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Good Neighbor Authority (GNA)

The Coos Unit has begun work on the first Good Neighbor Authority project on Federal Lands in the Western Lane District. Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest impacted by the Chetco Bar fire in 2017 are in need of reforestation and safety mitigation.

While the USFS is actively preparing salvage sales themselves, capacity from ODF is bringing hazard mitigation and timber volume, in addition to USFS capacity, before loss in merchantability renders an operation a financial burden.

An agreement between ODF and USFS provided immediate funds for ODF foresters to mark and implement a road hazard mitigation timber sale. Once initial funds are expended, proceeds from the harvest of timber will reimburse ODF, ensuring the USFS covers all costs.

The Long Ridge GNA sale is set to auction February 13th, 2019. It will harvest approximately 1,901 MBF of dead or dying trees along 18 miles of road, treating approximately 200 acres. A second GNA sale will also be set up, sold and harvested in 2019.

Stewardship and SOD foresters from the Coos and Brookings offices have enjoyed getting the chance to “get back to their roots”, laying out timber sales together during several group expeditions into the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest.
The Coos Unit (Coos Bay Unit and Brookings Sub-Unit offices) administers the Private Forests Program on 1.38 million acres in Coos, Curry and Western Douglas counties. This includes the administration of the Oregon Forest Practices Act, providing assistance to family forest landowners, and treatment of the pathogen which causes Sudden Oak Death.

The purpose of the FPA is to promote forest practices that are consistent with sound management and protection of trees, soil, air, water, and fish and wildlife resources while assuring the continuous growing and harvesting of forest tree species.

The purpose of the SOD program is to limit the speed and spread of Sudden Oak Death.

Stacy Savona, the Stewardship Forester in Brookings, has spent considerable time working with landowners affected by the Chetco Bar fire in 2017.

The USDA Farm Service Agency offered potential reimbursement for certain forest cleanup activities through their Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP). While money comes directly from the USDA to the landowner, it is ODF that completes the majority of the legwork to sign landowners up, complete acceptable plans for FSA, and is the conduit between landowners and the Federal Government. Stacy, along with the help of Kelly Foster, signed up 20 landowners for a total of $1.2 million in restoration projects. Upon receiving approval from the local FSA agent, landowners will be able to complete approved practices such as removal of dead trees, reforestation, repair of forest roads, and wildlife enhancement.
Western Lane Private Forest Staff spent time engaging operators at the 80th Annual Logging Conference in Eugene in February 2018.

Timber prices continued to remain high through much of 2018, resulting in plenty of harvest notifications to keep Stewardship Foresters and front office staff busy. In addition to this workload, the 2018 fire season was busy in the Southern Oregon Area, in which the majority of the Veneta and Florence Stewardship foresters worked various assignments to aid in the fire effort.

Stewardship Forester, Robin Beisecker, retired on September 28th creating a vacancy in the Triangle Lake administrative area.

As in previous years, the Western Lane District staffed a yurt at the 80th annual Logging Conference, held at the Lane County Fairgrounds. The location of the yurt is prime, in that it provides high volumes of foot traffic to share our message and engage with folks passing by. Many thanks to Stewardship Foresters, Protection staff and Admin staff from Western Lane, West Oregon District and South Cascade Districts for their assistance.
This year was a busy year for the Sudden Oak Death Program. We started the year off with continued treatments of the European Strain (EU1) of SOD. It expanded rapidly in the Meyer’s Creek Watershed north of the initial discovery.

Treatments were proposed for a number of sites, and work began on them in the spring. Two landowners in sensitive areas were not cooperative in allowing work on their property and the decision was made by ODF and the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) to pursue administrative warrants for entry to treat SOD.

Treatment usually includes burning of the Tanoak canopies. This work typically stops during fire season. This year, there was additional funding available, so treatments went throughout the summer.

Trees were cut, lopped and piled, waiting for the winter weather to return before burning them. Going into the winter, we had a tremendous amount of piles to burn and the anticipation that it would take months to catch up. As a result of the work throughout the Summer, there was a noticeable jump in acreage that was in the process of being treated. It is estimated that 330 acres were started during 2018 and most were prepped to burn in 2019.
The treatments were a positive aspect for the year, but on the negative side, survey and detection efforts were finding EU1 infected trees at the same pace it was being treated. This included an intensification around the heaviest infected areas, which is not surprising. In addition, we are seeing a lot of new infection sites in the Winchester drainage to the south of Brookings and more trees up the Pistol River to the north. These are part of the area infected with the North American Strain of SOD. Most of these new trees were found in areas where Sudden Oak Death has been found in past years. One exception was a site found up the Pistol River that was partially on USFS property. This site is a few miles from the nearest infected site and included a number of trees.

Some good news was that in June we were contacted by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), seeking an introduction to SOD and a tour of some infected properties. They were working on a way to help cost share treatments with ODF with money from the Farm Bill.

The SOD program is also entering into a Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) with the USFS to conduct treatments on federal land with our contract crews, and oversees others being done by USFS contract crews. The work will be done in 2019 and was only in the planning stages at the end of 2018.
The Administrative Unit is responsible for providing financial, clerical and business support to the District. Western Lane is fortunate to have an experienced and knowledgeable administrative staff with a mission to provide excellent support and service to our customers. Due to the large number of programs administered on the District, we have a wide variety of customers with very specific needs and challenges.

During the summer, the Administrative Unit provides extra support to the Protection from Fire Program. Our Admin employees play a role in the suppression of large fires by spending time off District working in areas such as public information, aircraft base radio operations, expanded dispatch and payment teams.

Local dispatch is housed and supervised through the administrative unit. All IQS and ROSS functions for Western Lane are provided by admin employees.
The Western Lane State Forest Unit manages 53,555 acres of forestland within Lane, Douglas, Coos and Curry, Jackson and Josephine Counties.

2018 was a very busy and successful year for the Western Lane State Forests Unit. Some of the most significant accomplishments of the year included:

- Commencing the transfer of all land management responsibilities from the Southwest Oregon District to the Western Lane District. This added approximately 16,210 acres to Western Lane’s land management portfolio.
- Significant participation in the 2018 Fire Season.
- Auctioning 4 timber sales totaling 14.8 mmbf (million board feet) and averaging approximately $590/mbf (thousand board feet).

![Western Lane Seedling Delivery](image)
Fuels Reduction Program

Program Funding
The Fuels Reduction Program at Western Lane is grant funded and seeks to reduce the severity and associated loss from wildfires through the treatment of hazardous fuels, community outreach, education and planning. Western Lane submitted 3 grant applications in 2018, 2 of which made it for national review with awards determined early in 2019. There are currently 3 active grant areas from previous awards. All previous and proposed projects include the treatment of hazardous fuel where residential housing extends into forest lands, referred to as the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI).

Hazardous Fuel Mitigation Projects
Hazardous fuels in the forest environment are simply accumulations of vegetation which have the potential to increase fire activity. What is growing and how it is arranged within 200 feet of homes impacts how fire behaves near homes. Our very own hazardous fuel mitigation crew works on improving defensible space within our district boundary. In the last year, the crew of 4 treated over 100 homes for defensible space in the WUI! This is tough work in cold, wet conditions. The crew cuts and chips blackberries, tree limbs and suppressed/dying conifers, often in areas with poison oak. The Fuels Crew is composed entirely of summer firefighters including a Task Force Leader, and 2 single resources bosses. They are instrumental in suppressing early and late season fires when seasonal firefighters are not around. In 2018 outside of fire season, they suppressed 10 wildfires on district and responded to multiple off district resource requests, including California’s Camp Fire through Thanksgiving.

Community Outreach and Education
Firewise Communities are neighbors and communities who take proactive steps to mitigate their home and community’s wildfire risk. To facilitate the creation of these communities, the fuels crew team conducted 10 community meetings and a regional panel discussion regarding wildfire risk and prevention activities to nearly 300 residents. Western Lane now has 5 active Firewise Communities. Nearly 4000 letters were sent to residents in the WUI with information on defensible space and wildfire prevention. This outreach included over 400 home defensible space evaluations with 153 acres of treatments currently added for the 2018/2019 Fuels Crew season.

Community Planning
A major long term planning tool for strategic wildfire mitigation is a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). This guiding document for communities and fire response agencies aim at a collaborative wildfire risk mitigation. Lane County’s 2006 CWPP is outdated, so ODF Western Lane District and South Cascade are currently leading the updated process. Lane County, BLM,USFS, Lane Fire Defense Board, U of O Professors and graduate students, and OSU extension agents are current collaborators. An updated plan is expected by the end of the 2019 calendar year. The plan will include new countywide wildfire risk maps including; risk to property, risk to infrastructure and risk to timber assets (among others). Future hazardous fuel reduction priority areas will be identified as well.
Western Lane participated in the following fire prevention activities in 2018:

- Smokey Bear visits with fire prevention messages to 24 1st grade classrooms (around 600 students) in the Spring before fire season
- Lane Fire Prevention Co-Op-joint agency prevention activities
- Posting more than 150 fire restriction signs throughout the district
- Installed 2 additional Fire Danger signs, one on Wolf Creek Road and the other one at Alderwood Fire Station on Hwy 36
- The 2018 Logging Conference
- Participant in the 2018 Operator Dinner
- Pre-Season equipment inspections for tree service companies
- Prevention talks with public utility companies
2018 Largest Incidents
- Elk Prairie Fire—2.60 acres
- Spring Blvd—.73 acres
- Canaday—2.25 acres
- Willow Creek—40.30 acres

Looking at the past 10 years, it is apparent that fire seasons are becoming much longer, with fire indices indicating hotter and drier conditions, causing us to remain in higher Industrial Fire Precaution Levels throughout the season. Fire Season was declared June 21st and remained in effect until October 26th, resulting in a 128-day season. The number of fire starts in Western Lane was average-to-high; however, the number of acres burned was well below the 10-year average.

Much of the fire season consisted of helping neighboring Districts and Associations, which in turn helped us build fire qualifications and gain experience. Mid-July brought a wave of lighting to the Southern Oregon Area, resulting in multiple fires which we spent the next 2 months assisting in various capacities. For the greater part of 2 months, we rotated 2 engines to assist in the fires that resulted from the July lightning storms.

STAT FIRES:
The number of fire starts was above average but did not set a new record in 2018. After a week at fire school in Sweet Home, fire crews were sent out late Friday evening in search of a small smoke column reported by Douglas Forest Protective Association (DFPA) detection cameras near the Douglas-Lane County line. Western Lane and DFPA crews hiked in for about 45 minutes through steep old growth to find a 1.5-acre lightning hold over on BLM ground.

The largest fire of the season was the Willow Creek Fire. It burned 40.30 acres. 18.10 of those acres were on state protected land (mostly BLM). The remaining 22.20 acres were outside of state protection.

Three of the 22 equipment fires resulted from logging operations, however the rest were from public use. In all 3 cases, the operator had the required fire equipment onsite, which allowed them to quickly respond and resulted in minimal spread to wildland.
Industrial Fire / Out of District Assignments

**Industrial Fire**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>WT1</th>
<th>SL2</th>
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<tr>
<td>IFPL 1</td>
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**Industrial Fire Precaution Levels (IFPL) LEVELS**

Due to hot and dry conditions, Regulated Use Zone WT-1 was in an Industrial Fire Precaution Level (IFPL) 3 for **47 days**, which set a 10-year record. The average number of days WT-1 is in an IFPL 3 is around 15. Regulated Use Zone SL-2 was in an IFPL 2 for **48 days**, which was significantly higher than the 10-year average of 18 days.

**Smoke Management**

When Indices decrease and we drop out of fire season, it may be several weeks before slash pile burning season begins. Western Lane County has many landowners that rely on prescribed burning to achieve their land management objectives. This includes not only burning slash piles from logging, but prescribed burning as a site preparation tool and also prescribed burning as an ecosystem management tool. Depending on the complexity of the burn, it may require a site visit and several phone conversations with meteorology staff, landowners and operators before lighting may commence. Despite accomplishing 7,700 acres and 55,000 tons; there were no verified smoke intrusions resulting from burning slash on forest operations in 2018.

**OUT OF DISTRICT**

Similar to past years, Western Lane District stayed busy assisting our neighboring Districts and Associations. The Medford/Grants Pass area experienced a large lightning event in mid-July, in which Western Lane sent resources for both initial and extended attack. During the greater part of the 2 month period following the lightning event, Western Lane rotated 2 engines to Southern Oregon to help in the extended attack efforts, along with various overhead.

- It is worth noting that 47 Western Lane District employees were sent on off-District fire assignments (including in State and Out of State).
- 47 employees worked off district or out of state
  - 13 Veneta permanent employees
  - 8 Coos & Brookings employees
  - 26 Seasonal employees
  - Staff from the following programs assisted: 2 Admin, 1 Grant Program, 3 Management, 8 Private Forests, 29 Protection, 3 State Forests and 1 SOD

A total of 11,090.25 hours were spent off district.
Other Fire Assignments

Team 3 with IC Link Smith at the Lobster Creek fire on CFPA jurisdiction.

Nature Conservancy Burning in North Carolina

Ryan Greco Visited Oklahoma for the Rhea Fire as a RESL. This was Oklahoma's largest wildfire.

Stacey Savona Avian complex Fl.

Employees Off

<table>
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<th>Role</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Admin</td>
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<td>Fire Planning Coor-</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Protection (26 Sea-</td>
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<td>sonal)</td>
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<td>SOD</td>
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2018 Western Lane Employees Off District

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Total Hours</th>
<th>Fire Assignments off district in OR, CA, OK, WA, &amp; Florida</th>
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<td>11,090</td>
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Global Supertanker drop on the Garner Complex

Saved from the South Valley Rd Fire

Rattle snake on the Ramsey Canyon Fire

Fire fighter swamp buggy in Florida

Wagner Complex sunset from the helibase
Western Lane Staff

Strike Team of Dozers

Slash burning on state land

Jason Hayzlett

Ryan G. Sunset in Gold Beach

Ariel using a laser

Coos Unit’s Ryan Greco, along with Rosemary Mannix and Tina Meyers at the Governor’s mansion receiving Public Service Ambassador Awards from Governor Kate Brown.

Robin

Andrea & Brandy

Kellen, Shane & Levi
Personnel

SERVICE AWARDS

NEW HIRES
- Kevin Gehrig 1/16/18 NRS1 State Forests Veneta
- Alex Rahmlow 4/4/18 NRS2 Fire Planning Coordinator Veneta
- Vimal Golding 10/15/18 Temp Sudden Oak Death Brookings

RETIREMENTS
- Robin Biesecker, Stewardship Forester, retired 09/28/2018

TRANSFERS
- Brian Reel, Protection Supervisor Veneta, was hired in The Dalles as a Stewardship Forester

DEVELOPMENTAL ASSIGNMENTS
- John Deegan, Permanent Forest Officer was the Protection Supervisor in Veneta, filling behind Brian Reel
- Lindsey Bottensek, WOC as a seasonal Forest Officer
- Dylan Perry, WOC as a seasonal Forest Officer

CHANGES
- Ariel Sewell, Stewardship Forester Coos Bay, left the agency to work for the USFS in Florida

Service Awards
Andrea Lively—20 years
Brian Peterson—20 years
Brandy Simmons — 10 years
Dave Kjosness—5 years
Lyle Clingman- 5 years
Isaak Post-5 years earned in 2017
Matt Grimes-5 years earned in 2015
Casey Smith-5 years earned in 2017

Robin Biesecker’s Retirement
## Western Lane Forest Protective Association Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DIRECTORS</th>
<th>ADVISORY DIRECTORS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mike Atkinson</td>
<td>Eric Johnson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Willie Bronson</td>
<td>Kristin Babbs</td>
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<td>Dave Cramsey</td>
<td>Amy Patrick</td>
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<td>Mike Emmons</td>
<td>Dan Eddy</td>
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<td>Sara Leiman</td>
<td>Dave Lorenz</td>
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<td>Garrett Yarbrough</td>
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<td>Jeff Yost</td>
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<td>Steve Ziegler</td>
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<td>Anna Yarbrough</td>
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<td>Lindsay Reaves</td>
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**IN MEMORY OF**

**Raymond Gregory**

1931-2018

Long time Association member and 29 year employee at Western Lane District.

Thank you for your service and dedication.
Western Lane District Contacts

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Fax 541-935-0731

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