

**Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF)**  
**2015 Report – Tribal-State Agency Government-to-Government Relations**  
**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**AGENCY-WIDE ACTIVITIES**

1. Nancy Hirsch replaced Paul Bell (retired) as the Deputy State Forester and the agency's designated Government-to-Government representative, assisted by Dave Lorenz and Keith Baldwin. In 2015, ODF representatives attended various Tribal cluster meetings, Tribal events, and other meetings relating to Tribal relations.
2. Fifteen ODF employees attended the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department Archaeology Awareness Training in April 2015.
3. HB 3013A, passed in 2015 by the Oregon Legislature, directs the Oregon Board of Forestry to create rules, in consultation with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and subject to various conditions, to allow establishing food plots on forestland.
4. Bald Eagle Rule Analysis has begun and initial outreach to Tribal councils is complete.
5. The Oregon Board of Forestry continues work on riparian rule analysis on small and medium fish streams west of the Cascades.
6. The Private Forests Division Monitoring Strategy is being updated, and includes meetings and communications with several Tribes and other stakeholders.
7. A revised agreement between ODF and the OPRD's State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has been approved by the ODF Executive Team and is pending SHPO approval.
8. The State Forests Division and the Oregon Board of Forestry continue work on an alternative forest management plan for northwest Oregon that meets financial and conservation goals.
9. The State Forests Division established a cultural resources interagency agreement with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to have ODOT professional archaeologists review proposed timber sales for cultural resources. The process was implemented with Fiscal Year 2015 planned management activities and modifications to address the presence of cultural resources were made prior to the finalizing the plans.
10. ODF has acquired an additional 26,000 additional acres for the Gilchrist State Forest. When the final 3,000 acres is acquired, the Gilchrist State Forest acquisition process will be complete at 70,000 acres.
11. The Department of State Lands, who now owns the 84,618-acre Elliott State Forest, which ODF currently manages under contract, is undergoing a process for transferring ownership of these Common School Lands because of difficulties in producing revenues for the Common School Fund. Final decisions are scheduled for late 2016 or early 2017.
12. The wildfire season of 2015 started early and was severe – which was the third year in a row for ODF. Lightning events and human-caused fires resulted in approximately 88,000 burned acres of ODF-protected forestlands. However, 95 percent of fires on ODF-protected lands were still extinguished at under 10 acres in size.
13. During the 2015 Legislative Session, three pieces of ODF-proposed legislation were passed, including bills that clarify authority for log sort sales and prohibit unauthorized commercial forest events on state forest lands, as well as a routine part of the budget process that sets the Forest Products Harvest Tax Rate.
14. The Forest Resources Planning Program continues, through collaborative partnerships, to address forest policies that would increase the pace and scale of federal forest restoration.

**FIELD OFFICES' SERVICE DELIVERY**

1. **Fire Protection.** Several local units and districts, particularly those with Tribal lands nearest to or intermingled with ODF-protected forestlands, such as Central Oregon, Northeast Oregon, and West Oregon, as well as the Coos and Douglas Forest Protective Associations, have successful working relationships, and fee-based and mutual aid agreements within reservation boundaries and Indian Trust Lands, with many of Oregon's Tribes and/or the Bureau of Indian Affairs. This includes pre-fire season discussions, fire prevention coordination, dispatching, and mutual aid initial and extended attack on fires, as well as slash disposal and smoke management. These working relationships and a high level of cooperation provide an efficient and effective fire protection system on what would otherwise be very challenging geographical areas due to the often checker-boarded nature of private lands ownership near and/or within tribes' reservation boundaries.
2. **Conservation and Forest Practices Act Administration.** Tribal interests in northeast and central Oregon are well-represented in salmon recovery and water quality issues, including field cooperation in areas of salmonid restoration and enhancement activities. The Forest Practices Act is administered on tribal lands in northeast Oregon, including Nez Perce tribal lands and on private lands within the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR).
3. **State Forests.** The State Forests Advisory Committee diverse membership includes a representative from the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde. ODF districts that manage state forest lands, including the Klamath, West Oregon, and Coos districts, regularly provide local area tribes with copies of their Annual Operating Plans, as well as any discussions of individual timber sale plans. The Coos District engaged in activities with the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw on a proposal to establish a special use permit and locating an important tribal historic site.
4. The Tillamook Forest Center and the Astoria District worked with the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde to provide access to cedar trees, scheduled for subsequent sale, from which Tribal members obtained cedar strips for cultural use.
5. A new Fact Sheet, *Protecting Cultural and Historic Sites*, has been developed as a tool for forest landowners, operators, and users about regulations that protect these sites, their obligations under the law, and recommending the landowner and operator contact the State Historic Preservation Office in the event of a cultural/historic site that may be impacted by a forest operation.

**Oregon Department of Forestry**  
**2015 Report – Tribal-State Agency Government –to-Government Relations**  
**Contact Information**

**Executive Team Contacts**

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"Stewardship in Forestry"

**2015 Report**  
**Oregon Department of Forestry**  
[www.oregon.gov/odf](http://www.oregon.gov/odf)  
**Tribal-State Agency Government-to-Government Relations**

## INTRODUCTION

During 2015, the [Oregon Department of Forestry \(ODF\)](http://www.oregon.gov/odf) continued its communication and coordination with the Tribes as it conducted its business of forestry. This involvement is reflected in agency policy and agreements, training, education, informational materials, and participation in opportunities that further employee government-to-government relations' knowledge and skills, and in direct consultation, communication, and cooperation. This report provides an overview on a geographical basis, on agency-wide and district activities.

## AGENCY-WIDE ACTIVITIES

### ODF Salem Headquarters Executive Team Contacts:

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### Agency's Designated Representative

Nancy Hirsch, Deputy State Forester, assumed the role of the Department's Agency Liaison for Government-to-Government Relations during this reporting period – in April 2015. Nancy is assisted by Dave Lorenz, Southern Oregon Area Director, and Keith Baldwin, Field Coordinator with the Private Forests Division.

### Annual Government-to-Government Activities and Training Opportunities

- Marcus Kauffman, ODF Biomass Resource Specialist, presented information on biomass opportunities to representatives from the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians on April 16, 2015, in Roseburg. The presentation and discussions centered on the market outlook for a variety of biomass products, as well as an overview of resources available for biomass project development. Marcus followed up the presentation and discussion by providing additional information on a variety of forest biomass topics, as well as a standing offer to continue to work with the Tribe in exploring biomass opportunities.
- Nancy Hirsch and Keith Baldwin attended the August 19, 2015 meeting of the Legislative Commission on Indian Services, and Keith briefly reviewed the statewide fire situation.

### Involvement with the Natural Resources Cluster Work Group/Other Natural Resources Activities

- On June 16, 2015, Marganne Allen, Private Forests Field Support, Policy, and Monitoring Manager, Bob Young, Fire Protection Prevention and Policy Manager, and Nick Yonker, Fire Protection Smoke Management/Meteorology Manager, participated in the State-Tribal Natural Resources Cluster Work Group meeting in Aumsville.
- The Forest Practices Program's "Forest Health Highlights" report was sent to the members of the Natural Resource Cluster Work Group.

### **Involvement with the Cultural Resources Cluster Work Group/Other Cultural Activities**

- Dave Lorenz and Keith Baldwin participated in the Interagency Cultural Resource Council meeting on November 2, 2014. Dave presented the Incident Command System that ODF uses for wildland fires and other natural resource incidents. Keith Baldwin participated in the Interagency Cultural Resource Council meeting on June 17, 2015.
- On March 20, 2015, Marganne Allen and Keith Baldwin met with representatives of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department State Historic Preservation Office to discuss ways to improve ODF's Notification of Operation review and outreach to forest landowners and operators.
- On January 28 2015, Paul Bell, Dave Lorenz, and Keith Baldwin participated in a joint meeting of the State-Tribal Natural Resources Workgroup and Cultural Resource Cluster.
- Keith Baldwin attended the Cultural Resource Cluster meetings on March 4 and September 29 and 30, 2015.
- On June 23, 2015, Marganne Allen participated in the State-Tribal Cultural Resources Cluster meeting in Pendleton.
- **2015 Archaeology Awareness Training.** Fifteen agency employees attended the 2015 Archaeology Awareness Training offered by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department in The Dalles during April 2015. These included employees from around the state with responsibilities in the ODF Private Forests and State Forests divisions and on wildland forest fires. An ODF Private Forests Division staff person clarified ODF responsibilities and processes regarding cultural resource protection. There is ongoing knowledge transfer from this training and internal training on ODF responsibilities and processes to protect cultural resources.
- **Cultural Resource Protection Training.** Thirty-five employees received cultural resource protection training at the Southern Oregon Area Private Forests Conference.
- **ODF Fact Sheet – “Protecting Cultural and Historic Sites”.** The department's *Protecting Cultural and Historic Sites* Fact Sheet is an updated document to improve communication with forest landowners, operators, and users regarding cultural and historic sites on forest lands. The Fact Sheet briefly explains cultural resources and protection regulations. An electronic version of the Fact Sheet is available to download from the department's web site at:  
<http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/Documents/AboutODF/CulturalResourcesFactSheet.pdf>.
- **Oregon Geographic Names Board.** Oregon State Forester Doug Decker serves as an advisor to the Oregon Geographic Names Board and is involved in the ongoing discussions of squaw place name replacements, and the wider topic of consultation with Tribes on the naming of geographic features. This board continues to deliberate on squaw place name changes, however, there were no specific actions over the past year that apply to state forest lands.

### **Private Forests Division**

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**HB 3013 A – Wildlife Food Plots.** HB 3013 A (not an ODF-introduced legislative concept) directs the Oregon Board of Forestry to create forest practices rules, in consultation with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, to allow the establishment of wildlife food plots on forestland subject to reforestation requirements. The bill allows forestland owners with ownerships of 10-5,000 acres to qualify for wildlife food plots on 1 percent to 2.5 percent of their ownership. Once a wildlife food plot ceases to exist, reforestation of that location is required. This bill becomes effective January 1, 2016. ODF is in the process of filling key positions to support the public outreach and rulemaking processes. ODF and the Department of Revenue (DOR) recognize there are questions and concerns

about whether this bill creates tension between forestry and forest taxation statutes and business processes, and will jointly explore these issues as part of the rule making process. DOR and county assessors will be included in outreach plans. ODF will work in partnership with DOR and local assessors on any requests to implement any wildlife food plots prior to the completion of rules.

***ODF/SHPO Programmatic Agreement.*** ODF's Executive Team approved the revised Programmatic Agreement between SHPO and the department, pending approval by SHPO. The revision clarifies roles and responsibilities between agencies, which were originally documented in the 2002 Memorandum of Agreement between the agencies.

***Reviewing Forest Operations for Possible Cultural Sites.*** The Department, in partnership with SHPO, continues to review proposed forest operations using SHPO sections of recorded historic ruins and below-ground archeological artifacts. The SHPO sections are intersects of sections within a 100 meter buffer of recorded sites. The nine federally recognized Oregon tribes approved sharing the information with ODF, provided the information is used confidentially. When an operation is within a SHPO section, ODF will recommend the landowner and operator contact SHPO to determine if the proposed operation may impact a recorded archaeological site. ODF also provides the *Protecting Cultural and Historic Sites* Fact Sheet, which explains regulations that protect cultural resource sites, to both the affected landowner and operator.

***Bald Eagle Protection Standards and State De-Listing Process.*** ODF's Private Forests Division has provided information on this rulemaking process to the Legislative Commission on Indian Services and, in addition, e-mails – followed up by formal letters – that included the Bald Eagle Protection Standards and State De-Listing Process, have been sent to each federally recognized Tribe in Oregon, as well as to those tribes that have cultural interests and/or ceded lands in the state. In these letters, the program extended an offer to the Tribal Chair and Vice Chair to attend a council meeting to explain, in person, the process ODF is going through during the rule analysis, and to request input from the council and tribal members regarding how best to continue or not continue the protection of the bald eagle under the Oregon Forest Practices Act. Once completed, the Bald Eagle Rule Analysis/Rulemaking Team will also distribute the technical report to each Tribe requesting input and review of the document.

***Riparian Rule Analysis.*** The Oregon Board of Forestry continued a riparian rule analysis (initiated in 2012) on small and medium fish streams west of the Cascades regarding the adequacy of the Oregon Forest Practices Act rules and best management practices in meeting water quality temperature standards. The Board has heard input from the public and directed the Department with key policy direction to move forward working with the Southwest and Northwest Regional Forest Practices Committees to provide recommendations to the Board prior to initiating rulemaking. Responses about possible changes to the stream rules have been mixed: forest landowners are concerned about the extent of the increased buffer widths and conservationists are concerned that the extent of the increased buffer widths may not be adequate to protect cold water standards. The Board's policy direction, audio files, and meeting information from the November 5, 2015 meeting is available at <http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/Board/Pages/BOFDetailNov2015.aspx>.

***Updating the Private Forests Division's Monitoring Strategy.*** ODF's Private Forests Division's Monitoring Unit conducts monitoring to assess the effectiveness and implementation of rules promulgated under the Oregon Forest Practices Act (FPA) to protect natural resources, and other related programs (e.g., Oregon Plan Voluntary Measures). The Unit's agenda is directed by a strategic plan that provides a description of the monitoring approach and articulates a list of prioritized monitoring questions. This plan is vital to the agency's mission because it address monitoring questions in a methodical and rational process with understanding, acceptance, and support by stakeholders and decision-makers. Results of monitoring efforts are taken to the Oregon Board of Forestry as part of its adaptive management approach to the FPA. Monitoring results also help guide training efforts, administration of the FPA, and delivery of other related programs. The Unit is in the midst of updating this strategy in a transparent and inclusive process. Part of this strategy revision process has included meeting with several Tribes.

## **State Forests Division**

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The Oregon Department of Forestry manages approximately 821,000 acres of state forest lands for environmental, economic, and social benefits.

***Alternative Forest Management Plan for Northwest Oregon.*** In 2012, the Oregon Board of Forestry undertook a planning process to ensure that the State Forests Division – the division charged with managing, monitoring, and conserving state forestland, and financially supported almost entirely by revenue from timber sales – would continue to be financially viable in the coming years following the economic recession. In addition, the Board tasked staff with creating a plan that was not only financially viable, but would also improve conversation over time in northwest Oregon state forests. This planning process has included substantial public involvement and the Board continues to study options for meeting these financial and conservation goals.

***Cultural Resources Interagency Agreement.*** The State Forests Division established an interagency agreement with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to have ODOT professional archaeologists review proposed timber sales for cultural resources in 2014. Through this agreement, the ODOT archaeologist gains access to the cultural resource database maintained by SHPO, which will help the Division prevent inadvertent discovery of cultural resources during management activities, and will assist the Division with efforts to ensure cultural resources are protected or avoided during management activities. Planned management activities for Fiscal Year 2015 were evaluated through this process, and modifications to the planned activities to address the presence of cultural resources were made prior to the finalizing the plans.

***Gilchrist State Forest – Land Acquisition.*** The State Forests Division continued efforts on the Gilchrist State Forest land acquisition process. Located 45 miles south of Bend, adjacent to U.S. Highway 97, the Gilchrist State Forest is Oregon’s newest state forest, with approximately 43,000 acres dedicated in 2010. The area has a rich place in Oregon history, with the land tract and town of Gilchrist established in 1938 to support timber production in the area. Harvested heavily through much of the 1990s, the Gilchrist now represents a sustainable forest for future generations, providing a range of economic, environmental, and social benefits for Oregonians. When completed, the acquisitions will add nearly 29,000 acres, keeping intact forestlands at high risk of fragmentation or conversion out of working forest use.

In 2014, ODF completed the public comment process and obtained approvals from the Klamath County Board of Commissioners and the Oregon Board of Forestry, and was able to purchase approximately 5,400 acres from The Conservation Fund using \$1.98 million in Oregon Lottery-backed bonds. In September 2015, the Department acquired approximately 20,500 acres from The Conservation Fund using Forest Legacy Funds and general obligation bond proceeds. The Department plans to acquire the final remaining approximately 3,000 acres by the end of 2015, which will complete the Gilchrist State Forest land acquisition.

More information on the Gilchrist State Forest acquisitions is on the web at:

<http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/Documents/AboutODF/2013GilchristAcquisitionStaffAnalysis.pdf>.

***Elliott State Forest.*** The Department of State Lands owns 84,618 acres of the Elliott State Forest, located near Reedsport, which ODF currently manages under contract. Following litigation, producing revenue from this forest for the Common School Fund through timber-sale dollars has proven challenging, with the forest recently costing more to manage than it produces. The Department of State Lands has recently launched a process for transferring ownership of these Common School Lands and looking at creative options, opening up opportunities for bidders, or groups of bidders, to express interest in purchasing the public forest. As the manager of the Elliott, ODF will continue as an active participant in these conversations, including discussions with the tribes about possible partnership opportunities. Final decisions are scheduled for late 2016 or early 2017.

**House Bill 2453:** The Oregon Legislature passed House Bill 2453 during the 2015 regular session. This Bill makes conducting a large commercial event without a permit a Class A misdemeanor. This new law is intended to help protect State Forest resources, including cultural resources, from large-scale social events (e.g. “raves”). The Bill includes a requirement in the permit conditions (described in Oregon Administrative Rule) for buffers between permitted events and known cultural resources. The formal rulemaking process, addressing the permit conditions and procedures, is expected to begin in December 2015.

### **Fire Division**

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The Oregon Department of Forestry protects 16 million acres of private and public forestlands, including the Bureau of Land Management forestlands west of the Cascades, from wildfire. Services provided include fire prevention, suppression, and investigation. Coordination with Tribes is accomplished primarily at the local level through relationships that work together on a regular basis throughout the year. In addition to this, when a fire becomes large, there is specific outreach and coordination with Tribes not only at the local level but often times through the Incident Commander of Incident Management Teams. Frequently Tribal Representatives are present at planning meetings, shift briefings, or other meetings.

**2015 Fire Season.** For the third year in a row, ODF’s task of protecting 16 million acres of private and public forest and rangelands from fire proved particularly challenging. In 2015, drought and extended periods of hot weather dried forest fuels to the point that nearly any fire start had the potential to spread quickly.

Three of the earliest fires, Sugarloaf, Cable Crossing, and Stouts Creek, underscored ODF fire managers’ concerns that conditions were ripe for large incidents. On June 27, the Sugarloaf Fire broke out in central Oregon. When it soon became evident that extra resources would be needed, an ODF fire team took over management of the suppression effort June 29. The blaze burned through 4,740 acres of grass and timber, and was finally contained in mid-July. Later that month, back-to-back large fires started in Douglas County – the Cable Crossing Fire on July 28 and the Stouts Creek Fire on July 30, ultimately burning 1,860 acres and 26,000 acres, respectively. With extreme fire behavior so early in the summer, fire managers knew they were facing a long season.

Then in mid-August, weather took an even worse turn and dry lightning storms started dozens of fires. Amid the parched conditions, three of them raced across the landscape: the Cornet-Windy Ridge Fires (Baker County), the Eagle Complex (also in Baker County near the Idaho border), and the Grizzly Bear Complex (which crossed into Oregon’s Northeast Oregon District from Washington). By the end of the month, these three incidents had consumed nearly 200,000 acres. West of the Cascades, dry conditions and extended periods of high temperatures made for elevated extreme fire danger throughout the fire season, and the Willamina Creek Fire on the Dallas Unit of ODF’s West Oregon District quickly burned an estimated 120 acres in August. By mid-September large fires were still breaking out and the Dry Gulch Fire in Northeast Oregon District scorched 17,000 acres in just three days.

While this season’s numerous fires, both large and small, inflicted widespread damage to Oregon’s forest resources, homes and structures were also not spared, and fires took a major toll on developments in and near the forest. The Canyon Creek Complex, started by lightning on August 12 and that ultimately burned more than 110,000 acres south of John Day, destroyed 43 residences and 60 other structures as brisk winds quickly propelled it across the ODF Central Oregon District’s John Day Unit. Besides the Canyon Creek Complex, five other fires in 2015 destroyed nineteen more homes and 56 additional structures throughout eastern Oregon.

**Fire Statistics on ODF-protected Forestlands<sup>1</sup>.** Following is a brief comparison of the past three fire seasons, along with the 10-year average, including statistics on the number of fires, fire cause, and acres burned.

#### **Number of Fires**

10-Year Average: 987 Fires.

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<sup>1</sup>Effective November 3, 2015

Human-Caused Fires (10-year average): 689 Fires.  
Lightning-Caused Fires (10-year average): 296 Fires.

2015: 1,065 Fires – 78 more fires than the 10-year average  
Human-Caused: 796 fires – 107 more fires than the 10-year average  
Lightning-Caused: 269 fires – 27 more fires than the 10-year average

2014: 1,121 Fires – 134 more fires than the 10-year average

2013: 1,186 Fires – 199 more fires than the 10-year average

### **Acres Burned**

10-Year Average: 27,599 Acres Burned

Human-Caused (10-year average): 5,068 Acres Burned.

Lightning-Caused (10-year average): 22,531 Acres Burned.

2015: 87,793 Total Acres Burned – 60,194 more acres burned than the 10-year average  
Human Caused: 17,064 Acres – 11,996 more acres burned than the 10-year average.  
Lightning Caused: 70,729 Acres – 48,198 more acres burned than the 10-year average.

2014: 53,381 Total Acres Burned – 25,782 more acres burned than the 10-year average

2013: 104,167 Total Acres Burned – 76,568 more acres burned than the 10-year average

**Fire Season 2015 – All Ownerships.**<sup>2</sup> Below are a few brief summary points that describe the fire season in Oregon/Pacific Northwest across all forestland ownerships.

- Approximately 631,547 acres were affected by wildfire in Oregon
- There were a total of 2,273 reported fires in Oregon (1,125 human-caused; 1,148 lightning-caused)
- 43 fires in Oregon met “large fire” criteria (at least 100 acres in timber or 300 acres in grass/brush)
- The Pacific Northwest geographic area (Oregon and Washington) were at the highest preparedness levels of 4 and 5 for a total of 47 days (at Preparedness Level 4 for 24 days and at Preparedness Level 5 for 23 days)
- “Large Fire” Incident Management Teams were mobilized 56 times in Oregon and Washington. One or more teams were in place for 109 consecutive days from June 12 – September 28.
- A total of 58,380 lightning strikes were recorded in Oregon and Washington, with the largest number for a single 24-hour time period – 6,469 – occurring on July 9
- Estimated total fire costs to date for Oregon are \$240,472,637 (with not all costs yet been reported and included)
- During peak fire activity, over 11,450 firefighters and support personnel were assigned to Oregon and Washington

**2015 Fire Program Review.** Oregon’s “complete and coordinated forest protection system” is more than just a slogan. Once again, strong partnerships and aggressive initial attack played out time and time again in 2015 throughout the state, stopping possible high-potential fires before they could inflict even worse large scale cost and damage.

However, as ODF ends this unprecedented third straight year of extreme fire conditions and behavior, the ODF Fire Protection Division is embarking on a 2015 Fire Program Review. This review has three main objectives: 1) Identifying sustainable large fire funding; 2) Creating a Sustainable Fire Organization; and, 3) Exploring policy options to mitigate increasingly complex wildfire conditions in Oregon. This work includes the objective of answering the question, “What policy improvements would produce a more fire resilient landscape long term and

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<sup>2</sup>Source: Northwest Interagency Coordination Center. Effective: September 30, 2015

reduce long-term fire costs?” The charter and membership for this review have been developed, and work is expected to conclude in June 2016. More information on the 2015 Fire Program Review is available at: <http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/Board/Pages/FireProgramReview.aspx>.

**After the Fire.** Wildfires can devastate a community and those who live there. During the fire, typically a fire team sets up a fire camp and the team’s information officers will regularly provide updated information, as well as possible additional involvement from local law enforcement. However, once the fire is contained and over, and the firefighters and others leave, the immediate questions and information needs of those affected also often change. ODF can also provide assistance to those impacted by wildfires, and help those needing answers. After a wildfire, many landowners ask about how and what tools are available to help restore their land – what to do and what resources are available. ODF’s Private Forests Division, particularly the Stewardship Foresters located in ODF’s district and unit offices throughout the state, are there to help with exactly these very types of situations and questions. The department’s *After the Fire* Fact Sheet (available on the ODF website at <http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/Documents/WorkingForests/AssistanceAftertheWildfire.pdf>) was developed as a start for those whose forestlands have been impacted by fire. Also, visit the web page “Help After a Fire” at <http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/Fire/Pages/AfterAFire.aspx>.

### **Urban and Community Forestry Program**

**Paul Ries, Program Manager, 503-945-7391; [Paul.Ries@Oregon.gov](mailto:Paul.Ries@Oregon.gov)**

The Urban and Community Forestry Program has a representative of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde who sits on the statewide urban forestry advisory committee, the Oregon Community Trees Board of Directors.

### **Forest Resources Planning Program**

**Kevin Birch, Program Director; 503-945-7405; [Kevin.R.Birch@Oregon.gov](mailto:Kevin.R.Birch@Oregon.gov)**

**Oregon Annual Timber Harvest Report.** As occurs each year, all Oregon tribes were again contacted by the Forest Resources Planning Program again during the year requesting information for the state’s annual Timber Harvest Report. Timber harvest reporting data is available electronically for the years 1962 through 2014, broken out by county and general land ownership categories (including the compilation category of “Native Americans”), on the State of Oregon’s data.Oregon.gov website at <https://data.oregon.gov/Natural-Resources/Oregon-Timber-Harvest-Data/2p6a-trc8>, as well as a PDF file of the past 25 years of timber harvest history at [https://data.oregon.gov/api/views/2p6a-trc8/files/MAR\\_Vxx6\\_McAFtlfDgIZNkdIRpd-c41FbZkqnSR964I?download=true&filename=rpt25YearTable.pdf](https://data.oregon.gov/api/views/2p6a-trc8/files/MAR_Vxx6_McAFtlfDgIZNkdIRpd-c41FbZkqnSR964I?download=true&filename=rpt25YearTable.pdf).

**ODF Federal Forest Health Program.** The Forest Resources Planning Program continues, through collaborative partnerships, to address federal policies that would accelerate the pace and scale of federal forest restoration. Oregon became the first state in the nation to invest in national forest management with the initial \$2.88 million investment in the 2013-15 Agency Budget, which focused on the “dry forests” in the Blue Mountains. The 2015-17 Agency Budget includes \$5.0 million in lottery funds for an ODF Federal Forests Health Program that expands the state’s work in management that restores forest health, reduces wildfire risk, enhances ecological and recreation values, provides raw materials for mills, and creates jobs on federal forests. The program is expanding on initial restoration work statewide supporting local collaborative groups that demonstrate results and readiness, and acting on Good Neighbor Authority granted in the 2014 Farm Bill. This provision allows the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management to authorize state foresters to implement forest management activities on federal forestlands.

Additional information about the Federal Forest Health Program can be viewed at [http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/Board/Documents/BOF/20150304/BOFMIN\\_20150304\\_ATTCH\\_11.pdf](http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/Board/Documents/BOF/20150304/BOFMIN_20150304_ATTCH_11.pdf).

## **Public Affairs Program**

**Ken Armstrong, Public Affairs Program Director; 503-945-7420; [Ken.W.Armstrong@Oregon.gov](mailto:Ken.W.Armstrong@Oregon.gov)**

**ODF Launches New Agency Website:** At the end of September 2015, ODF launched a new website, providing visitors with a more user-friendly experience that is streamlined to meet the information and business needs of the public and the agency's customers. The new website makes navigation easier, and features mobile-friendly responsive design and technology so that the site works on the variety of devices (smartphones, mobile devices, tablets, laptops, etc.) that surveys confirm Oregonians want to use to find the information they need. Site development included usability testing, as well as evaluating analytical data from the previous website, and the new site's now simplified structure and language allowed ODF to reduce the number of pages on its site by 85 percent, while maintaining relevant and useful content for ODF customers and the public – again, simplifying the user experience so that customers can more easily find what they need.

The website address remains the same – [www.oregon.gov/odf](http://www.oregon.gov/odf) – and includes a Tribal Relations web page at <http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/AboutODF/Pages/TribalRelations.aspx> that contains ODF/Tribal Relations content, resources, and links to relevant information.

## **AGENCY LEGISLATION AND BUDGET**

### **2015 Agency Legislative Concepts**

**Nancy Hirsch, Deputy State Forester/Legislative Coordinator; 503-945-7205; [Nancy.Hirsch@Oregon.gov](mailto:Nancy.Hirsch@Oregon.gov)**

**Chad Davis, Policy Analyst/Legislative Assistant; 503-602-2130; [Chad.Davis@Oregon.gov](mailto:Chad.Davis@Oregon.gov).**

Following is an overview of ODF's legislative concepts that were considered and approved, and a link to the agency's approved budget for the 2015-17 biennium.

**SB 248 – Clarifying Authority for Log Sort Sales.** Currently, ODF auctions timber through contracts under which bidders purchase all timber in a harvest unit and perform all work associated with the harvest. With the passage of SB 248, ODF is now authorized to pursue a different approach in some instances: auctioning delivered logs, sorted by grade or species. This could maximize revenue received for this public resource.

**HB 2453 – Prohibiting Unauthorized Commercial Events in State Forests.** Large, unpermitted, commercial social events, such as overnight “rave” parties drawing hundreds of people, have raised serious health, safety, law enforcement, and resource damage concerns in state forests, particularly the Clatsop and Tillamook. This concept makes conducting large, commercial events, without proper permitting, on state forests a Class A misdemeanor. [More information on this legislation is also included in the “State Forests Division” section of this report.]

**HB 2455 – Forest Practices Harvest Tax.** A routine part of the budgeting process that is considered and determined every legislative session, HB 2455 establishes the Forest Products Harvest Tax rate for the upcoming biennia to support administration of the Oregon Forest Practices Act, professional education at the Oregon State University's College of Forestry, and the College's Forest Research Lab.

### **2015-17 Agency Budget**

**Satish Upadhyay, Administrative Services Division Chief, 503-945-7203; [Satish.Upadhyay@Oregon.gov](mailto:Satish.Upadhyay@Oregon.gov)**

A two-page summary of the 2015-17 Governor's Budget for the agency can be downloaded at [http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/Board/Documents/BOF/20150723/BOFMIN\\_20150723\\_ATTCH\\_01.pdf](http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/Board/Documents/BOF/20150723/BOFMIN_20150723_ATTCH_01.pdf).

## **OREGON BOARD OF FORESTRY**

The seven-member citizen Oregon Board of Forestry is appointed by the Governor and approved by the Oregon Senate to 1) supervise all matters of forest policy within Oregon; 2) appoint the State Forester; 3) adopt rules regulating forest practices; and, 4) provide general supervision of the State Forester's duties in managing the Oregon Department of Forestry. The Board's mission is to lead Oregon in implementing policies and programs that promote environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable management of Oregon's 28 million acres of public and

private forests. Board meeting dates are defined in statute, as well as additional meetings, tours, workshops, and community visits, as scheduled by the Board. In 2014, the Board notified Tribes of meetings and provided specific invitations to Board tours and community socials.

More information on the Oregon Board of Forestry can be found at: [www.oregonforestry.gov](http://www.oregonforestry.gov).

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The following informational summary is organized by area/district, and includes contact information, as well as a summary of the major activities provided through local field offices for the agency's Fire, Private Forests, and State Forests Divisions – particularly fire prevention and suppression; assistance to private forestland owners; environmental protection on private forestlands through administration of the Oregon Forest Practices Act and other state and federal rules and laws; and state forest management – in which the agency works with tribal governments, efforts to address key issues, communication, and collaboration and cooperation with other agencies and the tribes.

**Eastern Oregon Area, Prineville** (*Private and non-federal public lands east of the crest of the Cascades*)  
**Travis Medema, Area Director; 541-447-5658 x225; [Travis.S.Medema@Oregon.gov](mailto:Travis.S.Medema@Oregon.gov)**

**Central Oregon District, Prineville**

**Mike Shaw, District Forester; 541-447-5658 x231; [Michael.H.Shaw@Oregon.gov](mailto:Michael.H.Shaw@Oregon.gov)**

**Kristen Dodd, Prineville Unit Forester; 541-447-5658 x230; [Kristen.Dodd@Oregon.gov](mailto:Kristen.Dodd@Oregon.gov)**

**Rob S. Pentzer, John Day Unit Forester; 541-575-1139 x232; [Rob.S.Pentzer@Oregon.Gov](mailto:Rob.S.Pentzer@Oregon.Gov)**

**David Jacobs, The Dalles Unit Forester; 541-296-4626; [David.J.Jacobs@Oregon.gov](mailto:David.J.Jacobs@Oregon.gov)**

*The Central Oregon District protects approximately 2.2 million acres of forest and rangeland in 11 counties (Crook, Deschutes, Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Hood River, Jefferson, Morrow, Umatilla, Wasco, and Wheeler). The District Office is located in Prineville, with Unit Offices in Prineville, John Day, and The Dalles. The Prineville Unit has a sub-unit in Sisters and the John Day Unit has a sub-unit in Fossil.*

**Protection from Fire Program.** The Central Oregon District has continued a very positive working relationship with the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs (CTWS) and the Burns-Paiute Tribe this past year.

The Central Oregon District participated in a pre-season cooperators meeting sponsored by the CTWS to discuss fire management, dispatch, cooperative working agreements, and information sharing. This was effective in creating a better working relationship between CTWS and all their cooperating agencies. District staff also participated in a cross-boundary large fire exercise with CTWS.

District staff in the Prineville and The Dalles units continue to coordinate with CTWS in supporting fire prevention projects through the Central Oregon and Mid-Columbia Fire Prevention Cooperatives.

There is ongoing communication and coordination with the CTWS during fire season with both the Central Oregon Interagency Dispatch Center (COIDC) and the dispatch center in The Dalles. In 2015, a very strong mutual aid partnership continued through assisting partners with initial and extended attack fires.

**Private Forests Program.** Stewardship Foresters have done consulting work on CTWS lands and continue Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program plans on the main stem and Middle Fork of the John Day River and some of its' tributaries.

Coordination opportunities are presented with both the CTWS and Burns-Paiute Tribe at the Grant and Harney Counties' Soil and Water Conservation District meetings.

### **Klamath-Lake District, Klamath Falls**

**Dennis Lee, District Forester; 541-883-5687; [Dennis.Lee@Oregon.gov](mailto:Dennis.Lee@Oregon.gov)**

**[Vacant], Klamath Protection Unit Forester; 541-883-5680**

**John Pellisier, Sun Pass and Gilchrist State Forest Management Unit Forester; 541-883-5681;**

**[John.D.Pellisier@Oregon.gov](mailto:John.D.Pellisier@Oregon.gov)**

**Dustin Gustaveson, Lake Protection Unit Forester; 541-947-3311; [Dustin.Gustaveson@Oregon.gov](mailto:Dustin.Gustaveson@Oregon.gov)**

*The Klamath-Lake District protects approximately 1.6 million acres of public and private forestlands in Klamath and Lake Counties, as well as managing approximately 105,000 total acres of state forestlands. This includes approximately 34,000 acres, the 21,317-acre Sun Pass State Forest, located 40 miles north of Klamath Falls near the southeastern corner of Crater Lake National Park, and an additional 12,700 acres of scattered tracts. The District also manages Oregon's newest state Forest, the Gilchrist State Forest, located off of Highway 97 near Gilchrist, which, including this year's latest acquisitions, is approximately 69,000 acres, and the final acquisition of approximately 3,000 acres expected during the coming year. The District and a Unit Office are located in Klamath Falls, with a second Unit Office located in Lakeview.*

The Klamath-Lake District provides the Klamath Tribes an opportunity to review and provide responses to the Annual Operations Plan for State Forests' management on the District.

### **Northeast Oregon District, LaGrande**

**John Buckman, District Forester, 541-963-3168, [john.buckman@oregon.gov](mailto:john.buckman@oregon.gov)**

**Matt Howard, Wallowa Unit Forester; 541-886-2881; [matt.howard@oregon.gov](mailto:matt.howard@oregon.gov)**

**Joe Hessel, La Grande Unit Forester, 541-963-3168; [joe.hessel@oregon.gov](mailto:joe.hessel@oregon.gov)**

**Dennis Perilli, Pendleton Unit Forester; 541-276-3491; [dennis.j.perilli@oregon.gov](mailto:dennis.j.perilli@oregon.gov)**

*The Northeast Oregon District protects approximately 1.9 million acres of private forestlands in Union, Baker, Wallowa, and Umatilla counties, as well as portions of Malheur, Grant, and Morrow counties. The District Office is located in La Grande, with Unit Offices located in La Grande, Pendleton, and Wallowa. The La Grande Unit also has a Sub-Unit Office in Baker City.*

Both the Tribes and ODF continue to be involved in water quality planning processes in the Upper Grande Ronde, Walla Walla, and Umatilla Rivers, as well as the Wallowa, Lower Grande Ronde, and Imnaha River basins in Wallowa County. Tribal interests in northeastern Oregon are well represented in all facets of salmon recovery and water quality issues.

Field cooperation continues in areas of salmonid restoration and enhancement activity. ODF stewardship foresters have worked on joint restoration projects, weaving together Tribal interest and dollars with other funding sources such as Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), and Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program. Tribal fisheries biologists are a great information source during these activities.

**Wallowa Unit.** The Oregon Forest Practices Act is administered on the Nez Perce Tribe (NPT) lands in Wallowa County. At present, no operations notifications have been filed with ODF. Given the limited access, steep terrain, and the primary management purpose of promoting wildlife habitat, harvesting activity is anticipated to be low.

The Wallowa Unit Forester is a member of the steering committee that provides input to the NPT staff to aid in the implementation of a management plan for tribal lands in Wallowa County. A draft of the Precious Land Wildlife Management Area Plan was completed in 2005 with review provided by ODF. The land was purchased with BPA wildlife mitigation funds (Snake River dams), and the objectives for these lands are to enhance and preserve wildlife habitat.

Regarding fire protection, the Northeast Oregon District – Wallowa Unit has a Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement with the NPT which has been in place since 1999. Under this agreement, ODF provides fire protection on approximately 14,984 acres of tribal land within the Northeast Oregon District forest protection boundary. This accumulated acreage is known as the "Precious Lands Wildlife Management Area" and is located in northeastern Wallowa County. The NPT also provide a Tribal representative to work with the fire managers in instances where heavy equipment will be used on the property, due to the potential presence of cultural resources. Tribal employees working on the property during the summer months have also aided ODF in the early detection of fires on Tribal

lands, as well as on adjacent private and public lands. ODF continues to coordinate with the Precious Lands Resource Manager to assure that any access changes, gate combinations, etc., are effectively communicated.

Due to the active fire season on NPT ownership in 2010, fire managers met with NPT representatives in the spring of 2011 to discuss tribal interests relative to fire suppression activities within the Precious Lands Wildlife Management Area. This meeting was very productive and provided managers within both agencies the critical information necessary for efficient and effective fire suppression tactics and communication. Of particular interest was a discussion involving the use of heavy equipment and retardant use on NPT ownership. During fire season 2015, there was one significant fire within the Precious Lands Wildlife Management Area. This was a 763 acre fire located in the Joseph Creek drainage that burned 273 acres of NPT ownership and 490 acres of private ownership.

**La Grande Unit.** Stewardship Foresters have used their working relationships with local private landowners to introduce them to biologists with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) regarding potential stream restoration projects. As a result, CTUIR is currently working on an extensive project on tributaries to the Upper Grande Ronde River on private ownership. This project is restoring stream and meadow functions and habitat for the benefit of steelhead and Chinook salmon. The Unit's foresters also occasionally work with CTUIR in large wood, tree, and log acquisition for stream restoration work.

La Grande Unit Stewardship Foresters and CTUIR biologists serve together on the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Upper Grande Ronde Conservation Information System program, providing technical and operational support. This work group's goal is to provide a coordinated and integrated approach to forest health and natural resources restoration in target areas within the basin. The La Grande Unit is also working on a multi-agency Regional Conservation Partnership Program proposal with staff from many agencies and organizations including CTUIR. This proposal would be a multi-faceted watershed level treatment on private lands to help enhance and protect habitat in the Upper Grande Ronde Watershed.

**Pendleton Unit.** The Oregon Forest Practices Act is administered by the district's Pendleton Unit on private lands within the reservation boundary of the CTUIR. Notifications of Operations and Permits to Operate Power-driven Machinery are required on all private forest land operations. The Unit provides a copy of all Notifications of Operation within the reservation boundary to appropriate CTUIR staff. The ODF Stewardship Forester coordinated with CTUIR forestry staff and private landowners regarding Tribal permit requirements for forest activities. The Unit's Stewardship Forester works with private landowners to help ensure that burn permit and smoke management requirements are addressed for both ODF and CTUIR. In 2015, cultural resource awareness letters were sent to landowners on 31 operations governed by the Oregon Forest Practices Act within the CTUIR boundary or near Tribal ownership.

Both the CTUIR and the Pendleton Unit Stewardship Forester are active members of the Umatilla National Forest Collaborative Group and attend monthly meetings. Both parties are also represented on the local Natural Resource Conservation Service working group and attended two meetings this year to discuss large-scale forest restoration and fuels treatment projects within Umatilla County where Tribal and private ownership could work in a coordinated and collaborative basis.

The Umatilla Agency of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) has a fee-based fire protection agreement with ODF that has been in place since 1961. Under the agreement, which is in compliance with the district's Master Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement, the Northeast Oregon District's Pendleton Unit provides fire protection for approximately 55,007 acres of Indian Trust land within the Northeast Oregon Forest Protection District. The CTUIR also contracts with Northeast Oregon District to provide wildland fire protection on 17,840 acres of fee lands within the protection district that are owned and managed by the Tribe.

This is the fourth season that the BIA has been using Blue Mountain Interagency Dispatch Center (BMIDC) as their primary dispatch center for fire activity which has further increased the level of coordination between BIA and ODF. ODF has continued to allow BIA to use ODF radio frequencies to dispatch crews, provide fire updates, and order shared resources (retardant aircraft, crews, etc.). A BIA frequency is able to be used to provide for back-up communications for both BIA and ODF fire resources if ODF's primary frequency were to go down. In 2015, BIA hosted a preseason interagency dispatch meeting involving Tribal Dispatch, BMIDC, BIA and ODF fire managers.

The BIA, CTUIR, and ODF have a mutual aid fire protection agreements that enables each agency to help the other within their protection areas. These agreements allow the Northeast Oregon District's Pendleton Unit, the BIA

Umatilla Agency, and the CTUIR Fire Department to assist each other with available firefighting resources as needed and available. The principal responsibility of the Tribal Fire Department is structural protection, while BIA and ODF are primarily trained as wildland firefighters. Throughout fire season, there is communication between ODF, CTUIR, and BIA firefighters and fire managers; close cooperation that continues to provide an effective fire protection system for all residents of the Umatilla Reservation, including private landowners within the Reservation boundary.

During 2015, two statistical fires occurred on ODF protection within the CTUIR boundary. On July 9<sup>th</sup>, the lightning-caused Table Rock Fire burned 218 acres, including 203.5 acres of CTUIR lands and 14.5 acres of other BIA Trust lands. Besides ODF, CTUIR, and BIA resources, other jurisdictions responding to this fire included the US Forest Service, Pendleton Fire Department, and Helix, Echo, and Stanfield Rural Fire Districts. On August 24<sup>th</sup>, the human caused Rock Fire started within the CTUIR boundary but outside of ODF protection and burned onto the ODF Fire Protection District. Of the 230 acres burned in the Rock Fire, 166 acres were within ODF protection. The 166 acres included 12.5 CTUIR acres, 6 BIA Trust acres, and 147.5 private acres. Besides engines from ODF, CTUIR, and BIA, East Umatilla County and Helix Rural Fire Districts also responded. Large and Single Engine Air Tankers, along with four bulldozers, were used to stop the spread of this fire which threatened four homes within the CTUIR boundary. Tribal Cultural Resource Advisors were contacted during initial attack on both of these fires.

In addition during 2015, ODF fire resources provided mutual aid to three BIA protection responsibility fires: the Ross, Lloyd Road, and TCI fires. ODF also provided mutual aid resources on two CTUIR protection responsibility fires: Johnley Road and Homly.

The Pendleton Unit of Northeast Oregon District perceives the working relationship concerning fire protection with the CTUIR and the BIA Umatilla Agency as successful and productive, and as one that enhances all of the agencies' efficiencies and effectiveness. This successful working relationship provides the residents of the CTUIR with an effective and responsive fire protection, fire prevention, and smoke management system. Without this high level of cooperation between agencies, the checker-boarded ownership within the reservation boundaries would create a cumbersome fire protection system that would be significantly less efficient and effective.

**Northwest Oregon Area, Forest Grove** (*private, state, and Bureau of Land Management forestlands west of the crest of the Cascades and north of Eugene*)

**Andy White, Area Director; 503-359-7496, [Andrew.T.White@Oregon.gov](mailto:Andrew.T.White@Oregon.gov)**

**State Forests Advisory Committee (SFAC):** The Northwest Oregon Area Office continues to work with the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde through their representative on the [State Forests Advisory Committee](#) (SFAC), Zach Haas. SFAC represents diverse interests and provides input to the department and the board on state-managed forestland in northwest and southwest Oregon. Committee membership includes environmental, recreational and timber industry groups, as well as individuals nonaffiliated to particular interests. In addition to the various interests, Oregon counties receiving revenue from timber sales are represented.

### **Astoria District**

**Dan Goody, District Forester; 503-325-5451; [Dan.B.Goody@Oregon.gov](mailto:Dan.B.Goody@Oregon.gov)**

*The Astoria District manages the 137,000 acre Clatsop State Forest and protects approximately 450,790 acres of forest land in Clatsop, Tillamook, and Columbia counties.*

During this reporting period the Astoria District cooperated on a project with Bobby Mercier, Tribal Member and Cultural Outreach Specialist for the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, and other Tribal members to collect cedar bark from Board of Forestry Lands within the district. This project occurred in a sold timber sale area prior to harvest. The tribal members visited the site in June 2015 and stripped cedar bark from live standing trees scheduled for harvest. This project benefited the Tribes and had no adverse impact to the sold timber. Cedar bark has become increasingly harder to find and is very important for many tribal activities and customs. The district will be mindful of future opportunities to make cedar bark available and will share that information with the Tribes

*[Note: Reporting on the cedar bark stripping activity is also included in the section of this report about the Tillamook Forest Center.]*

### **Forest Grove District**

**Mike Cafferata, District Forester; 503-359-7430; [Mike.J.Cafferata@Oregon.gov](mailto:Mike.J.Cafferata@Oregon.gov)**

**Malcolm Hiatt, Columbia City Unit Forester; 503-397-2636; [Malcolm.E.Hiatt@Oregon.gov](mailto:Malcolm.E.Hiatt@Oregon.gov)**

*The Forest Grove has an office in Forest Grove and a Unit Office in Columbia City. This District protects approximately 815,000 acres of forest land in Washington, Columbia, Yamhill, Tillamook and Multnomah counties. The district also manages the eastern one-third (approximately 115,000 acres) of the Tillamook State Forest.*

In 2015, the Forest Grove District received a report from a public citizen who was concerned about a possible cultural area on private forestlands within the district's protection area that could have been impacted by possible logging activities. ODF contacted SHPO and the private landowner to bring the right people to the discussion for the correct outcome. Representatives from SHPO, the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, the private landowner involved, and ODF visited the site together to determine whether the site met the criteria to be protected and, if so, how to minimize or eliminate disturbance. During that initial discussion, it was unknown if the reported cultural area was a prehistoric or historic feature, or neither; essentially, none of the parties involved knew anything previously about this particular site. Subsequent to this discussion, the private landowner plans to avoid this area at this time by leaving a 100-foot buffer area around it during any future forest operations, as well as to continue conversations with SHPO about the area.

This situation illustrates an excellent example of outreach and cooperative connections between those entities concerned – in this case, SHPO, the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians, the private landowner, and ODF, with ODF exercising a coordinated effort to bring the proper experts together for the conversation, allowing them to do what is needed and ensuring the proper steps are taken, while staying engaged so as to best continue work with the private forestland owner to accomplish their objectives for their forestlands.

### **North Cascade District**

**Steve Wilson, District Forester; 503-859-4341; [Steve.V.Wilson@Oregon.gov](mailto:Steve.V.Wilson@Oregon.gov)**

**Russ Lane, Assistant District Forester; 503-859-4325; [Russell.K.Lane@Oregon.gov](mailto:Russell.K.Lane@Oregon.gov)**

**Scott West, Molalla Unit Forester; 503-829-2216 x223; [Scott.A.West@Oregon.gov](mailto:Scott.A.West@Oregon.gov)**

*The North Cascade District manages the 47,871-acre Santiam State Forest, and protects 652,000 acres of public and private forestlands in Clackamas, Multnomah, Marion, and Linn counties. The District is comprised of two unit offices – the Molalla Unit and the Santiam Unit in Lyons.*

### **South Fork Forest Camp**

**Nathan Seable; 503-815-6126; [Nathan.T.Sable@Oregon.gov](mailto:Nathan.T.Sable@Oregon.gov)**

*South Fork Forest Camp is a Department of Corrections (DOC) minimum security facility jointly administered by DOC and the Oregon Department of Forestry, located in the Tillamook State Forest 28 miles east of Tillamook, Oregon. The forestry employees supervise inmate crews in conducting project work across 650,000 acres of state forestlands within the Northwest Oregon geographic area and statewide for the Fire Program. Additionally, this program strives to provide work and personal conduct skills to inmates that increase their success at integrating back into society.*

### **Tillamook District**

**Kate Skinner, District Forester; 503-815-7001; [Kate.J.Skinner@Oregon.gov](mailto:Kate.J.Skinner@Oregon.gov)**

*The Tillamook District protects approximately 480,000 acres of forest land in Tillamook, Clatsop, and Yamhill counties and manages over 250,000 acres (the western two-thirds) of the Tillamook State Forest.*

### **Tillamook Forest Center**

**Fran McReynolds, Director; 503-815-6817; [Fran.A.McReynolds@Oregon.gov](mailto:Fran.A.McReynolds@Oregon.gov)**

**[www.tillamookforestcenter.org](http://www.tillamookforestcenter.org) and [www.facebook.com/tillamookforestcenteroregon](http://www.facebook.com/tillamookforestcenteroregon)**

*Located in the heart of the Tillamook State Forest, the [Tillamook Forest Center](http://www.tillamookforestcenter.org) showcases the legacy of the historic Tillamook Burn and the public spirit behind a monumental reforestation effort that left a permanent imprint on Oregon history while also shaping sustainable forest management today. The center is located 50 miles west of Portland and 22 miles east of Tillamook, near Milepost 22 on Oregon Highway 6.*

During this reporting period, Tillamook Forest Center staff contacted the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde about programs at the Center and were invited to visit Chachalu, the newly opened Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Tribal Museum and Cultural Center. Fran McReynolds and retired Tillamook Forest Center Director Jim Quiring toured Chachalu, and spent most of the day with museum staff and other tribal program managers discussing possible opportunities.

Subsequently, David Harrelson, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, visited the Tillamook Forest Center and took back information about a large cedar log at the center that has been offered to the tribes. There were also discussions about possibilities for other forest products that might be available to the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

As a result, the Tillamook Forest Center connected with the Astoria District concerning an upcoming timber sale that included cedar trees. Through the efforts of that district and cooperating partners, a date was coordinated with Bobby Mercier, Cultural Outreach Specialist, for approximately 14 members of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde to harvest cedar bark in June, before the trees were cut. Participants also gathered other forest products, such as maidenhair fern, on the harvest day.

In addition to supplying the cedar bark and other materials for weaving and other cultural activities, each of these activities creates new connections, helps build trust, and creates more opportunities for partnership and collaboration for all involved.

*[Note: Reporting on the cedar bark stripping activity is also included in the section on the Tillamook Forest Center.]*

#### **West Oregon District**

**Mike Totey, District Forester, Philomath; 541-929-9151; [Mike.A.Totey@Oregon.gov](mailto:Mike.A.Totey@Oregon.gov)**

**Jeff Classen, Dallas Unit Forester, 541-934-8146; [Jeff.Classen@Oregon.gov](mailto:Jeff.Classen@Oregon.gov)**

**Matt Thomas, Toledo Unit Forester; 541-336-2273 x213; [Matt.Thomas@Oregon.gov](mailto:Matt.Thomas@Oregon.gov)**

*The West Oregon District protects approximately 1.1 million acres of forestland in Benton, Lincoln, Polk, and southwest Yamhill counties, and also manages approximately 36,633 acres of State Forest Lands. The District Office is located in Philomath, with three unit offices in Philomath, Dallas, and Toledo.*

The West Oregon District has fee-based fire protection agreements with both the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz. Staff from the Tribes regularly attend and participate in meetings of the West Oregon Forest Protective Association. It is common to have joint fire suppression action from tribal and ODF organizations on fires of mutual concern.

The district's State Forests employees contact forestry staff from the Confederated Tribes of Siletz to discuss routine road maintenance issues on shared roads and any timber harvesting activities on state forest lands that are immediately adjacent to tribal lands, and also regularly seek input on planned timber sales (Annual Operations Plans).

Slash disposal is also a frequent issue requiring communication and coordination. Larger planning efforts, including fire mobilization plans from each organization, are shared and reviewed between the organizations.

**Southern Oregon Area, Roseburg** *(private, state, and Bureau of Land Management forestlands west of the crest of the Cascades and including Linn and Lane counties south to the California border)*

**Dave Lorenz, Area Director; 541-440-3412 x120; [Dave.C.Lorenz@Oregon.gov](mailto:Dave.C.Lorenz@Oregon.gov)**

#### **Coos District, Coos Bay**

**Norma Kline, District Forester; 541-267-1741; [Norma.Kline@Oregon.gov](mailto:Norma.Kline@Oregon.gov)**

*The Coos District manages 95,273 acres of state forest lands in Coos, Curry, and Douglas counties, including the 93,003-acre Elliott State Forest, located in the Coast Range between Coos Bay and Reedsport, as well as providing*

*environmental protection and assisting private forestland owners on nearly 1.25 million acres in Coos, Curry, and western Douglas counties. [Note: Through agreement with the Oregon State Forester, fire protection on the public and private forestlands in this area is provided by the private, non-profit [Coos Forest Protective Association](#).]*

The Coos District's State Forests employees have consulted (field review) with the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw on a proposal to establish a special use permit for the old West Fork Millicoma Girl Scout Camp with the Boy Scouts of America for use as a camp.

During this reporting period, State Forests employees with the Coos District provided assistance to the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw in locating and accessing an important tribal historic site on State Forests lands so that the Tribes could do maintenance on the site.

The Coos District has also been working with the Coquille Indian Tribe to further clarify the limits of authority that the Private Forests Division has in regards to cultural resource protection.

In addition, each year, the Coos District continue to share their proposed State Forests Annual Operating Plans with the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw and the Coquille Indian Tribe for their review and input.

#### **Coos Forest Protective Association, Coos Bay**

**Mike Robison, District Manager; 541-267-3161; [Mike.E.Robison@Oregon.gov](mailto:Mike.E.Robison@Oregon.gov) [www.coosfpa.net](http://www.coosfpa.net)**

*Through an agreement with the Oregon Department of Forestry, the [Coos Forest Protective Association](#), a private non-profit association, provides fire protection on 1.5 million acres of private, county, state, and Bureau of Land Management lands within the Coos District.*

The Coos Forest Protective Association (CFPA), through agreements with the BIA and a local operating agreement, maintains a positive and productive relationship with the Coquille Indian Tribe. Due to a downturn in the biomass market, CFPA will be assisting the Coquille Indian Tribe in meeting their fuels management goals through planning and operational assistance. The district also participates in the Coquille Indian Tribe's youth Field Day which covers tree planting activities, wildlife habitat, and fire prevention.

CFPA provides fire protection on 6,555 acres of Coquille Indian Tribe lands that are held in trust throughout Coos and Curry counties, 6,512 acres of land in Douglas County owned by the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians, and 19 acres of lands owned by the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians in Coos County. The Coquille Indian Tribe and the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians are active members of the Association.

#### **Douglas Forest Protective Association, Roseburg**

**Melvin Thornton, District Manager; 541-440-3412 x123; [Melvin.Thornton@Oregon.gov](mailto:Melvin.Thornton@Oregon.gov) [www.dfpa.net/](http://www.dfpa.net/), <https://twitter.com/DouglasFPA>, and [www.facebook.com/douglasforestprotectiveassociation](http://www.facebook.com/douglasforestprotectiveassociation)**

*Through an agreement with the Oregon Department of Forestry, the [Douglas Forest Protective Association](#) provides fire protection on 1.6 million acres of private, county, state, and Bureau of Land Management lands within the Douglas District.*

The Douglas Forest Protective Association (DFPA) continues a very close and positive working relationship with the Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Tribe of Indians. DFPA, through agreements with the BIA, provides fire protection on approximately 3,000 acres of tribal lands that are held in trust throughout Douglas County. In 2015, DFPA and the Tribe completed a Local Operating Plan with the purpose to:

- Provide local direction and identify interagency roles and responsibilities for jointly managing wildland fire and fuels management guidelines addressed in the Master Protection Agreement 2014-2019.
- Address each agency's role and responsibility during the implementation of Tribal prescribed fuels management projects.

- Provide a process to annually review boundary areas to determine whether preplanned fire control lines and response strategies would be appropriate for each other's jurisdictional interests.
- Develop procedures to resolve adjacency issues.

DFPA has also continued to work with the Tribe on forest health and fuels management projects, including long-range planning on incorporating past and future fuels management projects into the county's Community Wildfire Protection Plan. In addition, DFPA and the Tribe have entered into discussions regarding the reintroduction of fire on a landscape level as a land management tool.

During the 2015 fire season there were several large fires within the Douglas District, including the Cable Crossing Fire east of Glide (1,848 acres) and the Stouts Creek Fire near Milo (24,452 acres). DFPA and the Incident Management Teams assigned to these incidents worked closely with the Tribe regarding several culturally sensitive sites which were threatened by these fires. In addition, the Tribe was invited to and participated in several fire team planning meetings and briefings.

### **South Cascade District, Springfield**

*Greg Wagenblast, District Forester; 541-726-3588; [greg.wagenblast@Oregon.gov](mailto:greg.wagenblast@Oregon.gov)*

*Chris Cline, Eastern Lane Unit Forester; 541-726-3588; [Christopher.L.Cline@Oregon.gov](mailto:Christopher.L.Cline@Oregon.gov)*

*Craig Pettinger, Sweet Home Unit Forester, 541-367-6108; [Craig.Pettinger@Oregon.gov](mailto:Craig.Pettinger@Oregon.gov)*

*The South Cascade District protects approximately 1.135 million acres in Linn and eastern Lane counties (east of I-5). The district is comprised of two units: Eastern Lane (in Springfield) and Sweet Home.*

The Oregon Department of Forestry continues to partner in a community forest project proposal, accepted as an Oregon Solutions project in late 2012, that explores the concept of creating a Community Corridor Forest along the South Santiam River/Highway 20 corridors that could provide economic, environmental, social, and cultural benefits to the Sweet Home area. This concept would include the 55-acre Cascadia Caves site, one of the most important cultural heritage sites in Oregon that is currently owned by a private timber company. This scientifically dated 8,000-year-old heritage site, a spiritual location where indigenous peoples – mainly the Molalla and Santiam Kalapuya – would gather their spirit power to fish for salmon, is also adjacent to other culturally significant resources including an important fishing site, Indian Trail, as well as the historic Santiam Wagon Road – once “the road most traveled” over the Oregon Cascades.

In 2015, the Sweet Home Unit again hosted the Mid-Willamette Interagency Fire School to prepare for the upcoming fire season. This fire school is a cooperative event between the ODF, US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde. The school hosts approximately 200 students and instructors annually and teaches entry-level to advanced courses. The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde participate in planning the school, supply overhead to teach classes and assist with field operations, and send students to the school during years when the classes being taught meet the needs of their training program.

### **Southwest Oregon District, Central Point**

*Dave Larson, District Forester; 541-664-3328; [Dan.A.Thorpe@Oregon.gov](mailto:Dan.A.Thorpe@Oregon.gov)*

*Lee Winslow, Assistant District Forester, Medford; 541-664-3328; [Lee.C.Winslow@Oregon.gov](mailto:Lee.C.Winslow@Oregon.gov)*

*Tyler McCarty, Assistant District Forester, Grants Pass Unit, 541- 471-4243; [Tyler.McCarty@Oregon.gov](mailto:Tyler.McCarty@Oregon.gov)*

*The Southwest Oregon District protects approximately 1,800,000 acres in Jackson and Josephine counties, as well as managing approximately 18,000 acres of scattered tracts of state forest lands. The district has Unit Offices in Medford and Grants Pass.*

**Western Lane District**

**Grant (Link) Smith; 541-935-2283; [Grant.S.Smith@Oregon.gov](mailto:Grant.S.Smith@Oregon.gov)**

*The Western Lane District protects approximately 756,200 acres in Lane and Douglas counties, as well as managing approximately 26,000 acres of scattered state forest lands. The district also includes a Unit Office in Florence.*

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**SUMMARY/CONCLUSIONS**

ODF is very pleased overall with the relationships that have been developed and continue with the Tribes over the past year, and particularly appreciative with the involvement of the Tribes in our program activities, and as members of agency stakeholder advisory committees and other groups. This involvement requires a very real commitment in time and energy from the various Tribal representatives, and also adds a tremendous amount of value and unique perspectives to these group processes and products that we would not otherwise be able to obtain. We are committed to continuing and enhancing those relationships and activities in 2016 and beyond.