large fires on or adjacent to the Unit, Toney Butte @ 2,230 acres, Junction Springs @ 30 acres, Bailey Butte @ 10,300 acres (all part of the Waterman Complex, which was managed by Federal Team 3) Sunflower (7,200 acres), and Pine Creek Complex (30,250 acres).



Haystack Fire

We had a few days until we were hit by another lightning event on July 27. This storm had some moisture with it which helped the crews catch multiple starts at IA. Then on July 29 another storm moved over the area igniting more fires with the most significant, Haystack at 1,200 acres. ODF IMT Team 1 took over the complex. Team 1 also supported the local resources by assisting with initial attack and the mop up with 5 other starts that were 10 acres or larger. On August 8 yet another lightning storm moved though igniting multiple start that were caught at IA.

On August 29 as we were starting to catch up and getting back to a “normal” routine, we had a human caused fire, Lost Hubcap. Lost Hubcap made a significant run that afternoon burning 2,700 acres. ODF IMT Team 2 took over the fire.

The 2014 fire season was the second year for the helitack program in John Day and the first fire season at full capacity. The helitack crew initial attacked and supported over 30 STAT fires for the John Day Unit and assisted with several non-STAT incidents. The program conducted IA, extended attack, large fire support, equipment and supply deliveries and search and rescue. The search and rescue mission located a stranded hiker in the Strawberry Wilderness area. An ODF helitack member and Grant County Sherriff's office located and brought the stranded hiker to safety. Helitack went off unit during late fire season and spent several days on the coast range. The John Day helitack program is a success for the unit, district and state.

The unit had several significant fires that Federal agencies were dealing with. The most significant on the unit was South Fork/Murders Creek Complex. Three federal IMT's managed the fire over several weeks. The John Day Interagency Type III team finished the incident as the fourth team assigned to the incident. This incident burned federal, private and ODF&W lands within the unit but are under offset protection agreement with the BLM. The fire consumed more than 66,000 acres in total.

The John Day unit saw an above normal number of STAT fires and acres burned for the 2014 fire season. Fire season began on June 9, 2014 and Regulated Use on June 21, 2014. The unit had a 135-day fire season and was in Regulated Use for 117 days.

IMT's on ODF John Day Unit:

- Waterman Complex
- Sunflower
- Pine Creek
- South Fork/Murders Creek South
- Bald Sisters
- Haystack – ODF Team 1
- Lost Hubcap – ODF Team 2
- John Day Interagency Type III Team: Haystack Complex (3 branches), South Fork/Murders Creek South/Bald Sisters (2 branches)

Bailey Butte Fire ►



The John Day unit supported multiple large fires around the State during the 2014 fire season. The John Day unit had 28 multiple fire days during the 2014 fire season.



Everyone put in a lot of hours and did an outstanding job. Many individuals gained valuable experience during the 2014 fire season.

◀ **Fossil Fire Crew - 2014**

JOHN DAY UNIT: BY THE NUMBERS:

John Day: 42 STAT, 29 Non-STAT, 25 NFCA
 Fossil: 50 STAT, 3 Non-STAT, 26 NFCA
 Unit Total: 92 STAT, 32 Non-STAT, 51 NFCA
 Total Acres burned = 8,756.26

John Day Fire Crew – 2014 ►



PROTECTION FROM FIRE – PRINEVILLE/SISTERS



PVL crew burning out around Ochoco Divide campground - Bailey Butte fire (Prineville Side)

An ODF incident management team took over the fire on June 8 after a long night for, and a valiant effort from, the local resources. The fire was contained and eventually controlled by the end of the week. A Joint Information Center was established at the Deschutes County 911 Center to consolidate, coordinate and rapidly get information out to the public. This effort worked well under such circumstances.



Two Bulls Fire

Photo by

management of the fire was taken over by the Northern Rockies Type 2 IMT that also was managing the Pine Creek Complex. The Donniebrook Fire did not burn any state protected acres and was contained by the hard work of the Type 3 organization as well as the Type 2 team.

The 2014 Fire Season will go down in the history books. The Prineville-Sisters Unit started the season off for the state with a bang for the rest of the district. With an average to low year of snowfall things dried out quickly on the unit.

An early season rain shower gave a false sense of security and Prineville saw its first fire of the year. Landowners were trying to finish up pile burning, when one of them escaped and burned two acres. But this was only the precursor of what was to be.

On a beautiful Saturday afternoon in early June the fire season reared its ugly head. June 7 around noon two fires started simultaneously just north and west of Bend on Cascade Timberlands, eventually burning together. It would come to be known as the Two Bulls Fire, consuming over 6,000 acres in one burn period. Multiple agencies assisted in the initial attack effort to contain the fire including the USFS, Bend Fire Department and many others. There were a number of subdivisions evacuated with no home loss in the end.

PRINEVILLE UNIT: BY THE NUMBERS:

Prineville: 24 STAT, 11 Non-STAT, 7 NFCA
 Sisters: 35 STAT, 37 Non-STAT, 28 NFCA
 Unit Total: 59 STAT, 48 Non-STAT, 35 NFCA
 Total Acres burned = 6,566.66

Two Bulls was the start of a tough fire season for the district and the unit. The Prineville-Sisters Unit had 59 statistical fires over the summer that burned 6,567.04 acres, the majority of that being from the Two Bulls Fire.

Over the fire season the unit was heavily engaged with assisting other units across the district with multiple project fires. We sent out a number of overhead personnel as well as engine crews.

Other incidents of significance were the lightning caused Bailey Butte Fire that impacted the unit when it made a run towards the Marks Creek area where the unit protects a number of homes and land located in the middle of the Ochoco NF.

The Donniebrook Fire, which started on July 13, initially was being suppressed by the Ash Butte RFPA. After a number of days the fire eventually grew to approximately 20,000 acres and was threatening the Prineville sub-units northern boundary. It was determined that the RFPA needed assistance and the fire was a threat to paying land within the district. A type 3 organization was put together from the unit and suppression action was taken on the south end of the Donniebrook Fire. Eventually,

The Unit was also engaged in the Ochoco Complex Fire, which burned several hundred ODF protected acres in addition to USFS, BLM and Post-Paulina RFP lands. Another Northern Rockies Type 2 IMT was brought in to manage this fire. Fortunately, through Offset, ODF was not part of a cost-share to pay for suppression efforts on this fire.

The Unit cost-shared with the Forest Service on an exclusive use Detection Plane for the first time. This was a valuable asset for detecting fire starts, as the season was riddled with weekly thunderstorms. We will continue with this asset into the near future.

This year we put into service our FFP D7 Dozer on the unit. The dozer turned out to be a very valuable tool over the summer and logged over 70 hours of run time on multiple incidents across the unit.

Being a very busy season definitely took a toll on all of the unit personnel. However, great experience was obtained and many folks were able to work on their task books to become qualified in several positions. We were definitely glad that it ended when it did. Throughout the fall and over the winter we are still picking up the pieces.



Sisters Crew Training with Oregon Military Department

PROTECTION FROM FIRE – THE DALLES

The 2014 fire season in The Dalles Unit was again well above average in total incidents and acres burnt and two IMT deployments.

The White River Fire was reported on July 12 and was located in the bottom of the White River Canyon. The canyon is a designated BLM Wilderness Area and protected by ODF under reciprocal agreement. The fire spread from an abandon campfire up the north rim then spotted across to the south slope and moved on to the White River Wildlife Area owned by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. By early morning a majority of the fire perimeter had been lined with help from the BLM, USFS, Wamic Rural, Juniper Flat Rural and several local landowners with equipment. The fire was managed by ODF Team 1 (Buckman) and contained at 652 acres.

The Rowena fire started at 9:00 p.m. on August 5 in timber and at the base of the historic Rowena Loops. The incident was managed under a Unified Command with the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, Mid-Columbia Fire and Rescue and the Department of Forestry. Evacuation notices were immediately put into effect for several homes along HWY 30 and the decision was made to order an ODF and OSFM incident management teams before midnight. ODF Team 1 had just finished up an assignment on the Fossil Unit and the District decided to stage the team there in preparation for another dispatch. The team was able to mobilize very rapidly and the operations branch began arriving around 8:00 a.m., August 6. This allowed for a smooth transition while the fire was still calm and operations was fully engaged when the fire pushed towards several communities in The Dalles. Team 1 was successful with a very complex fire. The Rowena Fire was contained on August 12 at 3,680 acres and 1 home lost. 485 acres were protected by ODF and cause of the fire was arson.

THE DALLES UNIT: BY THE NUMBERS:

38 STAT, 21 Non-STAT, 19 NFCA

Total responses: 78

Total Acres burned = 1,249

By the end of fire season, The Dalles Unit had 38 statistical fires with 78 total responses and 1,249 protected acres burned.



White River Fire



Rowena Fire – second day

Photo by Adam Barnes

FACILITIES

In Prineville, there have been ongoing maintenance issues with the Area/District/Unit office. We discovered water getting into siding but were able to mitigate any damage. We also found some office windows that were not airtight and repaired the problem. The list of items needed to maintain this older building is growing and we try to keep up with the limited funds available to do so. As a result, we will be looking into finding a funding source to replace this office at some point in the future.

At our John Day office, we had to repair to the sprinkler system last year. Otherwise, this office has served us well since we moved in nearly 5 years ago. It will need to be re-stained in 2015 to keep the siding in good condition.



The Dalles visitor parking pavement project

The Fossil office had minor water heater and electrical work done. And the Monument office had a new roof put on, new windows installed at the residence, and electricity fed to the shop/warehouse.

At The Dalles office, the primary maintenance project accomplished in 2014 was the repaving of the front parking lot.

MOTOR POOL

In the fall of 2013 we ordered two cab chassis that arrived in 2014, one for Prineville (Type 4 engine) and one in The Dalles (Type 6 engine). In the fall of 2014 we purchased 2 new cab chassis for Prineville and Sisters (Type 6 and Type 4 engines, respectively). We have been replacing two engines per year for the past few years (where we had been replacing 3 per year prior) as a cost savings measure on vehicle replacement.



John Day FFP Dozer and Transport



Prineville Type 4 Chassis

For quite some time now, Central Oregon District has done its own engine construction in house, which also saves money as compared to outsourcing that work. We have developed a standardization across the district that should allow for efficiencies in the future as we trade out old, worn out vehicles. For example, we are moving toward constructing flatbed engine setups (on Type 6 engines) that can be removed from an outdated chassis and placed on a new one for continued use based on the longer lifespan of the tank & pump package.

During the busy 2014 fire season, we had the opportunity to use the new tractors and dozers acquired through FFP (Fire Fighter Program) on many initial and extended attack fires. These assets proved themselves as a valuable tool for the district in supporting suppression efforts.



John Day Dozer working a fire

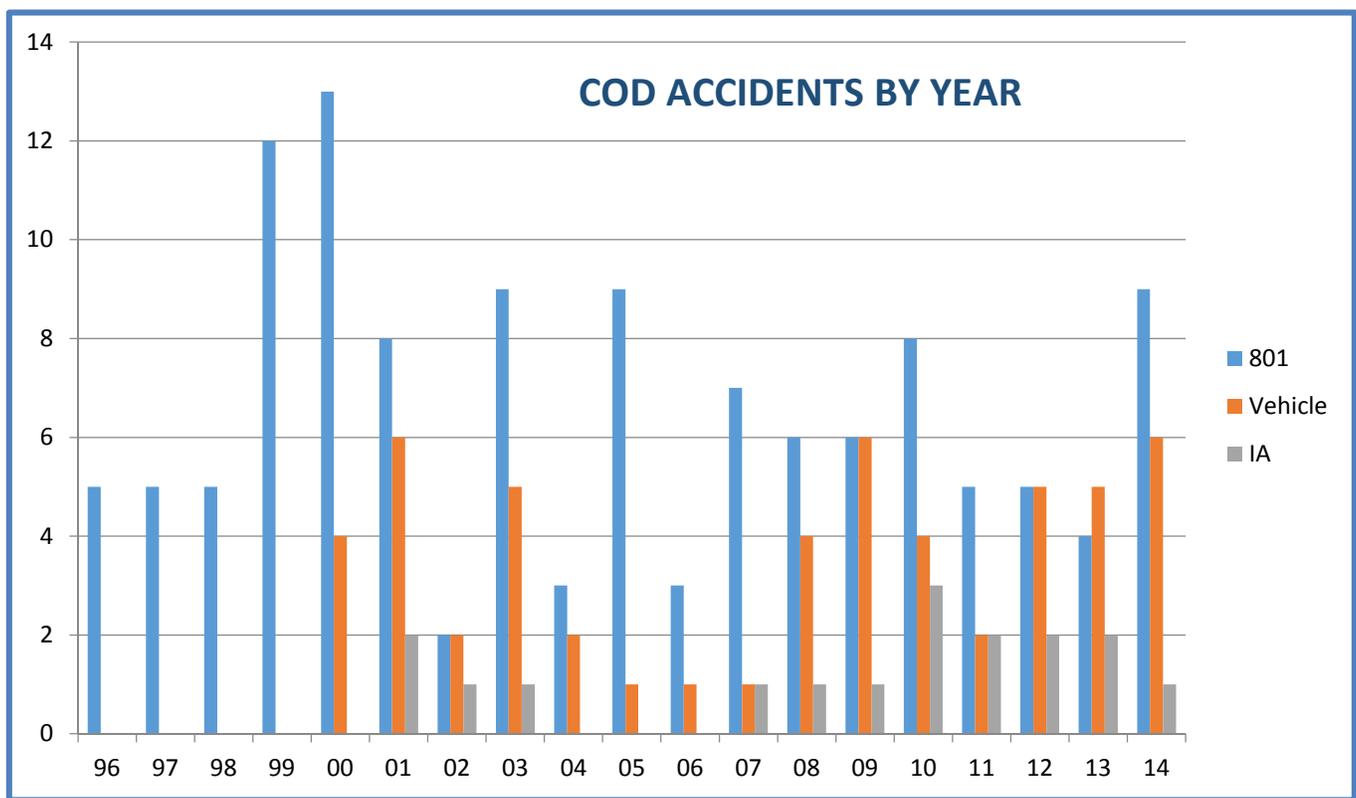


The Dalles Type 6 Engine

SAFETY

The total number of safety related incidents for 2014 went up to 16, from 11 in 2013. This includes both personal and vehicle related incidents. There were no serious accidents to report. Ten of these incidents were associated with fire activities. Considering the number of exposure hours for our personnel, we are pleased that these numbers aren't higher.

Through tracking incidents since 1996, we are trying to understand the most common injury and vehicle damage causes so we can focus on prevention where possible. The highest number of injury types over time include back, knee or ankle strains; lacerations; and poison oak. The highest number of vehicle damage is caused by backing and driving over objects. There are many other causes that we have tracked as well, always looking at how each incident could be prevented and sharing that information with others.



Number of District accidents by year (801 is a hospital visit, IA is injury with no 801)

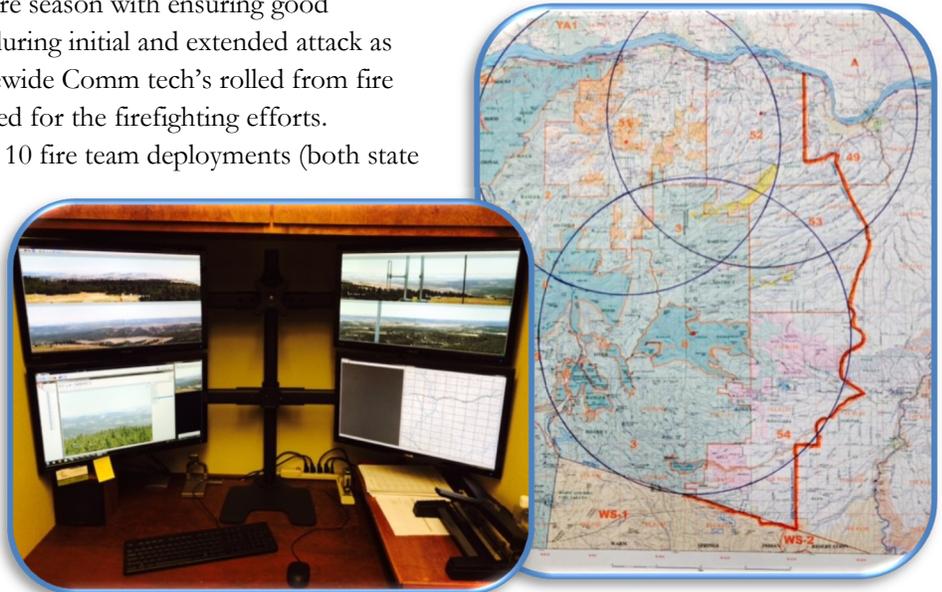
COMMUNICATIONS

The district was tested during the 2014 fire season with ensuring good communication systems for firefighters during initial and extended attack as well as for many large project fires. Statewide Comm tech's rolled from fire to fire setting up portable repeaters needed for the firefighting efforts. Central Oregon District was the host for 10 fire team deployments (both state and Interagency Incident Management Teams), which kept tech's very busy.

Techs were able to install the FEPP trailer on Snowboard for housing our repeater and equipment on that mountaintop site. A new tower was installed on the John Day compound that will receive data from future detection camera sites and send it into the Detection Camera Center at the office. A new antenna was also installed on Stacker Butte.

In 2014, The Dalles unit had one detection camera working on Wasco Butte. This camera was very helpful in locating and identifying fires in and around the north part of the Unit. Throughout the year personnel continued to work with the radio technicians to establish additional camera sites on Middle Mountain in Hood River County and Flag Point in south Wasco County. Towards the end of 2014 the Middle Mountain site came online and the Flag Point site is very near completion and should be up and running by summer 2015. This will give The Dalles unit camera coverage over 98% of the Units protection responsibilities. Central Oregon looks forward to expanding this technology into the John Day and Prineville units in the coming years.

The District also planned for Tower Training (held in 2015) so that our own employees could work on and maintain our camera detection infrastructure over time-life cycle.



Detection Camera Monitors at The Dalles Office and Detection Camera Coverage for The Dalles Unit

PREVENTION ACTIVITIES

JOHN DAY

In 2014 the John Day unit participated in Team Teaching in the Grant County Schools, The Grant County Fair and Parade, Timber Trucker's Light Parade and is also member of the Grant-Harney Fire Prevention Co-op, with IA Dispatcher Amy May as the Chair.



John Day engine decorated for Grant County Fair Parade

This year's Team Teaching focused on the education of wildfire as a whole. With the aid of the OSFM, Forest Service and local Fire departments the children had the opportunity to go through the Smoke House trailer.

PRINEVILLE

Prineville and Sisters started the year in January with Hunter Education and by the end of the year saw 500+ students and parents.

The Central Oregon COOP started Team teaching in March in Crook County, Jefferson County, and Sisters schools, and continued in April and May with Warm Springs and Bend Schools reaching 1500+ students.

May brought many prevention activities including the Central Oregon Home & Garden show, Fin, Fire, and Feathers Day, and Fire Free events throughout Central Oregon. The Fryrear transfer station had many current employees volunteer their time to assist at the event.

July events started with the Crooked River Round Up parade and moved to the Deschutes Fair then the Crook County and Jefferson County Fairs in August.

The local Pine Theater in Prineville ran Debris Burning PSA's.



Prineville-Sisters Fire Prevention Signs (2014)

The Hunters booths in Prineville, and Sisters had many folks looking for camp fire restriction and local maps.

With the help of the Central Oregon COOP we had another successful and safe year in Central Oregon.

THE DALLES

This year The Dalles prevention staff participated in events such as the Hood River and Wasco County Fairs, local Hunters Booths, Safety Fair, and Team Teaching. The cooperative Team Teaching program reached 1,465 first and second grade students in Oregon, and an additional 671 in Washington.

The Dalles Unit maintains an active membership in the Mid-Columbia Fire Prevention Cooperative with Kiel Nairns, Permanent Forest Officer in The Dalles, serving as President. The Co-op has become more active over the past few years and has started two different movie PSA's in local theaters.

Mel Gard has been managing multiple grants in both Hood River and Wasco Counties to help fund fuels reduction projects.

During 2014 The Dalles Unit issued 429 burning permits, 3 citations, and 5 warnings. Our main prevention focus will be on the continuing arson problem, equipment use, and debris burning, as well as campfires during Regulated Use Closure

F E R N S

Beginning on October 1, 2014, the e-notify system, internally known as FERNS was implemented statewide. The Central Oregon District received 110 notifications in the new system in 2014. Suffering many of the similar technical challenges that other Districts did, COD embraced the new system with in-office kiosks and many new opportunities for face to face customer service. The FERNS system implementation in COD has had to face the reality of many users in remote and often disconnected areas. There have been several cases of notifiers driving upwards of 2 hours each way to come to the office for notification assistance. And while this has impacted our customer service, there are just as many stories of those notifiers that have successfully utilized the new way of doing things with plenty of encouraging feedback. District staff are looking forward to continued improvements and acceptance of what will hopefully be a more effective and efficient means of assisting our customers.



FERNS Kiosk set up for customer use in John Day office

FOREST LAND CLASSIFICATION – PRINEVILLE/SISTERS

Crook County Forestland Classification preliminary work by the Committee was completed in 2014, after beginning their effort in October of 2012. The committee put things on hold in order for the District to clean up an error that was discovered with the district boundary in Crook County. Finalization of the process should be completed in 2015.

CROOK COUNTY CLASSIFICATION COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN	TIM DEBOODT – OSU EXTENSION SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE CROOK COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT
SECRETARY	KEVIN BENTON – ODF REPRESENTATIVE UNIT FORESTER FOR PRINEVILLE SISTERS UNIT
	KEN FAHLGREN – CROOK COUNTY REPRESENTATIVE CROOK COUNTY COURT
	JOHN MORGAN – CROOK COUNTY REPRESENTATIVE PARTNER – OCHOCO LUMBER COMPANY
	CHUCK MCGRATH – CROOK COUNTY REPRESENTATIVE LANDOWNER AND INTERESTED CITIZEN
	CASEY KUMP – OREGON STATE FIRE MARSHALL REPRESENTATIVE CROOK COUNTY FIRE & RESCUE DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF

Deschutes County convened a committee and kicked off their efforts on November 5, 2014. Forestland classification was last done in Deschutes County back in the 1960's. Many changes have occurred across the landscape since then. The committee has a lot of work ahead of them, identifying which lands either do or don't meet the definition of forestland, ensuring that the outcome is fair and equitable to landowners. We expect the process to take at least two years to complete.

DESCHUTES COUNTY CLASSIFICATION COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN	ED KEITH – COUNTY FORESTER, COUNTY REPRESENTATIVE
SECRETARY	KRISTIN DODD – ODF REPRESENTATIVE UNIT FORESTER FOR PRINEVILLE SISTERS UNIT
	NICOLE STRONG – DESCHUTES COUNTY AGENT OSU EXTENSION REPRESENTATIVE
	BILL SWARTS – TIMBERLAND REPRESENTATIVE
	MATT CYRUS – GRAZING LAND REPRESENTATIVE
	JEREMY AST – SHIFT COMMANDER SISTERS-CAMP SHERMAN FIRE DISTRICT / OREGON STATE FIRE MARSHALL REP

SENATE BILL 360 FORESTLAND/URBAN INTERFACE FIRE PREVENTION

The Forestland Urban Interface Fire Protection Act (SB360)

During 2014, the focus of the Forestland Urban Interface Fire Protection Act in Central Oregon District was to reconvene committees for the second cycle review of both Wasco and Jefferson Counties. These efforts were completed with good collaboration and education/outreach to the landowners responsible for meeting the SB360 standards around their home sites. The second cycle for Crook County was put on hold due to ongoing Crook County Forestland Classification efforts.

Homeowners and communities are becoming more engaged in programs such as SB360, particularly after the impacts of the past two fire seasons in Oregon. Defensible space in areas surrounded by flashy fuel that can result in quickly moving fires is not just a lifesaver but a home saver as well. The Two Bulls Fire forced the evacuations of hundreds of homeowners on the West side of Bend. Fortunately none were lost in that fire. And, the Rowena Fire outside The Dalles, in Wasco County, burned around homes with one residence and a few outbuildings lost.

Ongoing coordination and meetings with homeowner associations, insurance companies and individual homeowners in addition to outreach through various venues such as the Home and Garden Show kept staff busy promoting and educating landowners on the importance of protecting their homes from wildfires.

Tom Andrade facilitated the efforts in these two counties prior to his retirement in June 2014. He has been instrumental in the implementation of this program across Central Oregon District and his efforts and dedication will be missed.

The Jefferson County Committee members were: Don Colfels, Chair & OSFM Rep.; Ben Duda, Secretary & ODF Rep.; Les Schell, County Rep.; Mark Foster, County Rep.; Ken Lydy, County Rep.

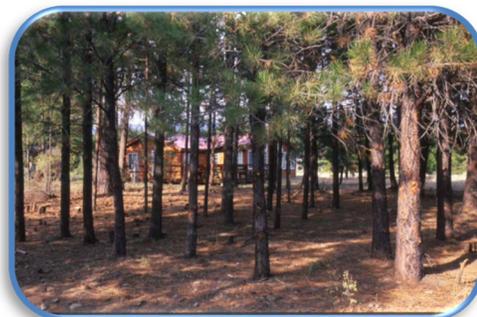
The Wasco County Committee members were: Scott Hege, Chair & County Rep.; MCF&R Fire Chief Bob Palmer, OSFM Rep.; Adam Barnes, Secretary & ODF Rep.; Juniper Flat Fire Chief Eugene Walters, County Rep.; Darren Kennedy, County Rep.



Preventing home loss is the primary goal of the SB360 program



Before SB360 fuels treatment



After SB360 fuels treatment

FIREWISE



Firewise Communities/USA Recognition Program is a community wide effort to create fire adapted neighborhoods. It does this through not only individual homes but the aggregate effects of the community as a whole. For several years now Firewise communities throughout the Central Oregon District (COD) have been taking ownership over their immediate surroundings and making their homes and communities more defensible in a standalone situation or with the help of fire resources in the event of a wildfire.

Firewise is a five-step process where communities develop action plans to reduce risk and hold yearly events to continue to do needed work. Firewise serves as a tool for communities to communicate the risks to their neighbors. Through the development of the action plans and yearly events, relationships are re-enforced and in some cases built between local officials including representatives from COD and the communities we serve.

For the 2014 year, COD added new communities and participated in many Firewise events. Several communities held their annual events with the help and participation from local officials, COD and Project Wildfire. New communities added to the list of 17 COD Firewise communities were: Summer Lane in Camp Sherman, Pine Creek in John Day, and Eagle Crest in Redmond bringing us to a current total of 20 out of 67 in Oregon.

The newly added list of communities was not an extensive list however; with the very active fire season many communities expressed interest in Firewise. In Deschutes County, with the Two Bulls Fire forcing evacuations, there was a large outpour of interest from the local communities. This prompted the need for an informative "Firewise Networking Day." With coordination from Project Wildfire and Deschutes County, COD representatives connected with over a dozen communities. Already for 2015 we are in the middle of processing 5 new communities with many more to come throughout the COD. The 2015 year is setting up to continue to bring in many new neighborhoods that are not just safer for the people living in them, but also for the firefighting resources that will be bringing protection to the homes and neighborhoods of the communities we serve.

AGENCY AWARDS 2014

2014 PNW INTERAGENCY INCIDENT BUSINESS & PROCUREMENT WORKSHOP

Innovation Award

Criteria: Someone who is cutting edge in Incident Business and/or Procurement has made a significant improvement or change in the Incident Business or Procurement arena and who brings creativity and new ideas to Incident Business and/or Procurement.

The Innovation Award goes to an employee who has been actively involved over the past several years with Cost Share Agreements in Central Oregon and has paved the way for change and success with the Cost Shares throughout the State of Oregon. He has worked his way through the state level to ensure the most effective and efficient means for cooperating in regards to Cost Shares between the state and federal agencies.

He is also very active in Incident Business on the local units (Prineville, John Day and The Dalles). He was instrumental in developing the pre-season agreements for the State of Oregon which has enabled more efficiency for timely hiring resources. He is a great role model for working collaboratively amongst the agencies.



Innovation Award Recipient: ODF employee on the Central Oregon District – TRACY WROLSON
Nominated by: Dana Reid, U.S. Forest Service, WO-FAM NIMO

PRIVATE FORESTS PROGRAM

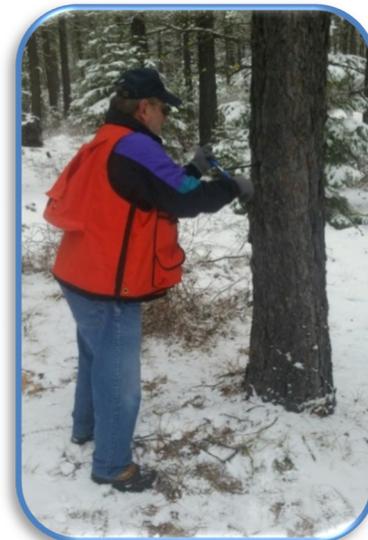
Four Stewardship Foresters across the District continue to work with landowners and operators by providing landowner assistance and administering the Oregon Forest Practices Act. This area covers approximately two million acres and is intermixed with agriculture and range lands. Also included are significant areas of wildland-urban interface.

COD's emphasis through the Private Forest Program is to assist landowners in maintaining the value of their forestlands. Stewardship Foresters work with operators and landowners providing fire equipment inspections, slash hazard ratings, burn plan reviews, and supporting the Protection Program. National Fire Plan, NRCS and Bark Beetle Grant funds are being administered by Stewardship Foresters to assist landowners in minimizing the risk of wildfire and to improve forest health on private property. Stewardship Foresters also provided technical assistance to Soil and Watershed Districts, Watershed Councils, Federal and State agencies, OSU Extension, community wildfire groups and also local schools and colleges. 2014 was the third year that the Stewardship Foresters contributed to the NRCS Statewide

Agreement. This source of funding is provided by the Environmental Quality Incentives Program for Forestry.

Todd Hueckman, from Hines, Oregon, was nominated and selected for the 2014 EOA Operator of the year. Todd was recognized for outstanding work on a commercial thin in Harney County.

The John Day Unit welcomed a new Stewardship Forester, Ryan Miller. Ryan has been with the Department for 15+ years and had been working in Salem for the Private Forest Program.



Stu Otto, Stewardship Forester, using an increment borer during a stocking survey



Todd Hueckman – EOA 2014 Operator of the Year, on a project in Harney County

2014 Stewardship Highlights	2014	2013
Forest Practices Notifications	460	583
Insect & Disease Assist Acres (Bark Beetle)	153	188
Reforestation Acres	1,305	960
Fisheries Habitat Enhancement Lineal Ft.	950	18,460
Slash Treatment Acres (grant funded)	610	2,989
PCT Thinning Acres (grant funded)	441	1,964
CREP Acres Accomplished	51	224
NRCS Cost Share Agreement Acres (design, inventory)	1,991	1,079
Chipping (cubic yards)	204	
Number of days COD Stewardship Foresters contributed to Protection	151	



Todd Hueckman (with wife Susan) receiving 2014 EOA Operator of the Year from State Forester, Doug Decker and Forestry Board Chair Tom Imeson

ADMINISTRATION

The Central Oregon Administrative staff is responsible for the operation of a variety of business management functions. In addition to the many day-to-day requirements of their jobs, they provide abundant support for the Protection Program. This support consists of everything from preparation for hiring and training with our seasonal work-force to final preparations for our EFC and FEMA fire audits. 2014 presented some unique challenges for COD's admin staff. Besides having around \$27 million of fire costs to track, pay and audit for accuracy, the admin staff from COD were moved from office to office in order to cover for others who were on assignment. Multiple times during the summer saw a coordination of an incident management team and a large fire payment team occurring at the same time. The chess pieces aligned and we met all standards of payments and 'keeping the office doors open.'



Each unit saw its share of large fires that required coordination of hiring resources, logistical support and paying bills. Prineville exploded out of the gates with Two Bulls, which topped \$5 million and was a cost share with the USFS. John Day followed with multiple project fires, largest of these was the Waterman Complex, which came in around \$7.5 million shared

with the USFS. Haystack and Lost Hubcap also kept the admin staff busy reconciling over \$6 million of fire bills. The Dalles also had multiple project fires, which included White River and

Rowena, totaling over \$6 million with shared costs between the BLM and USFS.

The 2014 'off-season' has provided little break from fire for the admin staff, who as always, performs at a high level of efficiency and accuracy to make sure all Protection expenditures are appropriate and correct.

SERVICE AWARDS, PERSONNEL CHANGES, AND DEVELOPMENTAL ASSIGNMENTS

2014 Service Awards

Mel Guard – 10 Years
Alexis Parkhurst – 5 years (Seasonal)
Ryan Rudolf – 10 years (Seasonal)

2014 Developmental Assignments

Ryan Miller – Developmental as NRS2 in John Day

2014 Hires

Deb Gonzales – The Dalles Dispatcher (in 2013)

The 2014 Central Oregon District Annual Report was brought to you by the John Day Unit



OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY

The COD Budget Committee members are a valuable part of the budget process. We appreciate their input and support of the District activities.

The 2014 Budget Committee Members:

- John Aaron**, Wheeler County, Three Valley's Ranch
- Ken Bales**, Hood River County, SDS Lumber
- Roy Beyer**, Crook County, forest landowner
- Dan Bishop**, Grant County, D.R. Johnson and Prairie Wood Products
- John Breese**, Crook County, Breese Ranch and forest landowner
- Fritz Ellett**, Wasco County, Christmas tree farmer and forest landowner
- Sharon Livingston**, Grant County, Long Creek rancher
- J. C. Oliver**, Grant County, rancher and forest landowner
- Archie Osborn**, Grant County, rancher and forest landowner
- Ron Sorenson**, Wasco County, Retired, agricultural and forest landowner
- Bill Swarts**, Deschutes County, Cascade Timberland
- Mike Templeton**, Crook County, forest landowner and retired ODF District Forester
- Doug Thiesis**, Hood River, Hood River County forester

