Welcome to the South Cascade District!

It is a privilege to give some opening remarks on behalf of an amazing workforce of dedicated men and women that call the South Cascade District their home. As you work your way through the pages of this report, you will have a chance to review some of the statistical highlights that are only a slight representation of the MANY outstanding efforts and commitment towards excellent service that are on display within the district on a regular basis.

Out of all the statistics and events you will read about in this report, the greatest challenge of 2021 came with the continuation of the COVID pandemic. This has been the second of two intense years related to the pandemic. As the science continued to change, so did the regulations that our employees were asked to implement. The ever-changing carousel of requirements made this an exhausting experience. It will be good to hopefully see this event in the rearview mirror permanently!

Aside from the pandemic disruptions, there were all the other normal priorities and programmatic functions of the district. From continued salvage work on the 2020 Holiday Farm Fire, to a growing GNA/FFR program, forest management and sustainability continues to be at the forefront of district core business. It’s an honor to see the men and women of this district work to meet the needs of our communities and provide such an amazing level of attention to those we serve.

The South Cascade District had a very active fire season in 2021. While there was an amazing response to initial attack events and a below normal acres burned from fires originating on private protection, the district dealt with several federal complex events due to a late July lightning storm. This unfortunately impacted the district workload, air quality, and staffing for the remainder of the summer with nine incident management team transitions and hundreds of acres of private land burned by these events. The recurring nature of fires on decedent federal ownerships will continue to be a concern well into the future.
There has also been a fantastic effort made by our Administrative Staff. These folks continue to process all our business needs including billings, payroll, cost share agreements, local HR/employee needs, etc. The Administrative Staff is somewhat “behind the scenes” compared to other facets of our district, but no less appreciated and vital to the wellbeing of the district!

To close, I would like to give a special thanks to the landowner members of the Eastern Lane and Linn Forest Protective Associations. Their commitment to this district is commendable. I also want to thank the family members of the men and women that work here. Those who so patiently sacrifice behind the scenes and support our team efforts. We couldn’t be successful without you. Thank you!

Chris Cline
District Forester
The South Cascade District, which includes the Sweet Home and Eastern Lane (Springfield) units, has a large population base and numerous visiting recreationists enjoying our many popular outdoor attractions and summertime activities. Our fire prevention staff work very hard each year to educate the public and local elementary students to limit the number of human-caused fires on the district.

2021 was a very challenging year with the Coronavirus Pandemic effecting how we approach our typical in-person elementary school, home show, and parade event fire prevention activities. Unfortunately, the result was that most of these activities were cancelled for the year. Firefighters from the Sweet Home Unit along with Smokey Bear were able to participate in the annual 2021 Sportsman’s Holiday Parade.

The South Cascade District continued with our normal operation of keeping the public informed on fire danger and fire prevention information using our South Cascade website, Facebook, roadway signage, and daily engine prevention patrols.

Closed fire season and public regulated use was declared on June 16th, 2021. Both units enforced violations by issuing 26 fire prevention warnings and 1 citation.
Forests make a vital contribution to Oregon by providing jobs, products, tax base, and other social and economic benefits. The South Cascade District has one of the most active Private Forest Programs in the state. Stewardship Foresters ensure continued compliance with the Forest Practice Administrative Rules and Forest Practices Act, providing forest landowner technical assistance and education, and providing industrial fire inspections during fire season.

Salvage efforts will continue into 2022 on the Holiday Farm Fire footprint in the district. Work has been completed and will continue, to accomplish the large salvage need. To date, the Eastern Lane Unit has received 894 Notifications with the vast majority of those within the Holiday Farm Fire. Many Notifications are more than 2000 acres in size. In working with our large industrial landowners, several variations of Plan’s for Alternate Practice (PFAP’S) have been received, approved, and executed on the ground over this past year. Such challenges as exceeding the 120-acre clear-cut maximum and modifying vegetation and retention requirements in Riparian Management Areas (RMA’S) have been tackled to rehabilitate this historic fire scar. Work has also been completed to review and often abandon Northern Spotted Owl sites due to habitat loss.

In the Fall of 2020 collaborative work was performed with several partners to include EWEB, Pure Water Partners and Oregon State Extension Service to name a few. Efforts were to determine seedling needs for our small/nonindustrial landowners, placing those orders and distributing those seedlings while helping to find the contacting services to conduct the plantings. 90,000 seedlings will be prioritized and distributed to landowners with priority to those in the EFRP program.
The Industrial Fire program on the South Cascade District consists of Stewardship Foresters and Forest Officers working under the direction of their respective Unit Foresters.

An important part of the Industrial Fire program are the summer industrial fire inspections. During the 2021 fire season, 140 of these inspections were conducted on the district. Both landowners and operators are encouraged to reach out to their local ODF office to receive a pre-season inspection of their equipment to ensure fire readiness once fire season arrives.

In May of 2021 Cascade Timber Consulting held their annual fire truck inspection in Sweet Home. For over 25 years contractors have participated in this inspection event. With the help from The Oregon Department of Forestry, the trucks were inspected to make sure the equipment is ready and meets the required standards.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IFPL</th>
<th># Days</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IFPL 1</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IFPL 2</td>
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<td>IFPL 4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>111</td>
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Local operators having their equipment inspected at the annual Cascade Timber Consulting inspection event.
Sweet Home

The 2021 fire season started earlier than normal. The Sweet Home Unit participated with NWOA fire training at DPSST where students received fire training in the classroom environment in an actual academy setting. On June 16th the district declared fire season and implemented regulated use restrictions lasting 111 days. On June 24th an unprecedented heat wave struck the region and temperatures were recorded at or near 118 degrees in many locations. This began to dry out the fuels quickly and elevated the indices. 2020 fire season left a lasting impact on the general public and created its own fire prevention message for the 2021 fire season with a heightened awareness. The Sweet Home Unit responded with aggressive initial attack along with RFD’s and local cooperators. The unit responded to 71 total calls, 13 stat fires, 5 non-stat fires and 53 NFCA’s. Total acres burned was 8.55 acres for the unit. Many of the Sweet Home Unit firefighters assisted in statewide team deployments and assisted neighboring Ranger Districts with many of their incidents that immediately affected private landownership. Local cooperators and unit fire fighters assisted the Sweet Home Ranger District with the Bruler incident. This fire was human caused and because of aggressive initial attack by the Detroit and Sweet Home Ranger District firefighters the fire grew to only 195 acres in high elevation old growth. Working on a unified front with local cooperators and fire staff this fire was caught relatively small and was a great success.

Eastern Lane

In the wake of the Labor Day fires, Eastern Lane suffered an exceptionally dry spring going into the 2021 summer. However, we were able to bolster staffing through available Emergency-Board funding. This allowed us to bring on Forest Officers and Qualified positions during April and May, helping to tackle some early season tasks, as well as respond to several spring fires. The largest of these fires was Cress Creek, on April 15.

A large portion of the summer was spent helping our neighbors with non-statistical fires on both the Willamette and Umpqua National Forests, following multiple lightning storms at the end of July and early August. This ultimately affected the district the most, as over 500 acres of ODF protected ground burnt around Bohemia and Fairview Mountain.

South Cascade staff partook in firefighting efforts around the state as well, namely on the Bootleg Fire, Grandview Fire, Skyline Ridge Complex and Rough Patch Complex. Through tremendous effort during Initial Attack, our crew kept fire on the district landscape to a minimum during abnormal heat and drought.
The 2021 Fall slash burning season started off with good precipitation totals and continued through the burn season. In November the much-needed moisture totaled over 7 inches of rain with even more falling in December. Many landowners went right to work using the early rains to their advantage to accomplish their burns.

This past year, several partners including the BLM, Private industrial and Small Woodland, and Pure Water Partners burned over 100% more acres than the previous year due to continued salvage operations within the Holiday Farm burn scar. District firefighters helped through Co-Op funds to facilitate large scale pile burns during tight weather windows. Additionally, there were two warning citations for burning without an approved plan.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>South Cascade</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registered Tonnage</td>
<td>74,204</td>
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<td>Accomplished Tonnage</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accomplished Acres</td>
<td>7,840</td>
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Fuels Reduction—Eastern Lane

2021 has been a productive year. We'll start off by listing the new Firewise® USA Communities that have been established. They are as follows: Fall Creek, Sunridge Ln. and Oakridge. We've completed over 200 landowner assessments, sent 500 educational mailings out to community members, and worked with the Lane Fire Prevention Cooperative to broadcast prevention messaging during wildfire preparedness month (May). Staff attended and participated in community events to further educate the public on the importance of defensible space fire prevention tactics and home hardening. The fuels reduction crew completed 33 landowner projects completing 92 acres of fuels reduction using Western States Fire Managers and BLM community assistance grants. The crew also took part in a pinegrass habitat restoration project completing 20 acres treatments on USFS land in the Simpson block of Oakridge. We also held a community chipping day for Delta Road working beside the USFS fuels reduction crews. The Fuels Reduction crew assisted the Wallace Creek Firewise community by improving an alternative escape route for emergency evacuations. We assisted industrial landowners with slash burning and assisted Willamalane Park and Recreation conduct pile burning in the Thurston Hills area.

Fuels Reduction — Sweet Home

Fuels reduction in the Sweet Home Unit has been a long term coordinated effort between the Oregon Department of Forestry and the Linn County Juvenile Department. This program is funded under Title 3 of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act. The purpose of the funding is to identify, contact, and educate landowners to the benefit of adequate defendable space for homes and structures in the occurrence of a wildland fire.

The Oregon Department of Forestry provides a fire planning forester to contact landowners, identify work projects and then coordinate these needs with the Linn County Juvenile Department. The Juvenile Department offers a youth work crew and leadership to manage the crew on eligible sites to perform the needed work. Project work includes pruning, thinning brush, cutting, and chipping of vegetation around structures. The members of the work crew are given the opportunity to work in a team building environment while learning valuable work habits.

In 2020, Covid halted the youth crew from participating. In the summer of 2021 risk mitigation and reduced covid numbers allowed the juveniles to return to an 8-hour program with a limited work schedule and reduced crew numbers. This allowed for three home sites to have proper defendable space work completed.
**Timber Agreement**

We had 4 active timber sales in 2021: GM, Twins, Wall Creek, and Fuego Deck. Fuego Deck and Wall Creek completed logging/hauling bringing in 1,083 MBF for the year. GM and Twins were active in pre-operational project work with GM complete and ready for operations in 2022. Twins is still in progress due to a fire area closure from the Middle Fork Fire Complex leading to an extension of 1 year for the project work to be complete. Upcoming sales include GNA Placer a 350-acre sale which had been 100% flagged, 80% tagged and traversed prior to the Middle Fork Complex burning through the sale area. Placer GNA is now on hold awaiting fire damage assessments.

**Service Agreement**

Work completed using the service agreement and revenue generated from sales: Pinegrass Restoration Project treating 20 acres, contract administration of 2 stand exams (ISO and Upper Canyon Creek) covering over 4,500 acres, road decommissioning ~ 4 miles of temporary logging spurs and surveying/monitoring in the Rigdon and Coal Creek areas of Middle Fork Ranger District.
Staff changes in the South Cascade District for 2021 continue as a result of movements in 2020. Hopefully the changes will soon be complete, and the movement will slow down.

Isaak Post moved into the Wildland Fire Supervisor position in the Eastern Lane Unit in June of 2021. This position had been left vacant by John Flannigan in December 2020.

With the vacant administrative position left by the retirement of Nora Ledoux in December 2020, Tyler Church was hired in a limited duration position as Administrative Specialist 1 in the Eastern Lane Unit with the hopes to be able to provide more diverse admin support to the district.

With all of the workload increase in the Private Forest program from The Holiday Farm fire, the district was able to borrow Dan Menk from the Western Lane District for several months. At approximately the same time, The South Cascade District was then given an additional Stewardship Forester position full time to assist with our Private Forest program. Dan Menk interviewed and selected to become a South Cascade District employee in May 2021.

During the first part of 2021 Neil Miller did a developmental position in Salem working with Investigations. With the passage of SB762 and restructuring of Salem staff, he was then offered a fulltime position in Salem as a Cost Recovery Specialist in December 2021 this move left his Wildland Fire Supervisor position in the Sweet Home Unit vacant.

The Eastern Lane Unit also filled 2 of its vacant 4 seasonal Forest Officer positions. Nick Thompson started in June 2021 replacing long time Oakridge Forest Officer Dennis Bird.

Jason Wickizer was hired in June 2021 to fill the Forest Officer position left vacant by Isaak Post.

We would also like to thank Justin Patten and Isaak Post for assisting with the GNA and FFR programs in regard to the vacant Natural Resource Specialist 2 position left by Kyle Sullivan’s promotion to Salem.
Nick Mortenson was awarded the Oregon Department of Forestry Seasonal Firefighter Leadership Award for 2020. Nick has been an ODF employee since 2013, first hired as a Wildland Fire Suppression Specialist – Entry Level. Nick promoted to Forest Officer at the Holeman Guard Station in Nimrod and quickly immersed himself into the community. Nick goes above and beyond to serve the McKenzie River valley. He makes himself available to the public via personal interaction and social media. He responds to complaints, educates local neighbors, and has built a rapport with the businesses and prominent members of the community. It is common for folks to say, “Call Nick – he will come out and talk to you” or “Nick will know the answer”.

Nick and Engine 4627 were first on scene to a re-burn structure fire and no doubt saved the life of the resident who was sleeping in the travel trailer adjacent to the burning home. Had he not pounded on the trailer and gotten the man and his dogs out, the results could have been catastrophic as the fire was impinging on the trailer and the fire department had not arrived yet. Nick and E4627s crew were also first on scene of a water rescue where they were able to pull 3 fishermen from the frigid McKenzie river before the fire department could arrive. Later that same day, a car wrecked literally in the driveway of the Holeman Guard Station. It was a serious roll-over and Nick quickly assessed the occupants and was able to coordinate the appropriate fire department response and stabilized the patients until fire department personnel could arrive. After the Holiday Farm fire, Nick has stayed involved in community efforts including the clean-up, rebuilding, and fundraising efforts.

Steve Kendall 30 years
Chad Calderwood 20 years
Craig Pettinger 20 years
Linn Forest Protective Association (LFPA) Board of Directors

Founded 1911, Incorporated 7/31/1936
President—Marty Suing, Small Woodland Owner
Vice President—Jeremy Norby, Giustina Resources
Secretary/Treasurer—Caleb Brown, Frank Timber Resources, Inc.
Scott Melcher, Melcher Family LLC
Brian Carroll, Linn County Parks Department
Eric Kranzush, Giustina Land and Timber
Milt Moran, CTC South Santiam Tree Farm
Christy Tye, Udell Family
Randy Hereford, Starker Forests, Inc.
Megan Thornton, Campbell Global
Jill Bell, Weyerhaeuser Co.

Eastern Lane Forest Protection Association (ELFPA) Board of Directors

Founded 1913, Incorporated 6/24/1938
President—Kenny Rose, Giustina Resources
Vice President—Chase Kinion, Campbell Global
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Will Hansen, RDK Land and Timber
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