It is my pleasure to present to you the 2021 Central Oregon District Annual Report. As the interim District Forester, I have been blessed to work with an extremely dedicated and talented group of individuals who go above and beyond to accomplish the mission in serving the landowners across Central Oregon. Below you will find a brief overview of the accomplishments from this past year. A special thanks goes out to the John Day Unit staff for assembling and publishing this report.

When I think about the calendar year of 2021, I cannot understate the workload associated with Covid and the surge of E-Board funding which was later solidified with the passing of SB 762. Covid continues to complicate and add complexity to everything we do, but I am thankful for the health of our employees and their resilience as we navigate through this pandemic. Increased E-Board funding and the passage of SB 762 has dominated the conversation this past year, affecting every program and employee in various ways. The E-Board funds added 32 new positions to the agency and provided 5 million dollars for fuel reduction work to be completed prior to the end of the fiscal year, June 30th. Working through hiring these new positions and the additional workload associated with the fuel reduction projects in a compressed timeframe challenged the agency, and the district as we were preparing for the upcoming fire season. Three permanent positions and additional man months for seasonal firefighter positions within the district were funded through this process. This created a domino effect across the Agency and District resulting in 17 people working "out-of-class" or in developmental roles across the district. The work accomplished by the District Staff was nothing short of miraculous and proved once again the employees of Central Oregon District are highly capable and serve our landowners in the highest of regards.

According to the numbers, 2021 appears to be an average fire season, accounting for a total of 117 fires across the district, burning approximately 5,000 acres. What wasn’t average about the fire season was the number of days we were in fire season. In 2021, we declared fire season for a total of 154 days, the longest on record, compared to our 10-year average of 130 days. The seasons are getting longer and no more evident than the Bull Springs fire outside of Tumalo that burned over 200 acres on March 28th and invoked level 3 evacuations on a Sunday afternoon. Overall, the fire season started fast and furious with fire starts quadrupled during the month of April, but thankfully we only received a quarter of the average fire starts in August due to the lack of lightning. Without this reprieve our statistics for fire starts and acres burned would have been drastically different.

The District’s Stewardship Foresters remain busy administering and providing technical assistance for Oregon’s Forest Practices Act (FPA). Their workload continues to grow and expand as they coordinate with partners to distribute grant dollars for fuels reduction projects across the landscape. In a relatively short time frame our Stewardship Foresters and Federal Forest Restoration coordinator were able to implement a half million dollars of fuel reduction treatment on 700 acres in coordination with local cooperators and contractors across the district. All of this is remarkable considering they had only a few months to plan and implement this opportunity prior to the end of the fiscal year in June of 2021.

These great accomplishments do not come without the efforts of an efficient and productive administrative staff. The admin staff continues to lead the agency in business services, utilizing technology in multiple facets to accomplish the mission in support of field operations. Whether managing the budget, paying fire bills, completing audits, or tracking grants for our landowners; our admin staff is highly dedicated to the mission and their work efforts demonstrate it in accuracy and cost savings to our landowners.

Overall, 2021 was a very successful year for the district. There were zero serious safety accidents to report which is outstanding considering the amount of exposure during another long and extended fire season. I’m grateful to give you a brief overview of the amazing team I work with. As you read this report, my hope is that you will see the demonstrated efforts of the Central Oregon District employees and our best efforts to serve the landowners of Central Oregon.

Interim District Forester

Rob Pentzer
**Board/SB 762 Job Rotations**

*Mike Shaw*—Protection Division Chief  
*Rob Pentzer*—District Forester  
*Kiel Nairns* - District Wildland Fire Supervisor, Assistant District Forester  
*Ryan Miller* - Assistant Area Director  
*Chase Duncan*—Assistant Area Director  
*Cameron Scott*—Federal Forest Restoration Manager  
*Tracy Wrolson*—Statewide MGO Fiscal Analyst  
*Alexis Webb*—District Business Manager  
*Tara Bandor*—District Fire Planner  
*Taylor Schmadeka*—State Aviation Operations Coordinator  
*Chris Cook*—John Day Fire Program Manager (FM1)  
*Amanda Zinn*—John Day Wildland Fire Supervisor, District AS2  
*Ben Duda*—COIDC Assistant Center Manager  
*Chris Dayton*—Sisters Wildland Fire Supervisor  
*Eric Metzger*—Sisters Permanent Forest Officer  
*Kody Johannsen*—Prineville Stewardship Forester  
*Rick Fletcher*—The Dalles Wildland Fire Supervisor  
*Adam Cavender*—The Dalles Permanent Forest Officer

**Service Awards**

*5 years*  
Tanner Moodenbaugh, John Day Forest Officer  
*10 years*  
Sean Dahlberg, The Dalles WFSS  
*15 years*  
Tracy Wrolson, District Business Manager  
*20 years*  
Chris Dayton, Sisters Forest Officer  
*30 years*  
Gordon Foster, Prineville Unit Forester

**New Hires/Promotions**

Tyler Moodenbaugh, JD Perm Forest Officer  
Brandon Vos, JD Fire & Ice FO  
Tanner Moodenbaugh, JD Fire & Ice FO  
Hailey Hughes, AS2 Lead Dispatcher, JDIDC  
Shelly Speakman, JD Temp OS2  
Erick Finnell, TD Community Wildfire Forester  
Brandon Ferguson, JD Community Wildfire Forester  
Tyler Wright, Fossil Perm Forest Officer  
Josh Wood, JD NRS1  
Justin Tryon, JD NRS1  
Kevin Mitchel, Fossil Fire & Ice FO

**Resignations/Retirements**

Tara Bandor  
Chris Lewis  
Karen Spencer  
Mel Guard  
Austin Reimer
The 2021 fire season for Central Oregon District saw significant additions in the protection program through E-Board funding. The District added a Wildland Fire Supervisor and a Fire Planner, and the John Day Unit added a Fire Program Manager. COD was also able to bring on seasonal employees in early spring for grant work, adding capacity for early season fires in COD and across the Eastern Oregon Area.

The Dalles and Prineville units entered fire season May 15th with the John Day Unit following June 1st. COD entered Regulated-Use on June 24th. All COD units saw early spring fires and the District sent multiple resources to other districts to support their early fires.

2021 COD Totals—119 fires for 5,063.29 acres
10 Year COD Average—136 for 8,868.61 acres
The first significant fire of 2021 was the Bull Springs Fire (211 acres) that occurred the last week of March west of Bend. Engines from around COD were mustered along with a corrections crew from Deer Ridge Correctional Institution. As fire season progressed into late June The Dalles Unit was involved in the multijurisdictional S-503 Fire, which started on the Warm Springs Reservation and burned onto ODF protected holdings. Ultimately the fire was managed by a Type 2 IMT, working for ODF and the Warm Springs Tribe.

On June 30th COD was tested when lightning ignited the Lewis Rock Fire (368 acres) and Bologna Fire (164 acres) on the Fossil Sub-Unit. Due to record high Energy Release Component (ERC) and challenging fuel and terrain, the Lewis Rock incident was difficult to control and an ODF IMT was ordered. On July 1st another lightning event started several more fires on the John Day Unit with the most significant being the 541 acre Dixie Creek incident. A Type 3 team managed the incident.

On July 11th, during a period of critical fire weather, the Grandview Fire began north of Sisters. It was a wind-driven fire that burned 5,971 acres before being brought under control over a week later by the COFMS Type 3 Team, ODF IMT and OSFM Team.

July 29th lightning started the Cottonwood Incident in the Fossil Sub-Unit which burned 159 acres and was managed by a T3 organization. The incident was caught by aggressive initial attack and was lined that night. On August 2nd another round of lightning started several fires across the John Day Unit. Cole Canyon at 159 acres was taken care of by the unit. Black Butte incident started on the Malheur NF and spread to involve ODF protected lands. Black Butte consumed 22,348 acres with 554 ODF acres involved. An interagency team managed the incident. The District provided several overhead personnel, engines, crews, and aircraft to assist in controlling the incident.

August 2021 will be remembered as an unusually quiet month for COD with well below average lightning and fire activity.

- August 2021 COD totals—16 fires, burning 710.32 acres
- 10-Year COD August Average—44 fires, burning 6,486.73 acres

The last significant fire of the season started on September 9th in the John Day Unit. The Big Meadow incident burned 2,630 acres with 973 ODF protected acres involved.

Extreme conditions and fire behavior on top of a shortage of available resources made the 2021 fire season challenging but due to great initial attack and shifting of resources from fire to fire and around the district as needs changed allowed COD to keep acres burned below the 10-year average.

After 138 days fire season was declared over on October 16, 2021.
In 2021 ODF received emergency funding that allowed the severity program to bring on all of the aviation resources in COD during June using call when needed (CWN) agreements before the start of their normal 75 exclusive use contracts that start in July.

The Dalles Unit hosted two Fire Boss scooping single engine air tankers through a new ODF contract funded by E-Board and Severity dollars and were put to work immediately. Notably the Fire Bosses were ordered and used for the first time in Oregon’s history under a new agreement with Oregon’s Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) to aid in suppressing the Wrentham Market Road and Sunset Valley View fires, both in “under protected” areas outside of the District boundary. Through the season, there were countless impressive catches through aggressive initial attack and the use of the newly hosted aircraft on ODF, WDNR and federal jurisdictions in Oregon and Washington.

Central Oregon District continues to maintain membership with three fire prevention cooperatives; Central Oregon Fire Prevention Cooperative, Grant and Harney County Fire Prevention Cooperative, and Mid-Columbia Fire Prevention Cooperative. These co-ops are comprised of federal, state, county, city, rural, and some private entities. In total, these cooperatives span eight counties in Oregon, and two in Washington.

In the era of COVID, the units have gotten creative in fire prevention activities. The Mid-Columbia Fire Prevention Co-op produced a video to be distributed to schools in lieu of getting into classrooms in person.

2021 also saw the establishment of the first Fire Wise Community in The Dalles Unit with the Paradise Ridge Community. John Day Unit saw the addition of another Fire Wise Community with the Corral Gulch Community receiving official recognition. Prineville-Sisters Unit was quite busy this past year with the addition of 14 new Fire Wise Communities in Deschutes and Crook counties.
Columbia Cascade Interagency Communication Center

Columbia Cascade Interagency Communication Center welcomed a new Center Manager, Jeff Walther in June from Region 3, Coconino NF. Plenty of changes were implemented with the end goal of upgrading technology. The center also said good-bye to Karen Spencer, the ODF Assistant Center Manager at the end of September.

Columbia supported the new fire bosses with the help of our federal aircraft dispatchers. The benefit of having a skilled aircraft desk was immeasurable and the total acres burned clearly showed the benefit.

John Day Interagency Dispatch Center

In February, Lisa Davis was selected as the Center Manager for JDIDC. In June Hailey Hughes joined ODF as the AS2 Lead Dispatcher. This position joins two existing ODF seasonal positions, contributing to an interagency staffing of Forest Service and Oregon Department of Forestry personnel. Despite the fact this was a developing and or training year for the center we were able to successfully complete operations as needed.

The dispatch center dispatched support to 109 different incidents including but not limited to COVID 19 Pandemic Support, Prescribed Fire Support, and Wildfires.

Central Oregon Interagency Dispatch Center

Central Oregon Interagency Dispatch Center filled 3 Camera Detection positions last year, two Wildland Fire Dispatchers and two lookouts staffing Henkle Lookout. COIDC has started rotating dispatchers between functional area to improve center resiliency and flexibility to the shifting workloads and to expand experience. Hayden Evens detailed to Lakeview Interagency Dispatch Center (LIFC) to provide coverage and relief for several days.
The Central Oregon District Private Forest Program assists landowners in a variety of forest management activities. Some of these include implementation of the Forest Practices Act, grant administration, commercial thinning, pre-commercial thinning, smoke management, and supporting the Protection Division. The stewardship foresters continue to assist with the NRCS programs as time allows.

425 new notifications were received by the District with 140 Notifications being continued from 2021. Market conditions for eastside timber remained stable with and the white-fir market continued to remain strong. Logging activity slowed during the months of August, September, and October as many of the District’s Operators were involved in fire suppression activities statewide. There were no fires caused within the District from industrial activities in 2021.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2021 FPA Accomplishments by Unit</th>
<th>TD</th>
<th>JD</th>
<th>PVL/SIS</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2021 NOAPs</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>425</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020 Con. NOAP’s</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FPA Inspections</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>404</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Inspections</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Written Plans</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Funding opportunities are increasing across the state for NRCS thinning projects, and the old model of putting that workload on Stewardship Foresters was beginning to be ineffective. Every unit in the COD has experienced an increasing workload and had to add capacity to address it.

In the Dalles, Mel Gard retired in August. Mel worked part-time and was replaced by a full-time community wildfire forester. This position was increased to full-time in order to satisfy the increasing demand for grant opportunities and NRCS work.

Over the past year The Dalles Unit has worked closely with its NRCS partners in Wasco and Hood River County. There is major landscape difference between the two NRCS counties that The Dalles unit supports. Most of the work in Wasco County encompasses Pine Oak stands, while in Hood River County mixed conifer stands dominate the workload.

Prineville & Sisters Stewardship Foresters were responsible for NRCS accomplishments in 2021. The increasing work exceeded the amount of time they could allot once the Joint Chiefs and other funding opportunities began to compound. As exemplified by the layout acres in 2021, there is a rapidly increasing workload which justified adding a full-time NRS2 NRCS Forester in 2022.

The Dalles Accomplishments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wasco County Acres</th>
<th>Inventory</th>
<th>Layout</th>
<th>Certification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>932</td>
<td>932</td>
<td>388</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hood River County Acres</th>
<th>Inventory</th>
<th>Layout</th>
<th>Certification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>159</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>54</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
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Prineville/Sisters Accomplishments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crook County Acres</th>
<th>Inventory</th>
<th>Layout</th>
<th>Certification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>736</td>
<td>2,410.5</td>
<td>144.6</td>
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</table>

John Day started the year with a full-time NRCS Forester, a full-time AFF Forester, and 30% of a Stewardship Forester working on NRCS/AFF work. After an assessment of the upcoming workload, it was determined that there was enough work for an additional 2.3 positions. The forester team in John Day now consists of an NRS2 Lead NRCS Forester, two NRS1 NRCS Foresters, an NRS1 AFF Forester, 30% of the NRS2 Community Wildfire Forester, and 30% of the NRS2 Stewardship Forester all focused on accomplishing the AFF/NRCS workload.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>John Day/Fossil Unit Accomplishments</th>
<th>Inventory</th>
<th>Layout</th>
<th>Certification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grant County Acres</td>
<td>636</td>
<td>1,156</td>
<td>821</td>
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<tr>
<td>Morrow County Acres</td>
<td>1,794</td>
<td>3,579</td>
<td>1,945</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wheeler-Gilliam County Acres</td>
<td>919</td>
<td>1,838</td>
<td>694</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plans</th>
<th>Plan Acres</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>8,779</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>6,527</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>18,411</td>
</tr>
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The Central Oregon District Forest Resource Division assisted landowners in a variety of forest management activities in 2021. Under the grant portion of our Forest Resource division, we assist landowners with cost-share incentives to complete fuels reduction projects to reduce fire hazards and strengthen forest health and defensible space on primarily non-industrial landowners. Grant work is being completed in each unit of the Central Oregon District. These grants are mostly federal grants such as Community Assistance Grants and Western State Fire Managers.

The table below shows grant accomplishments by Unit within the District:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant Name</th>
<th>Landowner Signed Cost Shares</th>
<th>Signed Cost Share Acres</th>
<th>Total # of Acres Treated</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prineville/Sisters Unit</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Billy Chinook</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>151.5</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>Active</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buttes to Basins</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Active/New</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater La Pine</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>360</td>
<td>342</td>
<td>Completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater La Pine 2</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>161.7</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>Active</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater Sisters</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>443</td>
<td>232</td>
<td>Active</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Prineville</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>524</td>
<td>355</td>
<td>Active</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Deschutes</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>476</td>
<td>418</td>
<td>Completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Prineville</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Active/New</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three Creeks</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Active/New</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Dalles Unit</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-Mile Grant</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>109.5</td>
<td>34.5</td>
<td>Active</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oak Restoration LSR</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>237</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>Active</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joint Chiefs Work</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>Active</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GNA Work-E-board</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>Active</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White River Wildlife Area CA</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>Active</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Day Unit</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Granite/Greenhorn WSFM</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>209</td>
<td>Completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheeler-Morrow CA</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Active</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SFJDP LSR</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>503</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Active</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant Co Road Brushing E-board</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Completed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Central Oregon District Forest Resource Division assisted landowners in a variety of forest management activities in 2021. Under the grant portion of our Forest Resource division, we assist landowners with cost-share incentives to complete fuels reduction projects to reduce fire hazards and strengthen forest health and defensible space on primarily non-industrial landowners. Grant work is being completed in each unit of the Central Oregon District. These grants are mostly federal grants such as Community Assistance Grants and Western State Fire Managers.

The table below shows grant accomplishments by Unit within the District:
The Federal Forest Restoration (FFR) program continued to expand last year in the Central Oregon District (COD) through the growth of Good Neighbor Authority (GNA), continued engagement with local Forest Collaborative groups and the emerging Central Oregon Shared Stewardship Alliance (COS2A), and an increase in staffing and capacity that came out of the 2021 legislative session. The FFR program in COD supports restoration activities on the Deschutes, Ochoco, Malheur and Mt. Hood national forests.

In 2021, four Technical Assistance and Science Support (TASS) grants were awarded to support Forest Collaborative groups in COD. The FFR Coordinator was also involved in the creation and development of COS2A, an all-lands stewardship group which brings together a wide group of diverse partners in order to help coordinate cross-boundary, landscape-scale, holistic restoration.

The FFR program continued in its mission of increasing the pace, scale, and quality of restoration on federal lands by coordinating Supplemental Project Agreements (SPA) with each of the National Forests. In 2021, ODF took on a variety of projects through GNA, such as timber sales (In 2021, the FFR program accomplished both the Malheur and Deschutes National Forests’ first GNA timber sales), unit layout, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) planning work, like contract heritage surveys and Categorical Exclusions (CE), and fuels reduction implementation, both through contracts and with ODF fuels crews. In addition to this NEPA work done through GNA, six Planning Assistance and Categorical Exclusion (PACE) grants were awarded to National Forests in COD, which provide for additional NEPA work to be performed on federal lands through ODF contracts.

Fuels crews in The Dalles and John Day units have continued to do an excellent job of implementing on-the-ground activities, including fuels treatments, unit layout, and prescribed burn preparation, in a variety of project areas, with seasonal firefighters bolstering capacity on the shoulder seasons. In 2021, shoulder season firefighters from the Prineville-Sisters Unit also implemented fuels reduction projects on the Deschutes National Forest and assisted with slash pile burning associated with a GNA timber sale.
For the 2021 calendar year, we continued to navigate the challenges around the COVID-19 pandemic. Our offices remained closed to the public except by appointment, and most employees continued to telecommute as much as possible. Mask wearing and vaccine mandates were implemented across all agencies within Oregon’s Executive Branch. We again successfully navigated a busy fire season and managed to have relatively few COVID-19 cases spreading through fire camps or our personnel.

One of the big strides the agency has made to promote employee wellness this year was to partner with Responder Life. Their staff provides support for first responders and their families in coping with the stress of the job, and serious events they may encounter. This service is offered to all our employees and has already provided a great benefit in dealing with the effects of the pandemic as well as the devastating fire seasons over the recent past.
COD FIRE FINANCE

COD finance staff continued their hard work during the 2021 Fire season adapting to working in a remote environment. While we had many fires on the landscape, we were able to succeed in implementation of new virtual processes and provided emergency response as needed to our employees, cooperators, and landowners.

In October of 2021, Tracy Wrolson Business Manager stepped into an MGO Fiscal Analyst position for the remainder of 2021 through June 2023. This allowed for Alexis Webb to fill in as the interim District Business Manager. With this movement Amanda Zinn was able to fill in as the interim Administrative Specialist 2. Shelly Speakerman was able to back fill for the OS2 in John Day. We appreciate Shelly coming back into our staff for the 2021 fire season.

While COD Finance staff has had some changes in personnel, we have been able to maintain our teamwork and implementation of our new processes. Our current business model and work structure has allowed for great success in the COVID environment.

We continue to progress and look for more ways to increase our customer service to provide a level of service our landowners deserve.

COD BUDGET COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**Chris Johnson, Chair,** Deschutes County Shanda Asset Management  
**John Breese, Crook County, Breese Ranch/Forest Landowner**  
**Roy Beyer, Crook County, Forest Landowner**  
**MT Anderson, Grant County, Rancher**  
**Sharon Livingston, Grant County, Ranch/Forest Landowner**  
**Dan Bishop, Grant County, D.R Johnson**  
**Archie Osborn, Grant County, Rancher/Forest Landowner**  
**Doug Thiesies, Hood River County, Forester**  
**Jeremy Grose, Hood River County, SDS Lumber**  
**Cecelia Wiley, Wasco County, Forest Landowner**