

Northeast Oregon District 2022 Statistical Report

LA GRANDE UNIT
BAKER SUB UNIT
PENDLETON UNIT
WALLOWA UNIT



Cal Mukumoto
State Forester

Matt Howard
District Forester



District Forester's Comments



Welcome to the 2022 Annual Statistical Report for the Northeast Oregon District.

2022 was an incredible year for the district, in all our programs. The landowners which we serve, to include all Oregonians, were provided excellent customer service this past year. The district employees are closely tied in with our constituents and they were diligent in accomplishing our mission in a safe and effective manner.

For Fire Season 2022, abundant spring and early summer precipitation fostered an incredible crop of light flashy fuels. July was very quiet from a fire standpoint, which allowed our protection staff to focus on crew development and training. The second half of the season was characterized by above average burning conditions with 43 days spent above the district's large fire threshold. Several challenging individual fires and a couple of multiple fire days (lightning) put the district's fire organization to the test. These fires required strong leadership and the right mix of resources and assistance from our inter-agency partners and industrial cooperators to successfully control. An incredibly damaging hailstorm center punched the town of Wallowa and the Wallowa Unit office on August 11th due to the presence of a Super Cell thunderstorm. Baseball sized hail decimated homes, businesses, vehicles, and crippled the cities infrastructure for several days. Damage to the city as a whole is in the tens of millions. The district readily responded by assessing damage and fortifying the Wallowa compound and then providing tremendous leadership alongside the city employees in helping coordinate the massive cleanup that ensued. The rest of the fire season was characterized by minimal precipitation, active thunderstorms and critically dry live and dead fuels that enabled fires to become very resistant to control. The Double Creek Fire started on August 30th and burned a total of 171,312 acres across ODF and USFS jurisdictions. The fire exhibited extreme fire behavior and uncharacteristic fire growth as it was pushed by multiple wind events that threatened private property and the town of Imnaha. 10,144 acres burned on ODF jurisdiction and threatened innumerable values at risk. A total of five incident management teams (two Type 1 teams, OSFM team and two Type 3's) managed this fire along with the Sturgill and Nebo Fires in the Eagle Cap Wilderness. The assistance of our interagency partners, landowner community and industrial contractors again proved to be a vital part of our success.

Forestry continues to be active in the NEO District. Twelve permanent foresters handle the workload in forest practices, forestry assistance and the forest management of Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife lands. A key part of this year was the beginning implementation of the Private Forests Accord and the associated changes to the forest practices rules. The Federal Forest Restoration Program implemented multiple Good Neighbor Authority projects across the District adding capacity to the pace and scale of forestry projects in the national forests. The Northern Blues All-Lands Partnership celebrated many accomplishments this past year showcasing support for several key projects.

The District Administrative staff are leaders in their field and continue to provide expertise and professionalism supporting the work we do. They are integral to our success and provide the framework and support to keep the district running as efficiently and effectively as it does.

The NEO District is full of fire and forestry professionals that exhibit leadership not only within our communities but across the state as well. Our employees are fully embedded with the concept of providing excellent customer service and I am proud of the work they do on a daily basis.

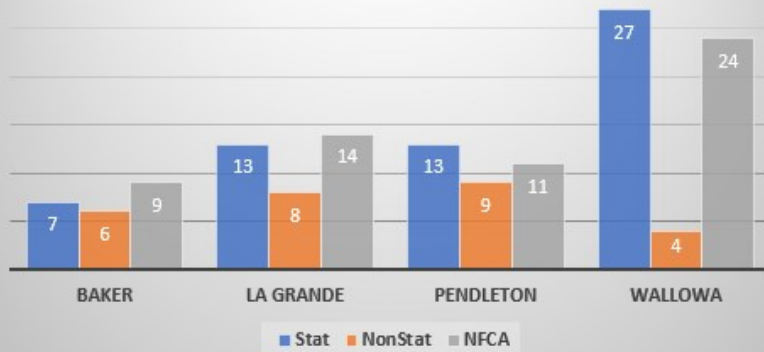
Thank you for your efforts and continued support.

Matt Howard
District Forester, Northeast Oregon District

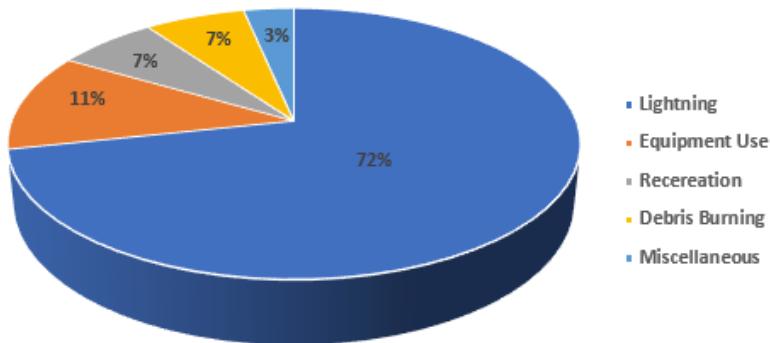
Protection From Fire Program



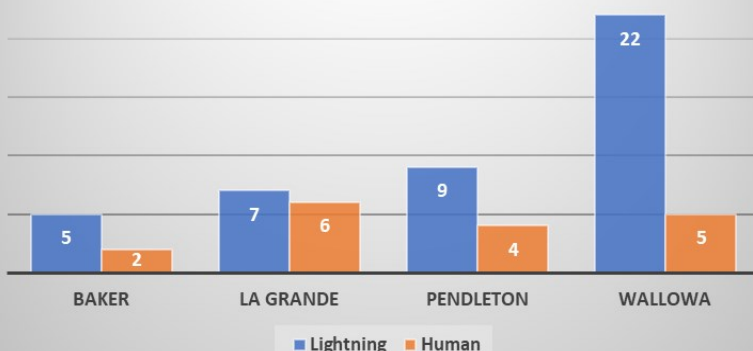
Fires by Unit



NEO District Fires by Cause



Fire By Cause



2022 Significant Fires

Fire	Date	ODF Acres	Total Acres
Saddle Hollow	8/10	55.91	133.65
Getting Rd., Swamp Cr., & TNC	8/24	134	210
Double Creek	8/30	10,144	171,312
West Campbell	10/6	28	141

NEO District Statistical Fire Summary

- 60 total statistical fires was below average
- 10,417 total acres burned was above average
- 43 lightning caused fires
 - ⇒ 72% of total statistical fires
 - ⇒ burned 10,350 acres; 99% of total acres
- 17 human caused fires
 - ⇒ 28% of total statistical fires
 - ⇒ burned 67 acres; 1% of total acres

NEO District Aircraft Summary

- 3NP (Type 2 Helicopter)
 - ⇒ 47.4 flight hours
 - ⇒ 15 incidents
 - ⇒ 312 buckets delivered
- T-869 (Single Engine Airtanker)
 - ⇒ 57.69 flight hours
 - ⇒ 13 incident flights
 - ⇒ 49,931 gallons of retardant delivered
- T-822 (Single Engine Airtanker)
 - ⇒ 56.16 flight hours
 - ⇒ 13 incident flights
 - ⇒ 39,438 gallons of retardant delivered
- D-018 (Detection Plane)
 - ⇒ 119.24 flight hours

Protection From Fire Program

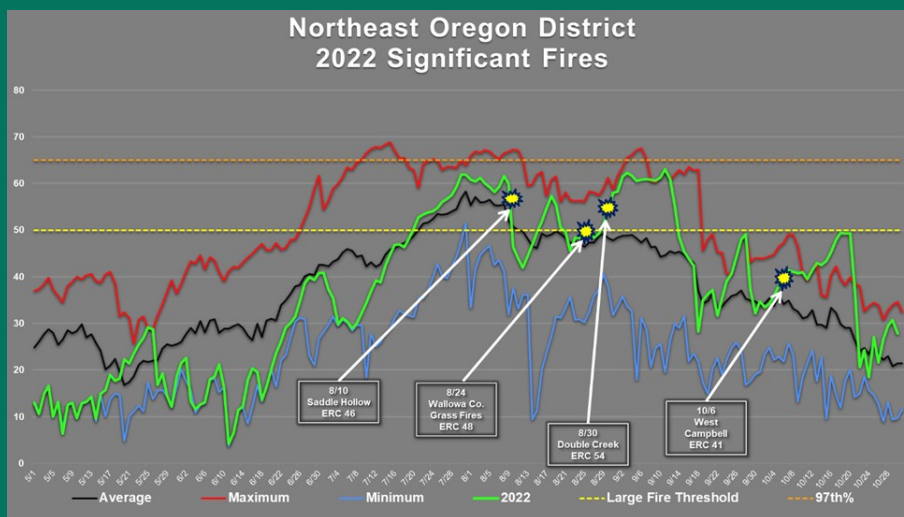
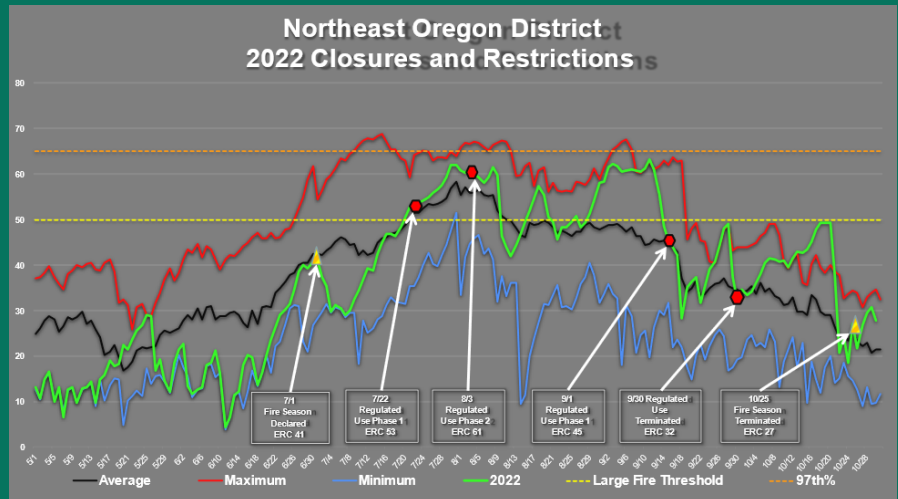


Late winter 2022 (January and February) were extremely dry resulting in lower than average snowpack entering early to mid-spring. Conditions then shifted dramatically with cool temperatures and significant precipitation throughout the Northeast Oregon (NEO) District. Due to the late timing, the bulk of the precipitation fell as rain rather than snow creating favorable growing conditions and significant fuel loads, but delaying the early onset of fire season that was likely given the minimal snowfall. During early fire season fine fuels were abundant but curing slowly, while larger thousand hour fuels were more available than average.

Due to a combination of conditions and the potential for human caused fires associated with the July 4th holiday, NEO declared fire season on July 1. Conditions warranted implementation of regulated use closure phase 1 on July 22nd and regulated use closure phase 2 on August 3. NEO exited phase 2 on September 1 as conditions began to moderate, but unpredictable and often dry conditions extended phase 1 closure until September 30 and did not allow termination of fire season until October 25.

Due to the wet cool spring, NEO did not experience the first significant fire until the August 10 lightning caused Saddle Hollow Fire located in the Pendleton Unit. The Saddle Hollow Fire burned 133.65 acres including 55.91 ODF protected acres and was resistant to control until moderating conditions allowed firefighters to gain the upper hand. On August 24, the Wallowa Unit experienced the Getting Road, Swamp Creek and TNC Fires referenced in the chart below as the Wallowa County Grass Fires. The fires burned a combined 210 acres in light flashy fuels. A rapid and well-coordinated response was credited with minimizing the acres burned as well as the potential of long-term impacts to the Unit and District, had the fires reached more difficult fuels and topography.

The lightning holdover Double Creek Fire was reported by lookout on August 30 within the Wallowa Whitman National Forest. Initial attack crews were challenged to establish control lines and a local Type 3 organization was created to address the emerging incident including numerous District assets. The local Type 3 team rapidly transitioned to a Type 1 team and eventually a second Type 1 team. The incident was eventually transitioned back to a local Type 3 organization to complete control lines and manage suppression repair. The Double Creek Fire burned a total of 171,312 acres, including 10,144 ODF protected acres. Early in the incident, crews experienced challenging conditions and extreme fire behavior resulting several days of significant fire growth.



On October 6, during the waning days of the fire season the Baker Subunit had the human caused West Campbell Fire. The fire experienced significant and rapid growth during the initial operational period of 141 acres, 28 of which were under ODF protection. After the initial rapid spread, conditions moderated and crews minimized additional growth.

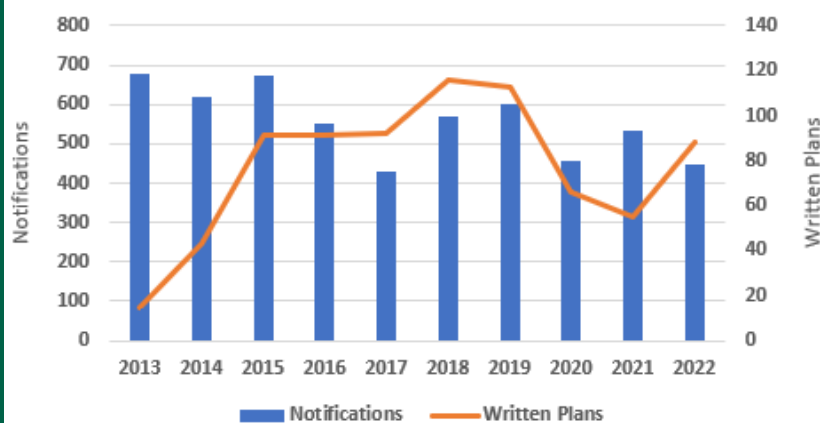
NEO recorded 60 stat fires in 2022, which is 16 below the 10 year average. 10,417 acres protected by ODF burned during the fire season (predominantly on the Double Creek Fire), which is 2,677 above the 10 year average. Both lightning and human caused fires were below 10 year averages of 49 lightning and 27 human caused at 43 lightning and 17 human caused. The total fire season length was very near the 116 day 10 year average at 115 days.

Private Forest Programs



Forest Practices Administration

FPA 10 Year Comparison



- 299 FPA Inspections were completed
- 64 Fire Inspections were completed
- No FPA citations were issued
- No warnings were issued
- 1 unsatisfactory conditions was issued

ODFW

Wenaha—1.2 MBF Harvested
Elkhorn—3.6 MBF Harvested

Forestry Assistance

NRCS EQIP Inventories	3,175 Acres
NRCS EQIP Layouts	3,737 Acres
NRCS EQIP Certifications	5,375 Acres
Tech Assists	5501 Acres
District Wide RCPP	843 Acres
Stewardship Plans	1 Plans
Basic Forest Management Plan (Under the AFF Agreement)	61 Plans
PLFN (Distributed)	34,140 Seedlings
PLFN (Stored for Manulife)	972,320 Seedlings
PLFN (Stored for Green Diamond)	59,760 seedlings

Forestry Assistance Funding Source

Wallowa Unit

- *Wallowa County Firewise Community Fuels Reduction Project WSFM Grant
- *Wallowa County Ready, Set, Go! Program & Lake Basin Fuels Reduction Project WSFM Grant
- *Wallowa North NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Project
- *Wallowa Front Fuel Reduction NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Project

Pendleton Unit

- *Umatilla South County Defensible Space Grant
- *Umatilla McKay Fuels WSFM Grant
- *JDU Basin Forest Resiliency NRCS Conservation Implementation Strategy
- *Walla Walla Mill Creek Fuels Reduction NRCS Conservation Implementation Strategy

La Grande Unit

- *Mt. Emily Collaborative Fuel Breaks and Hazard Fuels Reduction CA Grant
- *East La Grande Strategic Fuels Treatment WSFM Grant
- *West Valley Forest Management NRCS Conservation Implementation Strategy
- *Morgan Lake Defensible Space Grant
- *Upper Grande Ronde Regional Conservation Partnership Project

Baker Sub-Unit

- *Baker/Union Strategic WUI Fuel Break WSFM Grant
- *Spring Creek Firewise Fuels Reduction and Fire Prevention CA Grant
- *Burnt River Range NRCS Conservation Implementation Strategy
- *Baker Watershed Forest Health Partnership NRCS Conservation Implementation Strategy
- *Pine Valley Firewise Community Grant

District-Wide

- *East Oregon Forest Restoration NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Project

National Fire Plan

Units within Northeast Oregon District	Acres Thinned (2022)	Acres Thinned (2002 To 2022)
Baker Sub-Unit (Baker County)	216	8,069
La Grande Unit (Union County)	249	5,857
Pendleton Unit (Umatilla County)	90	6,331
Wallowa Unit (Wallowa County)	194	8,521
TOTAL	749	28,778

Federal Forest Restoration Program



Federal Forest Restoration Program

In 2013, the Oregon Legislature took an innovative step to fund the Federal Forest Restoration Program (FFRP), with the explicit intent of increasing the amount of active restoration actions on our federal forests and supporting job creation and economic recovery in rural economies. In 2014 congress authorized the Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) which allows the use of federal funds to support state agency work on federal forest projects.

In 2022 the NEO FFR Program added a second NRS1 Forester and two Forest Management Technicians (FMT's). FMT personnel were utilized to aid the Forest Service in completing soil surveys for tethered logging, stand exams, contract administration on thinning contracts, and other data gathering missions. NRS1 personnel completed and/or initiated layout and prepping of one GNA timber sale, which is located on the following Forest and District:

- Umatilla National Forest, North Fork of the John Day District, Elbow GNA, Layout Complete.

In 2022, NEO FFR personnel sold or administered timber sales, and awarded thinning contracts as follows:

- Umatilla National Forest, North Fork of the John Day District, Davis GNA TS, Sold.
- Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, Wallowa Mountains District, Divide WUI GNA TS, Logging Complete.
- Wallowa-Whitman, Whitman District, Sparta GNA TS, Logging Complete.
- Wallowa-Whitman, La Grande District, South Catherine Decks GNA, Sold.
- Umatilla National Forest, North Fork of the John Day District, Davis Mastication Thinning Contract, Awarded.
- Wallowa-Whitman, Whitman District, Sparta GNA Thinning Contract, Awarded.

Once sold or awarded, utilizing an ODF Timber Sale Contract or Service Contract, ODF personnel will administer the timber sale contracts and thinning contracts, and timber sale receipts will reimburse ODF for expenses related to sale prep and administration. Remaining receipts will be applied to work on upcoming restoration projects.

FFRP performed timber related duties on Forest Service and GNA projects for combined acreage totals as follows:

Federal Forest Restoration Program Federal Timber Sale Projects Supported in 2021		
National Forest	Ranger District	Sale Acres
FS Survey/Admin Assistance		
Wallowa - Whitman	All Forest	4,370
Sale/Thinning, Prep, Sell, Administer, Award		
Umatilla	NFJD	760
Wallowa-Whitman	La Grande	70
Wallowa-Whitman	Wallowa Mountains	230
Wallowa-Whitman	Whitman	275
Umatilla	Walla-Walla	505
Total		6,210

*For the 2022-23 biennium, FFRP committed \$90,000 towards a botany survey contract on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest which has been completed.

Firewise Community

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

2022 Baker County
Pine Valley
2022 Wallowa County
WSFM Grant

2022 NEO Personnel Changes New Hires/Promotions

JB Brock— Promoted to Wildland Fire Supervisor, La Grande Unit

Cody Kingsbury— Hired as a Forest Officer, La Grande Unit

Abby McBeth—Hired as a Stewardship Forester, La Grande Unit

Justin Lauer—Promoted to Unit Forester, Pendleton Unit

Lindsay Olivera-Promoted to Wildland Fire Supervisor, Pendleton Unit

Megan Freeman— Hired as an Administrative Specialist, Pendleton Unit

Tyler Arbogast-Promoted to Forest Officer, Pendleton Unit

Josh Lambert-Hired as NRS1, Pendleton Unit

Tracy Brostrom— Hired as Unit Forester, Wallowa Unit

Joseph Goebel—Hired as NRS2, Wallowa Unit

Jacob Goebel—Promoted to Acting Wildland Fire Supervisor, Wallowa Unit

Retirements

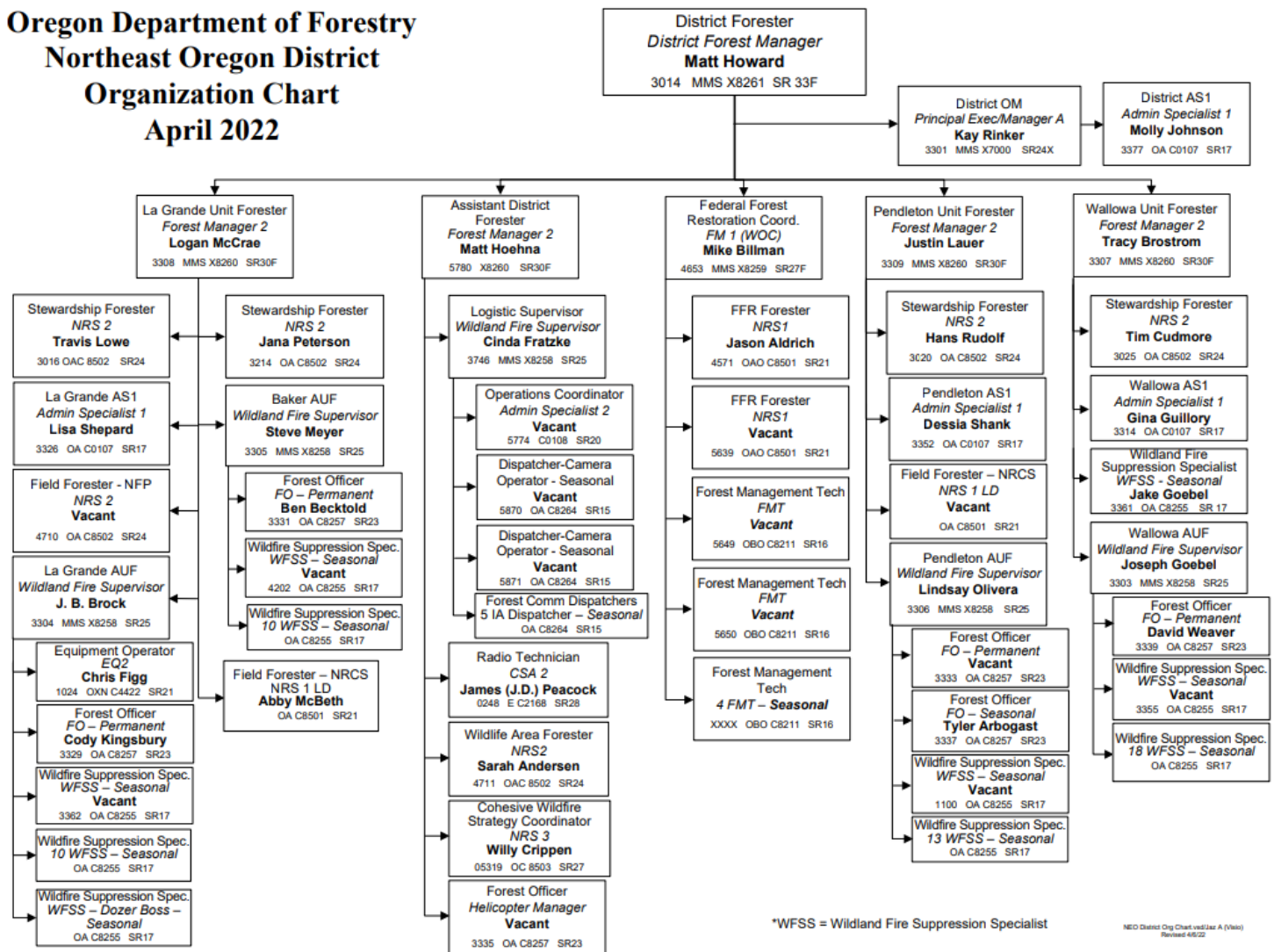
Gina Guillory— Retired, after 41 years of service, Wallowa Unit.

Happy Retirement! We will all miss you!!

Cooperative Work Program

The District seeks out and utilizes a variety of work opportunities with private, State and Federal Cooperators which provide cross-training opportunities for permanent employees, and additional employment for many of our seasonals. In 2022, several employees worked for the Oregon Department of Transportation, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Hancock Forest Management, and other private landowners.

Oregon Department of Forestry Northeast Oregon District Organization Chart April 2022



2022 Northeast Oregon District Budget Committee Members

Chris Heffernan, Union County, Forest Landowner and NEO Budget Committee Chairman; EOFPA Member
Bob Messinger, Union County, Forest Landowner
Jered Schwabauer, Harvest Operations Manager for Hancock Forest Management; EOFPA President
Clint Johnson, Baker County, Forest Landowner and Rancher
Pat Sullivan, Baker County, Forest Landowner & Rancher
Elwayne Henderson, Wallowa County, Forest Landowner & Forest Operator
Chris Cunningham, Wallowa County, Forest Landowner & Rancher
Hank Howard, Umatilla County, Forest & Rangeland Manager for Pacific Northwest Tree Farm
Bobby Corey, Umatilla County, Forest Landowner & Rancher Representing Pendleton Ranches/Cunningham Sheep Co; EOFPA member

EOFPA = East Oregon Forest Protective Association