



2024

Oregon Department of Forestry

SOUTHWEST **OREGON DISTRICT**

ANNUAL REPORT

DISTRICT FORESTER'S REPORT



DAN QUINONES

As I sit down to write my first District Forester's Report with the ODF Southwest Oregon District, one word resonates: teamwork. Coming from a full career on the federal side with the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, I have considered ODF a part of my team for many years. Despite different patches, we shared common goals, and in many cases, fire line. To be on this side of the jurisdictional line now, not much has changed.

Teamwork was woven through the 2024 season; in my first week, SWO welcomed ODF IMT 1 onto the district for the Salt Creek Fire. High temperatures and dry fuels had the district off to a fast start in June with the Upper Applegate, Highway 62 and Memorial fires. IMT 1's integration was seamless, providing the added capacity the district needed to get back on its feet and ready for the next wave,

which came quickly in the form of thunderstorms. During Team 1's tenure, the district responded to 26 IA's. The team allowed the district to divide and conquer, and working together, fire on the landscape was put to bed and the district returned to its normal state of readiness.

Late July and early August thunderstorms came with rain, and all starts were quickly stopped. The most worrisome to me were 10 fires in the Wild & Scenic section of the Rogue River. Big Windy, or more recently, Rum Creek; the list of large fires on those peaks is a long one. Teamwork between aircraft and ground crews eradicated all of those fires, halting the largest at only two acres. What could have easily been a summer-long fight never came to fruition.

Due to a mild mid- and late season, SWO was able to extend our team out to areas with a greater need; the Eastern Oregon Area had been hit with round after round of dry lightning, and we answered the call with both single resource orders and IMT deployments.

The teamwork demonstrated throughout 2024 is something I'm proud of. It's a culture that simultaneously sets us apart and brings us together. Thank you for the warm welcome into the ODF family; one season down, many more to go.

Dan Quinones

ODF Southwest District Forester

2024 FIRE SEASON REVIEW

The Oregon Department of Forestry Southwest Oregon District declared the 2024 fire season on June 1, and responded to 246 fires over the course of the following 148 days. Fire season ended in Jackson and Josephine counties on October 27. The largest fire on the district was the Salt Creek Fire at 4,102 acres.

Upper Applegate Fire

Winter storms in early 2024 brought a significant amount of rain and snowpack to southern Oregon, creating what many believed to be a good setup for a slower fire season on the ODF Southwest Oregon District and across the state. Above average rainfall in January and February dropped down to historical average levels through May; due to the consistent precipitation across Jackson and Josephine counties, pre-season fires were few and far between. Firefighters responded to one fire in March, eight in April and nine in May, with escaped debris burns as the leading cause.

The Southwest Oregon District officially declared fire season on June 1, putting Low Fire Danger and Industrial Fire Precaution Level (IFPL) 1 into effect locally, and kicking off the 2024 fire season across the state. June brought warmer weather and a dramatic uptick in fires, jumping up to 51 total for the month. On the morning of June 20, fire danger increased to moderate. That afternoon, two of the largest fires of season started within minutes of each other on opposite ends of Jackson County; the Upper Applegate Fire was reported on Upper Applegate Road outside of Ruch, and the Highway 62 Fire started 13 minutes later between Eagle Point and Shady Cove. Level one evacuations were prompted by both fires. An aggressive initial attack was able to corral the Highway 62 Fire that evening at 75 acres, but the steep terrain, dense brush and windy conditions in the Applegate tested firefighters and spread rapidly. Limited ground access meant a need for aircraft, and with limited flight time left in the afternoon, the Upper Applegate Fire grew to a couple hundred acres that evening.

Upper Applegate Fire

2024 FIRE SEASON REVIEW, CONT.

The district quickly called on the State of Jefferson agreement and welcomed in firefighters from across the Area to supplement the local system, and a day and night shift were created. Key positions from ODF Incident Management Team (IMT) 2 were brought in to help provide structure to the Type 3 organization and relieve district employees to return to their normal tasks and readiness levels. Extended attack on the Upper Applegate Fire wrapped up by the end of June, and a Type 4 BLM team took command of the incident in the beginning of July.

July 1 brought an increase to High Fire Danger and IFPL 2, as well as a new District Forester, Dan Quinones. District business carried on into the Fourth of July, when a fire was sparked around 10 p.m. northeast of Ashland. An aggressive initial response overnight allowed firefighters to catch the Memorial Fire at 43 acres.

Early July also brought a spike in temperatures, ranging from 105 to 112 degrees in southern Oregon. On Sunday, July 7, a new fire start was reported in the late afternoon, this one east of Eagle Point near Highway 140. The Salt Creek Fire grew rapidly in the 108 degree heat and windy conditions, from 15 acres at 4 p.m. to an estimated 1,500 acres by 9 p.m. With temperatures predicted to stay in the triple digits and fire potential rapidly climbing, ODF IMT 1 was ordered; the team arrived the next morning, and took command of the fire that evening on July 8. Conditions



Upper Applegate Fire



Memorial Fire



Salt Creek Fire

2024 FIRE SEASON REVIEW, CONT.

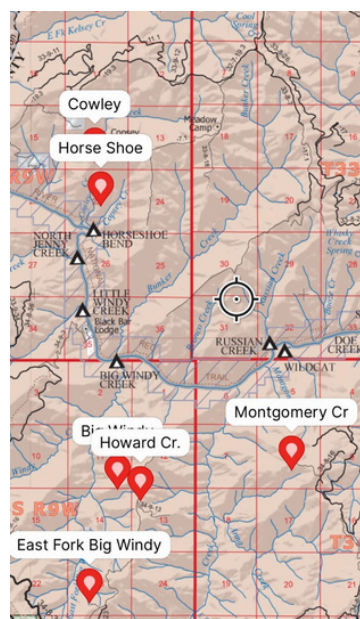
Salt Creek Fire

persisted and Extreme fire danger was put into effect on July 9. Initial attack calls continued to come in almost daily, and with IMT 1 in place on Salt Creek, the district was able to handle the workload.

That week, thunderstorms entered the forecast and came to fruition on July 15. This was the first in a series of storms that sparked new fires across both Jackson and Josephine counties. The following day brought more thunderstorms; numerous new starts were located along the lower Rogue River, all of them on steep, remote terrain in areas where past large fire scars litter the landscape, including the Rum Creek Fire of 2022 and the Big Windy Fire from over a decade ago. An aggressive initial attack began, and the number of smoke reports continued to grow. Resources were ordered for a night shift and aircraft flew until pumpkin time to give firefighters on the ground the best advantage for the evening. By daybreak, 10 fires had been found and were in various stages of response, ranging from unstaffed to 100% lined and mopped up. The largest fire was holding at one acre, and with aircraft once again in play, water drop after water drop became the game plan to wipe these fires off the map. These tactics paid off, and by the next day, the majority of the 10 fires were extinguished and only three remained in mop-up.

In this same timeframe, IMT 1 was wrapping up their stint on the Salt Creek Fire, working their last shift on July 17 and turning the fire back over to the district and local BLM office the next day. The final fire size reached 4,102 acres, which would end up being the largest fire of the year on the district. During the 11 days the team was assigned to the fire, the district responded to 26 fires.

On July 19, IFPL 3 went into effect, and while the district returned to a



2024 FIRE SEASON REVIEW, CONT.



Canyon Creek Fire

more regular rhythm, the eastern portion of the state was kicking into high gear; fires sparked by lightning were in extended attack, and smoke from these incidents had moved south into southern Oregon. Thunderstorms continued to be a regular occurrence, and on July 20, five new fires started in the storms. By the next day, all of them had been stopped and were in various stages of mop-up; the largest, the Sugarpine Gulch Fire, had reached seven acres.

Temperatures continued to jump into the 100s and thunderstorms remained a risk for the remainder of July, but the district was able to catch each new fire during initial attack. July brought a total of 77 fires.

Thunderstorms continued to be a trend into August, and the district welcomed a strike team from Alaska as added capacity at the beginning of the month. Rain accompanied the incoming storms, which contributed to fewer fire starts and slower growth. August is traditionally a busy month in southern Oregon, however resources only responded to 45 fires, and kept all of them under four acres. The district dropped to High fire danger and IFPL 2 on August 20 after a particularly wet storm, and only three small fires were found.

Due to the slower month, district personnel were able take assignments that otherwise would have been off the table; in August, the district accommodated 17 assignments, mostly to the Eastern Oregon Area, which was still grappling with numerous large lightning-caused fires.

On September 4, the district responded to the last notable fire of the season; the I5 MM 11.5 Fire started in the afternoon on the southbound side of the interstate, closing down both lanes and triggering level 2 and 3 evacuation notices in southern Ashland neighborhoods. An



I5 MM 11.5 Fire

2024 FIRE SEASON REVIEW, CONT.

Walker Creek Fire

aggressive initial attack by numerous local agencies quickly contained the fire at 13 acres, however I5 southbound lanes remained closed for some time while firefighters continued to mop up. A night shift was called in to ensure continued progress and I5 was reopened by 7 p.m.

The following day, two fires on the southern Douglas County border ignited; while they were solidly on DFPA jurisdiction, fire growth indicated the potential for a run onto Southwest Oregon ground. In anticipation of these developments, the district, working with our partner agencies, got on the delegation of authority for the incoming Pacific Northwest IMT 13. Key district personnel remained engaged with the team and our partners throughout the duration of these fires, and thankfully, they were stopped before reaching the district.

Rain allowed the district to drop to High fire danger on September 12. Fires persisted, but were easily stopped as conditions slowly began to shift to cooler temperatures for the first couple weeks. The latter part of the month saw a sharp increase to near triple digit temps, keeping the district in high fire danger.

Small fires continued to be reported into early October, and temperatures supported small growth opportunities. Mid-month, rain storms across the district allowed for a significant decrease to Low fire danger and IFPL 1. Temperatures continued to trend downward and slowly, light precipitation became a regular occurrence in the forecast. The end of fire season for the district was declared on October 27 at 9:00 a.m., closing out the 2024 declared season for the state.

Throughout the 148 declared days of its fire season, the Southwest Oregon District had responded to 246 fires, wrapping up an average season for the district.



2024 FIRE SEASON STATS

148

Days in Fire Season

From June 1 to October 27, SWO spent 148 days in fire season in 2024. This is close to our 10 year average of 146 days, the longest being 190 days in 2020 and the shortest being 122 days in 2019 within that timespan.

68%

Days in High or Extreme Fire Danger

High fire danger was declared on July 1 and Extreme followed shortly on July 9. The district dropped straight back down into Low fire danger on October 16.

90%

Human-caused Fires

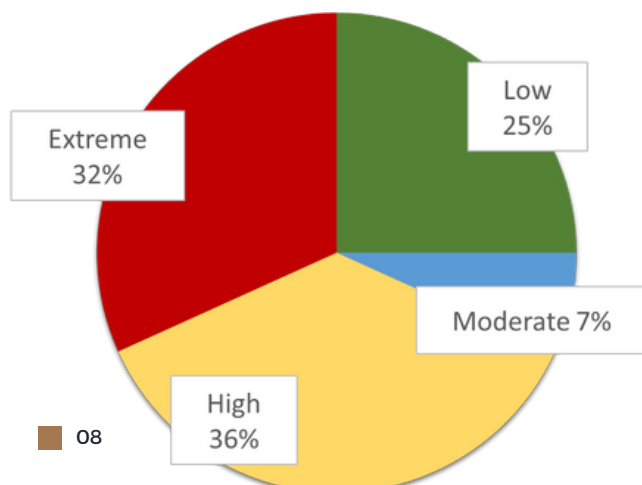
90% of fires were caused by humans on the Southwest Oregon District in 2024, with only 10% caused by lightning. Despite numerous thunderstorms, accompanying rain played a role in fewer natural fires on the landscape.

97%

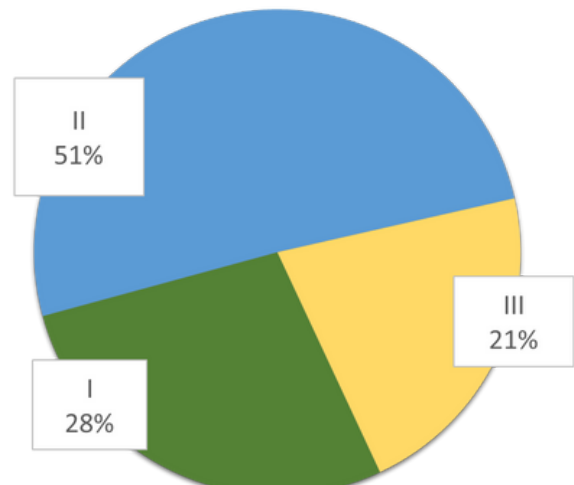
Fires Kept Under 10 Acres

Just under the statewide goal of 98%, SWO stopped 97% of fires on the district under 10 acres. Only nine fires of the district's 246 were above 10 acres, with the tenth largest of the season coming in at seven acres.

Public Regulated Use



Industrial Fire Precaution Level





SWO Annual Report 2024

AVIATION ON THE DISTRICT

Fire aviation assets were engaged daily in initial and extended attack by late June, lasting through early October on the Southwest Oregon District. The district brought in and utilized some of the earliest used airtankers in 2024 for support to catch up to the Upper Applegate Fire in late June, and aircraft remained a necessity through multiple rounds of thunderstorms across the district over the summer.

SWO's strong aviation program continued to prove beneficial, not only to the district but to numerous agency partners; In 2024, we reciprocated aviation support with ODF's Statewide Severity Program, the U.S. Forest Service Rogue River-Siskiyou and Umpqua National Forests, IMT's deployed on SWO, the Bureau of Land Management, CALFIRE, both Coos and Douglas Forest Protective Associations, the ODF Klamath Lake District, local helicopter and fixed wing operators, the Oregon State Fire Marshal and the municipal fire departments they support, as well as the Interagency Tankerbase in Medford.

Our District's aviation team is comprised of:

- Dispatch Centers & Aircraft Dispatchers
- IC's, Ground Contacts and Fire Managers/Supervisors
- Air Attacks and Reconnaissance Personnel
- Helitack, Helicopter Managers and Helibase Personnel
- Contract Administrators and Fire Finance Support
- Unmanned Aerial System/Part 107 Pilots
- Exclusive Use and Call When Needed Aircraft Operators & Support Personnel

The program experienced several personnel changes in 2024 that equated to big hits in high performance individuals. Jordan Van Avery, a Helitack Foreman since 2019, promoted to a permanent fulltime firefighter position at Jackson County Fire District 3, Corey Lizio, the Grants Pass Severity Helicopter Manager for many years, transferred into a forester position with BLM in Merlin and Gavin McLaughlin, a Helitack crewmember since 2021, moved for permanent work to the Midwest. We are extremely grateful for their contributions and leadership over the years. The team remained strong in 2024 and several employees accomplish qualification in key aviation positions: Marcus Havnear as ATGS & HELCO, Jeff Roberts as HMGB, Tobias Beavers as Part 107 UAS pilot and multiple others achieving HECM.

AVIATION, CONT.



ODF's Statewide Severity Program was another big contributor to district last year, most significantly by prepositioning the Severity Type 2 helicopter and manager in Grants Pass once again, and prepositioning a Type 1 helitanker and manager in Ashland. This Type 1 ship was a new addition to the program in lieu of a large airtanker at the Medford airport. The severity program also continued to provide funding to our helitack detailer program in Medford, helping to allow 12 detailers from around the state to cycle through during the season. An Aircraft Dispatcher trainee position in Medford dispatch was also added to support statewide severity dispatching efforts and work towards the use and expansion of night vision capable missions in future years. Lastly, the district

received a couple of NVG reconnaissance flights from ODF Salem's detection platform 9000V following thunderstorms. The district is very thankful for the partnership we share with ODF's Severity Program and their leadership.

Below is a rundown of accomplishments regarding the district's aircraft in 2024:

AIRCRAFT	MISSIONS FLOWN	ADDITIONAL INFO
SWO EU ATGS (08Q) 75.6 FLIGHT HOURS	42 ATGS AND RECON MISSIONS ACROSS THE DISTRICT	TWO ATGS POSITIONS ALLOWED FOR 7- DAY COVERAGE AT MFR
SWO EU TYPE 3 (6LB) 47.4 FLIGHT HOURS	44 MISSIONS, ODF CREW OF SIX ALLOWED FOR 7-DAY COVERAGE	37,000 GALLONS DELIVERED, 173 PASSENGER TRANSPORTS
SWO EU TYPE 2 (468) 48.4 FLIGHT HOURS	39 MISSIONS FLOWN, BASED OUT OF MEDFORD	170,000 GALLONS DELIVERED, 13 CARGO MISSIONS
SWO SEVERITY TYPE 2 (4MM) 43.8 FLIGHT HOURS	BASED IN GRANTS PASS FOR 90 DAYS, SOA TOTAL 88.8 HOURS	250,000 GALLONS DELIVERED
SWO SEVERITY TYPE 1 (2WL) 23.9 FLIGHT HOURS	BASED IN ASHLAND FOR 82 DAYS, SOA TOTAL 141.7 FLIGHT HOURS	1,055,700 GALLONS DELIEVERED ACROSS SOA AND EOA



SWO DETECTION CENTER

The Southwest Oregon District Detection Center continued to prove a highly beneficial resource in 2024. The program expanded once again with new cameras installed on Mount Ashland in Jackson County and King Mountain in Josephine County. The center is particularly helpful during thunderstorms; none of the center's initial reports of lightning-caused fires grew over 1.5 acres.

The center was staffed by six individuals, including Detection Lead Tobi Beavers.



59

Initial Detections

Before anyone else made a report, our detection specialists found 59 initial reports of smoke or fire across the district by scanning the camera system.

148

Secondary Detections

Our detection specialists were able to confirm 148 reports of fire that came in by 911 calls or other reports.

238

Total Actions

Detection center staff took 238 reports for the season, whether it was an initial or secondary detection or other duties and reports as needed for the district.

6

Staffing

The center was staffed by one detection lead and five detection specialists seven days a week.

INVESTIGATIONS

Fire investigations on the district continue to be a priority, both in training and processing reports. With a heavy fire load and limited investigators, the workload continues to be a heavy one.

In Medford, notable cases include two separate fires on a property north of Eagle Point; in both cases, solar panels were found to be involved during the investigations. Both fires were able to be stopped at small sizes, however they captured public attention due to the involved equipment.

The Grants Pass Unit responded to several fires in the early hours of September 23, 2024, all near the Manzanita Rest Area near Merlin. Nine fires were on state and private land, with an additional two on BLM ownership. The conditions that day were conducive to significant fire growth. However, an aggressive initial attack by ODF and partners kept all fires at or below half an acre in size.

Air resources played a critical role in controlling the two largest fires, which were located mid-slope and well away from roads. The fires were immediately deemed suspicious, prompting the activation of investigators from neighboring units, including the Salem Investigation Team, BLM, and OSFM. Law enforcement was brought in early and conducted drone flights to search for persons of interest in the fire areas.

The small size of the fires and the subsequent investigation highlight the success of an effective team, which included neighboring agencies and partners working together seamlessly.



Cause	# of Fires	Acres Burned
Lightning	24	20.75
Railroad	3	0.10
Equipment	98	152.5
Recreation	28	47
Smoking	14	3.5
Debris Burn	29	5.25
Arson	4	0.5
Juveniles	2	0.10
Miscellaneous	31	12.5
Under Investigation	13	5,229.5
TOTAL	246	5,471.7

FOREST RESOURCES ON THE DISTRICT

The Stewardship Foresters in the Southwest Oregon District had a very busy 2024. With the division still working on the training, understanding and implementation of the Private Forest Accord (PFA), 2024 was devoted to a significant amount of training.

In January, the district SF's and SFO Forester joined other SF's and SFO's from around the region for a two-day Small Forestland Owner Program training in Roseburg. Then in April, they attended a three-day Southern Oregon Area Forest Resources Conference in Eugene and an additional three days of ODF Enforcement Training. They finished off by attending the Forest Resources Division Conference in December that gathered all division personnel from around the state. There were numerous smaller and shorter training sessions, both in person and virtual, throughout the year covering a multitude of topics.

In the personnel department, we lost Stewardship Forester Ben Walen to the Central Oregon District and that created a ripple effect throughout the Medford Unit; Marcus Havniear changed his territory, moving to the north half of the unit to cover Ben's old area and Kyle Ripberger moved from the SFO program to become a Stewardship Forester covering the south half of the Medford Unit while Griffin Sollinger stepped up and backfilled as the SFO Forester.

The other significant annual commitment is to the Protection Division and our commitment to the Fire Protection Militia; the Stewardship Foresters and SFO Foresters spent approximately 145 days during fire season in a firefighting role.

Activity	Medford		Grants Pass		District	
	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024
Forest Practices Inspections	394	106	319	231	713	337
Industrial Fire Inspections	63	32	47	26	110	58
New Notifications	543	465	332	249	875	714

GOOD NEIGHBOR AUTHORITY (GNA) & FEDERAL FOREST RESTORATION (FFR) PROGRAMS

The Southwest Oregon District remained engaged in work with our federal partners through programs like Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) and the Federal Forest Restoration (FFR). In 2024, SWO had five permanent employees out of the Grants Pass office dedicated to these programs. Below are a list of accomplishments on the district in 2024:

RRS - Cathill CE (Categorical Exclusion)

The group completed the Cathill NEPA, a wildlife CE, of 400 acres. About 100 acres is less than merch and will be treated for fuels. ODF contributed \$70,000 for the CE work to do heritage surveys for this project. ODF did the timber, logging systems, inventory and roads analysis while the Forest Service ID Team did the botany and other analysis. The return is expected to be \$1.7 M on this investment of time and resources.

Umpqua - South Tiller Fuel Break

ODF is working over a 44,000 acre area south of Tiller to create fuel breaks along ridges with potential. This project is a coordinated effort between ODF, the Tiller Ranger District and private Contractors. ODF is leveraging approximately \$250,000 in funds to support NSO surveys, Geotechnical Review, and heritage surveys.

ODF foresters have reviewed the lands for operability, logging, stand exams, road assessments and provided other technical skills such as managing contracts for external review. The project will achieve \$5,000 acres in commercial thinning for \$2,000 acres of fuels reduction.

Active SWO sales - Future revenue that will be put toward restoration work:

Location	Sold Year / Year	Sale Name	Sale Status	Purchaser / Notes	Execution Date	Total Advertised MBF	Total Net Receivable	Total Project Work	PC Acres
SWO Tiller RD	2024	Tule GNA	Active	MURPHY COMPANY	01/17/2024	1,260	\$445,624	\$76,084	129
SWO Prospect	2023	Slim Prospect GNA	Active	BOISE CASCADE	03/02/2023	2,292	\$1,168,486	\$11,676	219
SWO Butte Falls	2024	Cathill GNA	Active	BOISE CASCADE	12/11/2023	3,342	\$1,690,908	\$54,246	269
SWO Prospect	2024	Deep Ck GNA	Active	SCOTT TIMBER CO	05/20/2024	3,197	\$984,782	\$72,784	376
SWO Tiller RD	2024	Oakay GNA	Active	ROSBORO LUMBER COMPANY	06/17/2024	2,252	\$991,658	\$85,912	212
SWO Powers	2022	Gobbler GNA	Pre-Terminated	3H Forestry and Land Management	10/18/2021	1,619	\$470,667	\$20,700	181
						14,520	5,891,384	349,100	1,446

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS)

2024 was a big year for Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) work on the Southwest Oregon District. The local district participates in supporting the NRCS statewide agreement, and in 2024, history was made again with 1,034 total deliverables for the year.

These numbers were mostly produced by two individuals, Kelly Foster and Alex Cunha, inventorying 9,352 acres in Jackson and Josephine counties. Of those, 5,879 acres were laid out and designed for funding and 2,068 acres were certified for projects completed. Additionally, 67 new landowners received Basic Forest Management Plans in the form of job sheets to fund their projects.

In Jackson County, one new Conservation Implementation Strategy (CIS) area was approved for Butte Falls, totaling around 65,000 acres. Additionally, a Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) was awarded to the Southwest Oregon District called Protect, Ignite, Restore! It's a multi-county \$10,000,000 grant that was awarded to the program within Josephine, Jackson, Douglas, and Lane counties, funding projects over the next five years to write burn plans and broadcast burn on private non-industrial properties. This was led by the district's Fire Planner, Ross Ballou.

Personnel changes include Alex Cunha leaving for a Soil & Water district position in northern California. While Levi Caster, a Forest Officer (last 3 years) gladly signed up for a developmental position behind Alex. Kelly's limited duration position transitioned to a permanent FTE in July.

In the summer, it was all hands on deck during fire season; these individuals contributed significantly to initial attack efforts and created added capacity during extended fire suppression on the district. Kelly also made it off district for nearly 80 days, filling a gap for a helibase manager and helicopter manager in the middle of the season.

SMOKE MANAGEMENT

Industrial burning opened on November 1, 2024. Southwest Oregon Smoke Management registrations for 2024, combining both the Medford and Grants Pass units, total 9,364 acres and 56,413 tons.

FUEL MITIGATION

When not responding to fires, the Southwest Oregon District stays busy with mitigation efforts and fuel reduction in and around our communities. In 2024, we continued to progress on numerous projects across both Jackson and Josephine counties:

Agate Community Assistance

The district completed 4.2 miles, or 12 acres, of roadside brushing. Both of the SWO crews worked with Jackson County Fire District 3 crews to implement an additional two miles of roadside fuel reduction and 15 acres of defensible space treatments.

Butte Falls Community Assistance

With a goal of 225 acres by 2027, the crew was able to accomplish 50 acres of fuel reduction in 2024. This unit became a priority to align with SB762 Landscape Resiliency Program (LRP) funding.

Dollar Mountain Community Assistance

This project has a goal of 225 acres completed by June of 2025, and in 2024, crews were able to get through more than half, ending at 175 acres.

SB762 Landscape Resiliency Program (LRP)

The district is partnering with the Medford Water Commission to treat 950 acres. Of that, 860 acres were completed in 2024.

Red Dollar Buckhorn

This project has a goal of 150 treated acres by January of 2027; in 2024, 50 acres of fuel reduction was completed. A lack of snowfall pushed other projects at higher elevations up the priority list, delaying work at lower elevations.

Amaya

50 acres of piles were burned by ODF crews, with additional work planned for the future.

FIREWISE COMMUNITIES

In 2024, ODF crews completed more than 18 acres of fire hazard mitigation fuels reduction work in and around Firewise communities. This work benefitted more than 80 homes, and included thinning trees, creating hand piles, and burning the piles.

In the newly certified Firewise USA community of Lake Creek, six acres of fuels reduction was accomplished on two properties. Five homes were assessed in this community.

In the city of Phoenix, a senior and disabled apartment complex seeking Firewise recognition received one acre of fuels reduction. A half-acre of this was removing blackberries in the riparian area of Coleman Creek. This project was accomplished in partnership with the Jackson County Soil and Water Conservation District (JCSWCD), Firebrand Collective, Rogue River Watershed Council, and the Brookside Rose property management. The ODF crew removed the blackberries, and the property managers will apply herbicide under the guidance of the watershed council and JCSWCD. The ODF crew also removed a half-acre of highly flammable Juniper.

In the Firewise community of Birdseye Creek, one acre of fuels reduction was completed. This work will help protect one home.



FIREWISE COMMUNITIES, CONT.

In the Lake Creek Fire Adaptation Community, eight acres were treated across five properties, helping to protect six homes. This work was accomplished with a combination of burning and chipping of debris. Large, dead trees in the home ignition zone were a challenge for the crew. These trees were mitigated and the landowners participated by removing the usable firewood to an area at least 30 feet from any structures.

Two acres were treated in the newly certified Firewise Community of Mountain View Estates. This community of 84 mobile homes is very close to the 2020 Alameda Fire. The ODF crew removed highly flammable landscaping that was immediately adjacent to 10 homes. Removing these fuels will help protect the rest of the 84 homes in the community by limiting the amount of fuels that would be receptive to embers from a wildfire and cause structure to structure transfer of fire. This landscaping was loaded in bins and hauled away with help from community volunteers and maintenance staff. The certification of this new Firewise Community was done in partnership with The Firebrand Collective, a local non-profit organization with interests in preventing losses from wildfire.





Pear Blossom Parade

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COMMUNITY OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement remained steady across the district in 2024; we continued to get out in the community and participated in school education days, parades, career days, prevention fairs and various community events, averaging about one per month.

We partnered once again with Keep Oregon Green and our local TV stations to run fire prevention PSAs all spring and summer. Our PSA projects are now in their fourth year locally and continued to help promote fire safety.

Phoenix-Talent Boys and Girls Club



SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook Views

589K

Our content on Facebook was viewed more than half a million times in 2024.

5.6K

New Followers

We gained more than 5,000 new followers in 2024, bringing our total following to 52K.

Additionally, our Facebook page itself was visited 470,000 times in 2024; it remains the fastest and most broad way to communicate with the people we serve. All posts, views and follows were 100% organic with no paid promotions or ads.



Annual Report 2024

PERSONNEL

Salt Creek Road Fire

Permanent Staffing Additions in 2024

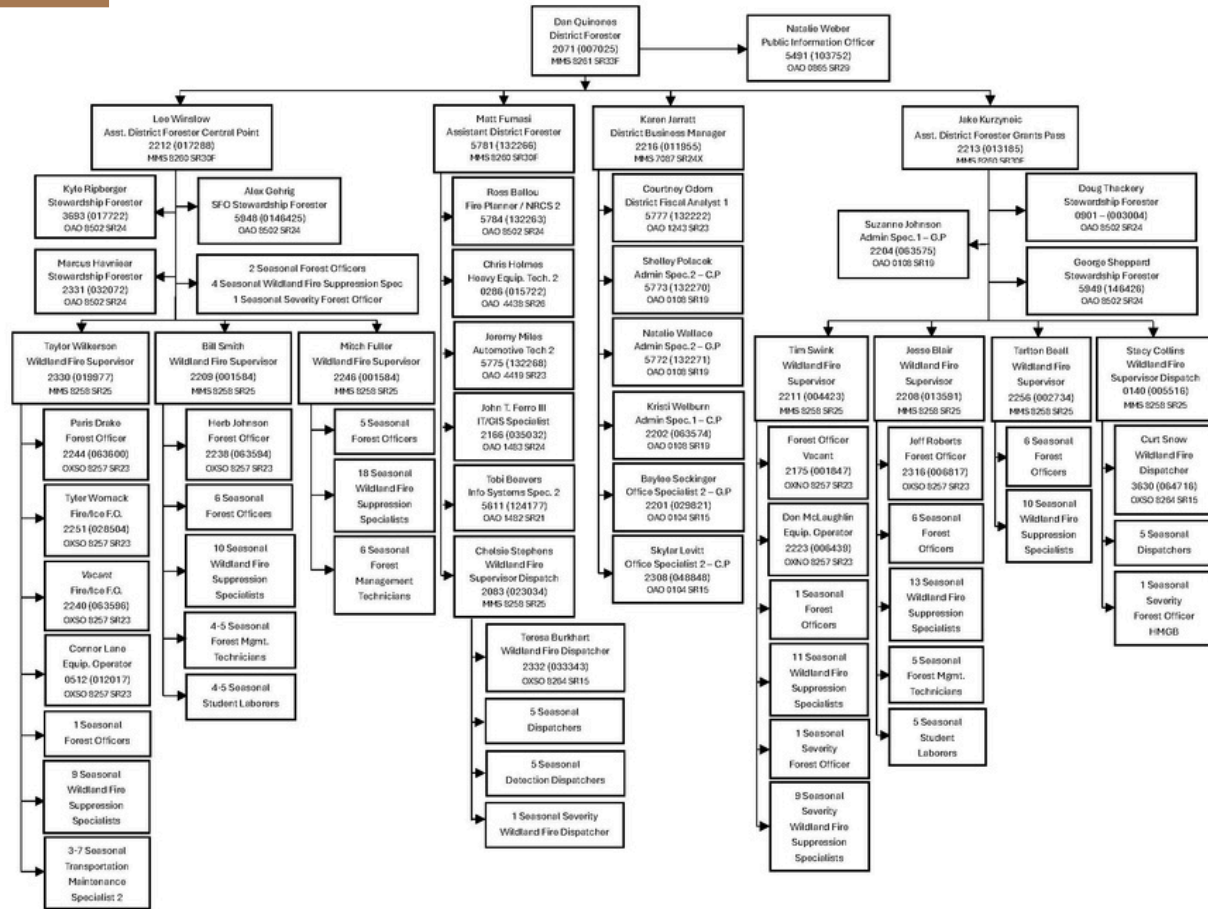
The district welcomed both new and familiar faces to the permanent staff in 2024. Below is a list of new employees and the positions they hold.

- Kristi Welburn's WOC ended and she was hired as the permanent ASI in Medford on April 1
- Suzanne Johnson's WOC ended, she was hired as the permanent ASI in Grants Pass Unit on May 1
- Mitch Fuller was hired back to ODF as a Permanent Forest Office on May 1
- Skylar Levitt became the permanent OS2 in Medford on May 6
- Baylee Seckinger started as the OS2 in Grants Pass on June 10
- Dan Quinones became the District Forester on July 1
- Kelly Foster joined the permanent staff in July as the district's NRS1 Forester
- Chris Rudd hired Ismael Maldonado and Cameron Rasmussen as Permanent Forest Management Technicians on August 19
- Kyle Ripberger moved into the Natural Resource Specialist 2 position in September
- Jim Martz was promoted to the NRCS 2 position in October
- Jake Kurzyniec became the permanent Grants Pass Unit Forester in December following a WOC

Temporary Staffing Changes, Developmentals and Work Out of Class Opportunities

- Bailey Gerke accepted a developmental to fill behind Tobi Beavers during long-term leave
- Levi Caster came in behind Alex Cunha for NRCS
- Derreck Johnson retired at the end of 2024; Tyler Womack and Kevin Studley separately backfilled the position pending a new hire.

ORGANIZATION CHART



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Mikaela Gosney

Vice President

Darin McMichael

Secretary/Treasurer

Mike Meredith

Directors

Mike Backen

Ed Fallon

Mikaela Gosney

Todd Marthoski

Darin McMichael

Susan Kendle

Directors, Cont.

Justin Kostick

Whitney Henneman

Mike Meredith

Brian Bradac

Tom Young

Mike Riley

Advisory Directors

Kristin Babbs

Jeremy Delack

Dan Quinones

David Schott

Matt Watson

Chris Cline

SOUTHWEST OREGON DISTRICT FIRE SEASON HISTORY

YEAR	START	END	DAYS IN SEASON
1971	June 1	Oct. 16	138
1972	June 1	Oct. 11	133
1973	May 16	Oct. 21	159
1974	June 1	Oct. 28	150
1975	June 2	Oct. 10	131
1976	May 17	Oct. 26	163
1977	April 20	Sept. 30	164
1978	May 24	Sept. 19	119
1979	June 1	Oct. 19	141
1980	May 19	Oct. 15	149
1981	June 1	Oct. 8	130
1982	May 24	Oct. 7	137
1983	June 1	Oct. 11	133
1984	June 4	Oct. 13	132
1985	May 17	Oct. 21	158
1986	June 2	Sept. 26	119
1987	May 11	Nov. 12	185
1988	April 18	Nov. 2	199
1989	June 5	Sept. 29	117
1990	May 8	Oct. 22	168
1991	June 14	Oct. 25	134
1992	May 11	Oct. 21	164
1993	June 21	Oct. 13	115
1994	June 1	Oct. 27	148
1995	June 24	Oct. 11	110
1996	June 15	Oct. 18	130
1997	June 24	Oct. 1	100

YEAR	START	END	DAYS IN SEASON
1998	July 1	Oct. 12	104
1999	June 12	Oct. 27	138
2000	June 10	Oct. 20	134
2001	May 15	Oct. 29	168
2002	June 11	Nov. 8	151
2003	June 6	Nov. 3	151
2004	June 4	Oct. 18	137
2005	June 27	Oct. 26	122
2006	May 24	Nov. 2	163
2007	June 11	Oct. 1	113
2008	June 16	Oct. 10	117
2009	June 19	Oct. 24	118
2010	July 1	Oct. 23	115
2011	July 1	Oct. 5	97
2012	June 20	Oct. 16	119
2013	June 3	Sept. 24	110
2014	June 2	Oct. 15	136
2015	June 5	Oct. 28	145
2016	June 3	Oct. 13	133
2017	June 4	Oct. 20	138
2018	June 1	Oct. 29	151
2019	June 1	Oct. 1	122
2020	May 1	Nov. 6	190
2021	May 12	Oct. 20	161
2022	June 1	Oct. 26	147
2023	June 1	Oct. 13	134
2024	June 1	Oct. 27	148

