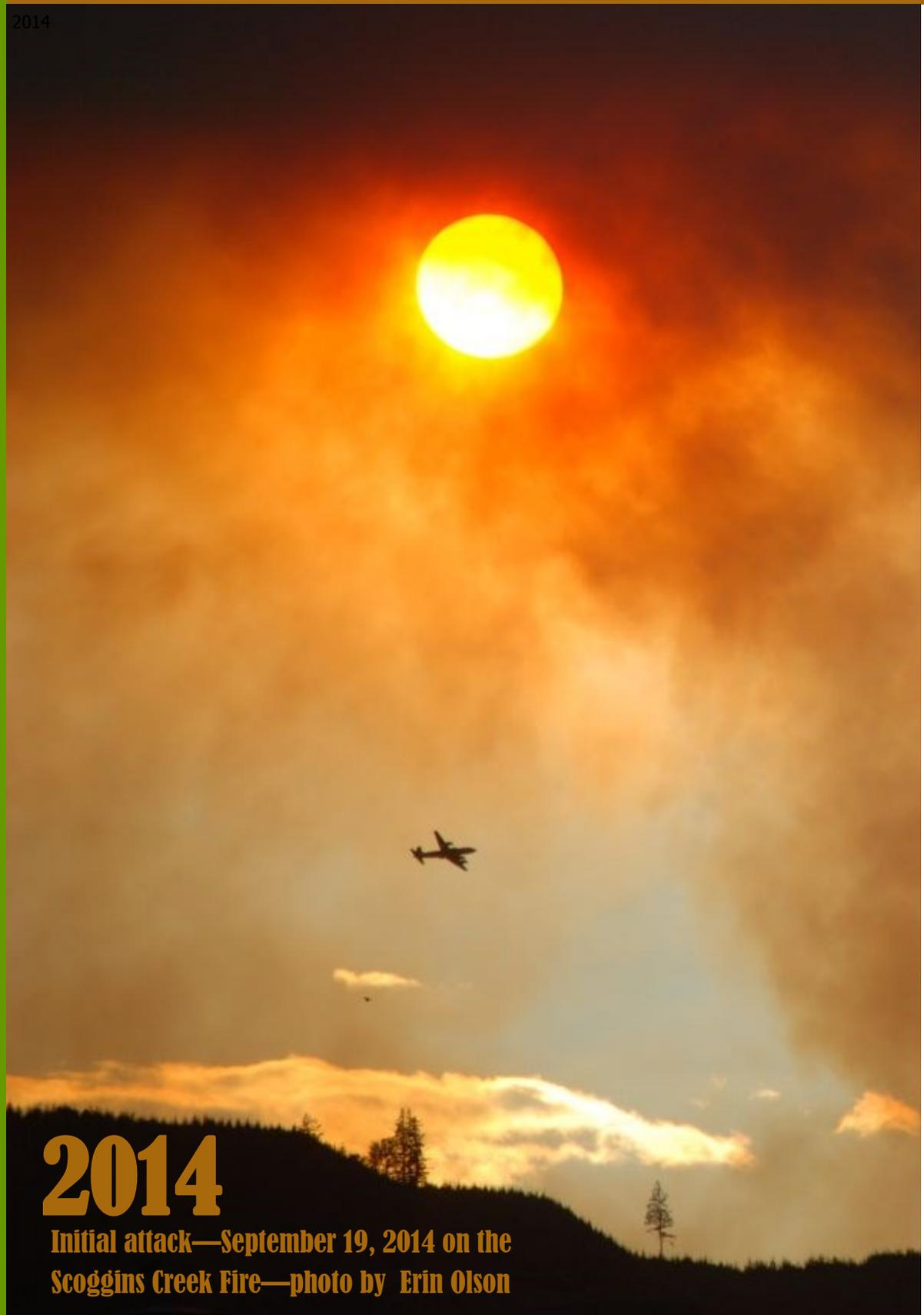




Forest Grove District

Annual Report

2014



2014

**Initial attack—September 19, 2014 on the
Scoggins Creek Fire—photo by Erin Olson**

Table of Contents



Gales Creek Watershed Project



Summer AEM



New FERNS Kiosk

Table of Contents	2
Mike Cafferata, District Forester Comments	3
NWOFPA & Officers	4
2014 Fire Stats	5
Fire Protection, Eric Perkins	6
Fire Protection Photos	7
Fire Prevention, Kevin McLaughlin	8
Administration—Rebecca Edmison	8
Private Forests, John Krause	9
State Forests—Marketing & Forest Roads	10
State Forests—Reforestation	11
State Forests—Recreation	12
Service Awards	13
Operators Dinner	13
Employees—Safety & Wellness	14
District Organizational Chart	15
District Map	16

Editors:
Lisa Mauricio, OS2
Rebecca Edmison, OM

District Forester

-Mike Cafferata

The 2014 year is remembered as the endless season of fire. Fire in southern Oregon, fire in eastern Oregon, and finally fire at home. I am now on the speaking circuit with stories from the Scoggins Creek Fire. The KGW news helicopter was at the Hillsboro air show the afternoon the Scoggins Creek Fire broke out, and they chose to leave the air show and come record the fire. As a result, we have over 2 hours of HD quality video of the initial attack. A couple of my favorite clips:

- Terra Helicopters dropping a bucket of water directly on a spot fire – a direct hit.
- The Scoggins Creek Harvesting Company bulldozer emerging from the smoke putting in fireline around the same spot fire.
- Stimson employees, Scoggins Creek Harvesting bulldozer, and ODF employees working together to cool a spotfire, line it with the dozer, and mop it up.

From this video, audiences appreciate seeing what fire-fighting really looks like. I am pleased to be able to show them the aggressive initial attack and the collaborative way private landowners, contractors, and the state work together to minimize the damage and cost of fire.

As we look forward to the coming year, we anticipate another difficult fire season. Snow pack is at record lows and greater than average temperatures are predicted for western Oregon. As landowners and Oregonians, we need to recognize this and promote fire safety. Last year 705 fires statewide were human caused, burning nearly 20,000 acres. We can do better on the prevention side, both by being more careful in the woods ourselves, and by promoting our friends and neighbors to be more careful as well. It is in the best interests of all.

As you look through this report you will see the many ways forests contribute to Oregon, and the many ways we all work to make that possible. Thanks to everyone who helps – especially the landowners, operators, ODF staff, and rural fire departments. Your work shows in the forests around us and is appreciated by all Oregonians.



Michael Cafferata

NWOFPA

2014 NWOFPA Officers



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Kristin Babbs - KOG

Dan Eddy - USFS

Don VandeBergh - ODFW

The Northwest Oregon Forest Protective Association (NWOFPA) represents forest landowners in the Astoria, Tillamook, and Forest Grove Districts and is directed by a board of thirteen members. The Oregon Department of Forestry has had a partnership with the NWOFPA since 1945 (by cooperative agreement) for the fire protection program in the Northwest. The Association analyzes the district's fire protection budgets, maintains cooperation and communication between forest landowners and the Districts, and helps set the Districts' adequate level of protection. The Forest Grove District would like to thank the Association for all their support and efforts during 2014.

The Northwest Oregon Forest Protective District provides fire protection to some 1.74 million acres of forestland. The Forest Grove District protects approximately 815,000 acres of this land, including private, state and federal land and is one of three districts that make up the NWOFPA. The Forest Grove District has two administrative units, the Forest Grove District Unit and the Columbia City Unit. The primary goal of the Protection from Fire Program is to minimize the total cost and loss resulting from fire in terms of suppression cost and damage to timber and other forest values.

The Northwest Oregon Forest Protective Association, forest industry, operators, landowners and many other agency and private organizations contribute to the success of the District. Thank you all.

Fire Stats

Acres Burned				
2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
89.70	25.99	44.08	27.13	235.10

Smoke Management	Tons	Acres
Number of Units	156 Units	4,917
Ton's Registered	26,521	3,390
Ton's Accomplished	17,742	2,421

STAT Fires

Cause (Number)	2014	5 Yr Avg
Lightning	6	2
Railroad	0	0
Equip.	7	5
Logging Equip.	0	0
Recreation	7	6
Smoking	2	2
Debris Burning	4	4
Slash Burning	1	1
Arson	0	0
Juvenile	0	1
Misc.	7	5
Total	34	26

Cause (Acres)	2014	5 Yr Avg
Lightning	1.57	0.32
Railroad	0	0.00
Equip.	1.94	3.27
Logging Equip.	0	0.00
Recreation	3.52	5.23
Smoking	1.52	0.75
Debris Burning	3.61	3.00
Slash Burning	.10	1.57
Arson	0	0.00
Juvenile	0	0.02
Misc.	214.85	44.81
Total	235.10	58.97

Fires by Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	5 Yr Avg.
Total Fire Calls	155	156	192	123	225	170.2
STAT Fires	28	30	27	22	34	28.2
Non-STAT Fires	17	8	5	7	17	54
Non-STAT Acres	31.50	1.17	.36	5.1	26.04	12.83
NFCA	110	118	160	94	174	131.20
Total Cost	\$109,064	\$125,624	\$99,864	\$36,945	\$1,979,143	\$470,128

Protection

-Eric Perkins, Protection Unit Forester



Buck Creek Fire—Col City Unit



Buck Creek Fire—Col City Unit



Jeff Ennenga, Wildland Fire Suppression Supervisor—Forest Grove Unit

The 2014 fire season was more challenging than the 2013 fire season. We sent numerous resources to southern and eastern Oregon to help with their fires and contribute to the state-wide complete and coordinated firefighting system. These off district assignments continue to be a great way to gain experience and qualifications. The following show total days out of district:

- Protection: 557 days out of district
- Private Forest: 86 days out of district
- State Forest: 443 days out of district

What was different this year versus 2013 was our local conditions. We spent 15 Days at IFPL 3 and our 1000 hour fuel moistures hit an all-time low. While we caught most fires small, we were unable to contain the Scoggins Creek Fire during initial attack. What started out as a "smoke investigation" turned into a test of the complete and coordinated system on our own ground. The industrial fire watchman from Big-horn Logging first called in the smoke. This started a scramble to locate it and provide initial attack. Stimson Lumber Company, Gaston Rural Fire Department, local loggers, Terra Helicopters, and others worked all evening and overnight, holding spread to 200 acres in the initial burn period. Meanwhile, an ODF state fire team and a state fire marshal team assembled and were in place the next morning. With heavy air resources combined with aggressive ground work, the fire was held in place at 211 acres. Just days later, the fire teams departed, we completed mop-up and today the fire area has been salvaged and replanted by Stimson Lumber Company.

Jeff Ennenga the new Forest Grove Unit Wildland Fire Supervisor, was active with the Washington county Training Association, the ODF initial Attack Training Committee and the ODF Protection Training Committee.

We would like to say thank you to the many partners that responded so quickly to the Scoggins Creek Fire and to other events in 2014. While we hope to never have fires like that, it is reassuring to have so many skillful and willing partners respond so quickly when an event does occur.

We are now preparing for the 2015 fire season and take the lessons from 2014 with us.

Water Line Repair—Col City Unit



Fire Protection

Scoggins Creek Fire



Fire Prevention

-Kevin McLaughlin, Forest Officer

Fuel reduction grants within Columbia, Washington, and Yamhill Counties were again the focus of our Fire Prevention efforts in 2014. Monies are provided to the owners through a rebate or cost share incentive program involving specific fuel reduction practices like thinning of trees, removal of understory brush, pruning, and slash treatment. We continued to educate our residents within these counties with outreach programs by providing public service announcements through the local media. Protection crews from both Columbia and Forest Grove units participated in town Carnivals and parades through Columbia, Washington and Yamhill counties.

During the Spring, our popular Smokey Bear Presentation reached hundreds of local first graders at nineteen different schools and we had the pleasure of teaching campfire safety to middle school children at the Yamhill County Woodland School. Through these fire prevention activities, we continue to reach out to thousands of local residents and children. This year we estimate our outreach included educating approximately 4,400 children.



Administration

-Rebecca Edmison, Office Manager



The Administrative Unit played a role supporting the Scoggins Creek Fire. All staff stepped up and helped where needed while the front office area was utilized for fire check in, media support and ordering.

Margie Grosse long time front counter and state forest support moved into the accounting and purchasing role while Megan Ehnle stepped in to do the full-time dispatch position. Lisa Mauricio, backup dispatcher, with the help of temporary Rosa Crossman manned the busy front counter with cash sales over \$70K for miscellaneous forest products. She assisted new employee Renae Shippey dispatch their first Type 2 fire, calmly and collectively.

Kim Robinson took an office coordinator position at South Fork, but before her departure the unit shared some scheduled themes days. We welcomed new baby girl Fallyn on September 28th, 2014 the first to Megan Ehnle's family.

Private Forest

-John Krause, Stewardship Forester

Stewardship Foresters administer the Oregon Forest Practices Act on private land and focus on compliance through education, prevention and when necessary, enforcement. Technical assistance is also given to forest landowners regarding all aspects of forestry, such as thinning, road layout, stream crossings and culvert design and reforestation.

Five Stewardship Foresters work within the Forest Grove District. Brent O’Nion, Kevin Nelson and Nate Agalzoff work out of the Forest Grove district office while John Krause and Mark Reed work out of the Columbia City Unit office.

On October 1, 2014 the Oregon Department of Forestry changed its business model regarding Notifications of Operations. All notifications are now submitted electronically after the user goes through a one-time registration process. This new system called FERNS (Forest Activity Electronic Reporting & Notifications System) uses current technologies and increases efficiencies by eliminating the need for paper and mailings, and reduces duplication of effort. Each ODF office has a FERNS Kiosk set up and trained staff available to help the public file a notification, should they need it. Additional information is available on the front page of the Oregon Department of Forestry’s website.

In addition, each Stewardship Forester has an I-pad that allows them to easily access their electronic notifications, manage field inspections and communicate to the landowner and operators, all without having to use paper and mailings.

Our Stewardship Foresters work closely with Local Watershed Councils, Small Woodland Associations and the National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). In 2014 we completed our first contract with NRCS to deliver field support in both Columbia and Washington Counties. We also wrote a second business plan that was approved to continue providing field support for the NRCS through 2015.

During the summer, when large fires occur throughout the state or region, Stewardship Foresters have the additional responsibility to help fight these fires or fill in behind those who go to these fires. Each Stewardship Forester prides himself on being readily available to assist the operator and landowner in compliance with the Oregon Forest Practices Act.

	Forest Grove	Col City
NOAP Processed	1169	692
Pre-Ops	120	85
Written Plans Reviewed	130	246
Complaint Investigations	36	7
Written Statements of Unsatisfactory	11	5
Natural Resource Conservation Service Deliverables	24	55
Citations	2	2
Stewardship Agreements	0	0



State Forest

-Erik Marcy, Marketing Unit Manager



Fallon Cable Yarding on Chilly Willy March 2014

The Marketing Unit plans, prepares and administers approximately 14 timber sales each year with an Annual Harvest Objective of 61 MMBF. In 2014 Forest Grove sold 61 MMBF for an average bid price of \$564/MBF.

New employees are Dax Strubb and Kevin Gehrig.

Forest Products	No.	Est. Volume	Est. Revenue
Timber Sales Sold	13	61 MMBF	\$32,100,000
Clear Cut Acres	1,160		
Partial Cut Acres	710		
Total Timber Harvested		66.4 MMBF	\$29,000,000
Misc. Forest Products			\$41,600
Wood Cutting Permits	1538		\$30,750

-Erin Olson, Forest Roads Manager

During the 2014 Project Work season, the Forest Roads Unit oversaw the road construction and improvement on 24 timber sales. In addition to maintaining 124 miles of road, the Road Crew expanded the Elk Creek Campground Winter Season Parking Area from 5 parking spots to 16. The Elk Creek Campground parking and access road were also expanded and improved.

A total of 6.0 miles of road were decommissioned; returning it to a natural state. Of which, 0.5 miles were older road located in close proximity to a medium Type F stream. The Road Crew decommissioned 1.9 miles while the rest was done with timber sales. A total of 19 non-fish structures were removed.

Forest Roads	Miles
Miles of Road	7.7
Miles of Road	29.1
Miles of Road	6.0
Miles of Road	124

Elk Creek Campground Winter Season Parking Area Improvement Project — Road Crew



Before



After

State Forest

-Mitch Taylor, Reforestation Manager

It is with relief and pride that reforestation staff have put some challenging units behind them. Inter-planting acres were down in 2014 compared to the two previous years. They drop significantly more in 2015. Newly planted trees performed well during the growing season.

Damage from big game and mountain beaver continues to be at historically high levels seemingly from increased animal populations, requiring greater protection measures in the first growing season. Competing vegetation also threatens seedlings in the first year. Each specific area is evaluated and treated to establish the seedlings while minimizing impacts on other native vegetation.

Reforestation foresters monitor every planted acre for up to 15 years to ensure they are productive and on the desired path. Most of that effort occurs in the first five years until the trees are “free to grow”, meaning they are above the other vegetation and relatively immune to animal damage or severe summer weather. The last five year period has averaged nearly 1500 acres of planting each year.

There was staff turnover in 2014 resulting in the hiring of Chelsey Peters, a very bright and conscientious addition to our seasoned veterans, Wayne Brown and Bill Sayers. Seasonal help from Nick Maslen and Daniel Clausnitzer was instrumental during planting season.



Tree Planting—Acres	941
Inter-planting—Acres	1,001
Site Prep.— Chemical Aerial	1,138
Site Prep. – Chemical Ground	38
Site Prep.—Mechanical	264
Release—Manual	145
Release Chemical – Aerial	810
Release Chemical—Ground	161
Tree protection, Trapping, Tube Installation/Maint., Bud Capping	1,382
Pruning—Blister Rust Disease Control	76
Site Prep.—Burning/Piles	896
Stocking Surveys	1,195
Total Trees Planted	574,362

State Forest

-Randy Peterson, Recreation Program Manager

It was another busy year for public use on the Tillamook State Forest. Over 10,000 visitors enjoyed camping at the five campgrounds on the district and thousands more visited the forest to picnic, hunt, fish, swim, target shoot, camp at their favorite dispersed site, or explore their favorite trails.

Recreation Unit project activity continued to focus on maintaining and improving campgrounds, day use facilities, and the trail system. Some key projects included:

- ◆ Design and construction of Julies Trail Bridge #4 and Gales Creek Trail Bridge #9. Both bridges replaced existing bridges that were failing. The Julies Trail Bridge was funded by a Yamaha Access Initiative Grant and the Gales Creek Trail bridge was constructed by volunteers.
- ◆ Construction of the 3.6 mile reroute on the Back to Back OHV Trail and construction of 3/4 mile reroute on Elliott Creek OHV Trail. Both projects improve OHV trail system connectivity and address safety issues in the Browns Camp OHV Area

Recreation Activity	Total
Campground Revenue	\$49,993.00
Overnight Campers	10,340
OHV Trail Construction	3.4
OHV Trail Improvement	2.7
OHV Trail Maintenance	40
Non-motorized Trail Construction	0.75
Non-motorized Trail Maintenance	29.5
Total Volunteer Hours	6,869
Total Volunteers Involved	346

Volunteers stepped up again to help us operate campgrounds, maintain and construct trails, build bridges, and clean-up dumpsites. Their support is very much appreciated.

Julies Trail Bridge



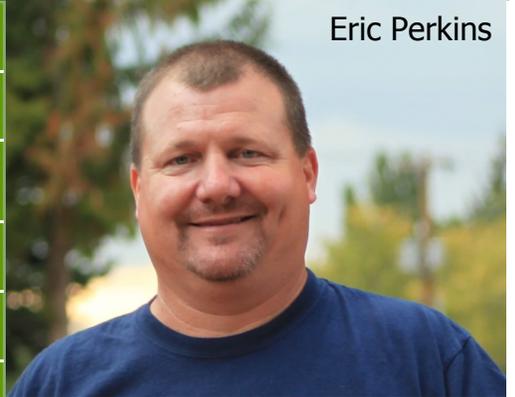
Gales Creek Trail Bridge

Service Awards

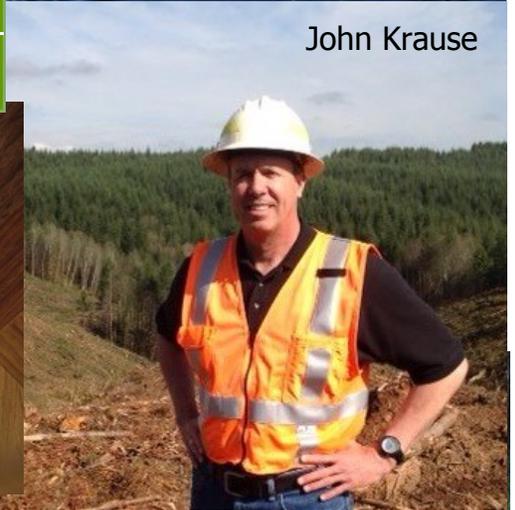


Erin Olson

Eric Perkins	10 Years
Rebecca Edmison	10 Years
Nate Hunter	10 Years
Erin Olson	10 Years
Terry Hudnall	25 Years
Karen Simonton	30 Years
John Krause	35 Years



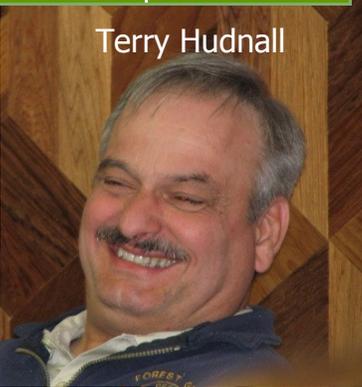
Eric Perkins



John Krause



Rebecca Edmison



Terry Hudnall



Nate Hunter



Karen Simonton

2014 Operators' Dinner

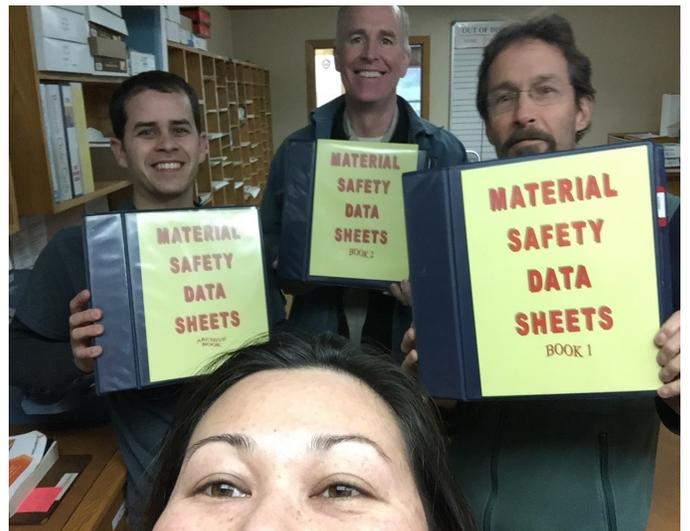
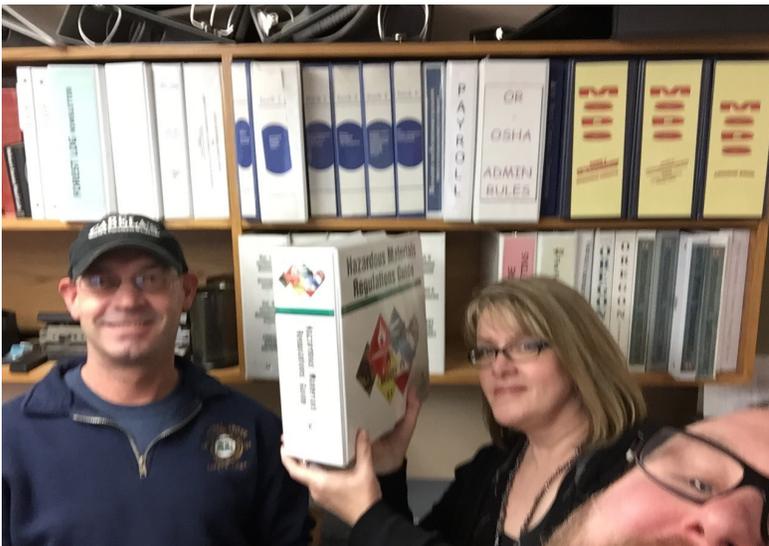
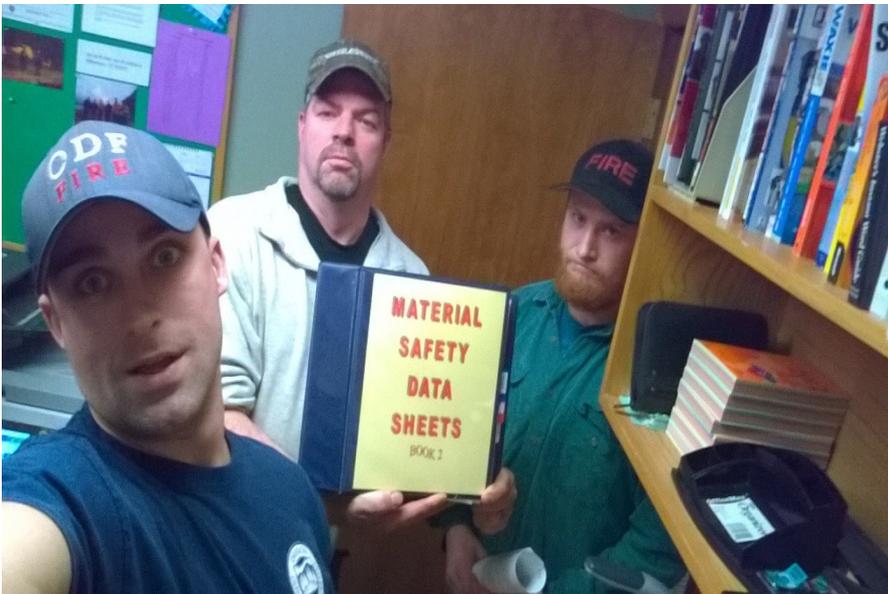


Employees

Safety & Wellness

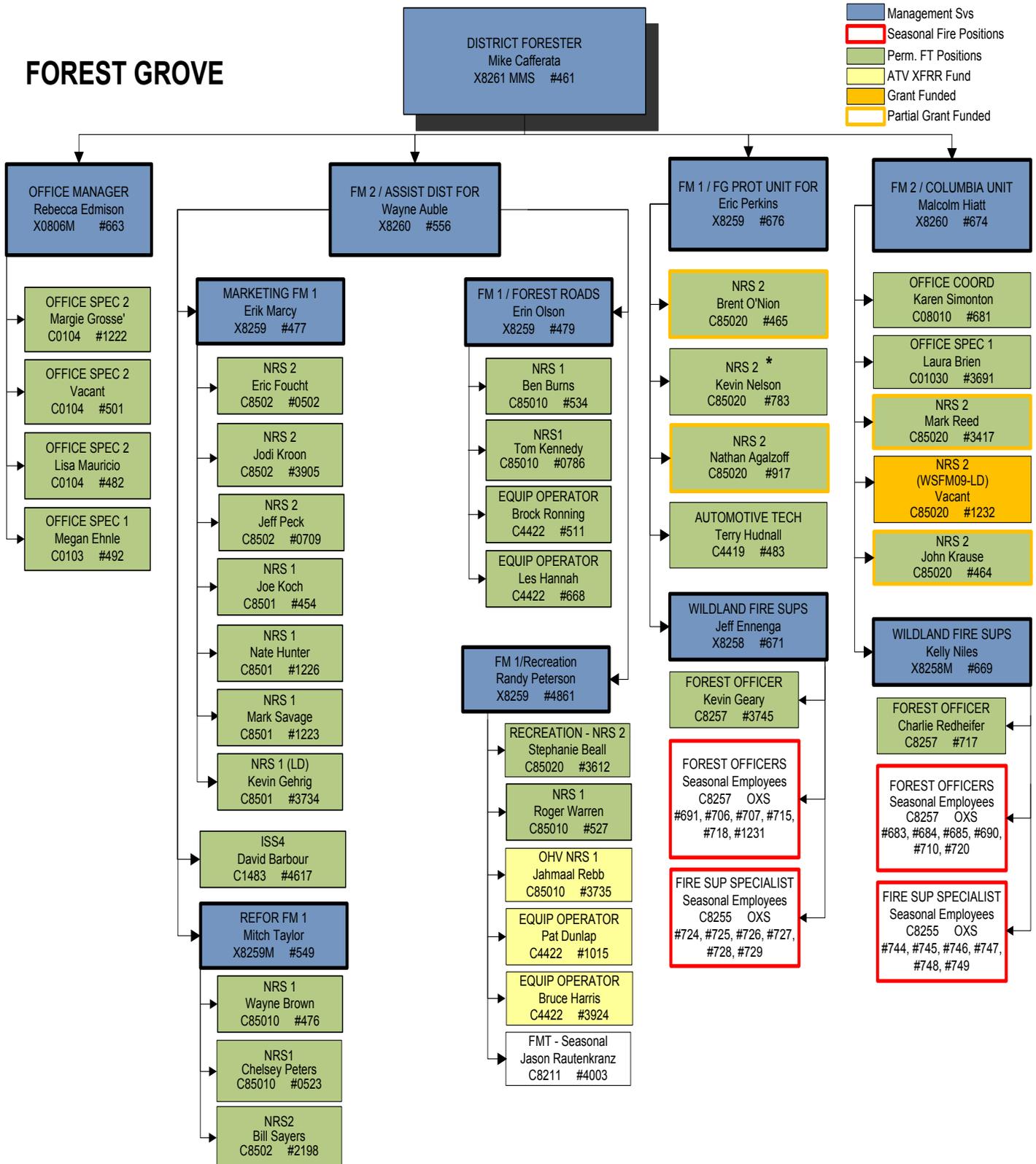


MSDS Selfies— December AEM



Org Chart

FOREST GROVE

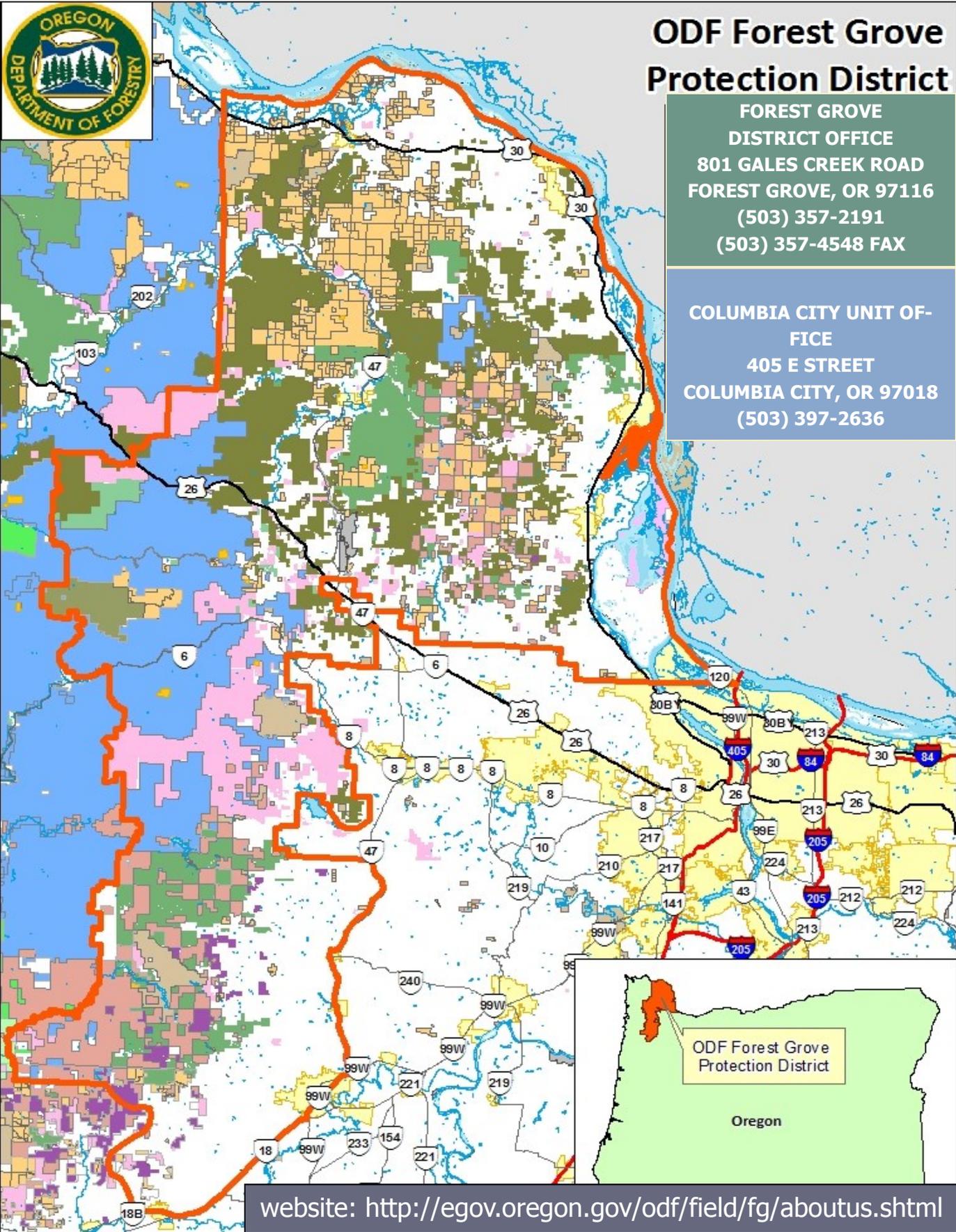




ODF Forest Grove Protection District

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website: <http://egov.oregon.gov/odf/field/fg/aboutus.shtml>