

# Annual Report

## South Fork Forest Camp



**2014**



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# Camp Manager Comments



As I look back over 2014 there are not adequate words to describe the monumental effort the South Fork team put forth to meet the demands and expectations placed on South Fork Camp. As a service oriented operation, South Fork Camp is expected to stand ready to move in any direction asked by the State Forest and Protection Divisions. What folks around the State see when a crew rolls up to the job site ready to work is the product of intense collaboration, planning, coordinating, training, and equipping done by South Fork managers, crew foreman, shop supervisor and mechanic, administrative staff, and our partners in the Department of Corrections. Special Kudos to the dedicated staff that make so many good things happen in such a challenging work environment- and for an operation with such high expectations and demands placed upon it.

2014 was particularly challenging in large part to the extremely active fire season that ended with a bang with the Scoggins Fire team deployment right in our backyard on the Forest Grove district. On that fire, South Fork crews worked 31 shifts in a 3 day period and were the last to leave after conducting mop up and rehabilitation.

State Forest work this last year included a larger than usual workload of boomer trapping due to a sharp rise in populations over the last few years that threatens reforestation efforts. Districts took a proactive approach by trapping units prior to planting and conducting maintenance trapping after trees were put in the ground. South Fork camp dedicated 9 crews to this effort by trapping out over 5132 acres of ground and eliminating over 13,530 tree eating boomers. On the tree planting front, 7 crews worked on the Tillamook and Forest Grove districts to plant 725 acres and 217,715 trees in a 40 work day period. The recreation crews did fantastic work all year long making sure the camp grounds, waysides, and trails were ready for the recreating public. Even during the fire season, the few crews that were left behind managed to perform exceptional weekend janitorial services to keep the heavily used facilities in the Tillamook State Forest clean and maintained.

As technical forestry management practices change and are refined over the years, South Fork Camp needs to update and change with it to the extent feasible. Over this this last year we have worked together as a team to implement innovative and creative ways to increase production and improve quality of production. Those efforts include ways to save costs, improve planning and communication with customers, streamline logistics, revamp staff and inmate training, and improve the moral of our inmate worker population. All of those efforts have had a cumulative net positive effect on South Fork Camps outputs that are quantified by total labor produced and improvements in project quality.

South Fork Camp has 22 Forestry personnel who supervise a workforce of up to 170 inmates at one time, and can cycle through 280 inmates within a year. While there are special challenges that come with utilizing inmates as a labor force, the camp has proven over 65 years to be a productive and cost effective way to accomplish forest management work. While the rehabilitation of inmates is not a part of the Department of Forestry's core mission, those who work at the camp and work closely with the crews recognize the great social good that is a byproduct of what we do. It is a difficult and challenging work environment, and also extremely rewarding.

As a concluding note, during 2014 South Fork lost some "legends" with the retirements of Brad Middaugh, Karen Burge, and Scott Vessey. Combined, they had given 83 years of service to the camp so we made sure to send them off with a very nice (after hours) retirement party at McMenamins in Forest Grove. I know they appreciated the excellent turnout so that they could say goodbye to so many friends and coworkers.

My hat is off to all the Forestry and Corrections staff at South Fork camp for all that they accomplished this past year- often going above and beyond to meet the challenges of the day!

Nathan Seable

# FIRE!!!

## Protection From Fire (FY14)

Fire Suppression	NWOA		Statewide		Fire Training		Total
Total MD's & %	846	14%	4361	74%	702	12%	5909



The 2014 fire season was another busy year for South Fork Camp. South Fork crews went on 43 total fire deployments. Sixteen fires within the NWOA, and seventeen out of area. South Fork fire deployments started in January with the Shingle, Falcon, and 123 complex then ended in November with the Hug Point fire which led to very impressive numbers for 2014. South Fork had 5,909 inmate fire mandays, and no major injuries. In addition there were 602 overhead shifts worked with only 22 full time, permanent employees! This long and difficult fire season enabled two employees to become qualified as a crew boss.

In 2014 we held our annual fire school to train 200 to 250 inmates to become Fire Fighter type 2's. During which time ODF and DOC personnel were also refreshed on how to perform as a crew boss on an incident.

# Fire Continued...

Fire Distribution (FY14)							
District	TL	FG	AST	WO	NCAS	SOA	COD
# Fires	0	3	2	1	11	1	1
#Standby	0	0	0	0	10	0	0
# MD's	0	50	159	40	587	3713	374



# Reforestation

For FY14 about 93% of the 217,000 trees planted were in the Tillamook District. There was a big push to increase the trapping effort prior to the planting season with 7 dedicated crews in the Forest Grove, Tillamook and Astoria Districts. This increase was successful in reducing the overall Mountain Beaver population by over 13,000 animals. Tree Protection efforts were focused mainly in Forest Grove and North Cascade. South Fork Crews also accomplished Manual and Chemical release, White Pine pruning, site prep, seedling trial areas and invasive species control.

## Tree Planting

District	TL	FG	AST	NCAS	Total
Acres	651	44	44	13	708
Trees	202,179	9,130	2,356	3,960	217,625
MD's	1,170	52	25	20	1,267
Average/MD	173	176	94	198	172

## Trapping - Mt. Beaver

District	TL	FG	AST	WO	CAS	Total
Acres	2,362	1,350	1,004	248	144	5,108
MD's	2,610	1,121	617	180	153	4,681
Traps Set	21,138	5,626	4,200	471	857	32,292
Target Spe-	8,227	2,655	2,200	105	117	13,304

## Tree Protection

District	TL	FG	AST	NCAS	WO	Total
Acres	0	25	18	3	1	47
Tubes	0	1,050	200	1,000	160	2,410
MD's	0	115	5	5	2	127



# Recreation

South Fork worked on a variety of Recreation maintenance and development projects. Sweeps of District campgrounds is a vital part of the recreation maintenance program. Developing sites, trails, bridges and other pieces of the Districts recreation program infrastructure are important aspects of South Forks work. The North Fork Wilson dispersed sites were one of Scott Vessey's final accomplishments before retiring from a 32 year career with ODF. The Astoria OHV program is largely where it is today because of the efforts of Brad Middaugh and his crew, Brad also retired from ODF after 32 years. Many thanks goes out to both of these employees for their dedication to the recreation program.



## Social

District	TL	FG	AST	NCAS	Total
Dev. (MD)	588	212	279	0	1,079
Trail Mt. (MD)	267	512	852	324	1,955
Fac. Mt. (MD)	1,791	1,540	766	365	4,462
Total (MD)	2,646	2,264	1,897	689	7,496
Trail Dev.(ft)	25,555	3,875	22,580	0	52,010
Trail Mt. (ft)	96,340	112,474	271,710	128,677	609,201
Trail Total (ft)	121,895	116,349	294,290	128,677	661,211
Miles	23.1	22.0	55.7	24.4	125.2

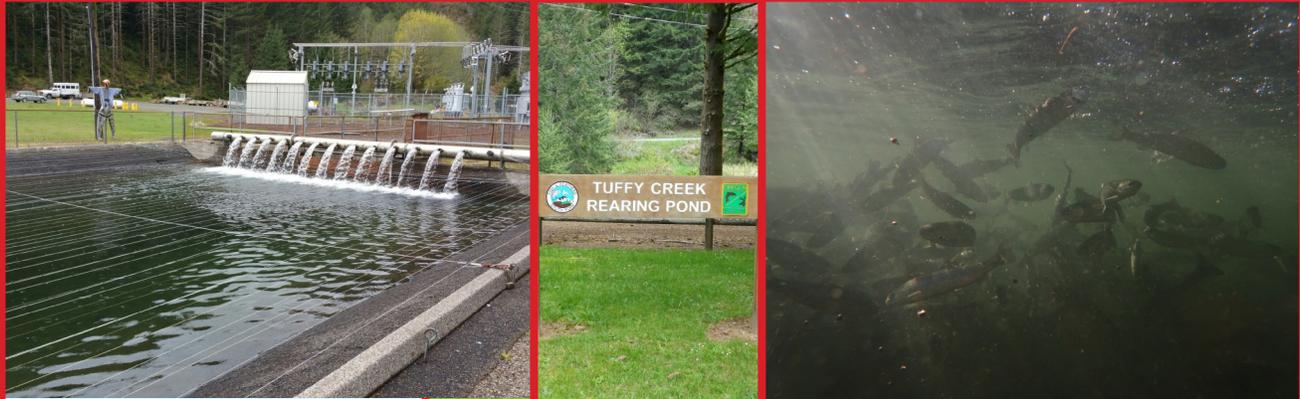
## Average Trail Production

	TL	FG	AST	NCAS	Average
Development(ft/MD)	43	18	81	0	48
Maintenance(ft/MD)	361	220	319	397	324

# Tuffy Creek

## Hatchery program contributions in 2014

8/22/13-4/14/14	86,956 Winter Steelhead raised
4/14/14-8/11/14	64,943 Spring Chinook raised
8/11/14-4/13/15	86,585 Winter Steelhead raised
1/7/14	15,000 Fall Chinook raised from eggs to fry and released into Tuffy Creek between February and March 2014



The Tuffy Creek rearing pond has been in operation for over 25 years. It is a partnership between the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, ODF and DOC. ODF&W Trask Hatchery manages the rearing pond in conjunction with inmates from the Forestry shop crew. The tasks performed by the inmates include: feeding, disease control, raptor protection, cleaning, facility maintenance and all of the measuring and monitoring work. The pond produces 75 to 150 thousand fish annually. Types of fry that are reared include Chinook salmon, Coho Salmon, summer Steelhead and winter Steelhead. South Fork also maintains a small dam where there is a fish trap. The trapped fish are then used to provide eggs for future generations of salmon and steelhead.



# South Fork Shop

The South Fork shop is a full service shop with many unique skills and abilities ranging from wood and metal fabrication to small engine repair and total crummy refurb.

Some of the shop accomplishments for 2014 include:

- Designed and built many signs for ODF offices all around the state
- Designed and fabricated 50+ fire pits for NWOA campgrounds, and disperse sites
- Converted 2 USFS Hot Shot crew trucks into South Fork Crummy's (Pictured Below)
- Prepped tools, PPE, and equipment prior to fire season for all South Fork crews
- Maintained power equipment and hand tools to support up to 17 crews
- Harvested and delivered the annual Capitol Christmas Tree
- Retrofitted and expanded mobile shower unit capacity to be PREA compliant
- Expanded trapping bays capacity
- 10,000+ tree cookies for the State Fair
- Built trail signs and information boards
- Re-painted all South Fork shop buildings
- Milled Lumber for projects
- Built a dozen hose packs for Medford ODF



# Seed Orchard

For the second year in a row South Fork has provided a crew to the J.E Schreoder Seed Orchard. This has allowed the staff at the seed orchard to spend more time on planning orchard operations and less time on seasonal hiring and training. The South Fork crew works for about two months on cone harvest, orchard maintenance, pruning, and building and grounds work. This formula seems to be working well for all involved. We have been using new crew bosses who gain valuable experience while filling this niche and they have been getting a dependable, steady crew that includes an ODF crew supervisor. We plan to keep this partnership going in the coming years, this is the type of work that is hard to hire for but suits our workforce very well.



# TFC Support

South Fork and TFC have been closely associated over the years from helping prepare for the initial ground breaking to yearly maintenance at the center and at Smith Homestead throughout the year. Last year we collected boughs for the holiday wreath making event, helped out with tools for the annual arbor day event and we felled hazard trees, cut firewood and piled brush at the center.

# Inmate Appreciation

Over the years South Fork has learned that recognizing inmates for going above and beyond their normal duties for special accomplishments and projects pays dividends on future projects. Getting the inmates to understand the purpose of the project and then awarding them with a special meal or merit pay when they make an outstanding effort helps promote better quality and increased production. Last year the inmates received a hamburger barbeque after fire season, they earned an extra penny a tree when their crew exceeded 3000 trees per day and 90% quality during tree planting, we also had a jalapeño hotdog feed after tree planting was over. The Seed Orchard and the Tillamook District also recognized special inmate accomplishments with food awards for their efforts on cone harvest and the North Fork dispersed site rehabilitation project.



# Retiree's



**Brad Middaugh**



**Karen Burge**



**Scott Vessey**



# New Employee's

New Employees	Assignment
Daniel Basargin	Permanent FICC
Daniel Clausnitzer	Seasonal FICC
Richard Fletcher	Seasonal FICC
Joseph Rhorer	Permanent FICC
Kim Robinson	Office Coordinator
Paul Thomas	Permanent FICC



**Daniel Basargin**



**Paul Thomas**



**Daniel Clausnitzer,  
Richard Fletcher**



**Joe Rhorer**

# Personnel



**Will Jones, Brad Middaugh,  
Scott Vessey, Bill Huserik**



**Golden Boomer Award!!  
Will Jones**



**Brad Middaugh,  
Mario Lara, Bill Huserik**



**Paul Thomas, Will Bennett**



**Mike MacLeod,  
Jason Holton**

# Org Chart

