

***OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY
COOS DISTRICT***



2006 ANNUAL REPORT

DISTRICT FORESTER'S COMMENTS

Welcome to the Coos District annual report for 2006. It was another busy year for the district staff and I want to express my appreciation for the fine efforts of all employees here at the District.

As you will see in this report, the district continued to make progress in achieving the management goals for the Elliott State Forest. Important forest resources are receiving protection through our existing management plan while we produce income for the Common School Fund through timber harvest.

The revision of the Elliott State Forest Habitat Conservation Plan continued in 2006. Early in the year the Board of Forestry and the State Land Board directed the department to continue development of the revised HCP consistent with the strategies in the final draft of the Forest Management Plan which was completed at the end of 2005. Agreement on the main strategies with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service was reached in mid-2006 and work on an Environmental Impact Statement began. Work to complete the process will continue through 2007.

Two long-time district employees retired during 2006 and have moved on to a new life in retirement. We wish them well in their new endeavors. Detail on personnel changes is near the end of this report.

During 2006, district employees again spent time away from their families and contributed many hours of hard work in fire fighting activities throughout the state. Employees remaining on the district took on additional work to fill in for those who were gone on fire assignments. This important contribution to the Fire Protection Program by all the district's employees is much appreciated.

In addition to this work, employees continued to get the job done in their regular duties in administering the Forest Practices Act, providing assistance to family forestland owners and managing State Forest lands in the district. My thanks to all the Coos District employees for their dedication and hard work throughout 2006.

Jim Young

District Forester

Credits:

Cover photo of the West Fork of the Millicoma River taken by Nick Morris in December 2006.

Annual Report Editor Pam Wilson

STATE FORESTS

Forest Resources Unit

During the 2006 calendar year we sold eight timber sales totaling 29.9 million board feet of timber and \$16.5 million in value. The team administered 16 timber sales resulting in the harvest of 22.4 million board feet of timber which produced \$11.8 million for the Common School Fund and counties. The team also successfully completed the 2006 sale plan and began work on the FY 2007 sale plan.

One significant milestone of 2006 was the harvest of the district's first young plantation clearcut – the Middle Elk timber sale. We received \$441.80 per thousand board feet for 73 acres of 40 year-old Douglas-fir. This sale is in a long-rotation basin and was scheduled for harvest in order to balance the age classes within that basin. Additional young clearcut sales are planned for the future.

Well here's one for all you Beaver fans. The Bowl Bound Beaver timber sale was being harvested while the Beavers were not only bound for, but won the Sun Bowl!



Nick Morris, Jon Haynes, Norma Kline (Unit Supervisor), Ryan Greco, Gloria Clary, Matt Wells

Long-range sale planning was more challenging than usual this year. Each sale plan is surveyed for murrelets several years in advance before the sale units are prepared on the ground. This year the surveys resulted in more murrelet detections than usual, deleting all or portions of some planned sale units and deferring others. A last minute revision of sale plan units was necessary to meet our harvest goals for the 2007 and 2008 sale plans.

This summer we had two enthusiastic summer interns - Jacob Rosenberg from Syracuse University and Ben Allen from the University of Montana. They had a productive summer conducting seasonal stream flow surveys for future timber sales and participating in other forest management activities. Ben gained fire experience at the Fall Creek fire and Jacob toured the Medford airbase and assisted with air operations, including some flight time.

In other activities, Gloria was dispatched to the Middle Fork, Humbug Creek, Shake Table and Sweet Home Lightning Bust fires as an Inmate Crew Liaison. Nick participated on the Fall Creek Fire as a runner and the Humbug Fire as an Inmate Crew Liaison Trainee. Ryan was a Fire Cache Trainee on the Fall Creek Fire and a Resource Unit Leader Assistant Trainee on the Middle Fork Fire. Jon once again represented ODF at the Tsalila Education Days and Gloria participated in SAF's Resource Days. All told, it was a successful and productive year.

STATE FORESTS

Engineering

The Coos District Engineering Unit provides services and support for operations on the Elliott State Forest including land surveying, timber sale project work and forest road maintenance. The land surveying program extends its services to other districts located within the Southern Oregon Area and the Klamath-Lake District. The Engineering Unit also provides technical assistance to local watershed groups when joint watershed enhancement projects are carried out on the Elliott.



Tim VanVleet, James McIntosh (Unit Forester),
Chris Hall, Jennifer Griffith

The Coos Engineering Unit assists with the Elliott timber sale program by conducting cable logging analysis, road layout and design, contract preparation and the administration of project work. During 2006, the crew laid out, designed, and prepared project costs and exhibits for one mile of new construction, and 2.2 miles of road improvement. During the 2006 road construction season, a total of 3.5 miles of new roads were constructed, 15.4 miles improved, 3.1 miles surfaced and 1.7 miles resurfaced. This project work, which involved a total of ten timber sales, was completed by three separate contractors.

The survey crew completed four major public land survey projects this past year - two in the Grants Pass Unit and two in the Klamath District. All of the surveys were conducted in accordance with rules and laws that govern public land surveys. One of the Klamath District surveys proved to be more challenging than the others. This survey involved a parcel of State-owned land located within the Fort Klamath Military Hay Reservation and adjacent to the Fort Klamath Military Reservation and the Klamath Indian Reservation. Because of the parcels proximity to the above land reservations, special consideration had to be given to the establishment of property corners marking State ownership.

In 2006, the Elliott State Forest received its first new bridge since 1985. In partnership with the Coos Watershed Association, a new 62-foot concrete bridge was installed at mile post 7.6 on the 8000 road over the West Fork Millicoma River. This bridge replaced an old steel multi-plate pipe arch that has been in place for more than 40 years. Along with the maintenance issues associated with this old pipe arch, a drop at the outlet end posed a barrier to juvenile fish. McGee Engineering, located in Corvallis, provided the bridge design for this project. West Coast Contractors was awarded the construction contract and essentially completed the project in a little over one week.



Concrete bridge installed over West Fork Millicoma

Road maintenance for the 550 miles of road in the Elliott State Forest is performed by a road maintenance contractor under the guidance of our Forest Road Specialist. The contractor provides the essential equipment and personnel to perform routine road maintenance. Routine road maintenance includes grading, ditching, spot rocking, brushing, culvert cleaning and culvert replacement. The year started off with the crew conducting routine maintenance along haul routes. During the summer months, the crew accomplished some much needed work involving the removal of waste piles along various roads and improving drainage conditions on certain spur roads. As winter set in, storm clean-up became the main emphasis. Several days were spent after each storm surge removing small slides, downed trees and culvert cleaning.

STATE FORESTS

Reforestation

During 2006, the Reforestation Team continued to work on the newest Elliott State Forest plantations using the most current silvicultural practices. The Reforestation Team is made up of Mike Davidson, Terry Leischner, supervised by Roger Johnson with Delos Devine and David Derrick as Forest Inmate Crew Coordinators.

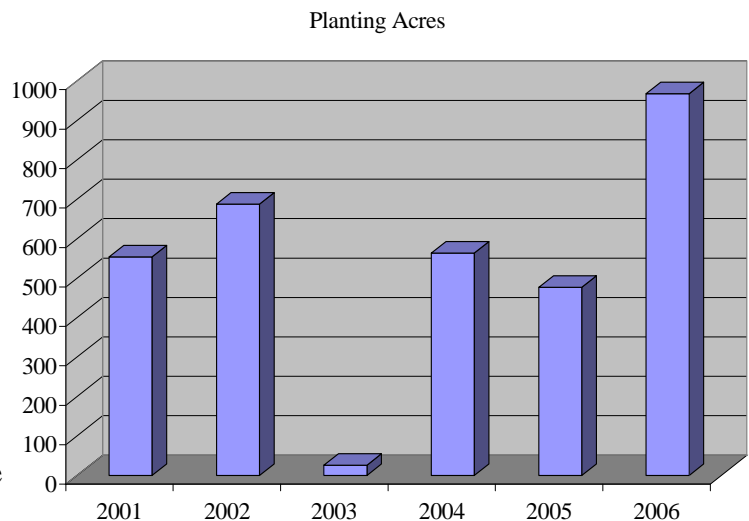


Mike Davidson, David Derrick, Roger Johnson (Unit Supervisor), Terry Leischner, Delos Devine

During the first part of the year approximately 400,000 forest tree seedlings were planted using inmate crews and contract labor. Inmate crews were also used to trap mountain beaver on most of the acres planted. There were approximately 911 acres of initial planting and 75 acres interplanted to supplement the existing stock. Douglas-fir was the primary species planted with some areas mixed with western hemlock or western red cedar.

Mike and Terry continued with their yearly forest-wide inventory and spot spray treatment for invasive weeds. This mainly consisted of treating roadside areas which are the main source of spread for these species. Many acres of Scotch broom have been successfully treated over the years but there are many areas still needing treatment.

There were two major vegetation management treatments completed this year. In April, 135 acres of recently planted units were aerielly treated with several types of ground-active herbicide to reduce vegetative competition from grasses and forbs. During the fall months 437 acres of newly harvested units were aerielly treated with herbicides in preparation for winter planting. In addition, 193 acres of poorly stocked older units were aerielly treated with herbicides in preparation for interplanting additional trees or to reduce vegetative competition for existing trees.



This year Mike wrote and administrated a stocking survey contract to determine the stocking levels of our newly planted units. These 28 projects included 952 acres of plots taken after the first and third growing seasons. All fixed-diameter plot data was collected using data recorders and then processed to summarize the unit data. The survey identified many well-stocked stands and just a few that were in need of additional work to reach adequate stocking and “free to grow” status.

During the summer of 2006 Shutter Creek inmate crews lead by Delos and David spent considerable time fighting wildland fires in Oregon. The crews were dispatched to six fires in the Southern Oregon Area and one in Central Oregon. The two crews combined for 96 crew days on fire control within the state of Oregon.

PRIVATE FORESTS PROGRAM

Forest Practices Act Administration

The purpose of the Department's Forest Practices Program is to promote forest practices that are consistent with sound management and protection of trees, soil, air, water and, fish and wildlife resources while assuring the continuous benefits of the forest resource for current and future needs. This is achieved through administration of Oregon laws and rules that direct sound forest management practices while minimizing resource impacts during commercial forest operations. These goals are met through a balance of education, monitoring and enforcement, and by coordinating activities with other state and federal agencies, and local governments.



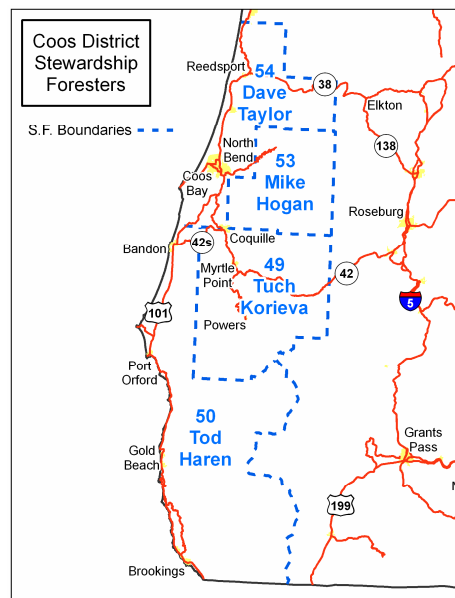
The district's Private Forests Program staff had another busy year during 2006, with Forest Practices administration remaining a high priority. The Stewardship Foresters continue to place their emphasis on prevention through education and engineering by conducting pre-operation visits on environmentally sensitive operations, reviewing and commenting on written plans, and training operators and landowners.

Tuch Koreiva, Gary Schulz (Unit Supervisor), Tod Haren, Jennifer Wright, Dave Taylor, Mike Hogan

During 2006, our emphasis was largely focused on rule changes of the Forest Practices Act and dealing with High Landslide Hazard Locations

(HLHL). Because of the debris flow potential of steep areas near dwellings and highways these HLHL areas continue to be a high priority for the district.

Fortunately, the district suffered no major fires or severe winter storms during 2006. District Stewardship Foresters did, however, spend many long hours throughout the summer assisting other districts and nearby states, in suppression efforts on major fires.



Logging Operation – Coos District

Family Forestland Assistance

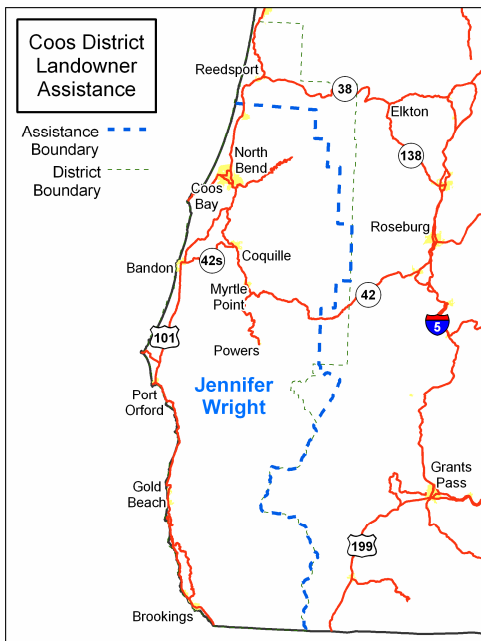
Successful partnerships between the district's Stewardship Foresters and several local, state and federal agencies continued this year ensuing in completion of many worthwhile projects and assistance to family forest landowners.

Collaboration between ODF, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, the Coos Soil and Water Conservation District, Curry Soil and Water Conservation District, and Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board resulted in a number of projects throughout the district. Examples include reforestation of underproductive land, pre-commercial thinning, vegetation management, and restoration of oak woodlands. Funding came mostly from the federal Environmental Quality Incentive Program, but over one hundred acres of riparian planting was planned on agricultural land through the federal Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, and approximately 400 acres were enrolled in the Forest Stewardship Management Plan Program.

Special projects accomplished this year included assistance to the local Oregon Small Woodlands Association Chapter's first winter tree sale at Pony Village Mall, finalization of a second Forest Resource Trust project, development and state-wide distribution of the Problem Thistles of Oregon brochure in collaboration with the Coos SWCD, OSU Extension Service and Oregon Department of Agriculture using USFS Cooperative Programs funds.

Sudden oak death (SOD), caused by the virus *Phytophthora ramorum*, continues its forest infestation in the southern part of the district. It was first discovered in Oregon forests in July 2001. Since then ODF and Oregon Department of Agriculture have implemented an eradication program of cutting and burning all infected and nearby host plants. On most sites herbicides are then used to prevent stump-sprouting.

During the first four years of the eradication effort, the number of new infested sites and infected trees decreased each year. That trend ended in 2005 when the number of trees and the number of new infested acres increased compared to the previous year.



In 2006 we discovered 36 new infested sites (143 infected tanoak trees). Two of the new sites occurred outside of the quarantine zone and more than two miles from the nearest infested site. Most of the new sites were less than one acre and scattered near the center of the quarantine zone along the North Fork Chetco River and its tributaries. The largest new site covered ten acres and contained more than 40 infected trees. We attribute this expansion to two consecutive years of unusually wet spring and early summer weather.

To date we have had modest success at eradication and very good success at limiting spread and containing the pathogen to a relatively small area. Several of the treated sites appear to be pathogen-free two years after treatment, and the pathogen has not expanded from these sites. Repeated aerial surveys, ground surveys, and stream monitoring throughout southwest Oregon have failed to detect the pathogen in forests beyond the area near the town of Brookings. Efforts to eradicate the pathogen from Oregon forests likely will continue for several years.

Safety

Jennifer Griffith served as the District Safety Chair for 2006. The Coos District Safety Committee accomplished the following during 2006:

- Completion of the conversion of the District Safety Plan to the new Model Safety Plan format.
- Conducted all required safety and fire refresher training, as well as implementing some new courses.
- Conducted Chainsaw Safety Training.
- Provided a choice of bag or a sweatshirt with an embroidered ODF logo as the 2006 safety recognition award.
- Provided a wellness incentive item to district employees.
- Completed and implemented the District Wellness Plan.
- Provided field first aid kits for all field employees.
- Updated and re-located the MSDS book for the office.
- Re-organized the Safety and Wellness bulletin board in the main office hallway.
- Updated the building exit diagrams into an electronic format.
- Scheduled a presentation by Coos County Emergency Management on earthquake and tsunami preparedness.

Administration

Personnel Changes



Bob Fields, Pam Wilson, Echo Nickerson, Ann Toman, Greg Kreimeyer, Randy Smith
Jim Young, District Forester (Front Center)

Retirements

Randy Lau – Retired at the end of January with over 28 years of service. Randy held the position of GIS Specialist.

Kristi Santivasci – Retired at the end of February with over 28 years of service. Kristi held the position of Office Manager.

New Employees

Echo Nickerson was hired in June to fill the position of Office Manager.

Darren Mahr has joined our office in a statewide limited duration Biomass Specialist position. He is a member of the Salem Fire Protection Staff.

Resignations

Matthew Leise – Resigned in August, Matt held a limited duration Natural Resource Specialist 1 position on the Timber Team. Matt moved on to take a position with the Washington Department of Natural Resources.

Summer Interns

Ben Allen -- Worked May through August as an Intern on the Timber Team. In addition to a variety of forest management work, Ben was able to gain fire experience while helping with the Fall Creek Fire.

Jacob Rosenberg – Worked May through August as an Intern on the Timber Team. Jacob was also able to gain a variety of forest management experience and fire experience while helping with the Fall Creek Fire.

Work out of Class

Bob Fields continued his assignment as Planning Coordinator for the Forest Management Plan/Habitat Conservation Plan revision process.

Cooperative Work with Coos Forest Protective Association

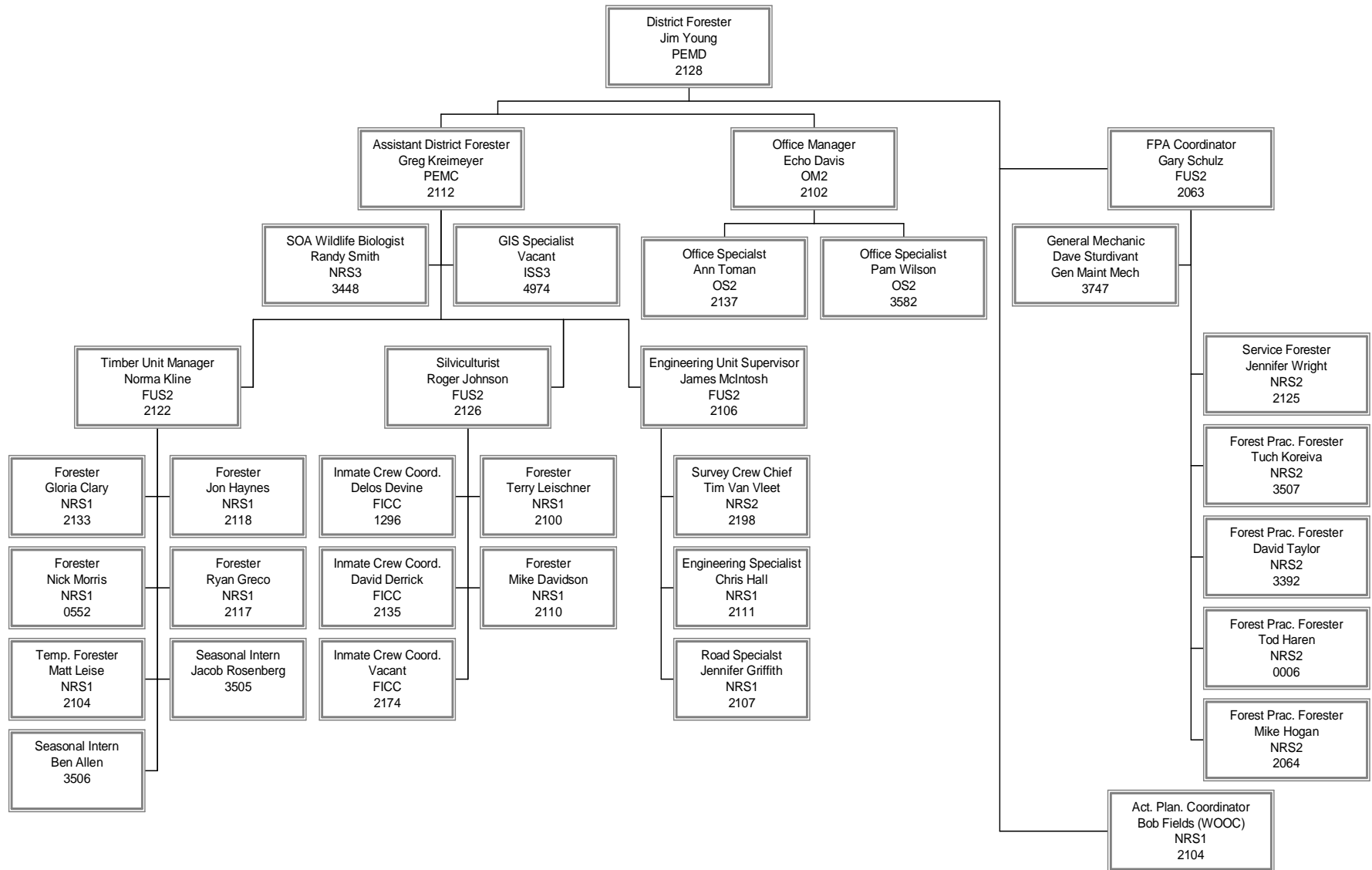
Les Goertz assisted the district with motor pool fleet maintenance during part of 2006.

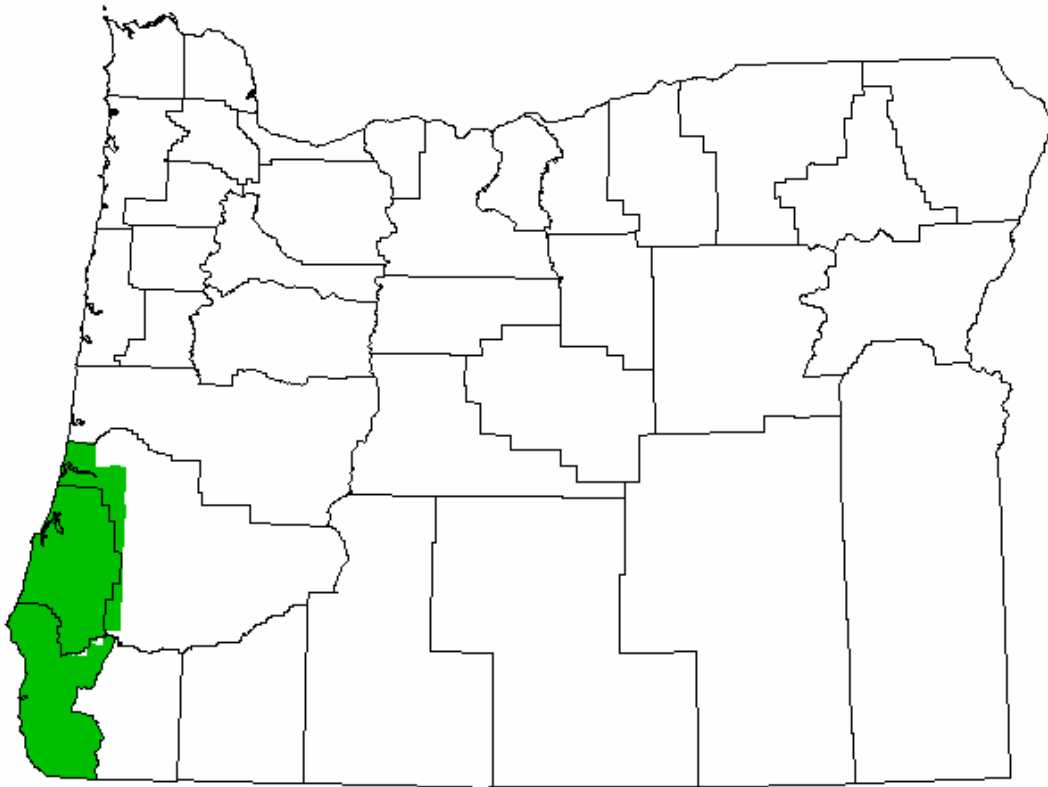
Dave Osuna assisted with reforestation efforts as well as inmate crew liaison during part of 2006.

James Dagit assisted with landing pile burning during the fall/winter.



Coos District Organizational Chart – 2006





"STEWARDSHIP IN FORESTRY"

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