



# KLAMATH-LAKE DISTRICT ANNUAL REPORT 2023



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## DISTRICT FORESTER PERSPECTIVE

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I am pleased to share the phenomenal work of the Klamath-Lake District. The landowners we serve, and all Oregonians are our top priority, which shows through the incredible work accomplished in 2023.

Continued change in the Klamath-Lake District was a central topic for 2023. Retiring two long-standing employees (John Pellissier and Pam Brown) with combined work years of 60+ was a significant transformation for our district. With that also came the departure of Dennis Lee, District Forester, who moved over to the Office of State Fire Marshall. All began the year of succession management for the district. Although there has been significant change across positions within the district, there has also been a newfound motivation and interest to do better and create efficiencies. Staff stepped up and filled in to pick up the workload while recruitment was happening.

The Klamath-Lake District had a very good year in 2023, starting with a relatively slow fire season, a much-needed reprieve from previous years. We officially declared fire season on June 16th with 44 fires on state-protected land and only 2,182 acres burned. This was a significant decrease from years past. This allowed us to assist partners throughout the state, region, and even internationally with fire suppression efforts while building our firefighter's experience and qualifications.

Our Stewardship Foresters accomplished tree planting within the Two Four Two fire footprint, through assistance to local partners, and began planning and implementation of a five-plus million-dollar Disaster Relief Grant among other great NRCS, EFRP, and RX Fire projects, all while navigating the new Forest Practices Act rules and laws that took full effect January 2024. This program is an integral part of the Klamath-Lake Districts program and continues to build, renew, and develop partnerships for the benefit of the landowners. Jason Pettigrew was named the 2023 Partner of the Year recipient by the Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council. Leigh Ann Vradenburg of Klamath Falls earned the Eastern Oregon Area Operator of the Year award.

The State Forest program was busy planning, harvesting, completing, and reforesting timber sales throughout 2023. Service contracts cleared fuels adjacent to roads and property lines, reducing the threat to wildlife and homes. KOSS (Klamath Outdoor School) continues long-range planning for forest history and present-day management. The FFR program continues to evolve tremendous relationships with our federal partners to grow and sustain healthy Oregon forests. The Federal Forest Restoration program implemented multiple Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) projects across the district, adding capacity to the pace and scale of forestry projects in the national forests.

Despite the significant movement within the district, I am incredibly proud of the Klamath-Lake District team, who persevered, stepped up, and continued our mission of protecting life, property, and resources for the people we serve. I want to thank each of you and your families for your dedication to the rewarding work we do. Your work is commendable. Thank you to our KFPA board and members for your time and dedication to the district and our successes. A special thank you to Justin Lauer, Northeast Oregon Unit Forester, for filling the role of District Forester during the Golden Fire.

**Teresa Williams**

District Forester, Klamath-Lake District

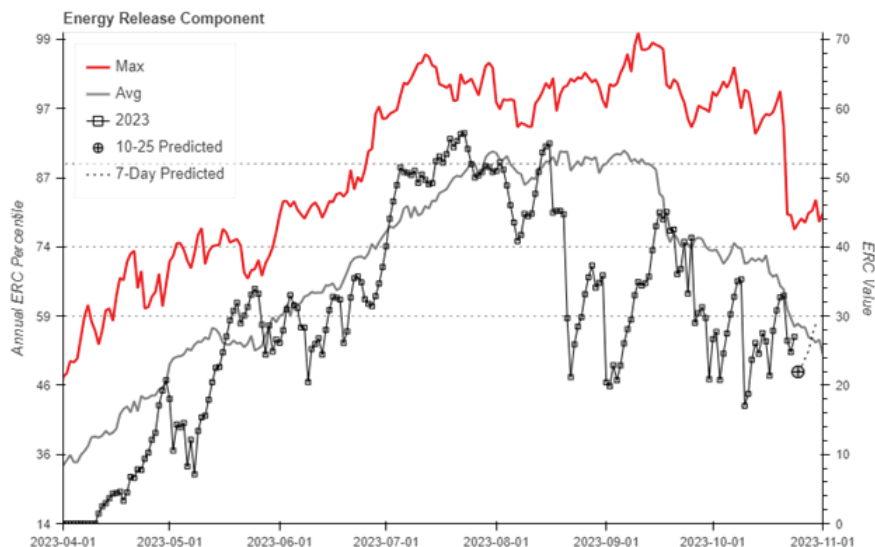
# PROTECTION FROM FIRE



The Klamath-Lake District experienced a relatively light fire season in 2023; in total, 84 days of the fire season were spent in high and extreme fire danger. Only two separate lightning events occurred between May and September. This activity was widely scattered and generally accompanied by moisture, resulting in only just over 50% of the ten-year average number of lightning fires. Human-caused fire numbers were also down this year, but the leading cause was primarily the burning of escaped debris. This is still our number one human-caused factor to target. Through aggressive initial attack, great coordination with our cooperators and landowners, and employee dedication, we had a very successful fire season.

Fire season was officially declared on June 16th, with Regulated Use Restrictions for the District being put in place on July 12th. The district remained in fire season and these restrictions until October 18th, for a total season length of 123 days, and a public use period of 99 days. During the season, the district experienced 44 fires on state-protected lands that burned 2182 acres. As previously stated, lightning-caused fire numbers were just over 50% of the average, while human-caused fires were at 50% of the average. Total fire numbers weighed in at only 54% of our ten-year average. Acres burned for 2023 amounted to 10% of the ten-year average. The potential for large fires and resultant damage was very concerning throughout the season; this potential is evidenced by the 2,139-acre Golden Fire (hosting ODF's IMT Team 2-Howard) and 2,289-acre Morgan Fire (hosting PNW's Team 7-LeFevre).

## Fire Statistics



# FIRE STATISTICS

## Acres by General Cause

\*Regrouping of specific causes in 1997. Some general categories were renamed.

YEAR	LIGHTING	R/R	EQUIP.*	REC.*	SMOKER	DEBRIS*	ARSON*	JUVENILE*	MISC.*	TOTAL HC	TOTAL
1987	2,560.00	0.00	209.00	2.00	0.00	13.00	3.00	30.00	32.00	289.00	2,849.00
1988	17.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	78.00	119.00	2.00	0.00	108.00	309.00	326.00
1989	14.00	73.00	1,007.00	1.00	0.00	11.00	0.00	35.00	13.00	1,140.00	1,154.00
1990	38.00	0.00	4.00	1.00	0.00	20.00	0.00	13.00	47.00	85.00	123.00
1991	215.00	0.00	6.00	2.00	2.00	19.00	118.00	1.00	3.00	151.00	366.00
1992	1,918.00	0.00	9.00	6.00	1.00	33.00	364.00	5,760.00	89.00	6,262.00	8,180.00
1993	3.00	0.00	68.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	12.00	17.00	101.00	104.00
1994	15.19	1.51	1.35	0.09	1.41	270.72	1,014.29	0.36	171.78	1,461.51	1,476.70
1995	1,769.85	80.00	1.52	2.17	1.95	56.34	5.70	499.81	10.72	658.21	2,428.06
1996	886.00	0.00	5.00	1.00	3.00	11.00	3.00	0.00	37.00	60.00	946.00
1997	49.00	0.00	393.00	2.00	1.00	39.00	71.00	1.00	5.00	512.00	561.00
1998	5.64	0.00	1.12	44.71	13.71	135.01	1.10	0.20	0.86	196.71	202.35
1999	17.97	0.00	378.86	6.10	30.81	56.07	0.25	0.95	45.90	518.94	536.91
2000	84.87	0.00	28.53	10.23	0.01	35.43	0.36	22.04	0.53	97.13	182.00
2001	25.54	0.00	1,382.80	33.83	0.01	91.04	4.57	10.55	64.00	1,586.80	1,612.34
2002	34,918.65	0.00	152.98	1.31	0.02	0.50	22.25	0.00	0.76	177.82	35,096.47
2003	21.61	0.00	341.34	48.26	0.00	1.29	0.00	98.00	10.70	499.59	521.20
2004	19.02	0.00	0.56	1.80	0.01	8.25	20.72	0.01	9.32	40.67	59.69
2005	8.97	0.00	8.52	2.67	1.43	664.88	2,225.02	25.50	2.35	2,930.37	2,939.34
2006	23.31	0.00	3.90	8.84	1.10	37.70	0.10	0.25	121.58	173.47	196.78
2007	876.44	0.00	46.10	7.44	1.10	6.41	0.21	0.60	21.04	82.90	959.34
2008	43.82	0.00	0.91	0.93	0.11	0.58	53.60	12.80	1.27	70.20	114.02
2009	32.90	0.25	0.86	36.10	0.00	52.96	0.10	0.20	1.98	92.45	125.35
2010	29.43	0.00	5.41	0.38	3.44	6.10	0.00	0.00	13.24	28.57	58.00
2011	46.27	0.00	0.36	0.21	0.10	14.80	1.00	0.00	3.99	20.46	66.73
2012	11,406.08	0.00	0.71	1.04	0.00	50.90	32.87	5.40	2.12	93.04	11,499.12
2013	190.54	0.00	1.20	2.00	0.00	42.68	9.65	0.00	6.59	62.12	252.66
2014	17,376.43	0.00	1,361.26	4.30	0.00	2,580.77	0.00	0.00	260.80	4,207.13	21,583.56
2015	10.52	0.00	1.00	2.35	0.10	3.69	0.30	0.10	8.17	15.71	26.23
2016	4.85	0.00	8.53	3.29	0.10	14.04	732.90	0.15	9.09	768.10	772.95
2017	1,147.44	0.00	443.02	179.35	0.10	50.45	0.00	0.72	31.81	705.45	1,852.89
2018	26.24	0.00	42.62	2.99	0.00	9.11	0.00	0.00	13,127.39	13,182.11	13,208.35
2019	1,307.84	0.00	0.50	7.30	0.00	210.65	1.15	0.20	5.93	225.73	1,533.57
2020	16.45	0.00	0.30	21.90	0.00	17.10	3.10	0.00	23929.55*	42.40	58.85
2021	155,554.36	0.00	140.66	7.00	0.50	59.70	0.00	0.10	38,900.41	39,108.37	194,662.73
2022	1,152.05	0.00	1.15	2.60	0.00	45.74	0.34	0.00	28.45	78.28	1,230.33
2023	2.14	0.00	5.10	0.35	0.00	11.82	0.00	14.77	2,150.45	2,182.49	2,184.63
<b>Average</b>	<b>6,265.80</b>	<b>4.18</b>	<b>163.87</b>	<b>12.34</b>	<b>3.84</b>	<b>129.75</b>	<b>126.80</b>	<b>176.88</b>	<b>1,537.84</b>	<b>2,155.50</b>	<b>8,421.30</b>

# FIRE STATISTICS

## Statistical Fires by General Cause

Total Number of Fires: 3,701 | \*Regrouping of Specific Causes in 1997. Some general categories were renamed.

YEAR	LIGHTING	R/R	EQUIP.*	REC.*	SMOKER	DEBRIS*	ARSON*	JUVENILE*	MISC.*	TOTAL HC	TOTAL
1987	153	0	4	9	2	10	1	4	17	47	200
1988	53	0	3	4	8	6	1	4	16	42	95
1989	28	3	6	10	6	10	1	4	9	49	77
1990	89	0	4	4	4	9	1	3	18	43	132
1991	93	2	6	6	7	11	10	3	7	52	145
1992	163	0	18	4	2	11	17	4	14	70	233
1993	28	0	7	7	7	4	3	4	17	49	77
1994	115	3	15	6	7	10	13	3	15	72	187
1995	32	1	8	7	10	16	9	5	12	68	100
1996	82	0	7	4	5	16	2	1	12	47	129
1997	62	0	7	9	7	16	5	3	6	53	115
1998	33	0	5	8	3	13	3	2	7	41	74
1999	45	0	7	11	3	15	1	4	6	47	92
2000	16	0	9	10	1	17	3	4	6	50	66
2001	92	0	13	8	2	17	5	5	8	58	150
2002	46	0	7	3	0	2	3	0	6	21	67
2003	67	0	13	5	0	6	0	1	8	33	100
2004	79	0	4	8	1	9	3	1	6	32	111
2005	16	0	9	14	5	9	3	2	16	58	74
2006	80	0	8	7	2	13	1	1	14	46	126
2007	72	0	2	10	1	12	2	3	9	39	111
2008	62	0	5	8	2	6	2	1	2	26	88
2009	37	1	4	8	0	9	1	2	12	37	74
2010	51	0	6	11	1	16	0	0	14	48	99
2011	17	0	3	3	1	7	5	0	16	35	52
2012	9	0	6	3	0	12	15	1	8	45	54
2013	61	0	3	6	0	7	2	0	12	30	91
2014	60	0	3	10	0	8	0	0	13	34	94
2015	53	0	6	6	1	8	3	1	16	41	94
2016	15	0	4	12	1	15	5	1	17	55	70
2017	59	0	8	13	1	21	0	2	28	73	132
2018	16	0	6	8	0	12	0	0	21	47	63
2019	26	0	1	5	0	18	3	1	10	38	64
2020	17	0	3	7	0	9	2	0	32	53	70
2021	15	0	13	3	1	18	0	1	38	74	89
2022	20	0	9	8	0	11	3	0	11	42	62
2023	16	0	5	2	0	8	0	3	10	28	44
<b>Average</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>46.57</b>	<b>100.03</b>

# FIRE STATISTICS

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## Human Caused Acres

2013	62.12
2014	4,207.1
2015	15.71
2016	768.10
2017	705.45
2018	13,182
2019	225.73
2020	42.40
2021	39,108
2022	78.28
2023	2,182.4

## Human Caused Fires

2013	30
2014	34
2015	41
2016	55
2017	73
2018	47
2019	38
2020	53
2021	74
2022	42
2023	28

## Lightning Caused Acres

2013	190.54
2014	17,376
2015	10.2
2016	4.85
2017	1,147
2018	26.24
2019	1,307
2020	16.45
2021	155,550
2022	1,152
2023	2.14

## Lightning Caused Fires

2013	61
2014	60
2015	53
2016	15
2017	59
2018	16
2019	26
2020	17
2021	15
2022	20
2023	16

# OFF DISTRICT ASSIGNMENTS

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## 2023 Overhead Off District Assignments

- » **Canada** – Matt Flock, Brady Wood
- » **Alaska** – Jeremy Goodman, Tyler Shipley
- » **Kentucky** – Lorrin Rose, Bryson Bible, Trey Reed, Deanna Drinkwater
- » **Tyee Complex** – Jason Pettigrew, Jeremy Goodman, Deanna Drinkwater, Mike Leach, Dominic Patton
- » **Wiley Creek** – Deanna Drinkwater, Mike Leach
- » **Heppsie Mountain** – Ryan Huntsman
- » **Flat** – Nancy Sherin
- » **Curry County Cyber Attack** – Deanna Drinkwater

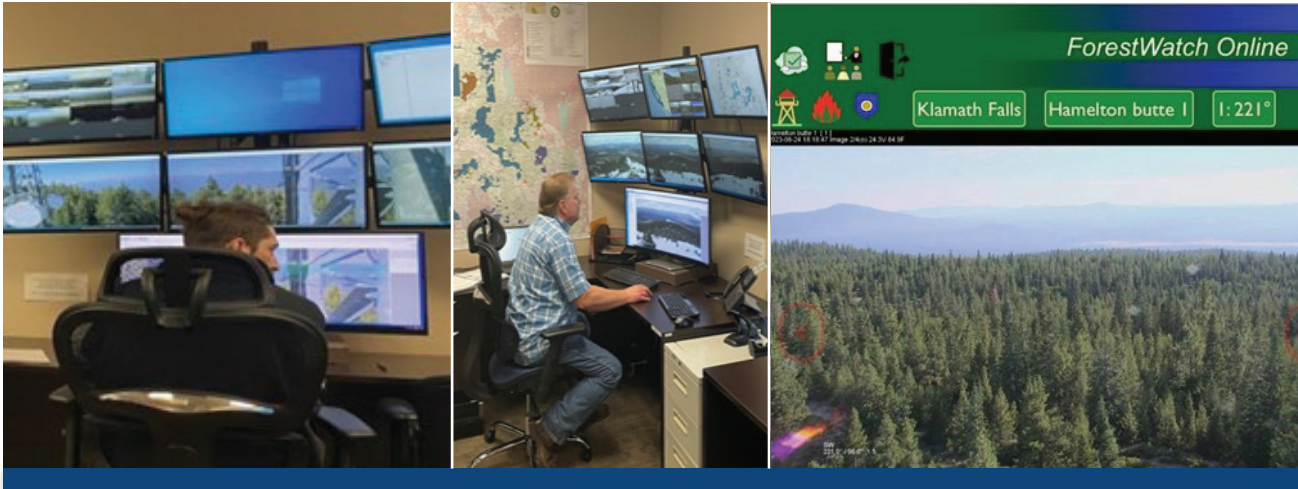
## 2023 Engine Assignments

- » **Tyee Complex** – Devon Hoskins, Beau Baley, Hoyt Crowder, Shelbi Northwick
- » **Juniper Creek** – Frank Dame, Teel Gentry, Nate Helmers, Robert Hussey
- » **Jones Butte** – Trey Reed, Ramiro Garcia, Chris Marks, Tanner Kelley
- » **Heppsie Mountain** – Lorrin Rose, Alyssa Jackson



# DETECTION

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## Enhanced Detection Capabilities Strengthened

The detection center became an official function of the Lakeview Interagency Dispatch Center. The detection center houses cameras for multiple agencies, including ODF, BLM, and Walker Range.

- » 10 ODF/EVS Sites
- » 3 BLM Sites, access to Tower View Live and Alert Wildfire Cameras
- » New Cameras at Hamelton Butte, Chicken Hills, Crescent Butte
- » 51 Total Detections for 2023
- » 7 Confirmed Detections
- » 5 Secondary Detections
- » 3 False Alarms
- » 36 Other (AG/Private Party Burns)

**Hamelton Butte:** The Klamath-Lake District has installed a new detection camera in central Klamath and Lake County near Hamelton Butte. The Hamelton Butte camera covers private timberland and federally protected lands in the heart of the Klamath-Lake District. This camera was made possible by SB762 funding, the land use agreement with Green Diamond, and the hard work of contractors and ODF staff.

**Chicken Hills:** The Klamath-Lake District started the installation of a new camera overlooking the Klamath River Canyon in southwest Klamath County. This camera will cover private and federally protected lands in an area highly utilized by recreationists. This camera was made possible by the Klamath River Renewal Corporation (KRRC) funding and a land use agreement with Murphy Land and Timber LLC.

# PREVENTION

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## Prevention Program Engages Communities

Fire prevention is an integral part of the District’s Fire Protection Program. Prevention efforts are emphasized and presented through education, public outreach, and enforcement. In 2023, the district’s efforts were successful, using a variety of presentations, programs, and contacts to provide educational information on fire prevention measures to rural homeowners, logging operators, students, and the public.

The Klamath Unit partnered with the Klamath Fire Prevention Cooperative at the 2023 Klamath County Fair, Children’s Learning Fair, Klamath Basin Home Show, Benefit for the Basin, and the Annual October Safety Fair. The booths exhibited information and activities covering the 1st Annual Klamath Fire Prevention Cooperative Poster Contest, Wildland Urban Interface/Defensible Space Education, Disaster Preparedness, and Fuels Reduction Programs. The exhibits were staffed by numerous volunteers and employees representing various member agencies of the Cooperative. A newly acquired prevention cargo trailer was implemented for the first time for the Lake County Fair. Keep Oregon Green (KOG) was a tremendous sponsor in assisting the prevention ODF efforts in new signage, restaurant place mats, billboard advertisement, and a brand-new up-to-date prevention education video for use in the school prevention tours for 2024!

The Lake Unit participated in the 104th Lake County Round-Up on Labor Day weekend. The display and prevention trailer prop, loaned to ODF from Klamath Fire Prevention Cooperative, was focused on safety, highlighting outdoor safety, hunting, campfires, vehicles, and off-road safety. The prevention booth saw more than 2,000 visitors. The Lake Unit also coordinated the annual school poster contest in Lake County and participated in the 1st Annual Lake County Emergency Services Open House.

The district’s annual participation Rocky Point Fire Department Prevention Day, Chiloquin Days, and numerous parades provided additional opportunities to incorporate fire prevention messages into discussions with students, residents, and visitors. These cooperative activities are invaluable to the continued success of the District’s Fire Prevention program.



# PREVENTION POSTER CONTEST

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## Lake Unit Annual Poster Contest Celebrates Safety

A highly anticipated event facilitated by the unit protection staff took place this spring and consisted of a classroom prevention presentation and a field fun day. Our target audience is the 2nd graders of Fremont Elementary and their teachers. This event and the commitment and participation we receive from the 2nd graders and their teachers make this the Unit's most enjoyable prevention activity of the year.

This year we had 46 kids participate and provided some excellent artwork that focused on various prevention messages. It's always challenging to pick the winners, but the judges do a great job and make the selections, awarding 1st place, 2nd place, 3rd place, and honorable mention.

During the field fun day, the winners are recognized, and prizes are awarded; as always, we have great prizes provided by local sponsor Ace Hardware and the Lake Unit. Finally, KFPA donates the printing cost, and the winner's prevention message artwork is turned into placemats distributed to local restaurants yearly.



## DISTRICT AUTO SHOP

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### 2023 Auto Shop Projects

The District Auto Shop had a very busy and productive year with the following projects:

- » GNA snow removal project in spring utilizing dozers
- » Fuels reduction work utilizing the skid steer
- » Sun Pass work – 30 acres of mastication utilizing the skid steer
- » Bly Ridge Rx
- » Chiloquin Ridge Meadow restoration utilizing the excavator
- » Marsh, Golden, IA fires
- » Three Type 6's engines built and in service, one duty officer vehicle built and in service, one support vehicle built and in service for the auto shop
- » State Forest and Forest Resource vehicles maintained and in service

## AVIATION

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### **Aerial Operations Propel to New Heights**

In the realm of aviation accomplishments, 6ZC, owned by Skinner Aviation, serves as our dedicated reconnaissance airplane and flew a total of 30.9 hours for the Klamath-Lake District in 2023. This aircraft plays a crucial role in gathering essential information for various missions. Helicopter 2WL, a Type 1 helicopter owned by Heli 1 Corporation, took to the skies for 18.4 hours on District missions, aiding in state and federal firefighting efforts. Notably, 2WL was a valuable new resource both statewide and in our Klamath-Lake District, adding to its significance. It accumulated an impressive 101.8 hours statewide, showcasing its importance in various aviation operations. Tail number 9KB, a Type 2 helicopter owned by Brim Aviation, contributed 16.4 flight hours to Klamath-Lake District missions for state and federal fire-related tasks. Additionally, our Helitack ships, 00G/9TH, owned by Timberland Logging, proved to be a valuable resource for initial attack firefighting, logging 31.8 hours in these crucial efforts. These aircraft, owned by different organizations, are instrumental in supporting a wide range of critical missions and operations. In addition to their impressive flight hours and contributions, it's worth highlighting that our aviation resources had a successful and safe season, actively participating in numerous training courses and various crucial missions. Their dedication to training and ability to excel in important missions is a testament to their professionalism and invaluable role in supporting ODF's objectives.

# FOREST RESOURCES

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## Sustainable Management and Fire Prevention Initiatives

The mission of the Forest Resources Program is to promote effective and efficient forest management, sustain healthy forests, and maintain the continuous growing and harvesting of forest trees on non-federal lands. The above is to be accomplished through educational partnerships with landowners and operators on the rules and regulations of the Forest Practices Act and by promoting sustainable, healthy forests while protecting soil productivity, fish and wildlife habitat, and air and water quality in Oregon. In 2023, the focus has been the preparation of the new FPA (Forest Practices Act) rules and regulations. The program continued to issue PDMs (Permit to Operate Power Driven Machinery) to all landowners that burn slash resulting from an operation.

On April 20, the District sponsored the Annual Pre-Fire Season Operators' Breakfast meeting. The meeting is co-hosted with the Association of Oregon Loggers (AOL) and Green Diamond Resource Company. More than 50+ operators and landowners participated in the discussion of statewide forestry issues and industrial fire prevention information.

### Other Highlights:

- » New FM1 Kasey Johnson was brought on board on August 1st
- » New SFO Forester Brittany Lindsey started March 1st
- » Navigation of new FPA rules and laws - training, information, understanding, education
- » \$5+ million dollar disaster relief grant planning and navigation taking place
- » FPA (Forest Practices Act), NRCS (Natural Resource Conservation Service), EFRP (Emergency Forest Restoration Program) projects
- » Rx / Pile burning
- » Continuous landowner relationship building
- » Tree planting (242)

### **LAKE UNIT**

**87 Notice of Operation  
115 PDM's**

**57 Operation Inspections  
3 Industrial Fire Inspections**

### **KLAMATH UNIT**

**180 Notice of Operation  
108 PDM's**

**55 Operation Inspections  
15 Industrial Fire Inspections**

The Lake unit received \$1,090,132 dollars of allocation through NRCS to help landowners complete forest management and fuels reduction in the Thomas Creek conservation area. The unit was able to sign up 10 landowners to complete multiple projects. These projects included brush management, wood residue treatment, fire breaks and restoration/conservation after disaster, and prescribed fire over 1,115 acres. We certified a total of 947 acres of treatment in 2023.

## 2023 PARTNER OF THE YEAR

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### Jason Pettigrew Awarded Partner of the Year

The Partner of the Year award recognizes someone who makes the Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council more successful in their endeavors. This year's nomination excels in that arena.

A vital collaborator to the Council since we branched out to dedicating more efforts to upland forest health projects (2014). Always available for a phone call, a Zoom or teams meeting, or never-ending email conversations. He brings rational, logical, and organized level-headedness to our sometimes-crazy brainstorming sessions. While he has been a long-time partner of the Watershed Council, his more recent contributions to the Lake County All Lands Restoration Initiative Prescribed Fire Technical Assistance grant, Summer Lake Slash Management Restoration application, and technical expertise and guidance regarding the Brattain, Cougar Peak, Patton Meadow, and Bootleg post-wildfire restoration efforts was the trigger for this special recognition award. His experience fighting wildfires and his experience getting good fires back onto the landscape has tremendously helped the Watershed Council shape its goals and objectives to reintroduce fire as an ecological process and maintain the high investments in thinning treatments that have already and will continue to occur within Lake County.

It has truly been a pleasure working with this person, and it is with much gratitude and appreciation that we present Jason Pettigrew with the Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council 2023 Partner of the Year award!

## EASTERN OREGON REGION OPERATOR OF THE YEAR

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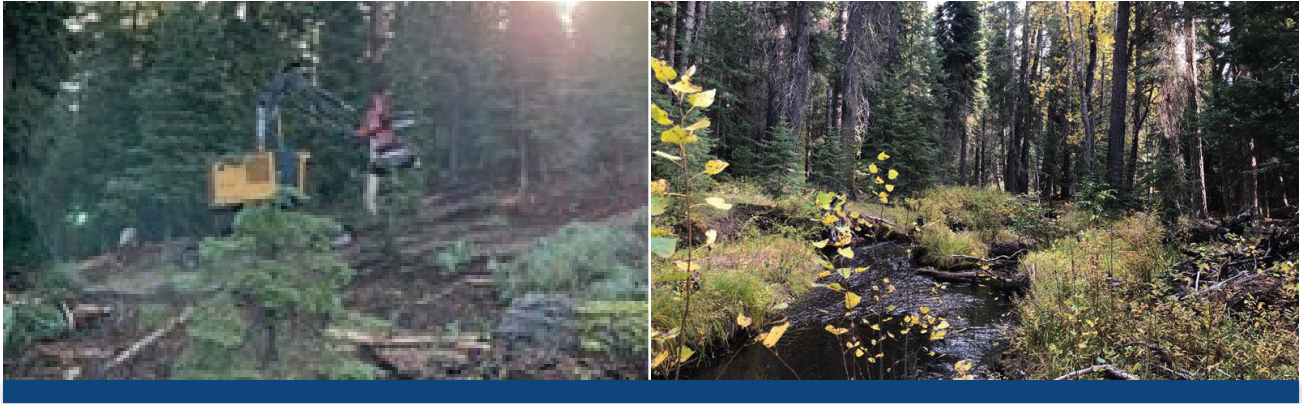


### **Leigh Ann Vradenburg Awarded Eastern Oregon Region Operator of the Year**

Leigh Ann Vradenburg of Klamath Falls earned the award for her efforts in collaborating with members of the Klamath-Lake Forest Health Partnership, landowners, operators, and cooperators to accomplish multiple forest health projects. Leigh Ann has demonstrated the willingness time and time again to take the lead to address the various challenges associated with forest health and stewardship in the area. She exhibits tremendous effort, energy, and knowledge in the work that she does improving Oregon's forests. Leigh Ann continually leverages creative thinking related to the necessities of the forests, the operator, and operations for many successful outcomes. Leigh Ann's success is through the relationships she has established with local contractors and operators. She has been a true steward of the forest, coordinating multiple operators and projects while working to educate non-industrial and industrial forest owners to benefit the Klamath basin forests.



# STATE FOREST PROGRAM



The Klamath-Lake District manages 98,746 acres of state forest lands. The district has 2 state forests within its boundaries. The Gilchrist State Forest contains approximately 72,040 acres, and the Sun Pass State Forest contains 19,577 acres. The Gilchrist State Forest is approximately 90 miles north of Klamath Falls, while the Sun Pass State Forest is 40 miles north of Klamath Falls near the southeastern corner of Crater Lake National Park. The remaining state-owned land is scattered in several small parcels throughout the district, except for one larger block of land tracts – Bear Valley.

## 2023 Sun Pass State Forest Management Activities Accomplishments

TIMBER SALES SOLD			
Sale Name	Acres	Mbf	Value
Power Ham	628	2,500	\$888,781
<b>Total</b>	<b>628</b>	<b>2,500</b>	<b>\$888,781</b>

TIMBER SALES UNDER CONTRACT			
Sale Name	Acres	Mbf	Value
At Any KOSS	726	7,418	\$1,418,970
3Peat	452	3,348	\$557,441
Buck Tooth	473	930	\$129,309
Borderline	745	6,653	\$1,009,043
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,396</b>	<b>18,349</b>	<b>\$3,114,763</b>

## 2023 Sun Pass State Forest Reforestation Activities/Accomplishments

REFORESTATION		
Sale Name	Acres	# of Seedlings
Seaside TS	30	36,603
Black Bark Salvage	160	76,965
<b>Total</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>113,568</b>

# STATE FOREST PROGRAM



## Gilchrist State Forest

Three pulp sales were offered for auction in Gilchrist, Off the Edge, Faded Light and Up and Up, but due to a poor chip market all were unsold.

To date, the Gilchrist Intensive management has proven to be quite successful. The Purchaser will usually cut the material within a few months of the sale date; at this time, they have the option to remove any volume as sawlogs.

The remaining material stays in the unit to dry. The drying time varies, but usually one year to achieve the minimum moisture content needed. When this timeframe is met, the Purchaser moves in the chipping equipment and begins moving the material in chip form.

## 2023 Forest Management Activities Accomplishments

SAWLOG SALES UNDER CONTRACT			
Sale Name	Acres	Mbf	Value
Land Promised	797	871	\$64,685
<b>Total</b>	<b>797</b>	<b>871</b>	<b>\$64,685</b>

PULP SALES UNDER CONTRACT			
Sale Name	Acres	Mbf	Value
High Life	636	4,996	\$9,242
Catfish	1,507	3,348	\$56,060
Shipwreck	858	930	\$8,771
Pitted	651	6,653	\$10,318
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,652</b>	<b>18,217</b>	<b>\$84,391</b>

# SERVICE CONTRACTS



## Clearing Fuels to Protect Communities

The project consists of clearing fuels adjacent to roads, property lines, and strategically located stands to reduce the threat of wildfire to homes and these communities. Some project locations are also adjacent to USFS property ownership. These locations focus on reducing fuel loadings along property lines, creating fuel breaks along roads, and overall stand treatments. The prescriptions will contribute to cross-boundary burning activities that are already being conducted between Fremont-Winema National Forest and The Oregon Department of Forestry.

## 2023 Service Contracts Awarded/Accomplished

SERVICE CONTRACTS AWARDED			
Grant	Target Acres	Exp.	Value
Gilchrist CA	400	2/26	\$300,000
Bear Wallow RAC	200	12/24	\$150,000
Bear Wallow LSR	700	2/26	\$300,000
Crescent WFSM	500	4/26	\$300,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,800</b>		<b>\$1,050,000</b>

SERVICE CONTRACTS ACCOMPLISHMENTS			
Grant	Target Acres	Acres Treated	% Finished
Gilchrist CA	400	200	50%
Bear Wallow RAC	200	10	5%
Bear Wallow LSR	700	0	0%
Crescent WFSM	500	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,800</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>12%</b>

\*Contract awarded just before winter snow arrived

\*Will need to wait until early spring 24' before contract will be awarded

\*Will need to wait until early spring 24' before the contract will be awarded

# SERVICE CONTRACTS

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## Aspen Restoration Project

- » PCT service removal of all conifers one foot or greater in height or less than 12” in DBH
- » 70 acres treated
- » \$815 per acre totaling \$57,050



## Telephone Flats Pond and Aspen Restoration Project

- » Take down berm of pond to elevation
- » Construct buck and pole fencing around aspen, willow, and portion of pond to limit cattle access but facilitate large game and other wildlife access
- » Lay back slope on cattle access side and harden with rock: 40 tons 4” minus
- » Utilized landing slash to decommission roads to restrict public access to the meadow

## STATE FOREST RECREATION ACTIVITIES

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### **Partnership with Klamath Trails Alliance**

Klamath Trail Alliance (KTA) is a non-profit based in Klamath Falls that is interested in developing a trail network primarily on private land adjacent to BoF lands on Spence Mountain. This would benefit non-motorized recreationalists and be an attractive destination for visitors to the Klamath basin.

ODF owns a BOF parcel adjacent to Hwy 140W. This piece provides the only access to the highway in the area. The Klamath Trails Alliance approached us to use a portion of this piece as the trailhead for this trail system.

- » An Adopt-a-Trail agreement was signed between KTA and ODF.
- » A Kiosk has been built to help tell the story.
- » 127 miles of trail in 23 routes have been established since the start of the group in 2009.
- » Expansion of the original trailhead to include restrooms and more parking will be completed in early 2024.

### **Klamath Outdoor Science School (KOSS)**

State Forests' staff continued support of the Klamath Outdoor Science School (KOSS) to meet the long-range plan goal of forest history and present-day management interpretations. The primary strategy to achieve this goal is to educate youth, teachers, and parents about the working forest. This year's accomplishments include.

- » Diego Montoya became a member of the KOSS board to continue the strong relationships developed over the years.
- » Blocking old forest roads to minimize traffic in the area while students are present.
- » The development of expanding two existing interpretation trails began.
- » Emergency procedures for wildfire incidents are being developed, and drills will be implemented in 24 hours.

# FEDERAL FOREST RESTORATION PROGRAM

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## **Boosting Forest Resilience and Building Partnerships for Sustainable Growth**

The mission of the FFR Program is to accelerate the pace, scale, and quality of forest restoration to increase the resilience of Oregon’s federal forests, leveraging collaborative efforts and contributing to the long-term vitality of regional economies and rural communities. Since federal agencies manage 60% of forests in Oregon, the FFR Program is instrumental to achieving ODF’s mission “to serve the people of Oregon by protecting, managing, and promoting stewardship of Oregon’s forest.” In response to the Board of Forestry’s work in 2008, the FFR Program was initiated by the State Legislature in 2013 and made a permanent program at ODF during the 2017 Legislative Session. The FFR Program also houses ODF’s work under the Good Neighbor Authority (GNA), which is a critical tool for implementing and fulfilling the mission of the FFR Program.

ODF has built a strong relationship with the Fremont-Winema National Forest and the Klamath-Lake Forest Health Partnership (KLFHP). We have completed various projects that meet their needs and priorities. We have completed NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) surveys, which are usually a bottleneck for the Fremont –Winema National Forest. Our district serves as a model for the FFR program in other ODF districts around the state.

We are fortunate to have built the program up and have generated enough program revenue to consider additional capacity. Many of our GNA sales and restoration contracts are near the district office. Some average 250 miles round trip from the Klamath Office, while others require overnight travel. We assisted Central Oregon and Northeast Oregon Districts with GNA Timber Sales since they have limited capacity and expertise to lay out and administer timber sales and projects. Shout out to Central Oregon for building capacity so their FFR program can be self-sufficient this year. The Klamath-Lake District has heavily relied on the ODF State Forest Shop to complete our projects. Without their extensive forestry experience, knowledge, and working relationship with the Fremont-Winema NF, we would not be where we are today.

# MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS



## Fremont-Winema National Forest

Due to ongoing litigation regarding the Bear Wallow CE Area no GNA timber was offered for auction in 2024. The issues were resolved in the late summer allowing for sale prep on the first sale, Bearly Adequate – GNA, to be completed with plans to auction in 2025. Preparation on two other timber sales in the Lobert EIS area were completed assisting the Chiloquin Ranger District with completing management objectives. The sales, Replacement – GNA and Lobert SFB – GNA, will also be auctioned in 2025.

## 2023 Sun Pass State Forest Management Activities Accomplishments

TIMBER SALES UNDER CONTRACT			
Sale Name	Acres	MMbf to Date	Value to Date
Miller Time	2,078	8.0	\$1,018,390
Sugar Pine	3,139	1.1	\$134,115
Honey Bunch	2,279	4.5	\$645,755
Coleman	3,167	7.7	\$450,194
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,663</b>	<b>21.3</b>	<b>\$2,248,454</b>

TIMBER SALES COMPLETED			
Sale Name	Acres	MMbf	Value
Side Kid	1,120	4.6	\$464,882
Sugar Pine	1,837	10.0	\$1,759,940
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,957</b>	<b>14.6</b>	<b>\$2,224,822</b>

# STAFF RIDE 2023



Eastern Oregon Area Staff Ride Attendees

## Inaugural Staff Ride to Honor Fallen Firefighters

A staff ride consists of three phases: the first phase is a preliminary study of a selected incident, the second phase is a visit to the actual site associated with the incident, and the third phase involves an opportunity to integrate the lessons derived from the study and visit. The Klamath-Lake District and other agency personnel from the Eastern Oregon Area participated in its first-ever Staff Ride. The group traveled to the South Canyon Fire site on Storm King Mountain in Glenwood Springs, Colorado, where 14 firefighters perished on July 6, 1994. Some of which were on the local Prineville hotshots. A long, steep, well-worn trail led to the crosses that marked the spots on the mountain where they died.

Throughout this staff ride, the attending KLD staff members (Matt Anspach-\*Klamath Permanent Forest Officer, Zach Hall-Dispatch Assistant Center Manager, Rob Wood-Lake Unit Permanent Forest Officer, & Teresa Williams-\*Assistant District Forester) took the opportunity to travel by vehicle together, utilizing their time well spent creating a bond among them as this group was usually detached due to their work locations.

The ride initially took them to the Wildland Firefighter Foundation in Boise, Idaho, where they met with director Burk Minor. At the foundation, they posted their memorial sticker on the photo of their Klamath Unit friend Larry Baker on the remembrance wall. The group described spending the time in Glenwood Springs and hiking the mountain with the lone survivor, Kim Valentine, in many ways. Still, there was consensus that our jobs, although inherently dangerous, require us to speak up when something isn't right for the safety of ourselves and others. The Staff Ride will continue as an annual occurrence scheduled for May 2024.

*\*Positions listed are at the time of the staff ride.*



KLD's attendees Matt Anspach, Zach Hall, Teresa Williams, and Rob Wood



Partial Memorial Site



Remembrance Wall at the Wildland Firefighter Foundation in Boise, ID – Larry Baker



# ODF'S AGENCY LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

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## Cultivating Future Leaders for Tomorrow

**Background:** The Agency Leadership Program (ALP) was developed in the early 90's to help the Agency with succession management. ALP was created to provide current and prospective leaders of the agency with foundational knowledge and skills, enabling them to lead the agency into the future effectively.

**Purpose:** To provide a challenging learning opportunity that inspires ALP graduates more confident and prepared to pursue increasingly complex or critical leadership roles within ODF.

Participants are required to attend a 1-week session per month for four months. The Klamath-Lake attendee for 2023 was Teresa Williams, Assistant District Forester. The class dove into policy, legislative concepts, case studies, leadership styles, personality traits, relationship building, and more to develop future leaders. The 2023 group comprised 30 students, with about as many staff participating throughout the four sessions. The Klamath-Lake district plans to send another 3-5 attendees in 2024.

# PERSONNEL CHANGES



John Pellissier



Pam Brown and Deanna Drinkwater



Dennis Lee

## John Pellissier

John Pellissier's career with the Oregon Dept of Forestry spanned over 30 years in only one ODF office, Klamath Falls. John was a state forests employee from day 1 to day 12,410. His hard work and dedication to this agency is why the Sun Pass and Gilchrist State Forests look the way they do today. John walked on almost every square foot of Sun Pass from when he started as an NRS1 to the last days as the Unit manager for the State Forests / FFR Program. John was active in wildfire throughout his career as well. He maintained quals with aviation as well as type 3 IC and OSC1. If a district had a fire problem, Pellissier is who they called. He was on ODF Incident Management Team 2 for over 20 years. Starting as a DIVS and ending as the OSC1. A wealth of knowledge and dedication for the job will be lost, with him moving on to the next chapter in life. Instead of putting on snowshoes to paint trees in the dead of winter, he will be clicking into skis and seeing how many runs he can get in before the ski resort closes. We wish John all the best of luck.

## Pam Brown

Pam Brown retired from the Oregon Department of Forestry on July 31st after 30 years working for the Klamath Lake District. While attending OIT, Pam applied for a job at Klamath- Lake District and ended up with a detection position from 1993-1997, working summers. In 1997, after graduating, she took a permanent position as a Private Forest Clerk and was eventually promoted to Office Specialist 2. Pam didn't intend to make working at ODF a career, but she loved to be around the fire environment and the customer service she provided. After 30 years, it was time to hang up her hat and, in Pam's words, "let others do great things." Pam had worked since she was 15 and said, "Now it is time to enjoy life more and relax, and I plan on spending more time with family, doing some traveling, gardening, and whatever adventures are next." Congratulations Pam on 30 years of service!

## Dennis Lee

Dennis accepted a position with the Office of State Fire Marshall.

## Staff Changes

**Teresa Williams** was promoted to District Forester

**Jacob Barnett** was promoted to Assistant District Forester

**Jeremy Goodman**, WOC  
Klamath Wildland Fire Supervisor

**Tyler Spiesschaert**  
Developmental Klamath  
Permanent Forest Officer

**Jennifer Case** was promoted to Natural Resource Specialist 2

**Brittany Lindsey** was promoted to Natural Resource Specialist 2

**Kasey Johnson** was promoted to Forest Resources Manager

**Matt Flock** was promoted to State Forest Unit Forester

**Matt Anspach** was promoted to FFR Coordinator

**Trista Batten** hired as Office Specialist 2

**Dustin Gustaveson** transferred to John Day, COD

**Kevin Burdon** was promoted to Lake Protection Unit Forester

## Service Awards

**Pam Brown** – 30 years

**Matt Flock** – 15 years

**Chris Weekly** - 15 years

**Teresa Williams** – 10 years

**Nancy Sherin** – 10 years

# KLD SAFETY COMMITTEE

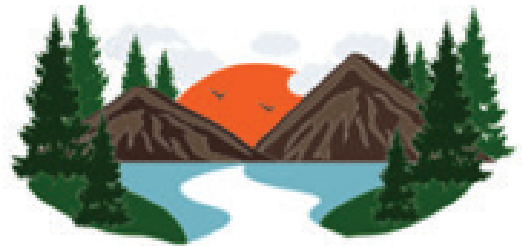
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The Klamath-Lake district safety and wellness committee noticed that Fire Season 2023 was less active with fires than in years past. This allowed us to take the time to focus on the reporting and documentation of accidents, incidents, and close calls. We also continued to be proactive and emphasized the importance of mental health. Our district has gone through a tremendous amount of change which has strengthened our resiliency to the dynamic culture we work in. Our proactive approach to safety and wellness surpasses the reactive consequences that come naturally in our challenging working environment. *Stay safe!*

**Bryson Williams**  
Safety Chair

## 2023 Safety & Wellness Committee Members

- » Teresa Williams - District Forester
- » Jake Barnett - Assistant District Forester
- » Paula Christensen - Lake Unit Admin
- » Nancy Sherin - Klamath Unit Admin
- » James Monteil - State Forest
- » Gandy Batten - Klamath Unit Auto Shop
- » Jeremy Goodman - Klamath Unit Protection
- » Zach Hall - Dispatch
- » Bryson Williams - Lake Unit Auto Shop
- » Frank Dames - Klamath Unit Seasonal
- » Chris Marks - Lake Unit Seasonal



**KLD Safety Committee**  
"Safety Stewards"

# ODF'S PEER SUPPORT PROGRAM

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ODF began the inception of the Agencies Peer Support program in 2021 when contracting with Responder Life for Peer services. Through the development of this program, our agency now has a complete Critical Incident Guideline to assist in critical incidents when they occur within our agency. The initial group of Peer Support started with four employees: Don Everingham - Northwest Oregon Area director, Robbie LeFebvre Assistant to the Area Director of Northwest Oregon, Chrissy Hessel - EOA Area Training Coordinator, and Teresa Williams - Klamath-Lake District Forester. This group has worked diligently for the past two years to develop the charter and policy, educate, and support all agency staff, and grow the Peer team's membership. We are happy to report that the team will begin its growth from four to eleven supporters in 2024.



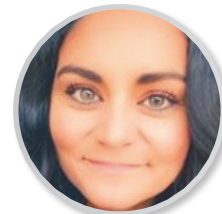
**Don Everingham**  
NWOA



**Robbie LeFebvre**  
NWOA



**Chrissy Hessel**  
EOA

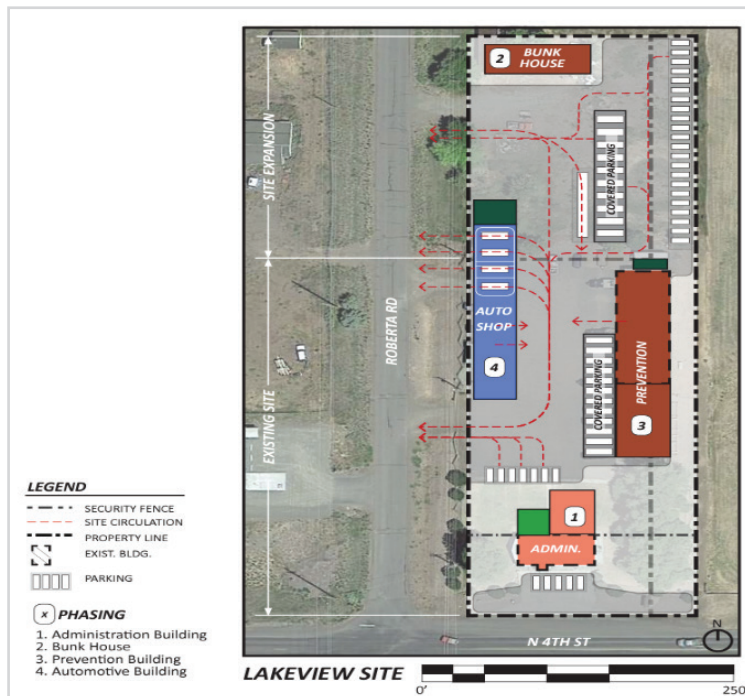
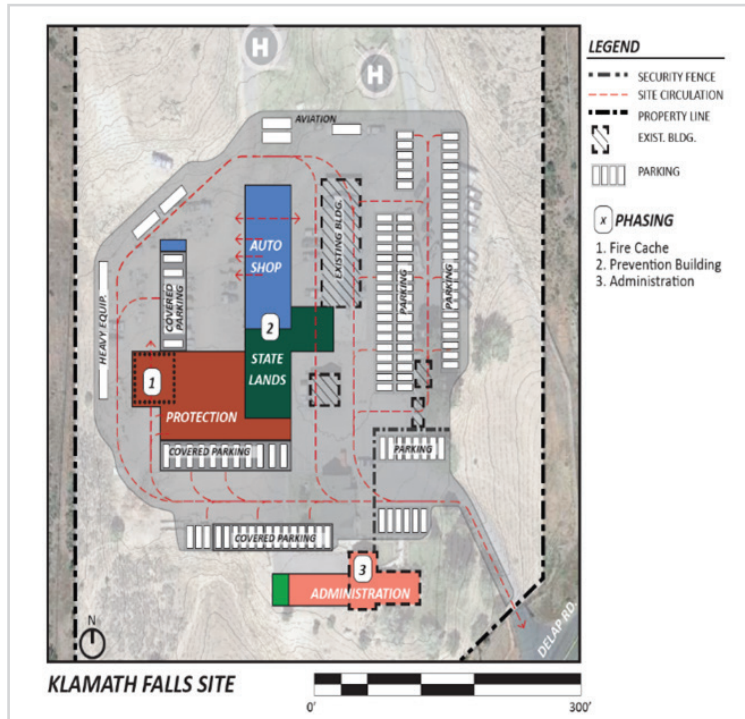


**Teresa Williams**  
EOA

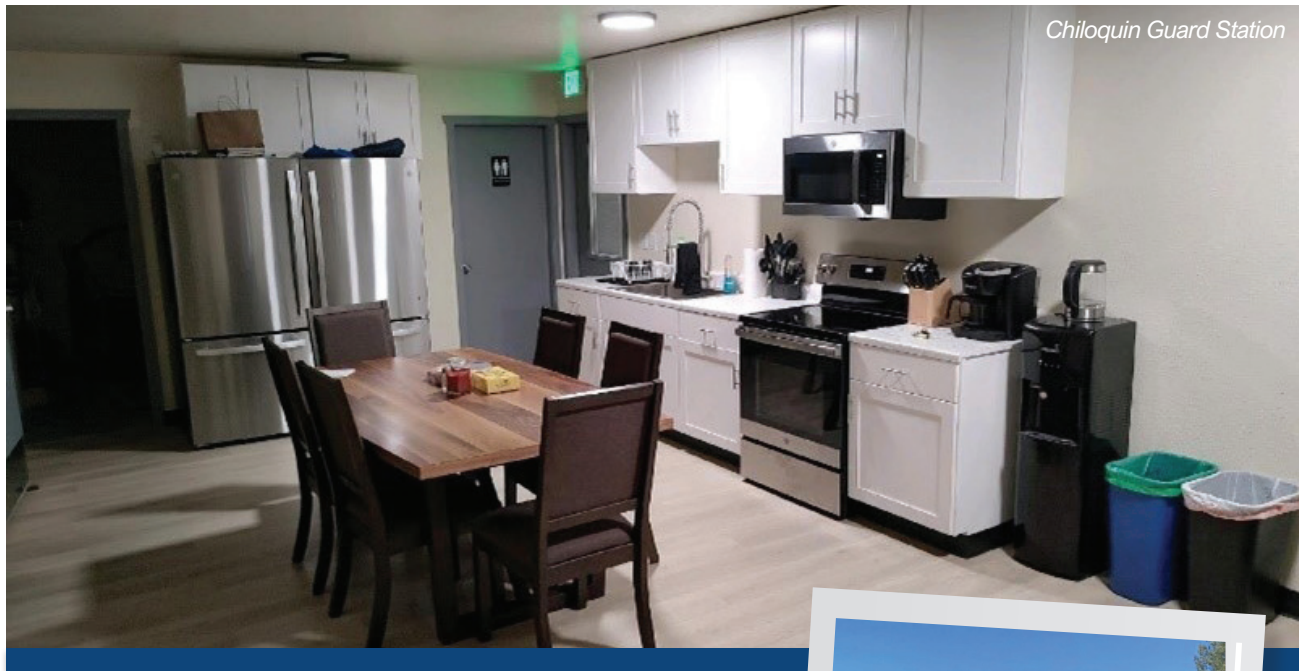


# MASTER PLAN

In 2023 ZCS Engineering and Architectures were asked to perform an analysis of the Klamath and Lake Units. The Master Plan process included key management personnel, onsite observations, and personal interviews. Creating a holistic, conceptual design document to include the current and future needs of both the Klamath and Lake Units. Each unit uses a combination of existing and new buildings to achieve the project goal of meeting the operational and space needs of the district for the next 60 years. We are currently in the process of finalizing the master plan for both units. This will give the district a much need resource for future facility planning.



# FACILITIES UPDATE



Chiloquin Guard Station

## Strategic Investment Funds

**Bly Guard Station:** After having to vacate the long-term occupancy of the Camp 6 guard station in Bly, the Lake Unit applied for strategic investment funds to purchase or build a replacement guard station. After three long years, the Unit was successful in securing just over \$300k to do just that. With the help of a long time resident and landowner of Bly, Oregon the Lake Unit is now under contract with Jacob's Ranch to build a new guard station. The new guard station is strategically placed, with access to additional property for a helipad, and Type 3 incident management team if needed. The guard station is estimated to be complete in Fall 2024.



Site planning at Jacobs Ranch with Margaret Jacobs, Kevin Burdon, and Jacob Barnett

**Chiloquin Guard Station:** The Klamath Unit also secured Strategic Investment funding to partner with Chiloquin Fire and Rescue. The partnership is the remodel of Chiloquin's Station 2. Once completed, this will give the Klamath Unit office space and living quarters for personnel to utilize in and outside of fire season as needed. This project is complete and ready for occupancy in the Spring of 2024!



Chiloquin Guard Station

**Klamath Unit Cache:** After the loss of the Districts Fire Cache at the Klamath Unit, it has proven to be a long road to completing the DAS claim in order to rebuild. Almost all the lost items have been replaced to date, however, the finalization of the insurance claim and planning for the rebuild are still ongoing as we continue to look at funding options.

# ORGANIZATIONAL CHART & KFPA MEMBERS

