



ASTORIA DISTRICT ANNUAL REPORT 2024

District Forester's Comments

Dan Goody

Looking back on 2024, I am reminded of all the things that kept members of the Astoria District busy and want to start by thanking all of them for all their service and hard work. The beginning of the year started with implementing large policy changes in all three operational divisions in the agency, with everyone doing their part to make sure that we were on schedule to successfully completing our goals for Protection from Fire, State Forests and Forest Resources. This involved a lot of planning, budgeting and monitoring our progress along with the important input from our stakeholders and members of the public.

In the Spring, we started developing our Fire prevention plans, scheduling training for various fire classes and preparing for recruitment of our seasonal fire fighters. The 2024 fire season started off at a normal pace, locally, but widespread lightning in Eastern Oregon required a record number of out-of-district deployments. This statewide record fire season did not let up until the snows flew in November. The District deployed staff to out-of-district fires for a total of 714 days or 10,425 hours, which is the equivalent of 5 FTE working in the Eastern Oregon Area.

Once fire season was finally declared over, the emergency mode was not over for our State Forests staff, as all timber sale layout production was put on hold throughout the summer and early fall. The

State Forests managers and District Operations Coordinator put their "A" game plan together and executed and are now on track to complete the FY25 AOP on time. This was not an easy task and should be widely recognized.

Due to strong leadership in our Protection Unit and supporting State Forest staff, extra efforts in fire prevention and pre-fire suppression from our seasonal firefighters, and strong support from our cooperators, the Protection from Fire Program staff was able to keep most fires small here in Clatsop County.



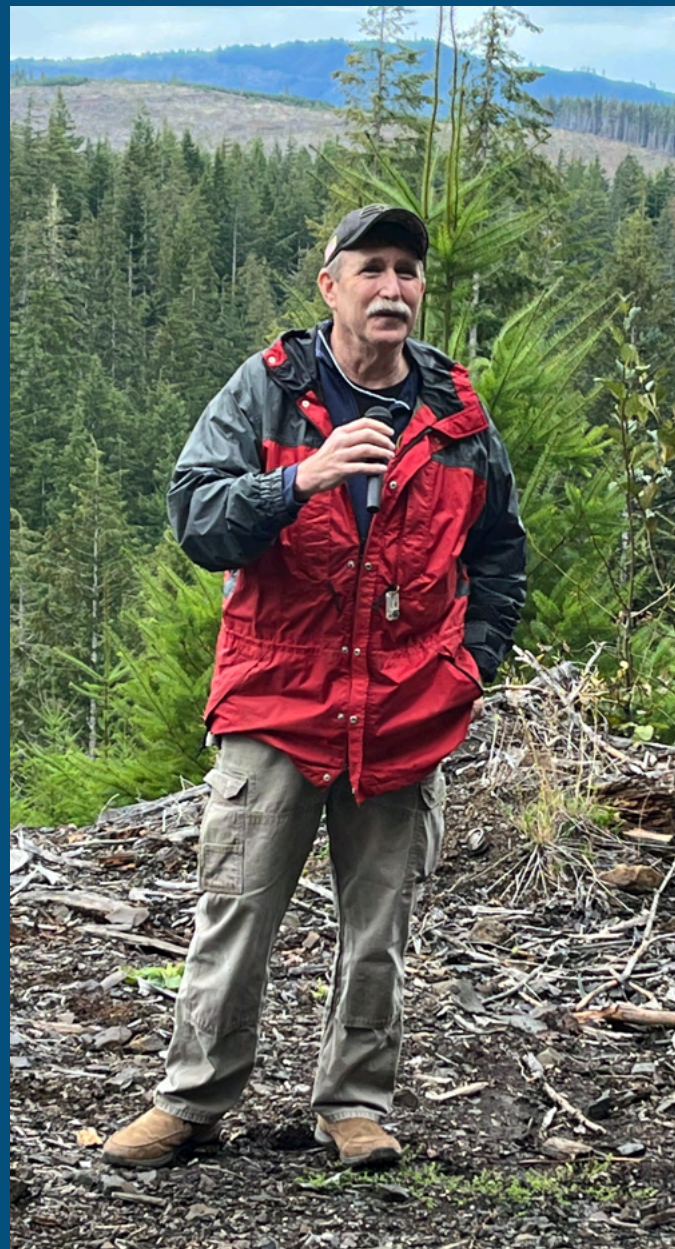
District Forester Dan Goody at Fossil Fire



Managing all the activities in the Clatsop State Forest is a year-long endeavor and due to continued demand for logs, there were a significant number of active forest operations going on throughout the year. These operations not only provided jobs for local operators and mill workers and significant revenue to Clatsop County and taxing districts, but they also allowed the District to enhance wildlife habitat and perform stream improvement projects.

The District's two Stewardship Foresters were also busy this past year administering the Forest Practices Act and ensuring that operators and private forest landowners understood the rules and were protecting water quality and the forest resources in the District.

The District understands that there is a lot of interest from the public and our stakeholders in what we are doing in Clatsop County and District employees were involved in a number of public meetings throughout the year. These included participation at several the Clatsop Board of Commissioners meetings, legislative field trips, local meetings and the annual Community Leaders Tour. We appreciate the local media's willingness to share our information regularly.



District Forester Dan Goody addresses the CFDEC tour group.

In closing, I want to state how essential all of our stakeholders, volunteers and the public are to the District. Clatsop County Commissioners and staff, local Fire Departments, forest industry, operators, landowners and many other local agencies and private organizations have helped make the District successful over the past year.

Thank you all!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dan Goody".

I hope you enjoy this report. It is also available on ODF's website at
<https://www.oregon.gov/odf/>



Protection

Neal Bond

Fire Season 2024 was another very busy season for the Oregon Department of Forestry. The first Incident Management Team (IMT) deployment occurred in early July and deployments continued all the way through the end of September. This provided many training opportunities for District personnel. A total of 10 IMT deployments occurred last summer. Each IMT was successful in their mission, while maintaining an excellent safety record.

Neal Bond completed his 13th year as the Protection Unit Forester. Ami Kreider completed her 2nd year as the Wildland Fire Supervisor. Andres Lopez completed his 6th year and the Permanent Forest Officer. Steven Jackson-Luther was hired as the seasonal Wildland Fire Dispatcher. The Unit strives to prevent and suppress all fires on forestland and quickly and as cost effectively as possible.

While fire season started early for most of the State, the Astoria District had a more typical fire season. The District went into fire season started on July 1st and fire season ended on October 16th for a total of 107 days. During fire season this year, NW-1 spent 107 days at an Industrial Fire Precaution Level (IFPL) I. NW-2 spent 51 days at an IFPL I, and 56 days at an IFPL II. Regulated use started on July 1st and ended on October 17th for a total of 107 days.

The Astoria District was able to fill 8 off District engine request this year. The first request came on July 8th, and we filled request all summer long. There were 9 total overhead requests filled last summer, including 2 out of State assignments to Texas and Alaska. In total, the Protection staff had 273 days off District for 2024.

The fire crew responded to 84 fires in 2024. This included 13 Stat fires, 1 Non-Stat fires and 70 Non-Fire Crew Action's (NFCA). The 13 Stat fires burned a total of 2.56 acres and cost approximately \$12,500 to extinguish. The cost of responding to the NFCA's was approximately \$9,050.



Above: Neal Bond at Lee Falls Fire in Forest Grove



Left: Ami Kreider viewing the solar eclipse while deployed in Texas.



Protection by the Numbers

Fire year 2024	Number of Fires	Cost	Acres Burned
NFCA	70	\$9,056	N/A
Stat Fires	13	\$12,468	2.56
Non-Stat	1	\$337	0.00
Total	84	\$21,861	2.56

Smoke Management	Number of Units	Acres	Tons
Registered	87	5,444	38,443
Planned	77	3,151	30,003
Accomplished	69	2,994	26,575



Clockwise from left: **Engine 3071:** Antonio Lopez (FO), Brooks Fromwiller (WFSS), [Michael Berger (FO)] & Treven Moreland (WFSS)

Engine 3073: Ryan Hass (WFSS) and Colby Jones (WFSS)

Engine 3076: Jordan Chandler (FO), Chad Grubb (WFSS), and Stanley Clausen (WFSS)

Engine 3077: Michael Berger (FO), Arlo Hudson (WFSS) & Hazel Lacey (WFSS)





Clockwise from top:

*Protection Unit 2024 (Left to Right)
Andres Lopez, Neal Bond, Ami
Kreider, Rob Hopkins, Craig Sorter,
and Bryce Rodgers.*

*Camp 18 decor at the NWOA 2024
Operator's Dinner.*

*Colby Jones indicates damage
found during a lightening chase.*



Forest Resources

Stewardship Forestry



Bryce Rodgers & Craig Sorter

The Astoria District Forest Resources Program had a very successful year. Bryce Rodgers completed his 5th year as a Stewardship Forester. His knowledge, skills and experience are a great asset to the District as well as the landowners and operators. Craig Sorter completed his 2nd full year as a Stewardship Forester. Craig has encountered many difficult situations and has handled them like a seasoned veteran. He has a solid understanding of the Forest Practices Act and is working well with the landowners and operators.

The Astoria District processed 398 notifications this year, which was up slightly from the previous year and right on par with the District's five-year average of 397. The Stewardship Foresters are very familiar with all the advantages and benefits of the Forest Activity Electronic Reporting and Notification System (FERNS). With the streamlined

process of FERNS, this allows them to be out in the field more, identifying issues, before they become problems. They are working with the landowners and operators to take corrective steps before an issue becomes a violation. I would also like to recognize what an amazing job the office staff does of helping customers navigate and complete notifications with FERNS.

Education, then enforcement remains the guiding principle for the Stewardship Foresters when working with landowners and operators. They are very diligent in helping the landowners accomplish their goals, while still maintaining all the protections of the Forest Practices Act. The increased efficiency of FERNS has allowed the Stewardship Foresters to give the upfront time needed so that the operation is set up for success

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) continues to be an active part of the Stewardship Foresters' job. OWEB relies heavily on the Stewardship Foresters' knowledge and expertise. This insight allows OWEB to prioritize projects, thus maximizing the available dollars. Additionally, the Stewardship Foresters are active in helping small landowners by providing knowledge and guidance.

The Department of Forestry experienced a very active fire season this year. The District had an average fire season, so this allowed for off District opportunities. Craig is a Documentation Unit Leader for ODF Incident Management Team (IMT) 1. He was dispatched to five different fires and spent a total of 53 days off District. While these fire assignments were challenging at times, he was able to learn and grow from these experiences. Bryce did an amazing job holding down the home front, while Craig was deployed. This is equally important as day-to-day operations need to continue, even though there is an emergency. We would not have been as successful without their efforts. I thank them both for their commitment to the fire program.

Year	Notice of Operations	Complaints	Unsatisfactory Conditions	Citations
2020	419	1	3	1
2021	415	0	2	2
2022	390	0	0	3
2023	364	0	2	0
2024	398	0	0	0



District Operations Coordinator's Comments

Brad Catton

State Forest lands are managed to sustain healthy, productive ecosystems that deliver lasting social, economic, and environmental benefits to the people of Oregon. The Astoria District oversees 137,000 acres of the 145,000-acre Clatsop State Forest, with the remaining portions managed by the Forest Grove and Tillamook Districts. The State Forests program is structured into three primary subunits: Timber Marketing, Reforestation, and Forest Roads. Recreation management is coordinated through the Northwest Oregon Area Office in Forest Grove, with staff assigned to the Astoria District. Alongside these responsibilities, our team plays an essential role in firefighting efforts, making significant contributions each season. The 2024 fire season included a record-breaking achievement of 714 days and 10,425 hours of fire deployments.

In these challenging times, we continue to focus on identifying revenue-generating opportunities and reducing expenses. For most of the past fiscal year, each of our units has operated with a vacant position. This, combined with the demands of fire season, the implementation of multiple forest management plans, and recent changes in forest practices, is a remarkable achievement.

As the District Operations Coordinator, I coordinate all aspects of State Forest operations in the Astoria District and am available as your first point of contact for any inquiries related to State Forest matters.



Brad Catton stands outside the Bill Lecture Demonstration Forest located on the Astoria District grounds.

Our commitment to forestry leadership is reflected in our dedication to responsible stewardship and the pursuit of positive environmental, economic, and social outcomes. I am confident that the items outlined in this report exemplify that commitment.

Notable highlights outside our regular duties include:

- April 12 – Ceremony and dedication of the Grand Fir on the Big Tree Trail at Northrup Creek Horse Camp, recognized by the Oregon Heritage Tree Program.
- April 23 – Astoria Forest Roads hosted a field day on the Clatsop State Forest, led by Cullen Bangs, covering topics such as needs assessments, road repair reviews, temporary stream crossing needs assessments, and road standards.
- May 16 & 17 – SFAC Tour, featuring a visit to the Iron Fire Unit 4 to discuss the challenges of thinning within Habitat Conservation Areas (HCAs).
- June 20 – Pollinator tour with the Tillamook/Clatsop SAF chapter, visited sites planted with wildflower seed on Hampton and ODF lands.
- September 25 & 26 – Another successful Sixth Grade Forestry Day, chaired by Will Lawrence and supported by multiple ODF districts, local natural resource groups, and community partners.

These efforts demonstrate our ongoing commitment to responsible forest management and meaningful community engagement.



Above: Society of American Foresters Tillamook & Clatsop chapter hosts a pollinator tour.



Below: Ty Williams and Dan Goody unveiling Grand Fir dedication.

State Forests Management



State Forest lands are managed to provide healthy, productive, and sustainable forest ecosystems that, over time and across the landscape, provide a full range of social, economic, and environmental benefits to the people of Oregon. Plans for management are done on a fiscal year basis, so this report will describe Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) accomplishments.

The Astoria District manages the majority of the Clatsop State Forest with minor portions managed by the Forest Grove and Tillamook Districts. The Astoria District is managed to implement the goals, objectives, and strategies of the Northwest Oregon State Forests Management Plan, which was adopted in 2001 and updated in 2010, the DRAFT Western Oregon State Forests Management Plan of 2023. Our District Implementation Plan, which was approved in 2023, is put into practice on approximately 137,000 acres. Board of Forestry land accounts for slightly over 98 percent of the ownership of the Forest; the remaining portion is Common School lands.



*Left, Top: A sunny day in Clatsop State Forest.
Left, Bottom: Pollinator site seeded at
Splinter Cell timber sale.
Right: A timber truck hauls a load from
Clatsop State Forest.*



Marketing

John Tillotson



Left to Right: Justin Bush, Kevin Berry, Michele Huffman, John Czarnecki, John Tillotson, Avery Peterson, and Ryan Simpson.

Timber harvesting operations which include thinning, regeneration harvests, and patch cuts continued as the primary tools used to actively achieve stand structure targets set out in the Forest Management Plan. BOF Timber auctions for FY24 comprised 51.643 MMBF generating approximately \$24.97 million in anticipated timber revenue, with just over \$15.96 million anticipated to be distributed to Clatsop County and local taxing districts. In addition, anticipated CSF harvest volumes for FY24 comprised 2,118 MBF generating approximately \$780,780 in anticipated timber revenue.

The Marketing Unit, led by John Tillotson, was comprised of Natural Resource Specialists, Kevin Berry, Avery Petersen, Justin Bush, Michele Huffman, Ryan Simpson, and John Czarnecki. In the past fiscal year, the District's marketing unit was able to complete all the fieldwork and contract preparation for all planned FY24 timber sales, using an integrated forest management approach involving input from the District's Forest Marketing, Reforestation, and Forest Roads Units. In addition to the Astoria AOP accomplishments, Astoria Marketing Unit staff prepared the Lost Creek South timber sale for the Tillamook District for a total of 5.8 MMBF of timber with a value of \$1,015,662.

Timber Sale auction bids for the Astoria District in FY2024 averaged \$516 and an average of \$588 for all State Forests. The District's prepared FY24 Sale Plan consisted of 10 timber sales, eight of which were marketed and sold, two pushed to FY2025 and one additional salvage sale. Project costs of the prepared sale plan totaled (\$1,704,821) 6.4% of the estimated sold gross revenue. Rock crushing continues to be the District's highest project cost as a percentage of planned work.



Marketing

continued



John Tillotson stands beside a deck of logs at Easy Wages Timbersale.

The District experienced a 23% decrease in firewood permit sales this year from 695 permits in 2023 to 538 in 2024. This may be attributed to a decrease in readily available wood cutting material nearer to populated areas. Permits are available by management basin and are for sale five days a week during business hours. There is no limit to the number of permits sold per basin, but we still have a limit of five permits per individual and household per year.

Demand for special forest products decreased by 29% from 181 permits in 2023 to 140 permits in FY2024. Moss and Salal are the two forest products that generate the most commercial interest from the public. Other special forest products include boughs, ferns, mushrooms, vinemapple, spruce-poles, pulp decks, biomass, and miscellaneous plants.

Forest Products	Number	Estimated Volume	Estimated Net Revenue
Timber Sales FY 24	4	51.64	\$22,964,255
Timber Harvested	--	59.39 MMBF	\$30,324,341
Misc. Forest Products	140	Permits	\$13,800
Woodcutting Sales	538 permits	1,076 cords	\$10,760
Partial Cut Acres	316	--	--
Clear Cut Acres	1,286	--	--

Forest Roads

Cullen Bangs

In conjunction with District and Department staff, the Forest Roads Unit works to provide support and recommendations in forest transportation planning, fish passage upgrades, rock quarry management, forest road infrastructure maintenance, land survey needs, district easements, special use permits and timber sale project plans.

Astoria District Forest Road Accomplishments	
Miles of Road Improved	64.9
Miles of Road Constructed	4.7
Miles of Roads Vacated	2.5

In 2024, Chris Scott promoted to a Natural Resource Specialist 2 in the Forest Legacy program.

The Forest Roads Manager is Cullen Bangs. Members of the Forest Roads team include: Forest Roads Coordinators; Kraig Kirkpatrick and Cole Hatcher. Forest Road Specialists; Dewain Farner and Brittany West. The Astoria Road Crew includes Equipment Operators; Jeremy MacDonald and Steve Aiken.

The unit supported the Marketing Unit with the Annual Operating Plan by providing specialized assistance and assembling components of timber sale contracts.



Roads Unit: Kraig Kirkpatrick, Cole Hatcher, Dewain Farner, Steve Aiken, Brittany West, Jeremy MacDonald, and Cullen Bangs



Reforestation

Will Lawrence



Above: Reforestation Unit: Will Bennett, Jordan Chandler, Will Lawrence, and Tony Rudolphi.

Below, Right: Blue skies over Lost Lake Road.

Reforestation Accomplishments	Acres
Tree Planting Acres /Initial	1,346
Tree Planting Acres/Interplant	157
Total trees planted	464,640
Chemical Site Prep Acres/Aerial	647
Chemical Release Acres / Aerial	0
Chemical Release Acres/Backpack	0
Mechanical Release Acres	81
Site Prep Pile Burning Acres	1,365
Pre-commercial thinning Acres	166

The Reforestation Unit, led by Will Lawrence, is responsible for establishing trees and young stand management after the completion of harvesting. This is done through various methods, such as slash piling, site preparation, thinning, mechanical and chemical vegetation control and planting the site with the appropriate tree species and stock type to achieve a specific desired future condition.

The unit is currently staffed with Will Bennett, Jordan Chandler, and Tony Rudolphi.

South Fork adults in custody crews continue to provide extensive support to the district Reforestation Program through planting, trapping, mechanical vegetation control work, thinning, noxious weed control efforts, and other reforestation activities.



Administration

Suzanne Como

The Administration Unit provides all clerical, administrative, and business management support to the District while excelling in both external and internal customer service. The unit, led by Suzanne Como, is currently staffed with Melissa Payne, Micah Sanguinetti and Jiang Fei Koch. Melissa completed her first full calendar year with the agency while Micah rejoined us in January after a month off as seasonal dispatcher. Jiang Fei Koch joined the team in June. They handle all Miscellaneous Forest Product and woodcutting permits, State Forests and Protection Admin, procurement, and payroll for the district along with many other functions.

The Admin unit showed excellent teamwork, flexibility, and willingness to fill in where needed. We discovered and refined new business practices to serve our customers which required quick thinking and creativity. We also improved our Incident Finance skills with abundant opportunities to help with remote fire finance work. Jiang Fei's main focus is State Forest Admin but she provides support to all programs. Melissa led the front office functions with a focus on excellent customer service for all programs. Micah's main focus was supporting the Protection program and the front office.



Left to right: Suzanne Como (District Business Manager), Stephen Jackson-Luther (Seasonal Dispatcher), Jiang Fei Koch (AS1), Melissa Payne (AS1), and Micah Sanguinetti (AS1)



Astoria District
2024

