Council of Forest Trust Land Counties

STATE FORESTER'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE ASSOCIATION of OREGON COUNTIES

November 2007





'LINKING GOVERNMENTS LOCALLY'





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INTRODUCTION

As directed by Oregon statute, the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) manages about 658,000 acres of state forestlands to secure the greatest permanent value by providing healthy, productive, and sustainable forest ecosystems, that over time and across the landscape provide a full range of social, economic, and environmental benefits to the people of Oregon. The lands are actively managed in a sound environmental manner to provide sustainable timber harvest and revenues to the state, counties, and local taxing districts. This management focus is pursued within a broader management context that provides for other forest resources, including properly functioning aquatic habitats for salmonids, wildlife habitats, water quality, and recreation.

Most Board of Forestry (BOF) land was originally acquired by the counties through foreclosure of tax liens. Under county ownership, the lands provided revenue to the counties. Oregon law has maintained this revenue source by allowing ownership to be conveyed to the state "in consideration of the payment to such county of the percentage of revenue derived from such lands".

This report highlights essential management activities and issues for Board of Forestry lands during Fiscal Year (FY) 2007(July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007).

In FY 2007, the Board of Forestry adopted a set of performance measures to evaluate, over time, whether management of BOF lands is achieving "greatest permanent value" for Oregonians. ODF commissioned a second-party assessment of the State Forest recreation program in order to evaluate current effectiveness and implementation of the four Northwest Oregon recreation management plans. Also mentioned in this report are updates on windthrow salvage activities, forest health, and results of the Forest Trust Land Advisory Committee (FTLAC) meetings.

This report continues to evolve and expand from previous versions based on recommendations from the council and others. If you have any comments or questions, please contact Jim Paul, Assistant State Forester, at (503) 945-7204, jtpaul@odf.state.or.us ; Nancy Hirsch, State Forests Program Director, at (503) 945-7351, <u>nhirsch@odf.state.or.us</u>; or a member of the FTLAC.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

This report is intended to focus on FY2007 (July 1, 2006–June 30, 2007). However, in the business of forest management, it is important to analyze trends in revenue and expenditures over several years, because the timing of harvest and other factors can cause any one year to be above or below average.

The ODF provides the FTLAC with ongoing status reports related to revenue projections and proposed ODF budgets for the future biennium. Figure 1 illustrates information from the past four biennia and estimates for the 2007-09 biennium. The ODF manages the BOF lands from the share of revenue deposited in the Department of Forestry Forest Development Fund (FDF).

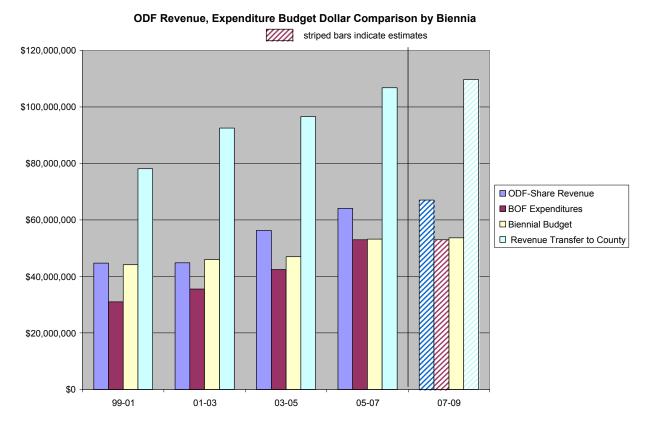


Figure 1. Biennia Overview Revenue and Expenditures

BOF Expenditure numbers do not include revenue transfers discussed later in this report. 07–09 numbers are estimates for both expenditures and revenue. Expenditures are based on 3-year average prior to 2007 and revenues are calculated based on receivables from sold sales and anticipated revenues from planned sales. 07–09 The Biennial budget estimate is from the Governor's Recommended Budget, using the Essential Budget Level

Timber Harvest from Board of Forestry Lands

About 244 million board feet (MMBF) was harvested from Board of Forestry Lands from July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007. This is a five percent decrease from the five year average of 257 MMBF and down 12 percent from the FY06 volume of 277 MMBF. Table 1 displays the volume removed by County during fiscal year 2007.

Table 1: Total Volume of Timber Harvest from Board of ForestryLands by County – FY2007					
County	Total Volume MBF (thousand board feet)				
Benton	6,777				
Clackamas	1,151				
Clatsop	77,347				
Columbia	3,346				
Coos	1,668				
Douglas	2,465				
Josephine	106				
Klamath	8,725				
Lane	4,554				
Lincoln	1,654				
Linn	9,114				
Marion	13,078				
Polk	2,059				
Tillamook	81,990				
Washington	30,365				
Total	244,398				

County Revenues from Timber Sales

The county share of revenues from timber harvest for the last five fiscal years are shown in Table 2. County revenues during FY2007 were approximately \$57.3 million. The average amount of revenue distributed to the Counties over the last five fiscal years was \$52.3 million. Revenues are distributed to counties each quarter.

Revenue transferred to the counties from management of BOF land has varied over the past ten years from \$28 million to \$58 million on an annual basis. The ten-year average (FY1998– FY2007) of total revenue transfers to the counties is approximately \$44.6 million.

Table 2: County Revenues from BOF Timber Sales FY2003-2007								
County	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007			
Benton	\$1,009,413	\$2,596,528	\$792,073	\$1,473,011	\$2,143,721			
Clackamas	\$336,256	\$850,961	\$294,440	\$504,622	\$449,331			
Clatsop	\$26,399,160	\$19,312,820	\$14,979,101	\$18,966,770	\$18,408,274			
Columbia	\$1,026,224	\$741,227	\$963,567	\$680,851	\$1,288,396			
Coos	\$184,951	\$262,816	\$109,904	\$460,526	\$470,557			
Douglas	\$252,451	\$ 0	\$30,348	\$334,652	\$345,920			
Josephine	\$76	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$0	\$13,926			
Klamath	\$511,363	\$392,276	\$1,806,073	\$758,077	\$1,246,063			
Lane	\$1,957,402	\$979,385	\$2,741,105	\$1,938,839	\$982,028			
Lincoln	\$1,220,373	\$738,319	\$1,400,617	\$1,439,611	\$599,615			
Linn	\$3,459,852	\$4,051,916	\$5,342,905	\$3,234,956	\$2,400,178			
Marion	\$674,845	\$1,059,923	\$3,057,678	\$3,497,389	\$4,697,828			
Polk	\$663,546	\$134,808	\$207,030	\$189,675	\$234,037			
Tillamook	\$9,408,191	\$10,140,265	\$13,083,756	\$18,190,282	\$14,677,782			
Washington	\$2,696,736	\$6,656,840	\$3,781,002	\$6,328,066	\$9,348,502			
Total	\$49,801,650	\$47,918,084	\$48,589,600	\$57,997,327	\$57,306,159			

Actual Revenues and ODF Management Costs

Actual gross revenues have averaged \$75 million over the past nine years. The average cost-to-revenue ratio for the past nine years is approximately 34 percent.

	Table 3: Actual Gross Revenue and Expenditures FY1999-2007							
Actual	Revenue Dollars		ODF FDF I	Expenditures		Revenue Transfers	Total Costs	
Fiscal Year	Actual Gross Revenue ¹	Personal Services	Services & Supplies	Capital Outlay	FDF Expenditure Total	CI/CC., COPs, Seed Orchard, Admin Prorate	Total Cost	
2007	\$91,035,628	\$14,664,974	\$13,523,541	\$98,113	\$28,286,629 ⁴	\$5,643,461 ³	\$33,930,090	
2006	\$93,135,149	\$13,529,064	\$10,915,862	\$243,984	\$24,688,910	\$5,607,473	\$30,296,383	
2005	\$77,202,726	\$13,376,102	\$9,628,632	\$138,624	\$23,143,358	\$21,713,270 ²	\$44,856,629	
2004	\$75,588,318	\$11,777,213	\$7,273,545	\$199,663	\$19,250,421	\$4,210,186	\$23,460,607	
2003	\$72,590,895	\$11,395,363	\$7,130,232	\$417,631	\$18,943,227	\$3,065,141	\$22,008,368	
2002	\$69,114,134	\$10,686,593	\$5,695,832	\$708 , 570	\$17,090,994	\$3,990,047	\$21,081,041	
2001	\$66,647,019	\$10,046,233	\$6,053,184	\$269,558	\$16,368,975	\$2,689,368	\$19,058,343	
2000	\$74,971,314	\$9,266,535	\$5,133,552	\$171,296	\$14,571,382	\$3,589,377	\$18,160,759	
1999	\$62,759,066	\$9,124,496	\$7,032,810	\$201,088	\$16,358,394	\$2,209,783	\$18,568,176	

¹ Actual Gross Revenues include revenues from negotiated sales, rights-of-way, permits, etc., in addition to timber sales minus project work.

² FY05 House Bill 2148 transferred \$10 million out of the Forest Development Fund (FDF) into the General Fund and \$3.9 million to Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, \$991,000 for Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) gap, and \$4.8 million for the Tillamook Forest Center that was not reported the previous fiscal year.

³ This revenue transfer does not include the \$10 million that was transferred out of the general fund to the Forest Development Fund in January of 2007 or the \$821,971 that was transferred in to FDF from FEMA to reimburse ODF for FEMA qualifying projects resulting from Winter 2006 storm damage. ⁴ A transfer to the Facilities, Maintenance and Development Account (FAMADA) in the amount of \$925,000 was made in June 2007 and is included in the expenditures for Fiscal 2007 along with storm damage repairs. <u>Data taken from State Financial Management Application</u>

Fiscal Year 2007 Costs

Total expenditures in Fiscal 2007 were \$28 million related directly to operational budget units that manage BOF land, which includes Salem State Forests Program staff, three regional areas and nine districts. The responsibilities of these units include overall program management, research and monitoring, long-range forest management planning, timber sale contract development and administration, and forest management activities.

Expenditures referred to as "Revenue Transfers" included about \$5.6 million for FY2007. The transfers include an administrative prorate, capital improvement projects, debt service on Certificates of Participation (COPs) for capital construction projects, fire protection costs, and seed orchard management. This year's "Revenue Transfer" was approximately the same as last years.

It is the Department of Forestry's goal to ensure that the administrative cost structure accurately reflects the work performed by administrative staff, and that each end-user pays their fair share of administrative costs. The administrative prorate supports the following services:

- Human Resources (Personnel, Labor Relations, Safety, and Training);
- Financial Services (Accounting and Reporting Services);
- Internal Auditing, Quality Control, and Risk Management;
- Information Technology support and infrastructure to ODF staff and field offices;
- Oversight of Facilities, Property Control, and Procurement activities (Contracting and Physical Assets);
- Payroll Administration;
- Biennial Budget Development and Implementation;
- Agency Affairs (Public Information, Education, and Legislative Coordination);
- Resource Analysis and Technical Studies and;
- Executive Level Policy and Administrative Oversight (State Land Board, Board of Forestry, Executive Team and Administrative Services Program Directors).

The administrative prorate charges for FY2007 were \$2.7 million. Prorate percentages, the percentage of time a specific service area performs work for the benefit of an end-user, are calculated from work studies performed each biennium by ODF. Each biennium, a new work study is conducted to ensure the allocated percentages are as accurate as possible, then a budget policy option package is presented to re-align the Department of Forestry's budget within the study parameters. If the Legislative Assembly approves the packages, then the prorate is re-aligned. If not, the existing prorate is continued.

Seed orchard costs for FY2007 were \$166,109. These funds were used to produce genetically improved seed (superior growth characteristics as identified through traditional breeding and selection methods) appropriate for state forestlands.

The COP interest and principal allocation funds debt service for capital construction on the Salem headquarters buildings, and totaled \$506,700 in FY2007. Capital improvement project costs of \$1.2 million were a result of facility development and improvement to the Salem compound.

The Oregon Department of Forestry Protection from Fire costs were \$935,700 for FY2007. The remaining \$90,500 of the revenue transfers included charges for residual equity (i.e. additional vehicle or vehicle upgrades) and an intra-agency payment.

Historical Timber Harvest Information

Timber harvest volume is volume removed during the FY2007 period. The average timber stumpage price is for all species harvested during FY2007. In 2007 total timber harvested from BOF sales was approximately 244 MMBF. This is down about five percent from the five year average of 259 MMBF. The harvest value, volume and stumpage prices for the previous ten years are shown in Table 4, along with a five- and ten-year average.

Table 4: Historical Timber Harvest Value, Volume, StumpagePrices—FY1998–2007						
Fiscal Year	*Gross Timber Sale Value	Timber Harvest Volume (MBF)	**Average Timber Sale Sold Stumpage Price			
2007	\$98,287,294	244,398	\$348			
2006	\$103,150,843	276,908	\$365			
2005	\$89,542,266	281,655	\$361			
2004	\$81,104,304	239,386	\$277			
2003	\$86,875,185	253,532	\$284			
2002	\$79,544,382	228,326	\$306			
2001	\$65,489,876	193,069	\$208			
2000	\$74,639,111	214,165	\$347			
1999	\$62,735,261	169,896	\$249			
1998	\$45,544,510	106,350	\$304			
Last 5-Year Average	\$91,791,978	259,176	\$327			
10-Year Average	\$78,691,303	220,769	\$305			

*Includes county and ODF shares, project work, and forest rehabilitation payments.

** Average timber sale stumpage price is gross timber sale value minus project work. This is a change from past reports where stumpage value included project work costs.

Forest Rehabilitation Repayment Status

The Forest Rehabilitation Fund was created by the 1949 Oregon Legislature "to rehabilitate, reforest and develop state-owned forest lands so as to secure the highest permanent usefulness to the whole people of the State of Oregon." The State paid for the bonds to establish this fund, and the State is being repaid by the counties from timber harvest revenues. The current repayment status is shown by county in Table 5.

Table 5: Balances for Rehabilitation Payback per County as ofJune 30, 2007							
County Obligation Sum of Payments Balance							
Josephine	\$29,903	\$0	\$29,903				
Washington	\$921,285	\$876,394	\$44,891				
Total	\$951,188	\$876,394	\$74,794				

County Revenue Projections/Revenue Projection Performance Audit

In recent years the State Forests Program provided a revenue projection to the Association of Oregon Counties twice a year. ODF has been working on improvements to the revenue projection process in an effort to provide more accurate estimates for internal information and to the Association of Oregon Counties. This effort has been in response to recommendations contained in the recently completed revenue projection performance audit.

In June 2006, the Program entered into a contract with Moss Adams, LLP to conduct a performance audit of the existing revenue projection methodology and to assess revenue components. The project consisted of two phases. Phase one concentrated on understanding and documenting the current methodology used to produce the revenue projection. Phase two of the work plan included testing and making an assessment of the data components and a series of options to improve revenue projection methodology. Both phases of this audit have been completed and ODF staff has begun to utilize many of these recommendations in the revenue projection process. A written summary of ODF's response to the audit recommendations will be distributed in the near future.

Long-Term Market Trends

The projection of the long-term trend is based on data from the Oregon Economic and Revenue Forecast (based on projections from Global Insight, Inc.), Random Lengths, and Washington Department of Natural Resources' Revenue Forecast.

Over the next several years, the Department of Forestry's log and sawtimber stumpage price trends are projected to remain relatively stable. However, conditions affecting the market trends are mixed. The overall U.S. economy is projected to grow, though at a slower rate, and the global demand for wood products is strong. However the U.S. housing market is experiencing a slowdown causing a reduced demand for lumber and other wood products.

The primary product marketed by the Department of Forestry is sawmill grade logs. These logs from State Forests are processed into predominantly dimension lumber and plywood for the housing market. Accordingly, the Department's market trends are largely influenced by the amount of new home construction and home remodeling, mortgage interest rates, and competition from alternative suppliers of logs and sawtimber.

Downward pressure on lumber prices is expected over the next 18 months from housing starts that are continuing to decline from a current ten-year low. The decline is primarily due to tightened lending standards and a large unsold inventory of new and existing homes. Recovery is expected to start by mid-2008, but may be delayed if the subprime mortgage problem spills over to other segments of the industry.

On the upside, inflation is predicted to remain below two percent causing the Federal Reserve to hold interest rates steady. As a result, mortgage interest rates are projected to remain stable or only slightly increase in the near term, although the improvement of the world economy and a weaker dollar may eventually create upward pressure.

The Oregon Department of Forestry's current log and stumpage prices have declined 15 percent since 2006, but log and sawtimber prices may point higher in the longer-term due to global demand, Russia's stifling log export taxes designed to spur investment in domestic wood products manufacturing, and private ownership domestically focusing on better returns. However, future log and sawtimber prices are also complicated by factors such as the uncertainty of log imports from Canada, especially surrounding issues of mountain pine beetle devastation and the rising Canadian dollar, strikes in the British Columbia's forest products industry, southwest Washington increased mill capacity, potential harvest increases from Oregon Bureau of Land Management lands, biomass utilization, and forest-related catastrophes.

Plywood prices have increased 14 percent in the last year. Chip and small log prices were recently at their highest level in ten years, a result of mill closures, reduced production, and decreased supplies of mill residuals. Currently chip prices have declined somewhat with increased supplies of roundwood chips but are projected to remain stable in spite of lower lumber production.

NORTHWEST AND SOUTHWEST OREGON STATE FORESTS

About 27,000 acres of Common School Forest Lands are managed under the Northwest Oregon and Southwest Oregon State Forest Management plans. This represents about four percent of the total state forest land managed under these plans.

District Implementation Planning

District Implementation Plans are an important tool for describing the management approaches and activities each district will pursue in order to carry out the Northwest Oregon and Southwest Oregon State Forests Management Plans. The districts that are operating under an Implementation Plan include: Astoria, Forest Grove, Tillamook; North Cascade, West Oregon, Western Lane, and Southwest Oregon Districts. The initial implementation plans were approved by the State Forester in March of 2003, and are for the ten-year period from July 1, 2001 through June 30, 2011.

Implementation Plans are developed with a ten-year outlook, but are subject to revisions as needed, or at least every ten years. The Board of Forestry and the State Forester requested additional model runs over the last year to assist with policy-level decision-making. Modeling to-date indicates a possible need for revisions to some district implementation plans. However, the Program is conducting additional model runs to refine the information needed for such decisions, and to assist with the establishment of harvest levels. Concurrently, the Program is examining possible improvements to the implementation plan development process. Together, these two efforts may result in a decision to revise implementation plans prior to 2011. Plan revisions meeting the 'major' modification threshold would trigger a public involvement process (minimum 30-day comment period).

Western Oregon Draft Habitat Conservation Plan

Planning efforts on the Western Oregon Draft Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) have focused this past year on participating in the continuing modeling efforts to better understand the economic and environmental strengths and weaknesses of management alternatives. Additionally, the Program has responded to direction from the State Forester to explore two aspects of the Forest Management Plan's species-of-concern strategy.

The first aspect is to "explore alternative strategies for 'species of concern' that produce a favorable biological result on the ground." The Forest Management Plan species-of-concern strategy discusses negotiating a Federal HCP, but does not describe the specifics of this strategy if it were to be programmatically implemented. The Program is working to describe a program-developed species-of-concern strategy. Such a strategy could be used for possible modification of the FMP should the decision be made not to pursue a Federal HCP. The second aspect of the State Forester's direction is to review the current draft HCP strategies considering current operational and biological information, including: knowledge of owl locations on state forestlands in the Northwest; the

Federal Draft Recovery Plan for the Northern Spotted Owl currently out for public review; and modeling outputs.

A workgroup of Salem and district biologists and staff is working to develop strategy recommendations. The work group will also be seeking input from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and stakeholders during this process that will extend into 2008.

Public Involvement

The State Forests Program continues to proactively involve the public in the successful implementation of its forest management and recreation plans. This is achieved through a standing advisory committee comprised of diverse interests, referred to as the Northwest State Forests Advisory Committee (SFAC). There are also advisory committees that advised district staff on important recreation issues and activities. The Northwest SFAC met nearly every other month to engage in ongoing discussions regarding operational activities or issues, including the following:

- Annual operations plan reviews;
- Tillamook State Forest field trip that focused on Swiss Needle Cast and stand assessment, and recreation development. The tour included the South Fork Inmate Camp and Tillamook Forest Center;
- Harvest & Habitat Model Project updates;
- State Forests Program Performance Measures;
- IP Revision Project;
- Tillamook Transportation Planning;
- Strategic Recreation Issues;
- State Forests Forest Management Plan- 2nd Party Assessment; and
- Watershed Assessments.

Each year, the public is invited to comment on the annual operations plans (AOP) on state-managed forestlands. The public involvement process provides an opportunity for ODF districts to share their annual plans, and provide opportunities for the public to ask questions and offer comments on the planned activities on state forestlands. A district AOP includes a summary report and details related to proposed on-the-ground operations, such as: timber sales, road building, reforestation, stream enhancement projects, and trail building. Written comments providing the most useful suggestions focus on one or more of the following:

- enhancing the consistency of an annual plan with the forest management plan;
- improving the clarity of an annual plan;
- providing new information that affects an annual plan (such as location of a domestic water source or cultural resource site); or
- improving the efficiency and effectiveness of an annual plan or planned operation.

The 45-day comment period for FY 2008 was held from February 14 to March 30, 2007. After public comments have been considered and any changes made, district foresters approve the annual operations plans for their districts by June 30. Annual operations plans are available at each district office, area ODF offices, and Salem headquarters. The plans also are posted on the ODF web site.

Annual Operations Plan and Budget - Summary FY2008

Annual Operations Plans (AOPs) link operational planning and accountability to ODF plans, policies, goals and budgets, by district. The AOPs provide information for fiscal budget development and revenue projections, and may need to be adjusted throughout the process based on revenue projections.

AOPs address the following issues requiring significant commitment of personnel or funds:

- timber sales;
- habitat management;
- young stand management;
- recreation projects;
- road construction and maintenance; and
- monitoring efforts and other activities.

Annually, drafts of AOP components undergo significant review by ODF, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and US Fish and Wildlife staffs, and supporting advisory committees, as well as the public. Once the review period has ended, district foresters consider input received from all these sources before final approval of the AOPs by the District Forester. District Foresters also will approve modifications of AOPs when necessary that may result from new information, changes in budget levels, or unforeseen circumstances.

The approved 2008 AOPs propose harvest operations of 207.4 MMBF, with a projected net value of \$54.0 million on BOF lands. In addition, significant salvage activities on the Astoria and Forest Grove districts will contribute 21.4 MMBF, with a projected net value of \$4.5 million (see page 15 for additional information on the salvage activities). A summary of the 2008 AOPs is provided by county in Table 6, and by district in Table 7.

The AOPs provide information for fiscal budget development and revenue projections. AOPs may need to be adjusted throughout the process, based on revenue projections. The State Forests fiscal 2008 budget is shown in Table 10.



Summary by County								
County	Clear-Cut Acres	Partial Cut Acres	Total Acres	Total Volume (MMBF)	Gross Value (MM\$)	Project Value (MM\$)	Net Value (MM\$)	
Benton	45	34	79	2.2	0.9	0.1	0.8	
Clatsop	842	1,147	1,989	49.7	17.5	2.9	14.7	
Coos	80	0	80	2.2	0.9	0.1	0.8	
Douglas	35	234	269	1.8	0.5	0.0	0.5	
Klamath	0	1,225	1,225	6.0	1.5	0.1	1.4	
Lane	219	125	345	9.0	3.1	0.5	2.6	
Lincoln	77	33	110	3.5	1.5	0.2	1.3	
Linn	152	258	410	9.5	3.3	0.2	3.1	
Marion	107	229	336	4.5	1.0	0.1	0.9	
Polk	45	195	240	1.5	0.3	0.1	0.2	
Tillamook	2,734	3,422	6,156	85.9	20.6	3.4	17.2	
Washington	221	1,538	1,759	31.6	11.4	0.8	10.5	
Grand Total	4,557	8,440	12,998	207.4	62.5	8.5	54.0	

Table 6: FY2008 – BOF Lands Statewide Annual Operations Plan

Table 7: FY 2008– BOF Lands									
Statew	Statewide Annual Operations Plan Summary by District								
Clear- CutPartialTotalGrossProjectNetCutCutTotalVolumeValueValueValueDistrictAcresAcresACresMMBFMM\$MM\$									
Astoria	842	1,147	1,989	49.7	17.5	2.9	14.7		
Coos	80	0	80	2.2	0.9	0.1	0.8		
Forest Grove	621	2,380	3,001	58.1	21.1	1.3	19.7		
Klamath-Lake	0	1,225	1,225	6.0	1.5	0.1	1.4		
North Cascade	259	487	746	14.0	4.3	0.3	4.0		
Southwest Oregon	35	234	269	1.8	0.5	0.0	0.5		
Tillamook	2,334	2,580	4,914	59.4	10.9	2.9	8.0		
Western Lane	219	125	345	9.0	3.1	0.5	2.6		
West Oregon	167	262	429	7.2	2.7	0.4	2.3		
Grand Total	4,557	8,440	12,998	207.4	\$ 62.5	\$ 8.5	\$ 54.0		

Windthrow Salvage Activities

A strong windstorm in December of 2006 resulted in substantially more windthrow than normal on State Forests in northwest Oregon. The Department reacted quickly, given the potential loss of value of downed trees within a relatively short time frame. The majority of the windthrown trees from this event have been included in salvage sales that were sold in the last quarter of FY 07 (April-June), with the remaining scheduled for the first quarter of FY 08 (July-September). Harvesting of these salvage sales should be completed prior to the end of FY 08. The total volume of these salvage sales has been estimated at 22.3 MMBF, with 21.4 MMBF occurring on the Astoria and Forest Grove districts. Salvage activities were planned and conducted consistent with the Northwest Forest Management Plan.

While strong windstorms are not uncommon on the coast, this storm was quite unusual and resulted in the amount of damage experienced for several reasons: the wind was out of the west rather than the typical south or southwest directions; the wind direction was more variable than normal during the storm; and the storm was preceded by five days of rain (from one-quarter to three-quarters of an inch of rain per day), with an inch and a half of rain falling during the storm. From a landscape perspective, the damage done by this windstorm was not a significant event. The storm only damaged significantly less than one percent of the approximately ten billion board feet of standing timber volume on State Forests in the Northwest Oregon Area. However, compared to historic averages, the salvage activities from this storm were significant. Salvage averaged less than one-half million board feet per year for the ten-year period from 1997 through 2006, while the salvage from this storm had a volume more than 40 times greater than average.

Approximately 96 percent of the salvage activities are concentrated in the Astoria and Forest Grove Districts. At 17.1 MMBF, the salvage activities on the Astoria District are equivalent to 27 percent of this district's annual harvest objective (64.0 MMBF). On the Forest Grove District, salvage activities are equivalent to seven percent of the annual harvest objective (62.5 MMBF). As a result, this volume is contributing to the overall harvest objective being met for these districts for the 2008 AOP.

A summary of the significant salvage activities occurring from late FY 07 through FY 08 are shown in Tables 8 and 9 by county and district respectively. Salvage activities outside of Clatsop, Tillamook, and Washington counties (Astoria and Forest Grove Districts) are incidental (less than one MMBF combined) and are not, therefore, shown on the tables.

Table 8: FY 2007 through 2008 – BOF Lands Annual Summary of Significant Salvage Activities by County								
County	Clear Cut AcresPartial Cut AcresTotal Total 							
Clatsop	367	1,334	1,701	17.6	3.6			
Tillamook	15	65	80	1.4	0.4			
Washington	30	135	165	2.4	0.5			
Grand Total	412	1,534	1,946	21.4	\$ 4.5			

Table 9: FY 2007 through 2008– BOF Lands Annual Summary of Significant Salvage Activities by District							
District	Clear Cut AcresPartial Cut AcresTotal Total 						
Astoria	367	1299	1,666	17.1	3.4		
Forest Grove	45	245	290	4.3	1.0		
Grand Total	412	1,544	1,956	21.4	\$ 4.4		

Table 10: State Forests Fiscal 2008 Budget – BOF Lands							
Budget Unit	PS	S&S	СО	TOTAL	CI/CC		
ADAPTIVE MGMT	\$ 660,266	\$ 1,978,803	\$ 29,400	\$ 2,668,468	\$ -		
ADMIN UNIT	\$ 549,488	\$ 228,900	\$ -	\$ 778,388	\$ -		
ASSET MGMT	\$ 607,010	\$ 365,904	\$ -	\$ 972,914	\$ -		
POLICY/PLAN	\$ 377,776	\$ 130,947	\$ -	\$ 508,723	\$ -		
RESOURCE MGMT	\$ 643,923	\$ 1,254,693	\$ -	\$ 1,898,616	\$ -		
SALEM TOTAL	\$ 2,838,463	\$ 3,959,247	\$ 29,400	\$ 6,827,110	\$-		
NWOA OFFICE	\$ 679,417	\$ 238,581	\$ 20,000	\$ 937,998	\$ -		
ASTORIA	\$ 2,392,859	\$ 2,083,209	\$ -	\$ 4,476,068	\$ 45,000		
FOREST GROVE	\$ 1,983,195	\$ 2,044,665	\$ 121,963	\$ 4,149,823	\$ 80,000		
NORTH CASCADE	\$ 941,816	\$ 748,899	\$ 20,500	\$ 1,711,215	\$ 55,000		
SEED ORCHARD	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 897,250		
SOUTH FORK	\$ 1,340,248	\$ 623,039	\$ 50,660	\$ 2,013,947	\$ -		
TILLAMOOK	\$ 2,937,510	\$ 3,550,422	\$ -	\$ 6,487,932	\$ 132,000		
TFC	\$ 702,240	\$ 862,850	\$ 20,000	\$ 1,585,090	\$ 40,000		
WEST OREGON	\$ 730,471	\$ 455,027	\$ 10,000	\$ 1,195,498	\$ -		
NW Area Total	\$ 11,707,756	\$ 10,606,692	\$ 243,123	\$ 22,557,571	\$ 1,249,250		
SOA OFFICE	\$ 22,020	\$ 5,953	\$ -	\$ 27,974	\$ -		
COOS	\$ 145,254	\$ 140,444	\$ -	\$ 285,697	\$ 1,388		
SWO	\$ 175,244	\$ 120,863	\$ -	\$ 296,107	\$ 20,000		
WEST LANE	\$ 294,877	\$ 128,434	\$ -	\$ 423,311	\$ -		
SOA Total	\$ 637,395	\$ 395,694	\$ -	\$ 1,033,089	\$ 21,388		
EOA OFFICE	\$ 16,310	\$ 40,836	\$ -	\$ 57,145	\$ -		
KLAMATH	\$ 462,335	\$ 310,228	\$ -	\$ 772,563	\$ -		
EOA Total	\$ 478,645	\$ 351,064	\$ -	\$ 829,709	\$ -		
TOTAL FY08	\$ 15,662,259	\$ 15,312,697	\$ 272,523	\$ 31,247,479	\$ 1,270,638		

Personal Services (PS) includes employee salary and benefits; Service & Supply (S&S) includes professional and service contracts, vehicles, training, etc.; Capital Outlay (CO), Capital Improvement/Capital Construction (CI/CC) includes investments in new vehicles, building improvements, and new buildings.

Second-Party Assessment of Recreation Management Plans

In January 2007, ODF commissioned David Reed & Associates (DRA) to conduct a second-party assessment of the State Forest recreation program patterned after the Forest Management Plan assessment conducted by Strategic Resource Systems in 2006. ODF staff requested this second-party assessment to independently evaluate current effectiveness and implementation of the four Northwest Oregon recreation management plans, with the goal of continued improvement and enhancement of the recreation program.

The assessment team initially examined the recreation plans, based on their structure and relevance. Based on criteria developed by both the DRA assessment team and ODF staff, field visits were then made to assess the recreation program and management practices. The assessment process concluded with final reviews of the plans to determine their efficacy. Some general findings from the assessment are summarized here. More detailed conclusions and findings can be viewed on the ODF website at: http://egov.oregon.gov/ODF/STATE_FORESTS/Recreation.shtml. Look for the link to the Recreation Assessment Final Report on this page.

Report General Findings

State Forest recreation management plans and staff have been in place for a relatively short period of time. Given the long history of unregulated recreation use on State Forests, major accomplishments have been made to establish a strong recreation program within a working forest. Recreation staff is committed to ODF policy mandates including the *Greatest Permanent Value* rule, and staff works positively to achieve integrated forest management goals.

The general findings are summarized as follows:

- Generally, recreation facilities and infrastructure are functional, accessible, well-maintained, and in good repair. They are constructed of durable materials and are attractive and well designed. Graffiti is removed immediately and litter removal is a high priority.
- Priorities are placed on site rehabilitation and managing recreation use to protect forest resources. Professional planning and design contractors provide design development expertise and alternatives for upgrading recreation sites and facilities. Activity zoning has been implemented to organize and manage both motorized and non-motorized trail systems. Trail planning continues to be refined with the assistance of geographical information systems (GIS) mapping.
- Staff works with recreation advisory committees to involve users in implementing recreation
 management plans. Staff has also executed formal use agreements with organized groups and
 clubs; notably, motorized recreation users, the Oregon Equestrian Trail organization, and
 recently, free-ride mountain bike clubs.

- The strength of the recreation program is its staff. Staff members are motivated, take great pride in their work, and are creative and resourceful. They are actively engaged with user groups, and present a positive attitude with both the recreating public and ODF colleagues in other disciplines, even when challenged by the complexity of their responsibilities.
- Recreation staff is using the recreation plans to guide their management activities and
 programs, especially when striving to meet objectives and actions prescribed in the action
 plans. Because the plans are outdated, lack strategic direction, and no policy framework
 exists for achieving a "Desired Future Condition"¹, staff is often left with little guidance on
 how to interpret and implement specific elements of the plans.
- The recreation program has grown in complexity and diversity to the point that management structure and capabilities are inadequate. The Recreation Management Plans are not able to provide policy direction for implementing a recreation program that has the capability of responding to growing demands.
- The current recreation program is not able to achieve sustainability goals of the Agency, including protection of forest resources and habitats. Moreover, as currently funded and structured, the program will not be effective in providing recreation opportunities on State Forests into the future. ODF is attempting to do too much with too little, without a clearly defined role and purpose, and without essential management systems and uniform practices in place that are required to provide safe, high quality recreation experiences across all forest districts.

The Department sought this review because it knew actions needed to be taken that would sustain recreation on state forests. The report provides a path for improvement. The Department is forming a group to use the report's findings, and is sharing the independent report with various advisory committees so they can also weigh in on future direction. While ODF studies the findings, takes into account public input and plans for the future; new projects will not be started. Some projects already "in progress" or that address safety, health or resource-protection issues will continue. This will give ODF time to maintain existing facilities and trail systems while carefully considering long-term direction. ODF leadership will use the report's findings, along with the advice it receives, to build on its current successes and chart a future course for recreation on state-managed forests in northwest Oregon.

Watershed Assessment and Analysis

Watershed analysis is an important component of the implementation of the FMPs. In general, watershed analysis projects provide a greater understanding of current conditions and interrelated processes in watersheds. This information is used to improve existing and future plans, and accomplish FMP objectives.

¹ A *Desired Future Condition* establishes a preferred role and mission for the managing agency including recreation settings, recreation uses, and management strategies that meet specific recreation goals and mandates of the Forest Management Plan.

To date, four watershed projects have been completed according to the targeted watershed analysis schedule: the Trask River; the Elliott State Forest; the Miami River; and the Upper Nehalem.

The State Forests Program is currently working on one project, the Wilson River watershed analysis. Several data collection activities have been completed in association with this project. These include surveys of fish presence, aquatic habitat, recreation trail condition, and the condition of dispersed campsites. Additionally, this analysis will include results from a slope stability project encompassing most State Forest land. The results of these projects will be used to identify locations where special management activities or restoration projects will be most beneficial to aquatic resources.

State Forests' program and district staffs create action plans from the contractor's findings; those currently available action plans are for the Elliott State Forest, Upper Nehalem and Miami River projects. Once completed, project-related documents are placed on the ODF website: <u>http://oregon.gov/ODF/STATE_FORESTS/watershed.html</u>. Currently, the website contains the ODF Watershed Manual; the Trask River, Elliott State Forests, Upper Nehalem, and Miami River watershed documents; and associated action plans.

Staff is currently conducting a process to evaluate the effectiveness of past watershed analysis projects and to suggest improvements to the overall watershed analysis program. These improvements will be applied during future watershed-related projects.

Board of Forestry Performance Measures

The Oregon Board of Forestry adopted nine performance measures in 2007 to evaluate, over time, whether management of Board of Forestry lands is achieving "greatest permanent value" for Oregonians, as the law requires. The Greatest Permanent Value is defined in administrative rule as meaning "healthy, productive and sustainable forests" that provide "social, economic and environmental benefits for the people of Oregon". These benefits provide the context for the nine interrelated measures.

In addition to the Board of Forestry performance measures, a coordinated effort is planned between the departments of Forestry and State Lands to assure alignment with the Common School Forest Lands Asset Management Plan. This plan, approved by the State Land Board in October 2006, establishes performance measures for Common School Forest Land.

For Board of Forestry lands, economic performance measures focus on the return on asset value, the indirect financial contribution to local communities, and the direct revenue distributed to counties and local schools. Environmental measures look at the risk and effects of invasive species, pests, disease and fire, the relationship of forest roads to streams and fish, and the quality of habitat being developed and its use by native fish and wildlife. Social measures are tied to public use of state forests for recreation, the Forestry Department's use of public involvement, and the public's awareness and support for management of these forests.

Based on initial evaluations of the nine performance measures in June 2006, the Board of Forestry directed the Department to seek ways to improve performance of the forest management plan for

Tillamook and Clatsop state forests. The Board set forth three principles to follow when considering improvements: 1) Maintain or improve outcomes across the economic, environmental and social measures, 2) Use increased harvesting in some areas and less in others to achieve more mature forests in a more timely manner, and 3) Enhance financial performance, such as revenue to counties from timber sales.

In response to the Board of Forestry's direction, The ODF has been developing examples of alternatives to the current implementation of the forest management plan. The examples will be presented to the Board in November 2007. At the same time, the ODF has been preparing draft targets for the performance measures. These performance measure targets would act as policy drivers for adjustments proposed for the purpose of improving the performance of the forest management plan.

Stand Level Inventory

The Stand Level Inventory (SLI) is a forest inventory developed by ODF. Field measured sampling occurs in a carefully selected representative portion of all stands. These inventory cruise stand results are used to extrapolate inventory information to all stands. This provides site-specific information on trees, snags, downed wood and non-tree vegetation (herbs-shrubs-grasses) in the cruised stands, statistically derived information about all stands for forest modeling purposes, and the ability to aggregate the information to report district and state-wide inventory totals for state forestlands.

Statewide, there are approximately 13,300 SLI stands, of which, just more than 6,400 (48.6 percent) have field-based measurements. Stands are delineated along differences in general timber characteristics – boundaries are drawn to group together areas with similar tree species, size and stocking. SLI boundaries often coincide with administrative boundaries, but individual stands may include more than one land ownership category such as County Forest Trust Lands (CFTL) and Common School Fund Lands (CSFL) lands. Inventory reporting specific to ownership category is facilitated by integration of the SLI data with ownership information from GIS. Table 11 shows the total number of stands by ODF District, the number of stands with field-based measurements, and the number of stands having one or more acre of CFTL (stands with very small slivers of ownership not counted).

Forest stands undergo continuous change over time, due to timber growth, mortality and harvest. The long-term goal for SLI is to maintain at least 50 percent of all stands with recent (with respect to change factors) field measured cruise information. ODF conducts annual inventory cruising projects in order to acquire and maintain the needed measurements. During the period from July 2006 through June 2007, 842 newly measured stands (about 6.3 percent of all stands) were completed as part of the latest annual project.

During FY 2006, Tillamook District completed a stand boundary re-delineation project. The District undertook the project because prior stand delineation featured too much within-stand variation in tree characteristics. Though the mean estimates were useful for reporting on broad scales, the variation caused the information to be less useful for operational site-specific planning and decision making.

Table 11: SLI Status of All Ownership Classes as of June 2007						
State Forests Districts	Total Stands	Measured Stands	CFTL Stands			
Astoria	1,490	898	1,473			
Forest Grove	1,257	710	1,248			
Tillamook	5,759	2,369 ²	5,575			
West Oregon	955	459	802			
North Cascade	752	382	735			
Western Lane	359	209	334			
Southwest	289	162	161			
Coos	2,139	1,013	276			
Klamath-Lake	301	257	220			
Total	13,301	6,459	10,824			

The number of SLI stands in Tillamook increased as a result of the boundary re-delineation – from 1,850 to 5,759 (of which about 5,166 are forested stands suitable for SLI sampling methods). Field plots established in the past for the 1,850 stand configuration are still usable for the new stand delineation, but most stands had fewer than the desired number of plots.

Tillamook contract cruising work done in FY 2007 focused on leveraging the previously cruised plots by adding new plots to bring the number of plots in the re-delineated stands up to a more desirable intensity. Stands receiving additional plots in the last year totaled 363. Additional work has been scheduled for the near future to acquire new measured cruise information on more Tillamook stands.

Districts and Program staff have begun work to improve SLI measured to non-measured stand sample assignment methods, transitioning from the previously used strata-based assignment approach to what's known as "nearest-neighbor" assignment, or "imputation". Imputation offers the advantage of reducing estimation errors for non-measured stands by eliminating the effects of within-strata variation.

² Many measured stands have fewer than the desired number of plots due to recent stand re-delineation in Tillamook District.

OTHER MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES / OUTPUTS

Intensive Management Summary

Intensive management activities (Table 12) represent an investment to increase the volume and/or quality of timber. These investments result in increased harvest revenue and improved habitat for many late seral habitat-dependent fish and wildlife species—species requiring older forest habitat.

Reforestation activities include site preparation, planting, and tree protection. These activities are dependent on the timber harvest schedule, the availability of suitable seedlings, and weather. The timing of when a harvest unit will be completed and available for site preparation or planting is sometimes unpredictable and made over a year in advance. This often results in a situation where the harvest unit is not ready and the scheduled activities are postponed. Conversely, there are situations when harvest units are finished earlier than predicted resulting in opportunities to move scheduled reforestation activities forward. Capturing these opportunities is contingent on having flexible reforestation contracts, being able to prepare the site, and availability of appropriate seedlings.

The quality of seedlings available from the nurseries is also variable. Because of a number of situations, there may be a shortfall or excess of seedlings available from the nurseries. Shortfalls result in not being able to plant ground on schedule, while an excess may allow the planting of an available area a year ahead of schedule. Weather conditions are a major factor in chemical site preparation and tree planting. The window of opportunity is sometimes so short for certain activities that conditions may not be suitable to accomplish all the work planned. This is especially true in chemical applications where weather parameters and physiological development of the vegetation are critical. Because of these variables, what is accomplished is often different than what was planned.

Release, precommercial thinning, fertilization, and pruning are activities that enhance the growth or quality of crop tress. These activities are not generally as time dependent, and can provide flexibility to the program. Because of circumstances such as high fertilizer costs, a project may be cancelled or postponed, and funds shifted to accomplish higher priority or more cost effective activities. Noxious weed management activities are conducted concurrently or as an opportunity with other vegetation management practices, or to target weeds in specific areas. These activities may be conducted as part of a coordinated effort in partnership with other landowners and agencies.

Board of Forestry Annual Reforestation and Young Stand Management Reports for 2007								
Management Activity	Acres Planned	Acres Completed	Average Cost/ Acre	Total Cost				
Initial Planting	4,166	4,648	\$219	\$1,016,390				
Interplanting	780	995	\$192	\$190,831				
Underplanting	372	368	\$93	\$34,326				
Tree Protection- Barriers	2,896	3,551	\$86	\$306,917				
Tree Protection- Direct Control	4,949	3,727	\$44	\$164,938				
Site Prep- Chemical -Aerial	2,142	2,360	\$64	\$150,972				
Site Prep- Chemical -Hand	470	723	\$149	\$107,630				
Site Prep- Slash Burning	1,313	1,204	\$38	\$46,222				
Site Prep- Mechanical	263	276	\$292	\$80,709				
Fertilization	4,980	4,574	\$105	\$478,057				
Noxious Weeds	255	352	\$57	\$20,040				
Release- Chemical- Aerial	1,185	2,168	\$50	\$108,156				
Release- Chemical- Hand	1,353	796	\$41	\$32,458				
Release- Mechanical- Hand	933	1,032	\$86	\$88,800				
Precommercial Thinning	3,704	3,817	\$87	\$331,553				
Pruning	150	71	\$94	\$6,696				
Other	31	790	\$2	\$1,923				
Totals	29,942	31,452		\$3,166,619				

Table 12: Intensive Management Activities on Board of ForestryLands – FY2007

2007 Road Accomplishments Update

Roads essential to forest management are constructed or improved as needed. Construction includes any new roads and reconstruction or relocation of abandoned roads, while improvement includes bringing an old road up to current standards. Road vacating is used on a limited basis, and is the permanent closure of roads, including removal of stream crossings and complete stabilization of the prism, and is used for roads that are no longer needed and that often pose risk to other resources. Information about the road system management on Board of Forestry lands as they vary by District is provided in Table 13. Activities listed occurred during Fiscal Year 2007.

A very large flood affected the roads in and around the Wilson River Watershed mostly in Tillamook County. The Department worked with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to fund road repairs, and damaged roads were quickly repaired in large part due to work by the Tillamook District Engineers and road maintenance crews. At the same time, a more comprehensive survey of roads has been completed for about 1/3 of the 4000 mile state forests road system, and has been summarized in watershed analyses. This information describes the current condition of roads and drainage structure, and risks to streams and other forest resources. Analysis of this data has been used to recommend locations where road management can further be improved to reduce road risks, and has found that the vast majority of ODF roads pose low risk to resources.



Table 13: Annual Road Work– Board of Forestry Lands							
District/	Aggrega	te/Paved Su	rface	D	irt Surface		Bridges
County	Constructed	Improved	Vacated	Constructed	Improved	Vacated	_ 8 _
Astoria/	4.2 mi.	24 mi.	0.3 mi.	3.6 mi.	1	1.1 mi.	1 new
Clatsop Co.	\$208,200	\$439,702	\$7,550	\$54,446		\$11,002	\$66,579
Coos/	0.81 mi.	0.71 mi.					")
Coos Co.	\$103,192	\$55,037					
Coos/		" 7		1.1mi.			
Douglas Co.				\$58,167			
Forest Grove/	1.9 mi.	0.4 mi.		n , - ·			
Clatsop Co.	\$107,702	\$21,828					
Forest Grove/	2.7 mi.	0.9 mi.		0.1mi.			
Washington Co.	\$112,616	\$21,125		\$796			
Forest Grove/	3.4 mi.	0.7 mi.	0.3 mi.	0.1 mi.			
Columbia Co.	\$194,908	\$32,192	\$940	\$990			
Forest Grove/	5.1mi.	11.8 mi	0.7 mi.	0.1 mi.			
Tillamook Co.	\$224,404	\$400,773	\$4,506	\$990			
Klamath-Lake/		1.95 mi.		0.1 mi.	9.3 mi.	0.2 mi.	
Klamath Co.		\$37,800		\$200	\$3,881	\$200	
North Cascade/		11 - · 9		2.1 mi.	n - 9		
Clackamas Co.				\$38,000			
North Cascade/	0.7 mi.						
Marion Co.	\$32,054						
North Cascade/	1.6 mi.						
Linn Co.	\$77,670						
SW Oregon/				0.71 mi.			
Douglas Co.				\$14,000			
SW Oregon/				2.16 mi.			
Josephine Co.				\$35,000			
Tillamook/	1.83 mi.	47.2 mi.	1.76 mi.	0.12 mi.			1 replaced
Tillamook Co.	\$87,672	\$1,796.944	\$46,238	\$4,561			\$776,218
West Oregon/	0.5 mi.	0.4 mi.		2.4 mi.			
Lincoln Co.	\$33,110	\$17,916		\$30,287			
West Oregon/				0.1 mi.			
Polk Co.				\$1,049			
West Oregon/		0.8 mi.		1.0 mi.			
Benton Co		\$21,585		\$13,543			
Western Lane/	2.7 mi.	1.6 mi.					
Lane Co.	\$183,600	\$32,000					
2007 Average	\$50 279	\$26 610	\$15 252	\$17 /20	¢/17	¢5 501	
Cost per Mile	\$59,378	\$36,642	\$15,252	\$17,432	\$417	\$5,501	
2006 Average	\$53,762	\$35,552	\$14,650	\$18,927		\$11,074	
Cost per Mile	φ00,702	φ30,002	φ14,050	ψ10,747		ψ11,074	

Recreation Accomplishments

This year marks the seventh year of implementing Recreation Action Plans developed for the Tillamook, Clatsop, and Santiam State Forests as well as for the West Oregon district. All of these plans were intended to be ten-year plans under the umbrella of the Northwest Oregon State Forest Management Plan. Throughout the region as new trails and developed sites have been constructed, the State Forests have evolved into popular recreation destinations attracting visitors from the Portland Metro area, Willamette Valley, and coastal communities. Due to the level of unexpected growth in recreation visitors, ODF conducted a second-party review of the recreation program during the first six months of 2007 (see the "Key Projects" section of this report). While ODF conducted the assessment and began to study the findings, no new recreation development projects were implemented. Those projects reported in Tables 14 and 15 were either already underway or were in response to safety, health or resource-protection issues. Many of these projects were accomplished through the involvement of recreation volunteers, whose hours are reported in Table 16.

Table 14: Trail Project Summary								
	Tillamook S	ClatsopSantiamTillamook State ForestState ForestState ForestState Forest						
Activity	Forest Grove District	Tillamook District	Astoria District	Cascade District	West Oregon District			
OHV Trails	_							
New Trails Construction	1.2 miles	0	0	0	0			
Trail								
Upgrade/Improvement	15.3 miles	10 miles	0	0	0			
Trails Maintained	30 miles	22.5 miles	0	1 mile	4.2 miles			
Non-Motorized Trails								
New Trails Construction	2.7 miles	2 miles	3 miles	4.7 miles	1.25 miles			
Trail								
Upgrade/Improvement	0.5 mile	3 miles	0	0.5 miles	0.75 miles			
Trails Maintained	48 miles	9 miles	13 miles	19 miles	6.2 miles			

during FY2007						
Campground	District	Campers	Revenue			
Henry Rierson Spruce Run	Astoria	10,073	\$27,367			
Gnat Creek	Astoria	1,383	\$2,618			
Northrup Creek (new)	Astoria	448	\$1,786			
Gales Creek	Forest Grove	2,994	\$13,704			
Brown's Camp	Forest Grove	4,627	\$22,287			
Stage Coach Horse Camp	Forest Grove	134	\$498			
Elk Creek	Forest Grove	1,771	\$4,500			
Reehers Camp (new)	Forest Grove	568	\$3,197			
Rock Creek (new)	North Cascade	115	\$194			
Butte Creek Falls	North Cascade	175	\$385			
Santiam Horse Camp (new)	North Cascade	231	\$2,105			
Jones Creek	Tillamook	4,330	\$18,636			
Jordan Creek	Tillamook	908	\$1,974			
Nehalem Falls	Tillamook	2,290	\$12,976			
Total		30,047	\$112,227			

Table 15:	Number of Campers and Revenue from Campgrou	unds
	during FY2007	

Table 16: Summary of Volunteer Hours for Recreation Projects						
	Tillamook State Forest Forest Grove District	Tillamook State Forest Tillamook District	Clatsop State Forest	Santiam State Forest	West Oregon District	
Total Hours	5,846	2,564	1,900	1,500	1,681	

Recreation Facility Planning and Development Projects

Each State Forest and District that provides developed recreation opportunities has a ten-year plan that provides a prioritized list of facility development projects. Following is a summary of accomplishments during FY 2007. As a result of participating in the recreation assessment January through March and staffing challenges resulting from transitioning limited duration positions to permanent positions, District staff put a number of projects on hold that were originally scheduled to begin in early 2007.

Forest Grove District

Facility Improvement

Reehers Camp

• Completed the construction of a ten foot by ten foot storage shed at the Camp Host site.

Browns Camp

• Repaired and repainted three restroom buildings.

Gales Creek Campground

• Repaired and repainted three restroom buildings and doors.

Elk Creek Campground

• Repaired and repainted two restroom buildings.

Stagecoach Horse Camp

- Prepared field design plans for campground road and campsite improvements.
- Completed campground road improvements and began campsite improvement work.
- Ordered material for new corrals. Installation planned for FY 2008.
- Fabricated ten new picnic tables. Installation planned for FY 2008.

Rogers Camp Trailhead

• Repaired and repainted the restroom building.

Gales Creek Overlook

• Repainted the parking space lines, directional arrows, and stop sign lines in the parking area.

Kings Mountain Trailhead

• Constructed a new information board for the trailhead.

Trail Projects Development

Wilson River Trail, Segment C (non-motorized)

- Completed the location and design work for section one of the project. Section one is 3.5 miles long. Submitted a Recreation Trails Program grant application and was awarded a \$50,000 grant for the construction phase.
- Began the location and design work for section two of the Wilson River Trail Segment C project.

OHV Trail Upgrade Project

- Completed contract upgrade construction work on 4.5 miles of Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Trail in the Browns Camp OHV area.
- Completed field design and construction contract documents for contract upgrade of four miles of OHV Trail in the Browns Camp OHV area. Submitted an All Terrain Vehicle Grant Program application and was awarded \$67,000 for contract construction phase.

Reehers Camp Trails (non-motorized)

• Completed construction of the ³/₄ mile long Nehalem River Access Trail loop. This is a "Universal Access" trail that will improve access to the Nehalem River for all visitors to Reehers Camp.

Sicktar Lars Trail

• Completed volunteer construction of the 1.2 mile long mountain bike trail. This is a challenging (black diamond) mountain bike only trail.

Tillamook District

New Development

Footbridge Trailhead

• Located at Milepost 19.5 on the Wilson River Highway, facility development includes a gravel parking area for 38 vehicles; picnic tables; a vault toilet; garbage receptacles; and a paved apron to U.S. Highway 6.

Facility Improvement

Nehalem Falls Campground

• Campground improvements included storm damaged tree cleanup and removal, a camp host septic system and drain field, reconditioning of four walk-in tent sites, and the installation of a second vault toilet.

Jones Creek Campground

• Located at Milepost 22 on the Wilson River Highway, campground improvements that included storm damaged tree cleanup and removal, and construction of a 36 foot by 30 foot pole barn for firewood and equipment storage.

Keenig Creek Campground

• A forest vegetation management strategy has been initiated to improve campground forest health by removing overcrowded red alder trees. A special small timber sale was administered to give more space and sunlight to the remaining Douglas-fir, big leaf maple and vine maple trees. Seedling plantings of western redcedar and Douglas-fir were planted to increase the campground's coniferous tree inventory.

Astoria District

Facility Improvement

Northrup Creek Horse Camp

• Completion of the Cow Creek Equestrian Bridge.

Demonstration Forest

• Completion of improvement projects and re-opening of the Demonstration Forest.

Trailhead and Trail Construction

- Continued development of the Quartz Basin trail system.
- Construction of two miles of trail which links the Gnat Creek Fish Hatchery with the lower Gnat Creek Trail.

Planning

- Completed public use surveys for the Lost Lake day use area.
- Continued planning activities for the proposed OHV area on Nicolai Mountain and a recreation assessment for the Astoria Basin.

North Cascade District

In FY 2007 the North Cascade District recreation program focused on continued development of current trail systems and maintenance operations. A significant increase in day-use and trail use in 2007 demanded a shift of resources from new trail development to maintenance and sanitation needs. An emphasis on forest education/good stewardship practices within local communities and the law enforcement and ODF patrol program has had a positive effect in reducing vandalism on the Santiam State Forest. In FY 2008 the district has allocated adequate resources for maintenance and sanitation as well as the completion of ongoing trail development.

Fee Policy

In order to reduce vandalism and misuse of stay limits, campground fees were instituted at three locations: Rock Creek Camp (\$5.00 per night), Butte Creek Falls Campground (\$5.00 per night), and Santiam Horse Camp (\$10.00 per night).

Facility Development

Crooked Finger ATV Staging Area

• Designed and constructed a staging area for ATV riders near the Crooked Finger Road above Scott's Mills. The staging area accesses a small system of ATV trails designed to offer local riders and their families a formal place to ride and reduce natural resource damage. The trail system is early in development. One mile of trail has been completed towards the six mile goal.

Trail/Facility Improvements

Shellburg Falls Recreation Area

- Replaced a 40 foot wooden stairway on the Shellburg Falls Trail to accommodate increased use.
- Constructed a trail and viewpoint at the base of Shellburg Falls to improve visitor safety and eliminate erosion issues.
- Developed ³/₄ mile hiking trail around Shellburg Falls Campground.

Rock Creek Area

• Designed one mile of the Rock Creek Trail.

Monument Peak Trail System

- Constructed 2.7 miles of trail. Continued layout of the trail system.
- Continued inventory of user-made trails and dispersed camping locations.

Butte Creek Falls Recreation Area

• Replaced three existing bridges on the Butte Creek Falls Trail to bring it up to current standards and accommodate an increase in use on the trail.

High Lakes

• Instituted a Boy Scout adopt-a-trail/campground program at Rhody Lake Campground and surrounding area.

Natural Arch & Rocky Top

• Improved ¹/₂ mile of trail at Natural Arch to reduce grade and repair rock slide damage.

Forestry Interpretation/Education

Awarded Clackamas County forest education grant, developed and presented field and outreach programs to 1,900 students in Clackamas, Marion and Linn Counties.

RESEARCH AND MONITORING

The Research and Monitoring Program

The role of the Research and Monitoring (R&M) Program is to assist forest managers by providing information pertinent to resource management. A critical function of this role is to contribute to the adaptive management framework by which the State Forests Program assesses the impacts of management decisions and makes changes where necessary.

The R&M program operates under a formal policy adopted by the State Forests Program in 1995. The research policy states that approximately five percent of the State Forest Management Program annual budget can be invested in research, monitoring, and technology transfer. As a result of the funding structure, biennial and annual expenditures are somewhat variable in response to shifting revenue levels. The overall research budget to-date (both CSF and Board of Forestry funds) has ranged from about \$350,000 to a high of over \$1.5 million. For fiscal year 2007, investment in research and monitoring projects was approximately \$1,300,000.

Projects conducted by the program can be broadly categorized as either research or monitoring. Research projects are typically conducted with external cooperators and are designed to answer fundamental forest management research questions. Monitoring projects are typically conducted by program staff to answer questions regarding program-specific resource goals. These projects can take one of four forms of monitoring: a) implementation monitoring *(did we do what we said we were going to do?)*; b) effectiveness monitoring *(do our actions lead to the results we predicted?)*; c) validation monitoring *(are our assumptions valid?)*; and d) status and trends monitoring *(of economic, social or environmental conditions)*. Research and monitoring activities currently focus on testing the implementation and effectiveness of the Northwest and Southwest plans but lessons learned pertain across all ownerships and to all plans and forest management in general.

Several overarching research and monitoring themes serve to guide research projects and monitoring opportunities. These themes relate directly to the integrated forest management strategies and underlying assumptions:

- stand structure development and wildlife relationships;
- hydrologic functions and aquatic and riparian habitat;
- young stand development and management;
- forest health; and
- social and economic indicators.

Research and monitoring projects are designed to address these themes as well as management strategies described in the NW and SW Oregon Forest Management Plans:

- stand structure types (e.g. early-seral, "complex" older forest structure)
- landscape design (e.g. patch sizes and placement on the landscape)
- structural habitat components (e.g. snags, downed wood, residual green trees)
- aquatic and riparian strategies (e.g. buffer sizes on different stream types)
- forest health strategies (e.g. integrated pest management, disease prevention)

The Research and Monitoring Program currently consists of approximately 20 research and monitoring projects and five research cooperatives. Table 17 lists current research and monitoring activities and their relation to both research and monitoring themes and the Forest Management Plan strategies. For simplicity, some projects have been grouped and not all are shown. The unifying theme is that they all test questions relevant to the implementation, effectiveness and validation of the Forest Management Plans and their strategies.

Shown below are a selection of findings from current or completed research and monitoring projects.

- District operational strategies are broadly consistent with Northwest and Southwest FMP Landscape Management Strategies and Aquatic and Riparian Strategies but more data are needed for conclusive results. (Implementation Monitoring)
- Residual trees left after partial cuts in Swiss Needle Cast (SNC) infected stands rebound more quickly than previously thought and thinning does not increase the severity of SNC. As a result, partial cuts can be used in infected areas that had previously only been considered for clearcutting. (SNC Commercial Thinning)
- Northern spotted owls have not been moving into the Tillamook burn area, but barred owl detections have been increasing. (Tillamook Burn NSO Surveys)
- Gaps in forest cover increase biodiversity, especially in herb and shrub populations, but planning for gaps must occur early in the stand development process for maximum benefit. Stand modifications of standard management operations are necessary to ensure gaps that have fully developed shrub, herb and hardwood vegetation layers. In comparison, gaps that appear or are enlarged in later development stages have reduced understory vegetation because a new invasion of early seral species is required to provide desirable stand structure components. (Young Stand Management)
- Many Oregonians are unfamiliar with the ODF State Forests program, but where they are, the program typically enjoys a high level of public support. A majority (57 percent) are concerned about forest management. 90 percent accept and understand the need for thinning while only 42 percent believe clearcutting should be allowed. (Public Knowledge Survey)
- ODF is doing a good job of protecting and diversifying fish and wildlife habitats and appears to be harvesting at sustainable levels. However, improvement could be made in reducing erosion from off-highway vehicle use near streams and improving stand-level record-keeping to help determine the effectiveness of past treatments. (Second Party Assessment)

Results from these projects can be incorporated at the program, district or site level. For example, results of the Public Knowledge Survey have been used as a component of the State Forest Performance Measures, while results from the Swiss Needle Cast Commercial Thinning study are allowing managers to prescribe partial cuts in areas previously targeted for clearcutting. The communication of results is critical to the success of the adaptive management process. This occurs through Board of Forestry meetings, annual reports, journal articles and informal information sharing. The incorporation of findings into management actions completes one loop of the ongoing adaptive management cycle and allows an improvement of management strategies over time.

The Research and Monitoring program will continue to develop projects related to our forest management activities, and to use the resulting information in a formal adaptive management process to inform State Forest Program decision-making

Table 17: Current Research and Monitoring Activities													
	Res	Research & Monitoring Themes			iemes	NW/SW Forest Management Plan Strategies							
Project	Implementation Monitoring	Structure and Habitat	Aquatic and Riparian	Young Stand Management	Forest Health	Socio-Economic Indicators	Landscape Management 1	Landscape Management 2	Landscape Management 3	Aquatic and Riparian	Forest Health	Speciesof Concern	Socio-Economic Indicators
Implementation Monitoring Project	Х	Х	Х				Х	Х	Х	Х			
Stand Structure & Wildlife Habitat		Х					Х		Х				Х
Mature Forest Study		Х		Х			Х		Х				
Young Stand Management Studies				Х			Х		Х				
Intensively Monitored Watershed Study (Trask)			Х				Х			Х			
Riparian Function & Stream Temperature			Х						Х	Х			
Coastal Oregon Productivity Enhancement Program (COPE II)		Х	Х				Х	Х	Х	Х			
Swiss Needle Cast - Commercial Thinning					Х		Х				Х		
Swiss Needle Cast Cooperative					Х		Х				Х		
Stand Management Cooperatives		Χ		Х			Х		Х				
Tree Improvement Cooperatives				Х	Х	Х					Х		Х
Threatened & Endangered Species Surveys												Х	
Spotted Owl Surveys - Tillamook Burn												Х	
NCASI Spotted Owl Monitoring		Х					Х		Х			Х	Х
Barred Owl Ecology		Х							Х			Х	
Asset and Revenue Reporting						Х	Х		Х				Х
Recreation						Х	Х						Х
Performance Measures		Х	Х		Х	Х			Х	Х	Х		Х
Public Acceptance Surveys		Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х

Forest Health

Swiss Needle Cast

Swiss needle cast (SNC) is a native disease of Douglas-fir that has intensified dramatically in coastal western Oregon since 1990. Although the disease occurs throughout the range of Douglas-fir, it is most severe in the forests on the west slopes of the Coast range.

The main effect of SNC on forests is reduction of tree growth and vitality. Within 18 miles of the coast in northwestern Oregon, the disease has reduced recent annual volume growth of ten to 30-year-old Douglas-fir plantations by an average of 23 percent, with some plantations experiencing growth loss in excess of 50 percent. Growth loss due to SNC in this area alone exceeds 40 million board feet per year. In addition to growth impacts, SNC alters wood properties, lowers green tree moisture content, and affects stand structure and development. This complicates stand management decisions, especially in pure Douglas-fir stands.

Aerial surveys to detect and map the distribution of SNC damage have been flown annually since 1996. The 2007 survey mapped 338,761 acres of Douglas-fir forest with obvious symptoms of Swiss needle cast, which continues a three-year trend of increasing damage (figure 2). The easternmost area with obvious SNC symptoms was approximately 28 miles inland from the coast in the Highway 20 corridor, but the majority of area with symptoms occurred within 18 miles of the coast. Survey conditions were excellent and the observers considered the 2007 survey to be very reliable.

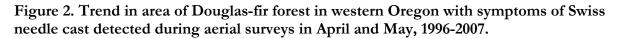
The total amount of forest affected by Swiss needle cast is much greater than indicated by the aerial survey maps because the aerial observers can map only those areas where disease is severe enough to be visible from the air. Although the acreage estimates are conservative, the survey does show the location of Douglas-fir stands with moderate to severe damage, and coarsely describes the trend in damage over time.

Permanent plots have not been re-measured recently, but they are scheduled for re-measurement at the end of 2007. Data from these plots will refine estimates of growth loss and quantify the interaction between SNC severity and pre-commercial thinning. Information thus far indicates that pre-commercial thinning remains a viable stand management tool in all but the most severely damaged stands.

Results thus far from an ongoing study of the interaction between SNC and commercial thinning show that: 1) thinning does not increase SNC severity; 2) residual trees respond positively to thinning; 3) the magnitude of growth response to thinning declines with increasing SNC severity; and 4) conventional thinning regimes should be modified for different levels of SNC damage. Specifically, stands with moderate to severe SNC damage should be thinned more lightly and carried to a higher relative density that similar healthy stands.

Commercial thinning with some modification from traditional regimes is a viable silvicultural tool in all but the most severely damaged stands. For stands with moderate SNC damage, commercial

thinning can be used to develop a diversity of stand structures with little risk of causing further growth decline. In severely damaged stands commercial thinning may not result in an economically positive or ecologically beneficial stand-level growth response, but still may be an option to achieve certain objectives. Stands such as these may have underlying problems (seed source or location) that often make them good candidates for regeneration harvest and establishment of more appropriate species mixtures.



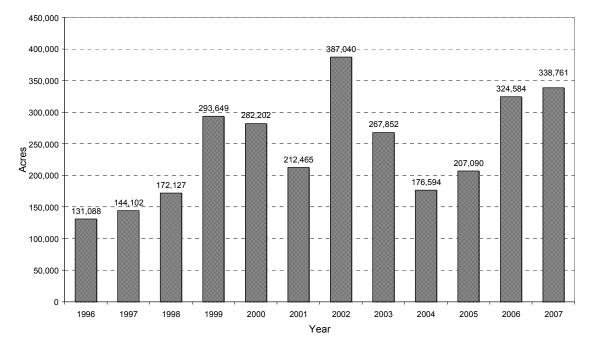


Figure 2. Area of Douglas-fir forest in western Oregon with symptoms of Swiss needle cast detected during aerial surveys in April and May, by zone, 1996-2007.

Sudden Oak Death

Sudden Oak Death (SOD), caused by the new invasive pathogen Phytophthora ramorum, was first discovered in Oregon forests in July 2001 near the city of Brookings. The disease probably was present there since 1998 or 1999. This wind-disseminated pathogen attacks and readily kills tanoaks of all ages. Other plants, including rhododendron, evergreen huckleberry, madrone, Oregon myrtle, Douglas-fir, and redwood also can be infected when growing near infected tanoaks.

Since September 2001, state and federal agencies have been attempting to eradicate the pathogen by cutting and burning all infected host plants, and adjacent apparently uninfected plants. Eradication activities have been completed on more than 1,000 acres of forest land. The majority of sites are on private land. Most eradication funding has come from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service and the Oregon Department of Forestry..

Distribution of the pathogen in Oregon forests remains limited to a very small area near Brookings (figure 3). Repeated aerial surveys and ground-checks have failed to detect the pathogen in forests beyond this area. Vegetation surveys and stream water sampling throughout western Oregon also have failed to detect the pathogen beyond the general area of infestation in Curry County. The forested area in Oregon under regulation by the Oregon Department of Agriculture and USDA-APHIS is 26 square miles. Intensive and extensive monitoring and eradication activities in Oregon forests likely will continue for several years.

USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Plant Protection and Quarantine (APHIS-PPQ) regulations prohibit the interstate movement of any listed host plants and associated articles from quarantined areas. Some foreign countries have adopted regulations that affect specific counties or the entire state. Current federal regulations restrict interstate movement of all parts tanoak and other host plants. Douglas-fir is a special case in which foliage is restricted (includes seedlings, branches, and Christmas trees) but logs are not. The rationale is that only Douglas-fir foliage has been shown to be infected by P. ramorum, thus the risk of spreading disease on logs in minimal. Some other countries, however, have applied quarantines to any part of Douglas-fir, including logs. If P. ramorum spreads to other areas of the state, regulations will change and likely will affect trade and transportation of Douglas-fir logs and other forest products.

Nursery seedlings, Christmas trees, and boughs all are subject to federal and state regulations. To date the impact of regulations on trade in these products has been minor because the regulated area in Oregon is limited to the 26 square mile area near Brookings. In anticipation of possible changing regulations, the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) and various stakeholders have developed P. ramorum certification rules for Christmas trees and greenery. These rules are designed to facilitate marketing of these products while minimizing the risk of spread of P. ramorum. The rules involve voluntary compliance agreements based on inspection, testing, and certification of sources of host plant material as being free of P. ramorum. Laboratory testing is done by the ODA and billed to the landowner.

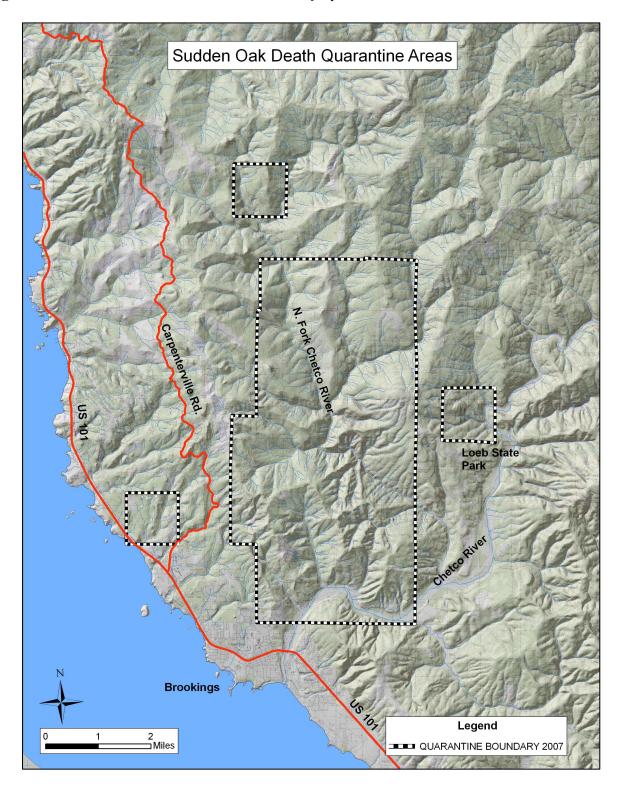


Figure 3. Sudden Oak Death Quarantine Areas, July 2007.

Laminated Root Rot

Laminated root rot, caused by the native fungus Phellinus weirii, is one of the most damaging diseases of Pacific Northwest conifers. It is particularly damaging to Douglas-fir in western Oregon, where three to five percent of the Douglas-fir forest type is infested. Occurrence is highest in northwest Oregon, where approximately ten percent of the Douglas-fir forest is infested.

The pathogen decays tree roots and either kills trees directly or causes them to fall over while green. The disease is highly contagious, spreading from tree to tree across root contacts. This results in expanding disease patches that create openings in the stand where trees have died and fallen over. Although the openings can be beneficial for plant species diversity, stand structural diversity, and wildlife habitat, they also can account for much loss of timber volume.

In the Northwest Oregon Area root disease management strategies balance the needs for wildlife habitat and maintaining good site productivity. Each year approximately 1,500 acres are surveyed for root disease and GIS maps are created showing the size and location of disease patches. A disease management plan is developed based on the number and distribution of these patches as well as the specific management objectives for the stand.

Disease management emphasizes changing stand composition to favor tree species that are resistant (cedar, white pine), tolerant (western hemlock, noble fir), or immune (red alder) to laminated root rot. Most often this is done following a regeneration harvest. If a treatment is deemed necessary during thinning, all host trees within disease patches plus a surrounding buffer of healthy-appearing trees are cut to prevent further expansion of the disease. If the patches are large enough, they are planted with tree species that are resistant or immune to laminated root rot. The resulting stands are structurally and compositionally diverse while maintaining good tree growth and site utilization.

TILLAMOOK FOREST CENTER SUMMARY

The Tillamook Forest Center opened to the public in April, 2006. Since that time, the Center has seen more than 80,000 visitors who have interacted with our world-class exhibitry and have been encouraged to further explore the forest. The staff has been busy delivering programs, operating the building and developing policies and guidelines for daily operations at the new Center. At the same time, staff has made significant strides in producing new education and outreach materials, and assisting the public with information through programs, roving interpretation, events, and tours.

The Center strives to help Oregonians and visitors understand and appreciate the Tillamook State Forest, its natural and cultural history, and its management. We work toward this vision by providing a broad range of interesting and engaging program experiences for students, teachers and the general public. Communication tools such as wayside interpretive signage, brochures, low power radio and our website have also been effective in providing a variety of forest information to the public.

Education Programs

Between July 2006 and June 2007, we reached 4,107 school children—preschool through twelfth grades— with a wide variety of programs. Our forest-based programs served over 2,000 students and over 500 adults who accompany them on trips. When we could not accommodate teachers with a guided program, our staff interacted with over 1,000 self-guided students and about 400 adults. The program served other students through a variety of service learning projects, special events, career fairs, and other programs.

This first year at the Center provided an opportunity to experiment with new programs and scheduling tools. Our program evaluations reflected an 80 percent and above approval rating, indicating that "most" or "all" of the students enjoyed their experiences and were able to accomplish the program's learning objectives.

Education program staff has hosted several forestry workshops for teachers and interpreters. The Oregon Department of Forestry partnered with the Oregon Forest Resources Institute to host an invitation-only Forest Summit, based out of Tillamook, for 60 teachers, administrators and curriculum specialists. The Temperate Forest Foundation brought nearly 50 out-of-state teachers to the Center as one of its many forested tour stops. These teachers were introduced to many agencies and industries and learned a great deal about forest management, issues, and products produced here in Oregon. Center staff also hosted a winter creativity workshop for over 60 interpreters from around the state. The workshop was so popular and well-attended that participants are interested in making it an annual event. Similar to last year, the Oregon Department of Forestry sponsored a Teacher on Summer Assignment. As a part of their six-week internship, our guest teacher developed a curriculum unit for his high school students based on the history of the Tillamook State Forest.

Interpretive Programs and Tools

Interpretation programs differ from education programs in that they target a less formal and more leisure-based audience. The Tillamook Forest Center hosted nearly 200 public programs during FY2007 that totaled over 3,200 participants. Programs were conducted year-round at the Center and at forest campgrounds during the summer, along with a handful of off-site presentations. Our trained interpreter-naturalists presented a range of topics from natural history and wildlife to management of the forest and the sustainable construction and operation of the Center.

During this period, Tillamook Forest Center staff began the production of a quarterly newsletter that brings highlights of life at the Center and encourages readers to visit the Center. A number of new brochures were printed just prior to the new FY2007 year and were well-received by the public. These included a series of nine trail guides, a recreation facilities brochure and a Tillamook Forest Center brochure. Several informative displays were developed and utilized throughout the year at the Center and off-site to promote the Center at large group events. Interpretation program staff worked with the development of an interpretive signage project that spans all of the recreation sites on the Tillamook and Clatsop State Forests and provides orientation information to forest-bound visitors.

The Center staff provided informal interpretation through one-on-one contact with many of our visitors which enhanced their understanding of the forest. Informal conversations with our visitors often surround questions about: wildland fire, structure-based management, forest ecology, flora and fauna, reforestation, harvesting/revenue, recreation opportunities, and general orientation to the forest. Whether it was a simple question of where to find a good swimming hole or a more complex inquiry regarding clear-cutting, our staff was available to respond in a helpful way.

Team Award Recognition

Each year, the Oregon Department of Forestry gives recognition awards to employees honoring excellence and dedication. Good teamwork is a crucial element for any functioning organization. This past June, the Tillamook Forest Center staff was acknowledged with the Team Award for its ability to immediately connect with each other in a new environment and make the Center an enjoyable visit for all.



Additional Funding

The Tillamook Forest Heritage Trust, a non-profit organization that serves as catalyst for the public and private partnership that helped develop the Tillamook Forest Center, is now focusing on endowment fundraising to assist with Center operation costs. Additional operation funds are coming from: entrepreneurial revenue streams from the gift shop; facility rental and food concession at the Center; funding from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department's Parks and Natural Resources Fund; and ODF's share of the Forest Development Fund.

For more information, visit the center on the web at www.tillamookforestcenter.org



STATE FORESTS REPORTS

The information in this section is intended to highlight significant projects or management efforts that are not specifically summarized or addressed in other sections of this report.

Tillamook State Forest – Tillamook and Forest Grove Districts

The Tillamook and Forest Grove Districts manage the Tillamook State Forest under the Northwest Oregon State Forests Management Plan (NWFMP), adopted in 2001.

Tillamook District completed 20 bridge inspections through contract. As a result of the inspections, the District Road Crew repaired one bridge to maintain the approach to the bridge. Additionally, the district had 67 bridges inspected for scour damage as a result of the November 2006 storm. Damaged bridges have been repaired with FEMA funds by the District's road crew. The road crew has also completed FEMA approved repairs to the District road system with an appraised value of approximately \$386,000. Service contracts also completed FEMA approved repairs to the road system with an appraised value of \$234,000. Approximately \$1.3 Million of FEMA approved repairs remain to be completed during FY 2008 including approximately \$600,000 to repair damage to the district motorized and non-motorized trail system.

Tillamook District continues to operate a fish trap on the Little North Fork Wilson River to monitor smolt and fry out migration. Fish traps on the upper and lower East Fork Trask River have been added to support a life cycle monitoring project in the drainage and the Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) project in the upper reaches of the basin. The lifecycle-monitoring project is a cooperative project with ODFW that includes counting adult fish migrating up river from September through May. The IWM is a multi-partner cooperative project that includes participation by ODF, Weyerhaeuser Company, Oregon State University, and the Tillamook Estuaries Partnership.

The Forest Grove District and South Fork crews treated approximately 11 miles of stream banks on the Wilson River for Japanese knotweed using chemical and mechanical methods. Japanese knotweed is a noxious weed that crowds out native species and is more aggressive than Scotch broom and Himalaya blackberry. The District also contracted the surveying of approximately 9.7 miles of the Low Divide and Gales Creek drainages for Japanese knotweed, reed canarygrass, garlic mustard and Himalaya blackberry. Initial chemical and hand treatments were completed for these and other discovered invasive plants. Continued efforts are being taken to keep Scotch broom at bay in the District, as concentrations along roads and in recreational sites were treated in six management basins in fiscal 2007.

The Tillamook District Recreation Program continued the administration of the Tillamook State Forest Law Enforcement Program, providing three full-time deputies and one additional deputy May through September. Fifty percent of the cost of the law enforcement program was provided through grants from the Oregon All Terrain Vehicle Allocation Funds. An Intergovernmental Agreement with Tillamook County to provide funds from timber sales in the Tillamook District's portion of the Trask Basin to improve the Trask River County Road to address safety concerns has resulted in FY 2007 payments in the amount of \$163,322. The total payments to date are \$844,567 with a total estimated cost of the improvements of \$1.3 million.

The Forest Grove District and Tillamook District continue to experience a high demand for special forest products. 318 Special Forest Products permits were sold generating \$61,366 in revenue. Special Forest Products covered by those permits were predominately firewood, salal, moss, and mushrooms. Personal use firewood permits (1,151) were issued generating \$11,151 in revenue.

Surveys for threatened and endangered species continued on the Forest Grove District. There were no new owl sites established in 2007, and there were no changes in occupancy status (i.e., no upgrades from Resident Single to Pair and none of the sites went historic) to the five owl sites the district is currently protecting.

The districts continued stream-improvement projects by working cooperatively with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). ODFW biologist Dave Plawman, whose position is funded by ODF through an interagency agreement, worked on large wood debris projects.

Forest Grove District completed stream enhancement projects at five sites on Game Hog creek. Logs were placed in the stream to improve fish habitat. One fish passage barrier was replaced with a new embedded culvert opening up approximately 0.75 miles of stream to upstream migration of adult and juvenile fish. Appraised cost for these projects was \$21,373.

The Forest Grove District, in cooperation with the Tillamook Bay Watershed Council and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, completed a fish habitat improvement project on approximately 3500 feet of Elliot Creek. A helicopter was used to place approximately 100 trees with rootwads attached, in the stream at 20 different sites. The trees came from state land and were prepared by pushing them over using district equipment and personnel.

Project work continued on several recreation trail projects on the Forest Grove district. The most significant was the upgrade work completed by a contractor on 4.5 miles of Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) trails in the popular Browns Camp OHV area. Other trail projects included the construction of the Nehalem River Access Trail at Reehers Camp and the Sicktar Lars mountain bike only trail near Storey Burn Trailhead. Planning, location and design work was also completed for 3.5 miles of the Wilson River Trail and for significant upgrade of four miles of OHV trail in the Browns Camp area. \$117,000 dollars in grant money was awarded to the district to help fund trail upgrade and construction projects.

Clatsop State Forest – Astoria District

The Astoria District manages the majority of the Clatsop State Forest with minor portions managed by the Forest Grove and Tillamook Districts. The Astoria District continues to implement the goals, objectives, and strategies of the Northwest Oregon State Forests Management Plan (FMP) adopted in 2001 and the District Implementation Plan, which was approved in March 2003, on approximately 137,000 acres. Board of Forestry Lands accounts for slightly over 98 percent of the ownership of the Forest; the remaining portion is Common School Forest Land.

Timber harvesting operations including thinning, regeneration harvests, and patch cuts continued as the primary tools used to actively achieve stand structure targets set out in the FMP. The volume planned for harvest in the FY07 Annual Operations Plan was 61.9 MMBF with planned revenue of \$18,487,100. When the sales were sold the timber harvest volumes yielded 68.7 MMBF with a bid value of \$22,946,457. Timber revenue distributed to Clatsop County during the fiscal year 2007 was approximately \$18.4 million dollars. Revenue distributed to the county results from revenue received from all active sales during the fiscal year, this can include but is not limited to sales within the 2007 Annual Operations Plan.

In the past fiscal year, the District was able to complete all of the fieldwork and contract preparation for all planned Fiscal Year 2007 timber sales. In addition, salvage harvest operations were prepared and several sold towards the end of Fiscal Year 2007. During the fall and winter of 2006 several volatile windstorms hit the district causing significant windthrow. The District staff was able to respond quickly, preparing salvage sales within a very short time frame generating approximately 17 MMBF of salvage harvest with a planned approximate revenue of \$3.3 million.

The District continues to experience a high demand for special forest products. Thirty-eight commercial permits were issued generating \$14,800 of revenue. This is a significant increase from last year's sales. Special forest products included boughs, ferns, moss, mushrooms, rock, salal, vine maple, alder, pulp decks, and miscellaneous plants.

The Astoria District is continuing maintenance and operation of Henry Rierson Spruce Run Campground, Northrup Creek Horse Camp, Gnat Creek Campground and the Lost Lake user area. Some non-motorized trail work continues in the Quartz Basin.

The District has continued its law enforcement agreement with the Clatsop County Sheriff's Department. Their accomplishments contributed to safety of the public, identification of individuals illegally dumping trash, individuals abandoning vehicles, and checking vehicles and individuals for compliance with fire season restrictions and requirements.

The surface rights for the G&N Land Exchange were acquired in July of 2007. This land exchange yielded a net gain of 111.5 acres of forest land, trading away 295.5 acres in return for 407 acres.

Surveys for threatened and endangered species continued on the district. No new activity centers were established for northern spotted owls (NSO) during the 2007 survey season. One established home range was determined to be vacant based on three years of no responses. The district now has four protected NSO home ranges.

Santiam State Forest – North Cascade District

The Santiam State Forest is managed by the North Cascade District. Management of the forest is consistent with the principles and strategies of the Northwest Oregon State Forest Management Plan (NWFMP) that was adopted in 2001. Recreation opportunities are developed and managed under the Santiam State Forest Recreation Management Plan that was adopted in September 2006.

The district spent significant time completing the review of the Harvest and Habitat Model results for the Forest. The next step involved implementing changes recommended by the peer review of the modeling work. This involved imputation or matching actual inventory data to the stands not yet inventoried.

District personnel auctioned four timber sales during FY07. Three of the sales were remaining from previous AOP's that were delayed. The volume from these sales totaled 10,606,000 board feet. One sale was in the FY07 Annual Operations Plan (AOP). The volume estimated was 6,165,000 board feet. This past winter's windstorm resulted in several salvage sales being sold that totaled approximately 1,150,000 board feet. Santiam State Forest timber sales received bids from perspective purchasers located in the Santiam Canyon, Eugene/Springfield, Molalla and Philomath.

The agreement with Marion County to use Marion County Inmate crews for forest management and recreation projects continues to be a successful program. These crews were utilized for White pine pruning, campground and trail construction, campground maintenance, and cleaning-up litter and illegal dump sites. South Fork Crews were used for projects that required specialized skills and training/experience. They were used to plant trees, add the finishing touches to the horse camp and construct bridges and other structures on non-motorized trails and campgrounds.

During FY 07, visitation to the Santiam State Forest continued to rise. Staff noted that the most significant increase has been from day-use throughout all areas of the forest. Emphasis during this time period was placed on safety, sanitation, maintenance, visitor education and trail development projects. A janitorial contract was implemented to clean and maintain facilities as well as provide visitor assistance in the most heavily used areas of the forest surrounding Butte Creek Falls. This removed a significant burden from ODF staff and has allowed them to focus resources on much needed visitor education and rehabilitation projects within this area. A successful fee program reduced vandalism and camping longer than the allowed stay limit at campgrounds. Volunteers donated 1500 hours of service assisting ODF with trail development and forest wide sanitation and maintenance programs. A new volunteer organization was created, Crooked Finger Rider's Association, to assist ODF in creating sustainable ATV opportunities in the Crooked Finger Road Area. Recreation and education staff presented forest education and stewardship programs to 1900 students in Marion, Clackamas and Linn Counties. ODF will be recognized as a Friend of Clackamas County 4H at an awards ceremony in November for its forest education programs.

The District continued to use Oregon State Police (OSP) retired troopers for 2,000 hours of forest patrol work through an intergovernmental agreement with OSP, and a Linn County Deputy Sheriff for patrol, and law enforcement on the Forest. They coordinate and cooperate with other local, state and federal law enforcement personnel as well as security personnel for private forest landowners. They enforce laws and state forest regulations, fire restrictions, investigate crimes in an effort to make the Forest a safe and enjoyable experience for the public. They also provide a very valuable service providing information and answering questions when they come into contact with the public on the Forest.

Sun Pass State Forest - Klamath-Lake District

The Klamath-Lake District manages 6,403 acres of Common School Forest Lands and 26,862 acres of Board of Forestry lands. The largest block of this land is 21,317 acres in the Sun Pass State Forest. These lands are managed under the Eastern Region Long Range FMP, adopted in 1995.

During FY06 the district issued a 5-year Special Use Permit to the Klamath Outdoor Science School (KOSS) to develop and operate an outdoor science school in Sun Pass State Forest. KOSS intends to provide community outdoor science education that highlights the unique features of the Upper Klamath Basin, serving primarily the youth of the region. Forest Ecology and Management is a required module for all attendees, as is an introduction to the Oregon Department of Forestry and Sun Pass State Forest. In FY07, KOSS continued to provide successful outdoor science camps. KOSS was also successful in acquiring several large grants. These grants will enable significant infrastructure additions over the next year.

The District has begun to work in cooperation with Crater Lake National Park and Rogue River Ranch on bull trout restoration in Sun Creek. Crater Lake National Park has been working on protection of federally threatened bull trout in Sun Creek for 14 years. A Recovery Plan for bull trout in the Klamath Basin identified a two phase recovery strategy: phase I - secure headwater populations, and phase II – expand distribution downstream and provide connectivity between populations to reduce the risk of extinction from a catastrophic event such as fire or flooding, or from genetic isolation. The present bull trout population is resident in nature, living their entire life history in the headwater section within the National Park. A migratory component of the population presumably once occurred, where juvenile bull trout moved downstream into the Wood River or Agency Lake, grew to a large size, and returned to headwater tributaries to spawn. The Sun Creek bull trout are expanding in number and distribution within the Park due to recent restoration efforts and some will likely be moving downstream onto Sun Pass State Forest land in the near future. At present, bull trout are not likely to persist downstream due to the presence of introduced brook trout and unscreened water diversions for agriculture.

In FY 2007, ODF awarded a contract to develop alternatives for reconnecting Sun Creek with the Wood River, improve the efficiency/effectiveness of the adjacent landowner's irrigation system, screen fish out of the irrigation system, and prevent non-native fish from reentering the system in order to recover bull trout in Sun Creek. Once the cooperators select the preferred alternative, the contractor will complete design and cost estimates on this alternative.

The above two projects occur on Board of Forestry Lands and do not involve any funding from the Common School Fund.

On Common School Forest Lands in the Yainax tract, the District continued treatment of a musk thistle infestation. Hand spraying of 1,321 acres was conducted in FY07 at a total cost of \$13,720. The need to continue this program will be evaluated for 2008.

Elliott State Forest—Coos District

The Coos District includes Coos, Curry and western Douglas counties on the southern Oregon coast and contains about 87,934 acres of Common School Forest Land, and 9,088 acres of Board of Forestry Lands. The largest block of this land is 93,282 acres in the Elliott State Forest located southeast of Reedsport.

Elliott State Forest Management and Habitat Conservation Plans

Planning for revision of the Elliott State Forest Management Plan (FMP) and the Elliott Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) continued in FY2007. The planning team consists of a policy steering committee, which includes representation from ODF, Department of State Lands, Department of Justice, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), the Coos County Commission, the South Coast Education Service District, and a core team comprised of technical specialists from ODF and ODFW.

The final draft of the FMP was completed by the planning team and made available for review and comment at public meetings in September 2005. In January and February 2006, the BOF and SLB approved continued development of the HCP consistent with the strategies in the draft FMP.

The draft HCP was completed in FY 2007 and the EIS contractor has been working with ODF and the federal services to complete the public review draft EIS. The draft EIS is expected to go out for public review in the winter of 2008. The HCP strategies have been developed to minimize and mitigate the effects of authorized incidental take associated with forest management. The revised Elliott HCP includes the northern spotted owl, marbled murrelet and 18 other species at risk for listing that are known to, or could, inhabit the Elliott State Forest.

The anticipated date for the federal decision on Incidental Take Permit (ITP) issuance is March 2009, after completion of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. The current timeline for requesting SLB and BOF approval of the revised FMP and HCP is spring of 2009, after the federal decision.

Marbled Murrelet Protocol Surveys

In 2006, 326 surveys were completed at 208 stations representing 35 survey sites on the Elliott State Forest. These 35 sites represented 12 planned timber sales. Detections of marbled murrelets were recorded during 121 surveys at 12 different sites with 17 surveys recording sub-canopy behavior. Of the surveys with significant, sub-canopy detections, all were associated with protocol surveys of eight planned sales.

Sub-canopy detection and presence detections of marbled murrelets resulted in the creation of three new Marbled Murrelet Management Areas (MMMA's) totaling 92 acres. In addition to the new MMMA's, four existing MMMA's received additional acreage as a result of nearby sub-canopy detections (see tables below).

Six sale units were released for sale preparation after no significant detections were observed within the sale area during protocol surveys. The 2006 surveys began in May and ended Aug 1.

MMMA Name	Sale Name	Acres
Daggett Creek	West Fork Headland	21
Footlog Ridge	Umpcoos Ridge	34
Panther Bench	Panther Headwaters	37
Total		92

Marbled Murrelet Management Areas Created in FY 2007

Existing Marbled Murrelet Management Areas With Added Acres in FY 2007

MMMA Name	Sale Name	Additional Acres
Marlow Bottom	S. Marlow Switch	23
Larson Bottom	Larson Cr. #2	83
Marlow Lockhart	Piledup Marlow #2	55
Joe Buck	Lower Deer	90
Total		251

Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds

The following activities were accomplished during the 2007 fiscal year under the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds:

- There were nine sales completed during the reporting period where additional trees were retained along stream buffers under ODF Harvest Measure 62 for the Oregon Plan.
- The Coos District cooperated with the Coos Watershed Association to complete one large in-stream wood placement project in Elk Creek utilizing whole trees and 70 foot logs from a nearby timber sale.
- A large culvert on the West Fork Millicoma River at the mouth of Cougar Creek was replaced with a concrete stringer bridge in cooperation with the Coos Watershed Association. This was the first new bridge installed on the Elliott since 1985. The bridge opened up approximately four miles of stream to juvenile fish passage.
- Coos District contiues to have voting board members on the Coos Watershed Association and the Tenmile Lakes Basin Partnership.

BOARD OF FORESTRY ACRES

Table 18: Acres Summary		
COUNTY	STATE FOREST	
BENTON	8,194	
CLACKAMAS	7,265	
CLATSOP	146,963	
COLUMBIA	6,458	
COOS	7,219	
DOUGLAS	8,625	
JOSEPHINE	2,482	
KLAMATH	26,912	
LANE	24,734	
LINCOLN	15,487	
LINN	21,352	
MARION	18,329	
POLK	6,122	
TILLAMOOK	310,624	
WASHINGTON	46,885	
Grand Total	657,657	

FOREST TRUST LAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Year-End Summary

The Forest Trust Land Advisory Committee (FTLAC) is a legally mandated committee of county commissioners representing counties that in the past deeded forestlands to the state. In 1987, the Oregon Legislature established the FTLAC. The committee advises the governing Board of Forestry (BOF) on matters where counties may have a responsibility related to forestland managed by ODF.

Revenue generated from management activities on these lands is used primarily for local schools, and also helps fund county government and local taxing districts. Planning and policy decisions made by the BOF and ODF can affect the revenue levels received by the counties with forest trust lands managed by ODF.

FTLAC is made up of seven members that represent the 15 counties that have state forest land within their county boundaries. Counties with forest trust lands include Benton, Clackamas, Clatsop, Columbia, Coos, Douglas, Josephine, Klamath, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, Marion, Polk, Tillamook and Washington.

During FY2007, the FTLAC held meetings in July and October 2006, and January, April and May 2007. The August 2006 meeting was cancelled. Following are brief summaries of the issues discussed at each FTLAC meeting.

July 2006 – Tim Josi provided information from a meeting with Marvin Brown regarding issues at the June Board of Forestry meeting. Josi said the State Forester is committed to ensuring that FTLAC is included in Board discussions involving state forestlands and to opening up the dialog and lines of communication. Jim Paul introduced himself as the new Assistant State Forester and provided some of his background with the Department. He reported that a Board sub-group is working to help move the Board forward on Forest Management Plan (FMP) decisions. The Board intends to pursue whether the current FMP best achieves the greatest permanent value. There was a brief discussion on the current court case regarding the \$10 million transferred to the general fund. On another legal matter, an update was provided on a notice of intent to sue received from the Washington Forest Law Center, alleging point source discharges occurring on forest roads that result in water quality standard violations. The committee asked to be kept apprised of the lawsuit. Barbara Lee provided clarification of ODF's Salmon Anchor Habitat (SAH) strategies. ODF has contracted with an independent firm to analyze how the program generates revenue projections and to provide recommendations for improvements. A joint project between ODF and the U.S. Forest Service seeks to produce a community-level economic model to help measure the value of state forests. A second-party assessment of the NW and SW FMPs was discussed.

October 2006 – A policy option package that replaces some limited duration positions with permanent positions was discussed. The package will be reviewed by the legislature. An October 11 meeting on the revenue projection project was mentioned for providing updates to the counties and the Department of State Lands (DSL) on progress to date, issues of concern and feedback. An update was given on the FMP implementation plan review. The results of the completed H & H Model Project have prompted staff to look for opportunities within the plan to increase harvest levels. The upcoming November BOF meeting was discussed. Lisa DeBruyckere and Pam Overhulser presented a summary of the Scientific Peer Review of the H & H Model Project. Additional Board-requested productivity runs from the H & H Model Project and the FMP issue paper also were discussed

January 2007 – The January Board of Forestry meeting was discussed. The primary topic was the development of the nine BOF performance measures. Lisa DeBruyckere provided the current status of the existing biennial budget and the projected status of the 2007-09 biennial budget. Information was provided regarding critical habitat designations for marbled murrelets. The 2007 ODF legislative concepts were discussed. Dan Shults provided information on the Oregon Wireless Interoperability Network (OWIN). An update was given on the Implementation Plan review.

April 2007 – Jim Paul discussed recent staff changes with the resignation of Lisa DeBruyckere, the State Forests Program Director. He discussed the recruitment process and stated that Nancy Hirsch will be the interim program director. Phase II of the Implementation Plan review was discussed and an update was given on the State Forests performance measures. Mike Bordelon provided an update on salvage harvesting that followed severe winter wind storms. Clark Seely talked about the current budget status and Nancy Hirsch reported on the FY08 budget development. A report was given on the snag creation work that has been accomplished on the Sagermeister timber sale.

May 2007 – Jim Paul gave an update on the State Forests Program budget. A presentation was given on the Trask River Watershed Study update. There was a review of the State Forests performance measures. Concern was expressed about the State Forests Advisory Committee (SFAC), a group ODF has chosen to convene, being on equal footing with the FTLAC, a mandated committee.

FTLAC members:

Tim Josi, Chair Tillamook County Commissioner

Sam Patrick, Vice-Chair Clatsop County Commissioner

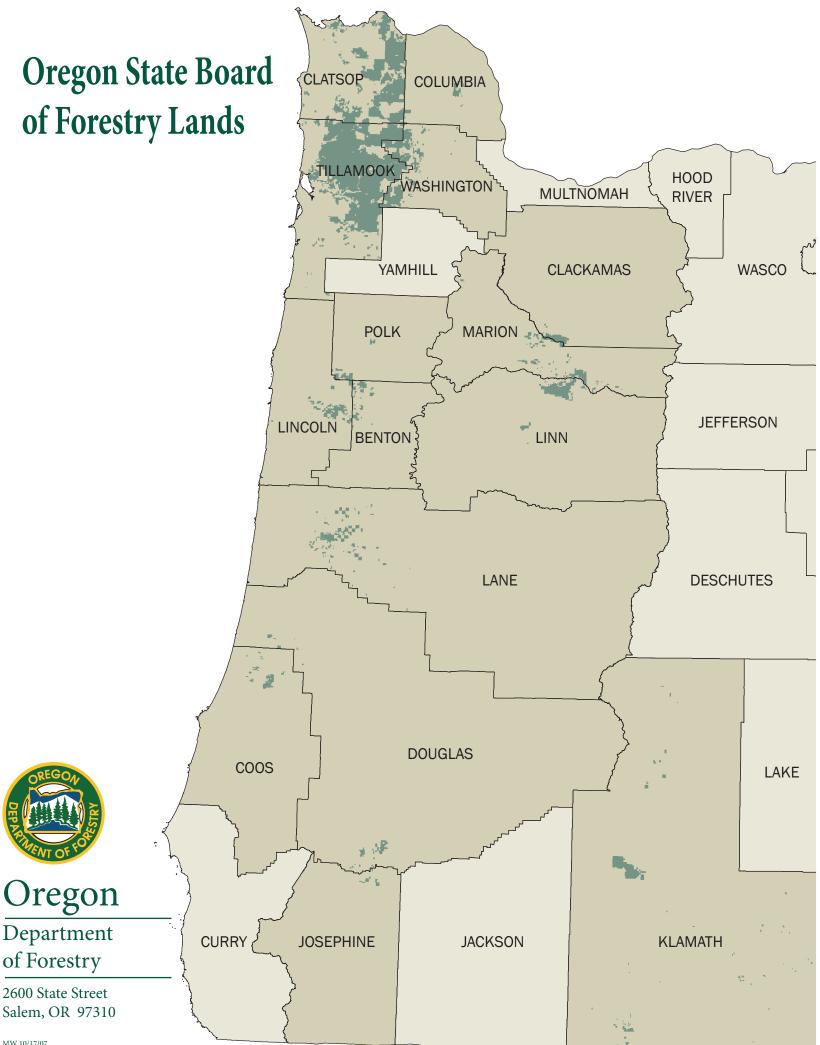
Anthony Hyde Columbia County Commissioner

Chuck Hurliman Tillamook County Commissioner John Griffith Coos County Commissioner

Mike Propes Polk County Commissioner

Patricia Roberts Clatsop County Commissioner

Oregon State Board of Forestry Lands



of Forestry

2600 State Street