Northeast Oregon District
2018 Statistical Report

LA GRANDE UNIT
BAKER SUB UNIT
PENDLETON UNIT
WALLOWA UNIT

Peter Daugherty
State Forester

Joe Hessel
District Forester
Welcome to the 2018 Annual Report for the Northeast Oregon District. 2018 was again a very busy year for the district, in all of our programs. The fire and forestry services that we provide were in higher demand and more complex than ever. District employees were up to the task and worked to ensure that we were successful in accomplishing our mission in a safe and efficient manner.

Fire season was again characterized by above average burning conditions for much of the summer with 49 days spent above the district’s large fire threshold. Several challenging individual fires and a couple of multiple fire days (lightning) put the district’s fire organization to the test. These fires required strong leadership and the right mix of resources and assistance from our cooperators to successfully control. Fires that originated outside of the district boundary and either threatened or eventually burned onto the district were especially challenging. In addition to our normal compliment of aircraft, the district (Wallowa Unit) managed and utilized the services of a Type 3 Helicopter and Helitack crew for 28 days. The Helitack platform flew a total of ten fires for 63 hours and was instrumental in catching fires in several challenging locations in the district. Perhaps the most unique event of the fire season was the detection of several fires through the use of an Infra-Red camera system on a military airplane that overflew the district. Dense smoke had prevented the ability to locate fires following a lightning event and the IR camera’s ability to “see” through the smoke proved to be very successful and will be utilized again under similar circumstances.

On the forestry side of our business, 2018 saw the highest number of foresters on staff that the district has ever had. Six permanent foresters and three limited duration foresters handle the workload in forest practices, forestry assistance and the forest management of Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife lands. The Federal Forest Restoration Program also utilizes several of our seasonal firefighters to assist with sale prep, layout and marking activities on federal timber sales on the shoulders of fire season. It is exciting to be a part of so many active forest management opportunities with our landowner community and federal partners.

While the district continues to be very busy in many respects, our employees continue to rise to the challenge. The assistance of our partners, landowner community and contractors again proved to be a vital part of our success.

Thank you for your efforts and continued support.

Joe Hessel

District Forester, Northeast Oregon District
The number of statistical fires was above average.

Acres burned were below average.

36 lightning caused fires (46% of the total statistical fires) burned 1,255 acres (86% of the total acres).

42 human caused fires (54% of the total statistical fires) burned 211 acres (14% of NEO District Aircraft

3NP flew 135.3 flight hours on 18 incidents. 68% of flight time was spent on ODF ground.

T-869 & T-870 flew a combined 164.82 flight hours and delivered 124,274 gallons of retardant to 16 incidents.

Detection plane, D-018, flew 25 missions for 82.9 flight hours.

Severity helicopter 2KK flew 68 flight hours on 10 incidents of all complexities within the 28 days on district.
The 2018 fire season was busier than 2017, however, close to a historically normal fire season. There were 78 statistical fires in NEO District, which is slightly above the 10-year average of 73. After a mild winter, the fire danger indices quickly turned to a steady upward trajectory and fire season was declared on June 28th. Fire danger conditions trended toward average historical levels. For the majority of the season, ERC levels remained below maximum values, but new maximum ERC values were set for three days during the season. In addition, there were a less than average number of lightning storms, which reduced lightning-caused fires. Of the 78 statistical fires, 42 were human-caused. This is well above the district’s 10-year average (29 fires). The remaining 36 lightning-caused fires were below the 10-year average (45 fires). In total 88% of fires in NEO District burned 10 acres or less.
Private Forest Programs

Forest Practices Administration

- 150 FPA Inspections and 39 Fire Inspections were completed
- No FPA citation or unsatisfactory conditions were issued
- One FPA warning was issued

Eastern Oregon Area Merit Award for 2018

Wallowa County operator Butch Tanzey with Tanzey Forest Improvement Inc. will receive a merit award for his excellent work on forest operations in 2018

Forestry Assistance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NRCS EQIP Inventories</th>
<th>4,065 Acres</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NRCS EQIP Contracts</td>
<td>2,797 Acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRCS EQIP Certifications</td>
<td>1,551 Acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stewardship Plans</td>
<td>4 Plans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tree Farm Inspections</td>
<td>9 Inspections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLFN (Distributed)</td>
<td>195,500 Seedlings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLFN (Stored for Hancock Forest Mgt.)</td>
<td>1,169,910 Seedlings</td>
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</tbody>
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Forestry Assistance Funding Source

**Wallowa Unit**
- North Wallowa County Hazard Mitigation Community Assistance Grant
- Wallowa County Fuels Western States Fire Manager’s Grant
- Wallowa Front NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Project

**Pendleton Unit**
- JDU Basin Forest Resiliency Project NRCS Conservation Implementation Strategy
- Mill Creek Fuels Community Assistance Grant
- Umatilla South Fuels Community Assistance Grant
- Umatilla County Fuel Breaks Community Assistance Grant

**La Grande Unit**
- Upper Grande Ronde Watershed NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Project
- Baker/Union Strategic Fuel Break Community Assistance Grant

**Baker Sub-Unit**
- Baker/Union Strategic Fuel Break Community Assistance Grant
- Burnt River Range NRCS Conservation Implementation Strategy
- Keating Mule Deer Initiative NRCS Conservation Implementation Strategy
- East Face Joint Chiefs Landscape Restoration Project
- Baker Watershed Forest Partnership NRCS Conservation Implementation Strategy

National Fire Plan

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baker Sub-Unit (Baker County)</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>7,646</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>La Grande Unit (Union County)</td>
<td>245</td>
<td>5,082</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pendleton Unit (Umatilla County)</td>
<td>353</td>
<td>5,976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wallowa Unit (Wallowa County)</td>
<td>284</td>
<td>7,896</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>977</td>
<td>26,600</td>
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Union County Forest Steward of the Year

Dan Hoyt was recognized as the Union County Forest Steward of the Year. He was awarded for his forestry work in Eastern Oregon.
Federal Forest Restoration Program

In 2013, the Oregon Legislature took an innovative step to fund the Federal Forest Restoration Program (FFRP), with the explicit intent of increasing the amount of active restoration actions on our federal forests and supporting job creation and economic recovery in rural economies. In 2014 congress authorized the Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) which allows the use of federal funds to support state agency work on federal forest projects. 2018 saw several accomplishments through FFRP funds and the start of implementation of two GNA projects with the USFS. Utilizing the GNA authority, NEO ODF is operating timber sales on the national forest which entails sale layout, marking, appraising and selling under a state timber sale contract which is compliant with operational standards on federal land. The sold timber sale will be administered by an ODF representative and receipts from the timber sale will be used to reimburse ODF costs, accomplish forest restoration activities on the ground and any remaining funds will be utilized towards implementation of the next GNA project.

In 2018 FFRP supplied 8+/- ODF seasonal fire crew members, outside of fire season, to the Forest Service to help on the timber sale program in harvest unit boundary lay-out and timber marking activities, spending a total of about $67,000.

*In addition FFR committed $15,600 towards an archeological survey contract on the La Grande Ranger District of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, $15,600 for botany surveys on the La Grande District of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest and $4,800 for wildlife surveys on the La Grande Ranger District of the Wallowa-Whitman

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Federal Forest Restoration Program</th>
<th>Federal Timber Sale Projects Supported in 2018</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Forest</td>
<td>Ranger District</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pre-Sale</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Umatilla</td>
<td>NFJD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wallowa Whitman</td>
<td>Wallowa Mtn.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sale Administration</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Umatilla</td>
<td>NFJD</td>
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<tr>
<td>GNA</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Umatilla</td>
<td>NFJD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wallowa Whitman</td>
<td>Whitman</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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My Blue Mountains Woodland Partnership

The mission of the My Blue Mountains Woodland Partnership connects landowners in Union, Baker, Umatilla and Wallowa counties with the knowledge, skills and assistance they need to be active stewards of their forests. We work together to facilitate restoration projects on public and private forestland through education and effective, locally-driven, partnerships to reduce wildfire risk, improve forest health and water quality, support sustainable markets and jobs and increase the public’s understanding of healthy forests. The partners involved are ODF, NRCS, USFS, American Forest Foundations, OSU Extension, Oregon Forest Resources Institute, Blue Mountain Cohesive Wildfire strategy and Wallowa Resources.

Firewise Community

The National Fire Protection Association’s “Firewise USA” recognition program is designed to teach people how to live with wildfire and increase their home and property’s chance of survival through proactive actions, while encouraging neighbors to work together to reduce losses and damage.

Locally, the Lostine Canyon Community with nine active landowners encompassing 14,000 acres has completed their Firewise community wildfire risk assessment and is taking the next steps in putting the plan into action. If successful, this community will be the first in northeast Oregon to become Firewise certified.

Cooperative Work Program

The District seeks out and utilizes a variety of work opportunities with private, State and Federal Cooperators which provide cross-training opportunities for permanent employees, and additional employment for many of our seasonals. In 2018, several employees worked for the Oregon Department of Transportation, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, United States Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Hancock Forest Management, and other private landowners.
Northeast Oregon District continues to have a strong Budget Committee comprised of members from the four core forest counties represented in the District. The Committee is supportive of District activities and provides valued input to manage and improve District operations.

Chris Heffernan, Union County, Budget Committee Chair, Eastern Oregon Forest Protective Association (EOFPA) member & private forest landowner and rancher
Bob Messinger, Union County, forest landowner
Joe Justice, Union County, Northeast Oregon Regional Manager for Hancock Timber Resource Group, EOFPA President
Lyle Defrees, Baker County, EOFPA Director, forest landowner & rancher
Pat Sullivan, Baker County, forest landowner & rancher
Elwayne Henderson, Wallowa County, forest landowner & forest operator
Mack Birkmaier, Wallowa County, forest landowner & rancher
Hank Howard, Umatilla County, forest & rangeland manager for Pacific Northwest Tree Farm
Bobby Corey, Umatilla County, forest landowner & rancher for Pendleton Ranches/Cunningham Sheep Co, EOFPA member

2018 Northeast Oregon District Personnel Changes

Travis Lowe — Hired in La Grande as the Stewardship Forester
Kay Rinker — Promoted to the District Business Manager
Dessia Shank — Hired in Pendleton as the Administrative Specialist
Lindsay Dalgliesh — Hired in Pendleton as a Limited Duration Natural Resource Specialist 1
Millie Miller — Retired as the District Business Manager after 27 Years of service