

Central Oregon District 2024 ANNUAL REPORT



The Dalles Stewardship Forester, Brian Reel, gives Oregon Governor update of Larch Creek Fire in Wasco County

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District Forester Message

It is my privilege to present the 2024 Central Oregon District Annual Report. As the District Forester, I am honored to work alongside a team of dedicated and skilled professionals who are committed to serving our landowners throughout the district. This was most evident over the long and enduring historic fire season of the district burning 235,337 acres and another 120,000 acres on private lands offset to federal agencies. From a district that averages less than 10,000 acres over the last 10-year period, this fire season was significant and created an increased workload including forest resources in post fire salvage and administration to pay all the vendors and cost shares that resulted from 28 Incident Management Teams and an additional 6 Type 3 Teams on the district.

The fire protection program had a remarkable year regarding holding it altogether and surviving, as a team, the most difficult fire season on record. Without a culture of strong leadership, commitment, and willingness to help each other out, the 2024 fire season would have been even more detrimental than what occurred. District staff and partners were successful at keeping communities from being burned over due to their passion to protect the Oregonians we serve. For the district, fire season began in June with the Darlene 3 Fire outside the city limits of La Pine, followed by the Larch Creek Fire in early July outside of Dufur. We ended the fire season in October with every community in Grant County having been threatened by or in level 3 evacuation at least once, if not multiple times throughout the fire season.

The Forest Resources team consisting of Stewardship Foresters, Community Wildfire Foresters, NRCS Foresters, and Federal Forests Restoration Foresters continue to excel in the implementation of all three legs of the cohesive wildfire strategy. No other district in the state has intentionally sought after grant dollars and chased down more opportunities to assist our landowners with fuels reduction and home hardening grant opportunities than our district. I must also mention their efforts and the support they provided on fires as part of the agency's fire militia, which continues to allow us the flexibility to do more and provide the help our fire teams require. And somehow, they still manage to help landowners salvage burned timber and provide technical assistance for post fire recovery while implementing and administering federal and state grants and programs to meet landowner objectives.

Central Oregon District's administration team remains the backbone of the district, ensuring fiscal support and accountability for smooth operations while enabling field staff to fulfill our mission. They continue to lead the agency in business services, leveraging technology to enhance efficiency in support of all aspects of field operations. Whether managing budgets, processing fire-related expenses, conducting audits, or tracking grants for landowners, their dedication is evident in their accuracy and cost-saving measures that benefit our community.

Overall, 2024 was a difficult but highly successful year for the district. We maintained effective fire containment strategies, assisted landowners in achieving landscape management objectives, and, most importantly, had zero serious safety incidents, something for which I am truly grateful. As you review this report, I hope you recognize the dedication and hard work of the Central Oregon District employees in serving the landowners of Central Oregon.

District Forester,

Rob Pentzer



Safety and Wellness

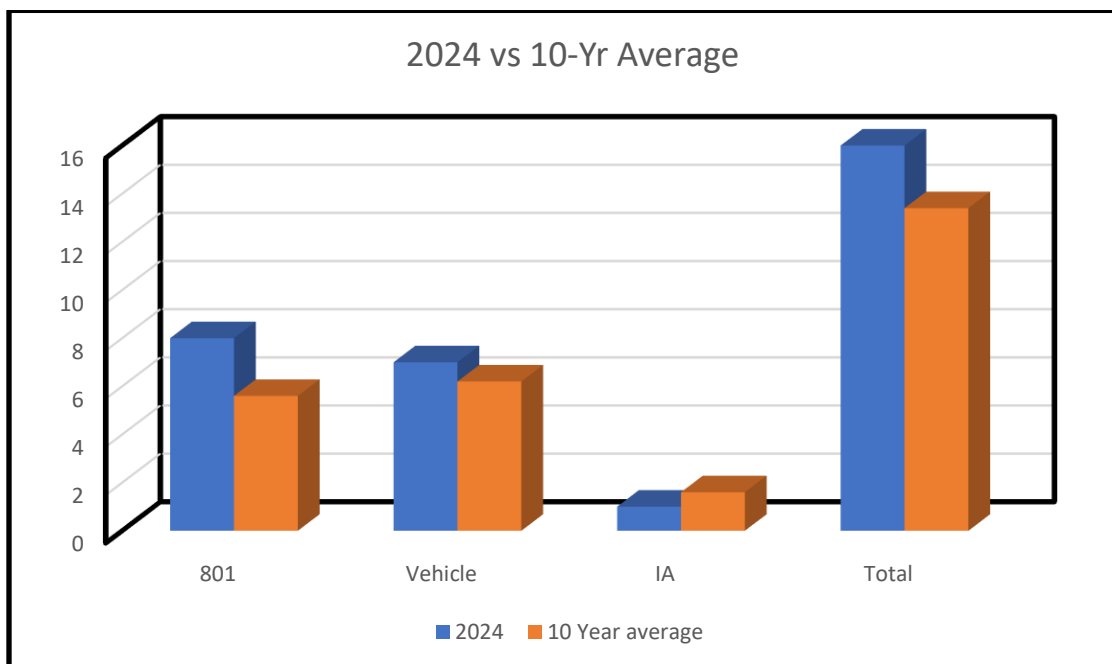
The COD safety Committee is comprised of both seasonal and permanent staff and meets monthly to discuss safety concerns, review near miss and Incident Analysis reports, and implement strategies for continuous safety improvement. As we work to strengthen our safety culture, the committee continues to evolve, welcoming new members who bring fresh perspectives and a renewed commitment to our mission.

In 2024 some key projects the Safety Committee worked on were: Aligning ATV and UTV safety training and policy needs for COD with the State of Oregon Policy and revising our Job Hazard Analysis Templates. In addition to our structured safety initiatives, we actively promote and utilize Peer to Peer resources, ensuring employees have access to the support they need.

This year 8 COD employees participated in The Red Cross First Aid and CPR train the trainer course allowing them to provide this important training to employees on their individual units. Additionally, 10 team members completed Family and Hospitality Liaison training, enhancing our ability to support employees and their families during critical incidents.

By investing in our people and fostering a culture of preparedness, we ensure that safety remains a priority in everything we do.

Below is a summary of personal injury (801/IA) and vehicle incidents in 2024 as compared to the 10-year average. Higher injury numbers were somewhat attributed to poison oak exposure and physical training incidents. Slightly higher vehicle incidents were attributed to more fire related accidents. However, given the substantially increased exposure to COD employees based on the number of total hours worked, the 2024 numbers below demonstrate the level of focus and emphasis that District employees put on employing safe work practices.



Protection from Fire

Air Attack Photo of Darlene Fire

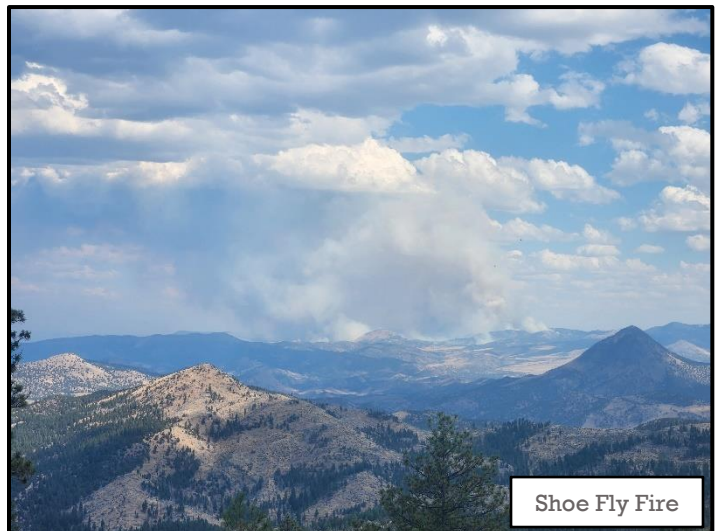


Fires season 2024 was a notably historic one for the State of Oregon with a total of 1.9 million acres burned, 314,181 acres of which were on ODF protected lands. For Central Oregon District, fire season 2024 saw the pendulum swing drastically higher in the total number of acres burned while the total number of fires stayed close to the 10-year average. The season resulted in 116 total fires across COD, which was close to par with our 10-year average being 124 total fires across the District. In contrast, the total acres burned is where the District saw the most drastic increase, reporting 235,336.81 acres burned in 2024 as compared to our 10-year average of 6,953.28

acres burned across COD. Looking at the total acres burned across Oregon during fire season 2024, just shy of 75% of ODF protected acres burned occurred within the Central Oregon District, and much of that was on the John Day-Fossil Unit alone.

June started off the fire season with the Darlene 3 Fire on the Prineville-Sisters Unit. Large fire activity subsequently kicked off for the District with the July 9 start of The Larch Creek Fire on The Dalles Unit, followed shortly after by the Lonerock Fire, Crazy Creek, Telephone Fire, and Falls Fire on the John Day - Fossil Unit. From there we saw the Boneyard Fire (on the John Day Unit) merge into the Battle Mountain Complex (Northeast Oregon District), just to name a few that brought us through July. August was moderately busy with several large fires including the Microwave Tower Fire on The Dalles Unit as well as numerous smaller IA fires. September was another busy month due to lightning that moved through the district igniting the Shoe Fly Fire, Wiley Fire, and the Fossil Complex on the John Day-Fossil Unit, the Flat Top Fire (part of the Bachelor Complex) on the Prineville-Sisters Unit, as well as several other smaller fires that were able to be contained rather quickly. The last large fire to affect the district was the Rail Ridge Fire on the John Day-Fossil Unit, which was not contained until November 11, 2024. On top of this level of fire activity, the District was busy assisting with other fires that posed a threat to ODF protection.

While the 2024 fire season put a significant strain on local ODF resources, the District did a good job of moving resources around when and where they were most needed. Resources from other ODF Districts were integral in providing capacity at all levels, sending anything they could spare to assist. COD also received assistance from other states within the Northwest Compact and Nationally to help with ongoing fires and to help backfill at the Unit level. Through the meatgrinder of a season, Central Oregon District Agency Administrator (and Deputies) inbriefed 28 CIMT/T1 IMT's and 6 Type 3 IMT's.



Shoe Fly Fire



COD Interagency Dispatch

Given the sheer number of incidents, IMTs hosted, and resource orders processed, the three Interagency Dispatch Centers that host ODF Central Oregon District's Units were very busy importing resources to assist with the workload throughout the 2024 fire season (both on and off ODF jurisdictional lands).

To demonstrate the full workload, charts below depict the total orders and incidents worked on by each specific center, otherwise known as *touch-chain*. **Total Processed Orders include:** UTF, preposition, ferry, partial fill, at incident, merged, reassignment, released, completed, etc. **Excluded from Total Processed Orders:** deleted, drafts and reserved. **Total Incidents include:** wildfire, medical, aircraft, complex, law enforcement, MVA, prescribed, false alarm, out of area response, wildland search/rescue/recovery, smoke check and so on.

During the 2024 fire season, Columbia Cascade Interagency Communication Center (WACCC) hosted 59 dispatchers on assignment. WACCC sent staff members on 22 assignments, supporting 11 different dispatch centers and 5 regions. ODF employees participated in the first regional dispatch academy, including Assistant Center Manager (ACM) as cadre. Task-Book completions include 1x Expanded Dispatch Supervisory Dispatcher (EDSP), 4x Initial Attack Dispatcher (IADP) and 2x Aircraft Dispatcher (ACDP). WACCC assisted COIDC for the 2024 fire season by providing a strike team of dispatchers during a lightning bust that resulted in over 100 reported wildfires. This strike team included the following qualified: 2x IADP, 2x EDSP and 1x ACDP.

UNIT NAME	STAT	STAT ACRES	NON STAT	NON STAT ACRES	NFCA	TOTAL CCC ACREAGE
THE DALLES	33	15,435.05	19	203.35	26	37,075.00
CCC	OVERHEAD	CREW	EQUIPMENT	AIRCRAFT	SUPPLY	TOTAL INCIDENTS
TOTAL PROCESSED ORDERS	14,957	827	4,523	14,957	15,049	1,580

John Day Interagency Dispatch Center (JDIDC) hosted 52 ADs and supported 308 active wildfires. JDIDC did not have a designated logistics dispatcher for the 2024 fire season. However, this was mitigated by a successful joint effort with ODF's Salem Coordination Center (SCC).

Fun fact: a total of 775,850 feet of hose equivalent to 146.9 miles, was ordered through the center. Also noteworthy: Within JDIDC's footprint, the USFS, ODF, and other partners utilized *closest resource* as collaboration for rapid initial attack fire response, a positive step towards future mission planning.

UNIT NAME	STAT	STAT ACRES	ODF NON STAT	NON STAT ACRES	NFCA	TOTAL JDIDC ACREAGE
JOHN DAY	20	33,773.18	20	341.52	18	320,473.72
FOSSIL	39	185,170.68	6	55.11	13	
JDIDC	OVERHEAD	CREW	EQUIPMENT	AIRCRAFT	SUPPLY	TOTAL INCIDENT
TOTAL PROCESSED ORDERS	8,824	672	4,489	1,779	4,976	1,307

Central Oregon Interagency Dispatch Center (COIDC) saw one of the busiest seasons on record, hosting 13 IMTs, 88 ADs, 15 Type 3 IMTs and had 6 fires over 25,000 acres. COIDC welcomed one new ODF seasonal dispatcher, Travis Evans. Evans brings to the center 3 years of experience as a wildland firefighter with the USFS. During which, Evans spent one fire season detailing at COIDC.

UNIT NAME	STAT	STAT ACRES	NON STAT	NON STAT ACRES	NFCA	TOTAL COIDC ACREAGE
PRINEVILLE	9	118.79	17	113,497.57	11	578,450.00
SISTERS	15	202.11	25	1,225.75	52	
COIDC	OVERHEAD	CREW	EQUIPMENT	AIRCRAFT	SUPPLY	TOTAL INCIDENTS
TOTAL PROCESSED ORDERS	13,245	733	6,308	2,671	10,176	1,032



(Travis Evans - Resource Tracking at COIDC)

Aviation

Severity aviation resources across COD began their 2024 fire season contracts on July 1 and the last aircraft was off contract on October 20, nearly a month longer than the 2023 season. The Dalles Unit again hosted two Fire Bosses out of Dallesport (FB 231 & FB 232). John Day hosted Type 2 Helicopters (8CC & 9KB), and a type 3 helicopter (7AB) with a helitack crew. The Prineville Unit hosted a District detection fixed wing and two severity SEATs (T851 & T878).

The SEATs and Fire Bosses from COD logged a combined 561 Flight Hours, while the 3 helicopters logged a combined 395 Flight Hours, and the detection fixed wing flew 353 hours. The two SEATs delivered 228,625 gallons of retardant and the two Fire Bosses delivered 395,800 gallons of water and 336,400 gallons of water enhancer. Helicopters 8CC & 9KB delivered 647,460 gallons of water on 34 separate incidents. Helicopter 7AB delivered 64,080 gallons of water on 38 incidents. These flight hours supported wildfire incidents across several ODF Districts as well as USFS, BLM, WA DNR, and OSFM.

With the “historic” fire season within the Central Oregon District, aviation resources were heavily utilized on numerous fires, both federal and state. The severity resources were only a portion of the overall aviation resources utilized within the COD footprint. Call When Needed (CWN) aviation resources were significantly utilized. Across COD, CWN Helicopters flew 1,194 flight hours, 817 for bucket work and 377 for ATGS/Recon missions and they delivered 5615 buckets/tanks and in excess of 5 million gallons of water delivered to incidents.



Retardant Drop on the Microwave Tower Fire



7AB on incident in John Day Unit

Fire Prevention

District Wide Social Media

Central Oregon District's own social media prevention messaging was created and shared by Ben Duda. This helped to increase the Oregon Department of Forestry's local presence and outreach this past fire season. The focus was mainly on local debris burning regulations and announcing fire restrictions in a timely manner.



[June 3 | Oregon Department of Forestry - Coffee Time - Omny.fm](https://www.omny.fm/central-oregon-district-...)

The Dalles Unit

Continued membership with Mid-Columbia Fire Prevention Cooperative-Coop spans 5 counties in 2 states (Klickitat, Skamania, Wasco, Hood River, and Sherman County, as well as Warm Springs Reservation). Unfortunately, due to the busy fire season and above average fire load, including 2 project fires on our unit, we did not participate in either the Hood River County or the Wasco County Fairs.

Prevention Events

- **Dalles Get Ready Event, Wasco County Get Ready Event.**
- **Team Teaching** where we helped spread Smokey's message to approximately 1,600 students.
- **Local Parades, ELFF Food Drive, Children's Safety Fair**
- **Gorge Scavenger Hunt Event!** Along with hunting for Easter eggs, Smokey helped out with the fire prevention booth.
- **Pop-up booths** on high traffic weekends and holidays to spread fire prevention and fire regulation messaging.
- **Radio Interviews** to spread prevention messaging.
- **Recruitment booth at Columbia Gorge Community College** for local high school career day. This provided a great opportunity for recruitment, as well as an opportunity to further spread Smokey's message for fire prevention.

Prevention Programs

- **Added 4 new nationally recognized Firewise Communities** – Antelope (entire community), Further Valley/Vensel Road, Prospect Montello, and Rocky Ridge Ct. The Dalles now has a total of 8 Firewise Communities in good standing and several more in the hopper for 2025.



Gorge Easter Egg Scavenger
Hunt Prevention Booth



Career Day at Columbia
Gorge CC



Smokey and Sparky meet
students at Dry Hollow
Elementary

Prineville-Sisters Unit

Prineville and Sisters ODF employees are active members and participants in the Central Oregon Fire Prevention Co-op. The Co-op works together on numerous events, publications, and programs to provide consistent fire prevention information to communities in Central Oregon.



Central Oregon Home & Garden Show

Prevention Events

- **CO Sportsman Show- Deschutes County Fairgrounds March 7-10** – Approx. 15,000 in attendance, 2,000 contacts. Topics covered- Outdoor fire prevention, prescribed fire, wildfire preparedness. Staffed by ODF, USFS, BLM, OSFM, Warm Springs Fire Management and Warm Springs Fire & Safety. (Cost \$800, provided by BLM)
- **CO Home & Garden Show- Deschutes County Fairgrounds May 3-5** – Approx. 2,000 contacts. Topics covered- wildfire preparedness (including 3 classes), grants. Staffed by ODF, USFS, BLM, OSFM, Crook County Fire, Discover Your Forest. (Cost \$1,510, provided by ODF through grant funding)
- **Festival of the Land- Cove Palisades State Park June 1** – Approx. 100 contacts. Topics covered- wildfire response, wildfire preparedness. Staffed by ODF & USFS.
- **She Jumps Junior Firefighter Camp** – A day of mentoring for girls ages 7-14 covering wildland fire suppression skills and fire safety.
- **Fairs & Parades- Jefferson, Deschutes & Crook Counties** – Approx. 5,558 contacts. Topics covered- wildfire preparedness, outdoor fire prevention. Staffed by USFS, ODF, Warm Springs Fire Management, BLM, OSFM, Crook County Fire.

- **National Night Out- Redmond August 6, 2024** – Approx. 253 contacts. Topics covered- Outdoor fire prevention. Staffed by ODF & USFS
- **Airshow of the Cascades- Madras Airport August 23-24** – Approx. 552 contacts. Topics covered- wildfire preparedness & prevention. Staffed by USFS, ODF, Warm Springs Fire Management.



She Jumps



Central Oregon Sportsman's Show

Prevention Programs

- **Team Teaching** – Approx. 3,620 contacts. Outreach to First Graders throughout Central Oregon. Coordinated by USFS & supported by ODF, OSFM, Sisters Fire, Crook County Fire, Warm Springs Fire Management.
- **Hunter Booths- Prineville** – Approx. 569 contacts. One day for bow season, three days for rifle. Information shared on area closures, fire restrictions, campfire safety. Coordinated by USFS & supported by ODF, Crook County Fire, Warm Springs Fire Management.
- **Wildfire Home Protection Strategies Classes- 3 Rivers, Prineville, Deschutes River Woods, Culver, Camp Sherman, La Pine, Bend & Redmond** – 2 & 4-hour classes provided education to homeowners, HOAs, department personnel, contractors, realtors, fire landscapers on fire history of area, fire science, defensible space and home hardening best practices. Coordinated by OSU Extension & supported by ODF, OSFM, Bend Fire, Crook County Fire, Jefferson County Fire, Sisters Fire. Professional continuing education credits provided for some groups.
- **Wildfire Preparedness Fairs- Bend, La Pine, Prineville, Sisters and Madras** – Partners from the American Red Cross, Emergency Management, Pet Evacuation Team, County Public Health, Discover Your Forest, OSFM, ODF, local fire department, Project Wildfire, USFS, & Oregon Living with Fire presented wildfire preparedness information.
- **COWWP, Firewise Communities & Heart of Oregon Corps** – Central Oregon Firewise communities continue to grow in Deschutes, Jefferson, and Crook Counties with approximately 94 communities. ODF supports the defensible space work of Firewise Communities and Heart of Oregon Corps by helping with skills training and lining up projects for the young adult crews with communities and individual landowners that need assistance completing the work. Cassandra Russel, Sisters ODF, has done an amazing job for the last few seasons building relationships and coordinating training to accomplish a win, win, win for landowners, Heart of Oregon young adults, and the communities they help to accomplish defensible space projects.

The Elk Drive Firewise Community in Jefferson County paired with the Heart of Oregon Corps to complete defensible space work that paid off during the fast-moving Elk Lane Fire this season. (see article QR Code)



[Elk Drive & Heart of Oregon](#)



Large turnout at a Home Protection Strategies Class with Central Oregon OSFM, OSU, ODF, and Bend Fire Cadre.



S-130 Field Day...firing device demo. ODF PVL & SIS Cadre teach S-130, 190, & 212 and Home Protection Strategies classes to CO Heart of Oregon Corp Students.

John Day-Fossil Unit

John Day – Fossil continued to collaborate with the Grant-Harney Fire Prevention Co-op, who attend four meetings annually, and partner with Fire prevention planning and activities. Our Community Wildfire Forester was unfilled beginning in May, so other Forestry staff, managers, and protection staff were incorporated with the John Day-Fossil prevention outreach programs. Over 14 community/partner meeting events attended.

Prevention Events

- **Radio Interviews** – Dustin Gustaveson (John Day Unit Forester) attended the radio show “Coffee Time” on the local 94.5 KJDY radio station to deliver seasonal fire prevention messaging, and information for fire season preparation.
- **Roadside Light Board** – John Day acquired a transportable roadside light board (ODOT board) for Fire Prevention messaging.
- **Fairs & Parades** – Fossil, John Day, and Monument staff participated in prevention booths at the Painted Hills Festival, Grant and Wheeler County Fairs and participated in 4 parades - the Prairie City 4th of July Parade, Grant County Fair Parade, Wheeler County Fair Parade, and placed 3rd for our “Timber” category float in the annual Timber Trucker’s Light Parade.
- **Fire Science/Ecology School Field Trip** – This fall local ODF employees went to a fire outside of Fossil with elementary kids to do some fire science, fire ecology and fire safety education.

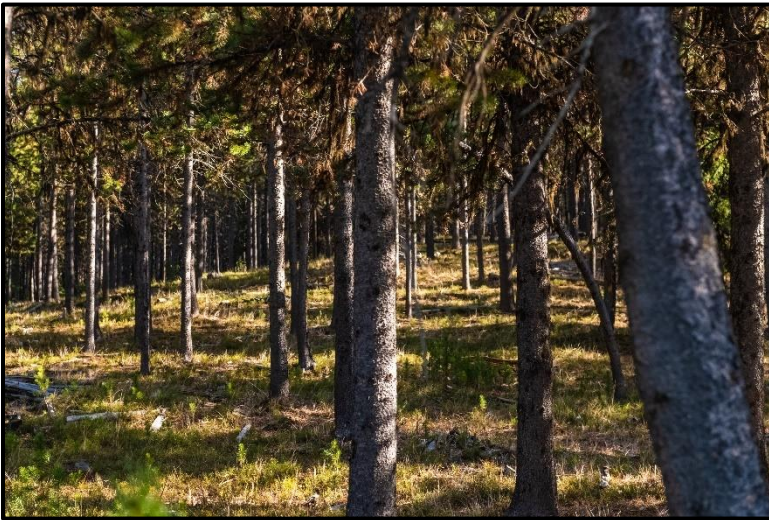
Prevention Programs

- **Firewise** – Grant County added 2 new Firewise communities in 2024, The Izee Firewise Community, and the Antelope Firewise Community.

Forest Resources

The Central Oregon District Forest Resources Program has grown over the last few years and consists of Forest Practices, NRCS Administration, Federal Forest Restoration Program (FFR)/GNA, and Grants/Joint Chiefs. These programs provide landowners, cooperators, and other agencies with services to achieve their land management goals. The Forest Resource Program will continue to grow to meet the demand for services. While these programs continue to expand and become more complex, the Forest Resource Program still assists the protection program with Industrial Fire inspections, Smoke Management, as well as fire response and support.

Forest Practices



In 2024, Central Oregon District (COD) Stewardship Foresters focused on implementing the newly established Forest Practices Act (FPA) rules, developed through the Private Forest Accord (PFA). To support this transition, the Salem Forest Resources Division increased training opportunities, and COD hosted multiple sessions for the Eastern Oregon Area to ensure foresters were well-equipped to apply the new regulations effectively.

One main area of focus has been on stream protection rules, especially in EOA, where our stream model is not yet complete, and flowline surveys are required. The Dalles completed 37

flowline surveys, Prineville completed 13 flowline surveys, and John Day completed 10 flowline surveys. John Day also submitted for 3 SFISH projects and had 2 of them awarded. COD was the only district in EOA to get any SFISH projects awarded in the first year.

To meet the growing workload and enhance operational capacity, COD expanded its team in recent years. In 2023, the district added an SFO Forester in The Dalles and an additional Stewardship Forester in John Day. Building on that progress, in 2024, COD introduced two Forest Resources Managers—one in the Prineville-Sisters Unit and another in The Dalles Unit—ensuring that each unit is now staffed with a dedicated manager to oversee forest resource operations.

One of the most significant challenges in 2024 was the intense fire season that impacted COD. Many foresters were engaged in fire suppression efforts or covering for colleagues assigned to wildfires. This also affected local loggers and contractors, who were similarly committed to suppression activities, leading to a reduction in forest management work during what is typically a peak operational period.

Given COD's vast geographic area, in-person gatherings for foresters can be logistically challenging. In 2023, COD successfully reestablished its Foresters Meeting to promote consistency across the District. However, due to the demands of implementing the PFA in the spring and the exceptional fire season in the summer and fall, the meeting could not be held in 2024. Recognizing its importance, COD has rescheduled the Foresters Meeting for early 2025 to ensure alignment and coordination across the District.

Despite these challenges, COD remains committed to supporting its foresters, adapting to evolving regulations, and strengthening forest management practices across the district.

Forest Practices				
	The Dalles	John Day/ Fossil	Prineville/ Sisters	Total
2024 NOAPS	205	208	117	530
NOAP Activities	454	626	200	1280
FPA Inspections	244	156	54	454
Industrial Fire Inspections	66	11	10	87
Written Plans	28	9	16	53
Written Statements/Civil Penalties	0/0	2/0	3/0	5/0

Fire Restrictions and Prevention					
	IFPL 1	IFPL 2	IFPL 3	IFPL 4	Total
TD MH-1	46 Days	50 Days	41 Days	0 Days	137 Days
TD MH-4	46 Days	50 Days	41 Days	0 Days	137 Days
Waivers	1	0	10	0	11
Warnings/Citations	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0
	Fire Danger Low/Mod/High		Fire Danger Extreme		Warnings/Citations
PVL/SIS	94 Days		43 Days		3/3
John Day/Fossil	94 Days		43 Days		1/0
Waivers	1				



Grant Administration

The Central Oregon District assisted landowners in a variety of grant-funded forest management activities in 2024 under our Forest Resources Division. Assistance comes in the form of cost-share incentives to complete fuels reduction projects to reduce fire hazards, strengthen forest health conditions, and increase defensible space around homes primarily on non-industrial lands. Grant work is being completed in all three units of the Central Oregon District. A majority of the grants are federally funded, with additional funding provided by the Oregon Legislature for the Small Forestland Grant and Landscape Resilience Programs.

The John Day-Fossil Unit had four active grants and was awarded one additional grant during 2024. All sign-ups for the Morrow/Wheeler CAG were accomplished with the remaining dollars allocated, and work will continue for administration and certification of treatments. The South Fork Partnership LSR grant was administered for completing 160 acres of the 203 contracted acres for pile burning treatments in CY24. Significant progress from the GNA and John Day protection crews yielded an additional 288 acres of fuels reduction for the SFJDP LSR grant. The Bear Creek Small Forestland Grant (SFG) project had 107 acres of 123 allocated completed in CY24, serving 4 landowner certifications. The FY23 awarded Grant Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG) had significant progress for landowner participating agreements in FY24 and currently have agreements exceeding 120% of the total acres to be allocated. The Upper John Day Valley Community Assistance Grant (UJDV CAG) was awarded in FY24, and outreach for participation will be underway through FY25.

The Prineville-Sisters Unit administered planning and implementation of 7 ODF grants in 2024. Stewardship Foresters and Community Wildfire Foresters have worked together to get these funds on the ground across the Unit. Throughout the year we closed out 1 of our active projects which completed 130% above planned acres. Of active grants, there is an overall goal to treat 930 acres and currently have 1195.45 acres under contract.

The Dalles Unit currently has seven active grant programs. Three of which are within the final stages of completion (LSR, WSFM Northern Wasco, and Hood River SFG). The LSR grant is set to have 300 acres completed by the 2025 expiration date. Completion certifications are ongoing for the WSFM Northern Wasco grant, which will have around 250 acres treated. And we are wrapping up our SFG grant, with 34 of our 100-acre goal completed in 2024. Our WSFM Central Wasco grant, targeting hazards trees within defensible space zones around homes, underwent an approved modification to mitigate inflation rates and scope of work. Fifty-six of the target 100 acres were completed in 2024. In 2024, the Unit was also awarded a Hood River County WSFM project to use ODF crews for defensible space treatment around homes in the project area. It intends to treat 80 acres and includes funding for the SWCD for their mobile chipping program. The Dalles Unit partnered with Wasco County and others and were awarded nearly \$6M in CWDG funding (\$1.9M to ODF). Through this grant, ODF will administer removal of 160 hazard trees around homes, administer treatment of 508 acres on the ODFW White River Wildlife Area, and conduct forest stand surveys on private properties as part of a mapping project. Interagency public outreach meetings associated with all projects are held regularly to educate landowners and provide funding assistance through local programs. Finally, The Unit has an agreement with the USFS MHF for funding tied to the North Wasco Joint Chiefs project that has ODF staff conducting fuels work and administering treatment contracts in The Dalles Watershed (treating 270 acres under Y1 & Y2).

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

2024 Grants				
Grant Name	Landowner Signed Cost Shares	Signed Cost Share Acres	Total # of Acres Treated	Status (Active, Active/ New, Complete)
John Day Unit				
Bear Creek SFG	4	123	107	Active
SFJDP LSR	N/A	N/A	448	Active
Grant D-Space CWDG	36	359	121.5	Active/New
Wheeler-Morrow CAG	2	21	56	Active
UJDV CAG	N/A	N/A	N/A	Active/New
Prineville/Sisters Unit				
N. Prineville	0	0	521	Complete
S. Prineville	49	221.5	70	Active
Billy Chinook	38	360.25	192	Active
Three Creeks	33	353.7	75.7	Active
Buttes to Basins	28	260	95	Active
La Pine Basin	0	0	0	Active
Western Crook County	0	0	0	Active
The Dalles Unit				
Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR)	N/A	N/A	300	Active
WSFM North Wasco (7 Mile)	3	22	244	Active
Hood River SFG	4	11	34	Active
WSFM Central Wasco	13	47	56	Active
WSFM Hood River	N/A	N/A	0	Active
Wasco CWDG	0	0	0	Active



COD foresters participate in a field trip with partners regarding forest health & fuels treatment.

Natural Resources Conservation Service

The Dalles saw changing personnel in 2024 with Justin Tryon hired early in the year as an NRS2 Community Wildfire Forester in support of NRCS projects and grant programs in Wasco County. Andy Dwyer (NRS2 Community Wildfire Forester) promoted to the Forest Resources Division as a Learning and Development Specialist in September. Through Andy's vacancy, Jaime Gonzalez was hired as a NRS2 Community Wildfire Forester in December in support of Hood River County NRCS and grant programs. Additionally, Justin Brown was hired as a permanent full-time NRS1 FFR forester in March. His duties include leading the seasonal fuels crew, assisting with NRCS projects, and coordinating crew fuel reduction projects. ODF assisted with landowner outreach events, site visits, project layout, stand inventory data collection, ranking projects, drafting job sheets, writing BFMP's, and certifying accomplishments.

ODF support of NRCS is tied to Wasco County and Hood River County CIS projects (2 total). In addition, Wasco County NRCS funded additional EQIP treatment projects in 2024 through Year 2 of the North Wasco Joint Chiefs project.

The Dalles Accomplishments	Inventory Acres	Layout Acres	Certification Acres	Management Plans	Plan Acres
Total	387	387	185	20	538

Prineville & Sisters Stewardship Foresters and NRCS Foresters were responsible for NRCS accomplishments in 2024. Chris (Toshi) Handy, was hired by the Deschutes and Jefferson District Conservationist in 2024. Toshi quickly engaged with ODF foresters, and the unit welcomed the additional capacity. The ODF-NRCS calibration conference was held in Sisters. This conference was well attended by staff from multiple agencies and included a field component planned and executed by Eric Metzger. In Crook County, ODF created two CIS projects in 2023, the Upper Crooked River Forestry CIS and the Grizzly Mountain Forestry CIS. These were prepared with an expected roll out for contracting in 2024. The 2024 and 2025 contracts were funded under the Inflation Reduction Act. Both CIS projects are poised to be activated when the decision is made by NRCS.

Prineville-Sisters Accomplishments	Inventory Acres	Layout Acres	Certification Acres	Management Plans	Plan Acres
Acres	656	1026	949	5	847

In John Day, 2024 marked significant fire season challenges, and program staffing changes for our NRCS and Forest Resources programs. John Day continued with two Stewardship Forester positions supporting NRCS Programs throughout Wheeler, Gilliam, Morrow, Grant, and Harney Counties. Brandon Vos was appointed as the SFO Stewardship Forester for the John Day Unit, and Matthew Brown continued covering Forest Stewardship work in Morrow/Wheeler/Gilliam counties. Kara Doescher continued as the NRS2 NRCS Coordinator Forester and was a key to success in meeting planned work accomplishment goals for NRCS targets, in the midst of an exceptionally challenging fire season. Both Marnie Woodbury and Mari Jo Itel continued as NRS1 NRCS Field Foresters, and David Capasso began in April as the Fossil NRS1 NRCS Field Forester. While staff changes occurred, the need for foresters continually increased. We are in our third year of the "Upper John Day: Southern Blues Restoration" Joint Chiefs and partnered to continue supporting a new CIS: Northern Harney Range and Forest Health with NRCS, Harney County. The joint ODF/NRCS Post Fire Recovery Team was implemented in October of 2024 for assessments for fire severity among large fires, and to begin future planning for landowner forest health and reforestation needs.

John Day-Fossil Accomplishments	Inventory Acres	Layout Acres	Certification Acres	Management Plans	Plan Acres
Total	8,640	9,520	8,120	9	20,241

Federal Forests Restoration Program

The FFR program has been hard at work on the Deschutes, Ochoco, and Malheur National Forests, as well as the East Zone of the Mt. Hood NF. The FFR program continues to meet its mission of increasing the pace, scale, and quality of forest restoration on federal lands through the Good Neighbor Authority (GNA), partnership and collaborative engagement, and FFR grants. Staffing capacity in 2024 was stable, while we were able to both welcome some new faces to the program and promote staff internally.

FFR staff in COD had a tremendous year implementing projects under various GNA agreements. Assisted by seasonal Protection staff, we saw some of the highest annual accomplishment figures in 2024 to date, despite the fact that crews were pulled away from these projects to assist with fire suppression during the record fire season experienced in eastern Oregon. ODF crews spent the past year performing work related to hazardous fuels reduction, timber stand improvement, aspen restoration, and overall forest health. ODF crews implemented non-commercial thinning, prescribed fire preparation, unit layout, and covering piles to be burned when cured. ODF Crews have also performed data collection work, particularly for the Ochoco NF, related to surveys for tree mortality, reforestation stocking, and analyses for roadside hazard trees. FFR staff have also assisted with fuels reduction and forest health work on non-federal lands, through partnerships with ODFW and through grants in The Dalles.

Across COD, FFR and seasonal fire staff accomplished:

- 605 acres GNA Thinning
- 288 acres Non-federal thinning
- 45 acres Pile covering
- 2.5 miles Rx prep
- 525 acres Unit layout
- Data collection
- 1234 ac reforestation stocking surveys
- 3282 ac mortality surveys
- 63 mi roadside hazard tree analysis

Staff have also been busy developing and administering contracts related to project planning and implementation on federal lands. To facilitate the increased pace of forest restoration, ODF has partnered with the Forest Service to contract third party professionals to perform surveys for cultural resources and to examine timber stands for inventory and condition. These surveys will help to expedite the federal planning process to more quickly move these projects to implementation. Of the non-commercial thinning contracts being administered through GNA by ODF, 311 acres on the Deschutes NF are being masticated, 38 miles of forest roads are being brushed for a fuel break, and a non-commercial thinning contract of at least 600 acres has begun to be laid out on the Malheur NF.

ODF also continues to administer GNA timber sales on USFS lands. Between Flymon GNA, which has been completed, and Abbey GNA, which is ongoing, nearly 1,000 acres were commercially treated on the Deschutes this year and 3.18 MMBF of timber were harvested and taken to mills in Oregon. Additionally, the Austin ODOT GNA timber sale on the Malheur NF was cruised, laid out, and prepared for sale in 2025. As of the end of 2024, GNA timber sale revenue in COD stands at \$123,746 on the Malheur NF and \$867,138 on the Deschutes NF.

2024 FFR Contract Totals				
	Cultural Resources	NCT/mastication	Roadside brushing	Commercial restoration
Planned	6380	619		83
In progress	439	311	38	1441
Complete	4280			367
Total	11099 acres	930 acres	38 miles	1891 acres



Untreated/treated stands affected by the Falls fire on the Malheur NF, where the John Day FFR crew had been thinning



Administration/Fire Finance



The Central Oregon District administrative staff experienced an unprecedented fire season in 2024 and despite being mostly all new to their positions, showed outstanding professionalism, and excellent teamwork. They maintained strong customer relations with our vendors and contractors while continuing to provide day-to-day support to the district. This group may be new in many ways but their adaptability, strong work ethic, and willingness to learn and improve will continue to make this team great!

A little about our team in 2024.....

Hailey Hughes, District Business Manager. Hailey joined the COD team with 20+ years of administrative experience and started her career with ODF as the Administrative Specialist 2 for the John Day unit followed by a job rotation into the DBM position in June of 2024, officially taking the role in October of 2024.

Katie Kisiel, an AS2 for The Dalles unit. Katie joins us from Boulder, Colorado and brings us 12 years of administrative experience providing strong clerical and business management support to The Dalles unit. Katie joined the COD team on April 15, 2024.

Dauna Rictor, an AS2 for the Prineville/Sisters unit. Dauna started her path with ODF as a seasonal on the GNA crew, followed by some as a Wildland Fire Dispatcher in Prineville, and then as the Prineville OS2. She also accepted a job rotation for the John Day/Fossil subunit as the AS2 for the 2024 fire season and officially accepted her current role as the Prineville/Sisters AS2 on December 30, 2024.

Marnie Woodbury, an AS2 for the John Day/Fossil unit. Marnie started her ODF career as a seasonal WFSS at the John Day Unit, then as John Day AS2, and most recently was an NRS1 for the John Day unit. She officially started her new role as the AS2 on February 3, 2025.

Carrie Boss, an OS2 for the district. Carrie has provided support in clerical and business management for 8 years. She provided support on an IMT team and worked in other administrative roles supporting the district during the 2024 fire season.

Shelly Speakman, an OS2 for the John Day/Fossil unit. Shelly has been in the OS2 role providing outstanding customer service, clerical support and business management support for over 12 years and was an asset to the district during the 2024 fire season.

Crystal "Sam" Counts, an AS1 for the district. Sam started with the agency officially on January 2, 2025. Sam joins our team with 30+ years of administrative experience and in her current role provides clerical support to all Forest Resources staff within the Central Oregon District.

Personnel Changes

- Gina Miner – Promoted to EOA Assistant Area Director
- Hailey Hughes – Hired as the District Business Manager
- Katie Kisiel – Hired into The Dalles Administrative Specialist 2 position
- Chase Duncan – Promoted into The Dalles Forest Resources Manager position
- Ben Walen – Promoted into the Prineville-Sisters Forest Resources Manager position
- Ben Duda – Hired into the District Operations Support Specialist position
- Chris Dayton – Promoted into the Sisters Wildland Fire Supervisor position
- Tyler Wright – Promoted into the Fossil Wildland Fire Supervisor position
- Erick Castaneda – Resigned from The Dalles Wildland Fire Supervisor position
- Phil Raffaely – Developmental Wildland Fire Supervisor position in The Dalles
- Brandon Vos – Promoted into a John Day Stewardship Forester position
- Amanda McHatton – Promoted to the JDIDC WFS Asst Center Manager
- Austin Reimer – Hired into the Sisters Stewardship Forester position
- Kody Johannsen – Promoted into the Prineville Stewardship Forester position
- Ryan Vogt – Developmental CWF/NRCS Forester position in Prineville
- Andy Dwyer – Promoted into Salem Forest Resources Training Specialist position
- Jaime Gonzalez – Hired into The Dalles Community Wildfire Forester position
- Justin Brown – Promoted into The Dalles NRS1 FFR Forester position
- Miles Falappino – Resigned from the Prineville Perm. Forest Officer position
- Julia Johnson – Promoted into the PFO position in Prineville
- Kimberly Johnson – Promoted into the Sisters Perm. Forest Officer position
- Tony Moore – Promoted into NWOA Comm. Systems Analyst 3 position
- Adam Mitchell – Hired (back) into COD Comm. Systems Analyst 2 position
- Mark Hansen – Resigned from the John Day Equipment Operator position
- Ross Huffman – Promoted to Wildland Fire Supervisor for the JD Helitack program

Service Awards

- Dustin Gustaveson (John Day Unit Forester) – 30 years of service
- Tyler Wright (Fossil Wildland Fire Supervisor) – 15 years of service
- Brandon Voss (John Day Stewardship Forester) – 5 years of service
- Ely Carniglia (John Day Wildland Fire Suppression Specialist) – 5 years of service

Central Oregon District 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
Ross Ryno, Wheeler, Ranch & Forest Landowner
MT Anderson, Grant County, Rancher
Archie Osborne, Grant County, Ranch & Forest Landowner
Tommy Norton, Jefferson County, Grazing Landowner
Doug Thiesies, Hood River County, Forester
Jeremy Grose, Hood River & Wasco County, Green Diamond
Cecelia Wiley, Wasco County, Forest Landowner
Bill Hunt, Wasco County, Ranch & Forest Landowner

Photo Compilation

Darlene Fire



Falls Fire



Jackpine Fire



Larch Creek Fire



She Jumps Cadre



