

# 2007 ANNUAL REPORT

## Forest Grove District



# NWOFPA



2007 Spring NWOFPA Meeting



Northwest Oregon Forest Protective Association (NWOFPA) represents forest landowners in the Astoria, Tillamook and Forest Grove Districts and is directed by a board of thirteen members. The Oregon Department of Forestry has had a partnership with the NWOFPA since 1945 (by cooperative agreement) for the fire protection program in the Northwest. The Association analyzes the district's fire protection budgets, maintains cooperation and communication between forest landowners and the Districts, and makes recommendations on the Districts' fire protection plan. The Forest Grove District would like to thank the Association for all their efforts during 2007.

## NWOFPA OFFICERS

### Mitch Parker – President

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[mparker@greendiamond.com](mailto:mparker@greendiamond.com)

### Roger VanDyke – Vice President

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### K.C. VanNatta – Secretary/Treasurer

Roman V Ranch, LLC  
503-556-5503 FAX 503-556-0854  
[kc@vannattabros.com](mailto:kc@vannattabros.com)



### **FRONT PAGE:**

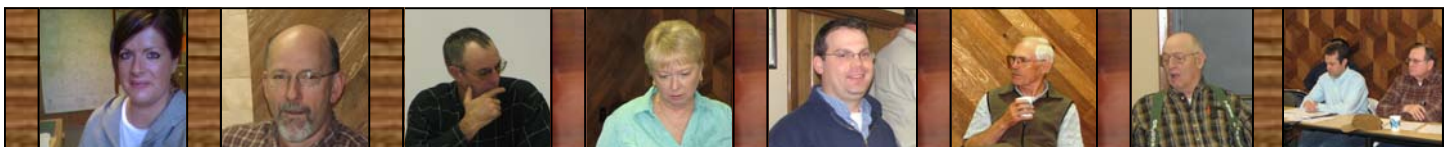
Mike Simek, Forest Unit Supervisor in Columbia City, observing the Winter Storm flood damage from the air.



### **EDITOR & COMMENTS:**

Rebecca Edmison, Office Manager, FG District

You'll find many district employees' pictures at the bottom of each page of the 2007 FG District Annual Report and throughout. Names will not be referenced as there are too many to note. I've also included NWOA, NWOFPA, ODF&W, BLM, KOG, and others, including the State Forester. I want to thank each of you for your contribution to the annual report.



# District Forester, Bob Gustavson, 2007 Comments



2007 Repeated itself with a significant number of personnel changes in the District as the Baby Boomers keep on retiring, and the chain reaction of vacancies occur across the State; not the least of which was our own, Dave Johnson, who manned the helm as the Forest Grove District Forester for over 16 years. Dave retired in November and Bob Gustavson once again stepped in to manage the district operations. In December, Bob was selected to fill the position permanently and brings a wealth of experience in forestry and leadership. Bob started the District Forester role on Jan. 1, 2008.

Four other Forest Grove District personnel retired in 2007 as well. They are featured in the "Retirements" page of this report – yes, we had enough retirements to create an entire page for them.

As luck would have it, the weather was on our side for the most part this season with very timely moisture in July and August which helped moderate conditions considerably and reduce the length of fire season. Very effective initial attack by the district and RFD cooperators kept the acres burned to a minimum. In 2007, our acres burned were only 38% of the 5-year average and total number of fires reached 70% of average. Another significant accomplishment was the completion of the Community Wildfire Protection Plans for both Columbia and Washington Counties.

The Private Forests program had a very successful year working with landowners and operators across the district. With Jay Worley's retirement, Erik Perkins is covering Jay's area and Tom Kennedy was hired to fill the vacancy with Mark Reed promoting to Columbia City.

It was another remarkable year for the State Forests staff; generating nearly 71.3 million board feet of timber, fertilizing 3466 acres of timberland, building 3.9 miles of trails and improving 14 miles of forest roads. This list just scratches the surface of what occurred in 2007, so please see the State Forest accomplishments page for a complete list of stats.

Early December brought high winds and heavy rainfall to the North Coast area. The State Forest lands in the Forest Grove District received only minor wind-throw damage but the road and trail infrastructure sustained significant damage due to the intense rainfall. Estimated costs for the repairs are \$1.8 million to date and some areas that need to be assessed are still buried by snowpack. Discussions are underway with FEMA for cost share opportunities. The full report describing the storm event and ODF's involvement can be viewed at: <http://egov.oregon.gov/ODF/TimberBlowdown.shtml>

Appreciation and thanks go to our employees, landowners and cooperators for another successful year. Their high level of coordination and ability to anticipate and respond to changing conditions was key to this success. Thank you all.

**Barney Reservoir**



# FIRE PROTECTION



The Forest Grove District protects approximately 815,000 acres of private, county, state and federal land as a part of the Northwest Oregon Forest Protective District. This larger administrative district protects some 1.74 million acres of forestland. The primary goal of the Protection from Fire Program is to minimize the total cost and loss resulting from fire in terms of suppression cost and damage to timber and other forest values.

The District's fire prevention program continues to maintain a number of approaches to raise fire prevention awareness. Cooperative programs with city and rural fire districts at schools and parks, programs at summer camps and other public events, and participation in parades all help to promote public fire safety. The Smokey Bear Team Teaching Program is a valuable tool for raising fire-safety awareness, and reaches some 1600+ first-grade children throughout the District.

The 2007 Fire Season began July 5th and ended October 1st. The fire season began with fire danger indices building rapidly after the July 4th Holiday. However, precipitation in July and again in August moderated the fire season build-up indices significantly. The total length of the fire season was 88 days; well below the 102 day average length for a typical fire season. The fire activity level within the District was well below normal for both the number of fires and the acres burned. Fire activity at a statewide level was higher with the district supporting a number of dispatches to Northeast and Central Oregon Districts. Public Regulated Use restrictions were in effect from July 9th to October 1st.

A significant accomplishment in 2007 was the completion of two Community Wildfire Protection Plans for Columbia and Washington Counties. These plans were developed using a collaborative process with state and federal partners, local jurisdictions and community members. The process involved assessment, establishing local priorities and the development of action plans that minimize risks to property and life resulting from wildfire events. Implementation of these action plans over time will foster meaningful understanding and participation within our communities regarding wildfire threats and what can be done to minimize these threats. A primary goal of these action plans is to implement fire safe landscaping and reduce the structural ignitability of homes within the "Home Ignition Zone", an area that includes the structure itself and its immediate surroundings within 100 to 200 feet. Another program implemented within the District was the "Home Makeover Contest" This contest had excellent media coverage that helped demonstrate the concepts of fire safe landscaping and clean up around ones home. It also focused on improving the homes ignition resistive capacity by replacing flammable roofing with noncombustible roofing products and enclosing wooden decks. A number of private sponsors provided materials and services to the contest winner. In the end, this is a great example of what can be done to reduce a home's ignition risk.

**Mike Simek, FUS2 Columbia City**

## FIRE SCHOOL - SOUTH FORK CAMP

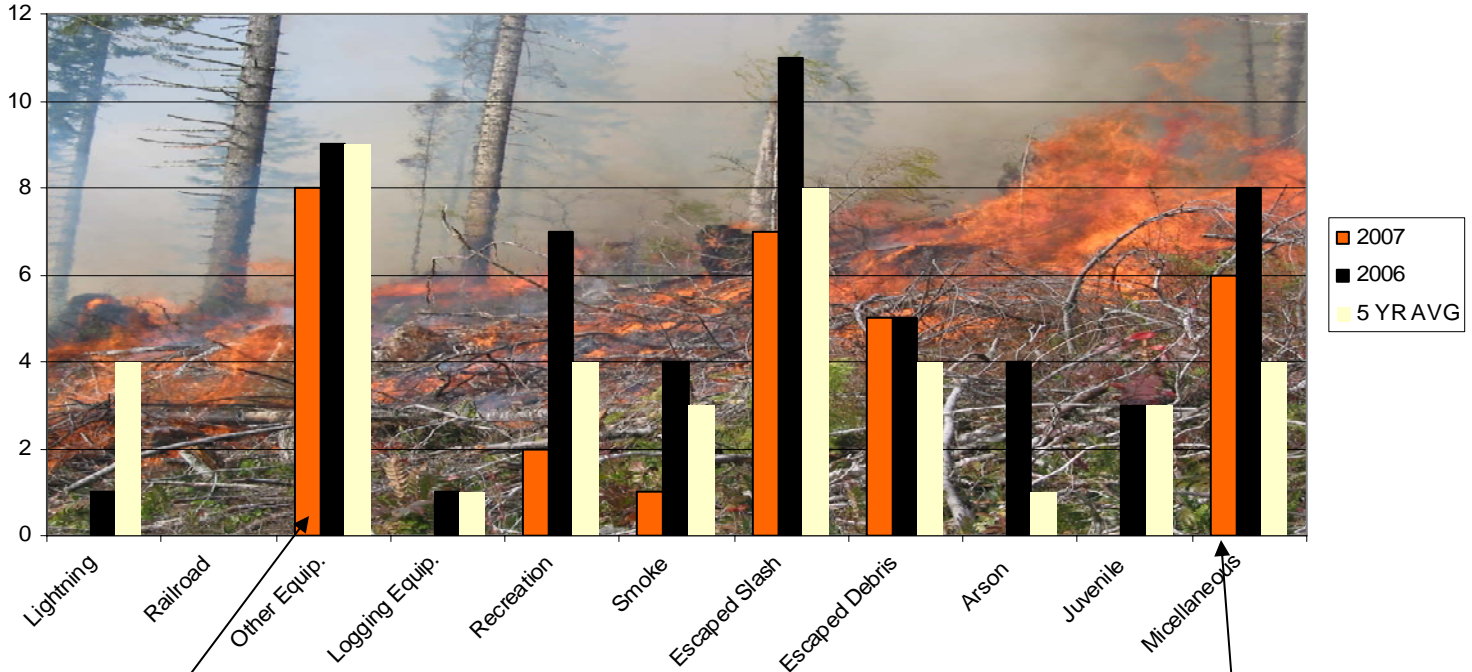


**The District would like to express its appreciation to all cooperators that made 2007 a successful year in the prevention and suppression of fires .**



# 2007 FIRE STATS

NUMBER OF FIRES BY GENERAL CAUSE—2007



Vehicle Fires (3)  
Power line (2)  
Farm Equip (3)

Total Fires by Year			
2004	2005	2006	2007
25	33	53	29

Fireworks (3)  
Explosive Device (1)  
Warming Fire (1)  
Other (1)

Significant fire support—325 man days of support on other incidents/move ups

Task books completed in SRB, SRB-Engine, and higher positions TFL, DIVS

Below average year for number of fires and acres burned—low fire danger thresholds broken

Slash burns conducted out of fire season resulted in larger fires in both Units

Completed Columbia and Washington County Community Wildfire Protection Plans

Home Makeover Contest in Washington County resulted in major media coverage

Excellent Initial Attack by District and RFD Cooperators



BEFORE

## WILDFIRE HOME MAKEOVER

The contest put over \$24,000 into the makeover and the landowner was so excited about what we were doing that he had the contractors do an additional \$14,000 worth of work around his home.

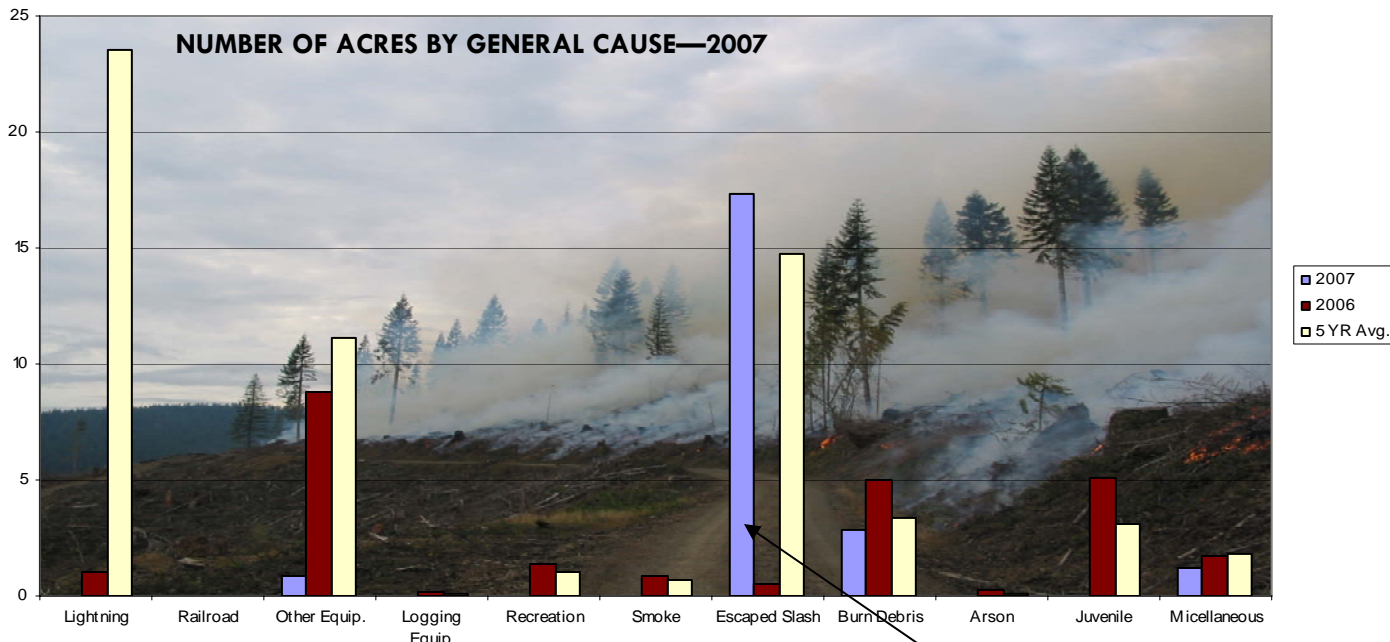
Contest Link Below:



AFTER

[http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/AGENCY\\_AFFAIRS/Wildfire Home Makeover 2007 Contest Story.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/AGENCY_AFFAIRS/Wildfire Home Makeover 2007 Contest Story.shtml)

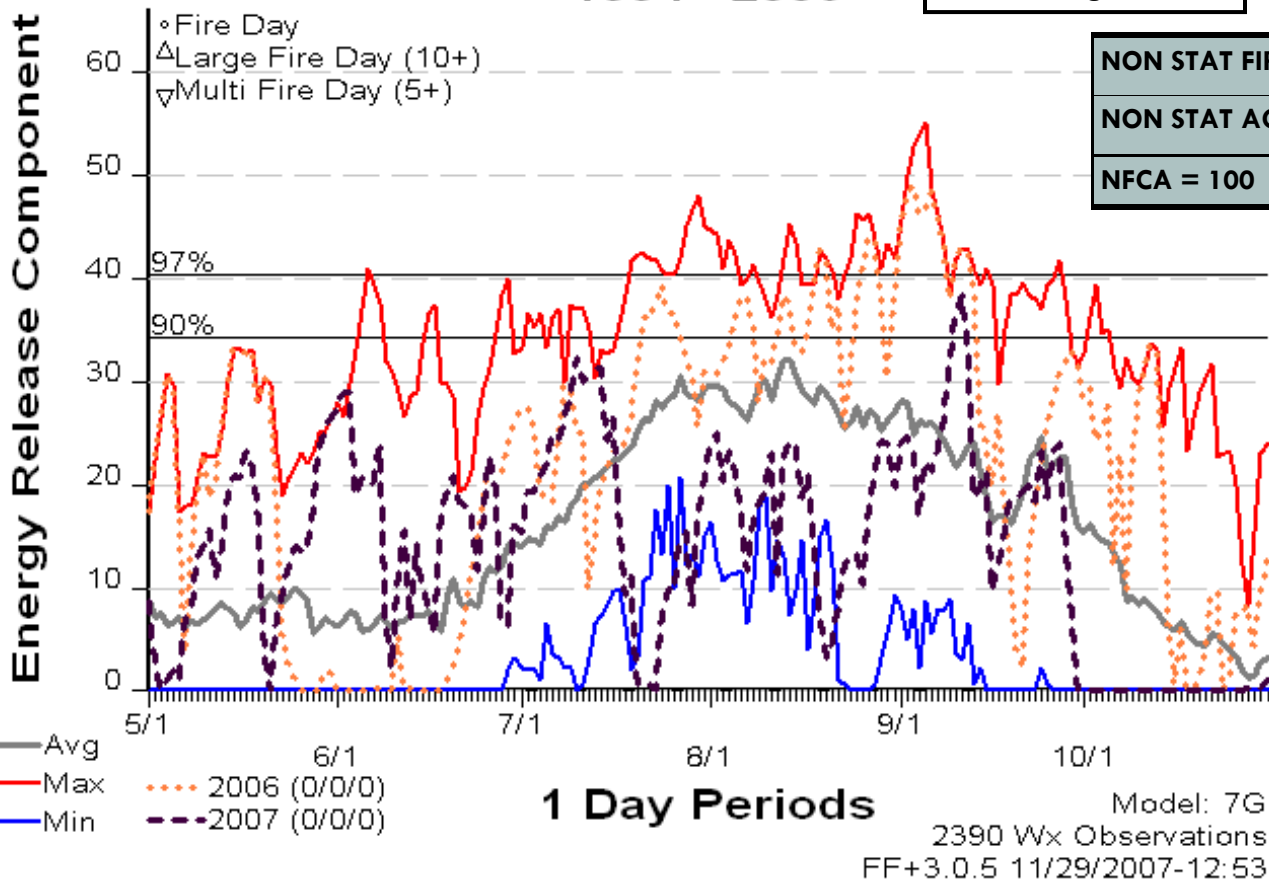
# 2007 FIRE STATS—Continued



**SIG - NW2/3  
1994 - 2006**

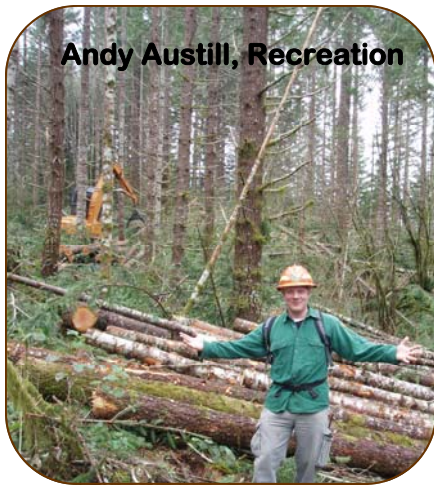
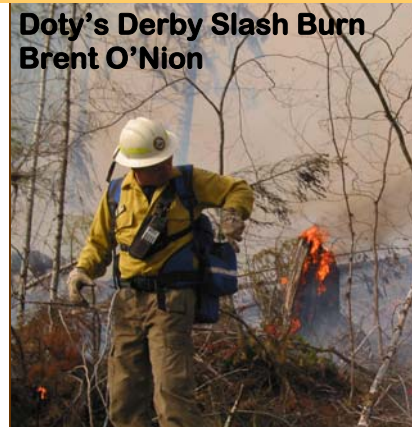
**1 @ 15.8 Acres  
Fall burning 10/28/07**

**NON STAT FIRES = 13  
NON STAT ACRES = 9  
NFCA = 100**



# PRIVATE FORESTS

Projects	Totals
Notifications	2182
Pre-Operation Meetings	189
Written Plans Processed	253
Complaints Investigated	38
Citations Issued	3



# FORESTRY ASSISTANCE

Grant Associated Work	Totals
Conversions/Planting	2
Management Plans	4
Riparian Enhancement Projects	27
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Proj.	1

# STATE FORESTS FY07

Project	Totals
Timber Harvested	71.3 MMBF
Timber Sold	91.0 MMBF
Misc. Forest Products	\$46,470
Road Maintained	285 Miles
Road Improved	14.28 Miles
Bridges-Permanent	1
Pre-Commercial Thinning	677 Acres
Tree Planting	700 Acres
Pruning	67 Acres
Fertilization	3466 Acres
Trail Construction	3.9 Miles
Trails Maintained	78 Miles
Map Sales	\$2,482

Project	Totals
Timber Value Harvested	\$33,300,000
Timber Value Sold	\$33,500,000
Wood Permits Sold	\$750
Road Constructed	18.01 Miles
Roadside Broom Treatment	500 Acres
Riparian Noxious Weed Mngt	600 Acres
Release	536 Acres
Site Preparation	340 Acres
Tree Protection	311 Acres
Volunteer Hours	5933 Hours
Trails Improved	15.8 Miles
Overnight Campers	10,200
Campground Revenue	\$44,180

# STATE FORESTS—Continued

## REFORESTATION—Mitch Taylor

Most notable for the Reforestation Unit in 2007 were significant accomplishments above annual averages for planting, pre-commercial thinning and fertilization. In addition, the Department is taking a more aggressive approach to the management of noxious weeds, a task that falls to the reforestation unit within the district. In FY07 we surveyed and treated 15 lineal miles of riparian area along the Wilson River with a primary target of knotweed and 11 miles of the headwaters of Gales Creek, where we found and treated reed canary grass, Himalayan blackberry, poison hemlock, clematis, herb Robert and scotch broom.

## RECREATION—Randy Peterson

Over 10,000 visitors enjoyed camping at the five campgrounds on the district. Remodel work was started at Stagecoach Horse Camp and significant improvements are planned for the site. Contract crews upgraded 4.5 miles of Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) trail and ODF crews and volunteers completed maintenance work on more than 70 miles of non-motorized and OHV trail; and constructed 2.7 miles of new trail on the district. Design work was completed for a new 3.5 mile segment of the Wilson River Trail and a 4 mile OHV trail upgrade. Grants totaling \$117K were awarded for trail construction and upgrade. Over 450 volunteers contributed close to 6000 hours of time helping in the district's recreation efforts and forest cleanup in 2007.



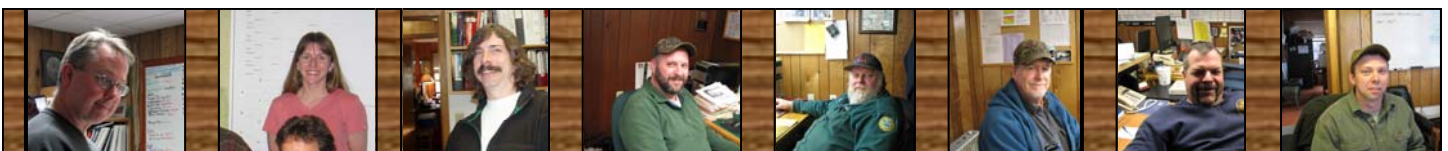
## ENGINEERING—Terry Orton

In the spring of 2007, we provided assistance to the Elliot Creek Stream Enhancement Project. Forest Grove equipment operators produced logs with root-wads attached to be used for fish habitat structures. A helicopter delivered the logs to the stream and put them in place. December brought storms delivering high rainfall with record stream flows in places. All district staff participated in storm damage patrols, locating roads in danger of washing out and clearing debris by hand or with our heavy equipment. Despite the approximately \$1.8 million in damage we did suffer, we were successful in preventing much more from occurring through their efforts.



## MARKETING—Erik Marcy

The year 2007 saw some key personnel changes to the Market Unit. Karen Tilley retired after 30 years of service. Nate Agalzoff transferred from Astoria, Tara Carlson and Jay Sandmann transferred from limited duration to permanent status. With a fully staffed unit we were able to achieve some outstanding accomplishments. During calendar year 2007, the Forest Grove District sold 91 MMBF with a net value of \$34 million. In addition, we harvested 67.7 MMBF with a net value of \$30.4 million (for FY07, the numbers were 71.3 MMBF and \$33.3 million respectively). What makes this all the more remarkable is the Marketing Unit spent a combined 110 shifts on out-of-district assignments.





# Personnel Changes & Service Awards



**Greg Juber—30 Years**



**Erik Marcy—30 Years**



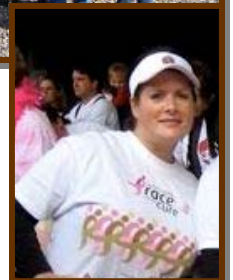
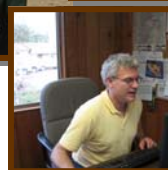
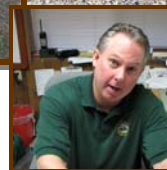
**Pat Dunlap—15 Years**



**Kelly Niles—15 Years**

NAME	POSITION	DATE
Mark Reed	NRS2—Promotion	2-07
A.J. Hudjik	FMT-Seasonal	2-07
April Reece	OS2-Promotion	2-07
Terry Orton	Engineering FUS2 Promotion	4-07
Brandy Reece	Temp OS1	5-07
Thomas Whittington	NRS1—Transfer	6-07
Bruce Widener	TMS2—Transfer from Tillamook	7-07
Kelly Foster	Transfer to Grants Pass	7-07
Bob Stearns	FMT-Seasonal—Resigned	7-07
Andy Austill	NRS1—Transfer from Tillamook	7-07
Jay Sandmann	NRS1	9-07
Nate Agalzoff	NRS1—Transfer from Astoria	7-07
Roger Warren	NRS1—Promotion	10-07
Stephanie Beall	NRS2—Promotion	10-07
Randy Peterson	FUS2-Promotion	10-07
Tara Carlson	NRS1	10-07
Mindy Laird-Garcia	FMT-Seasonal	10-07
Tom Kennedy	NRS2-Promotion	11-07

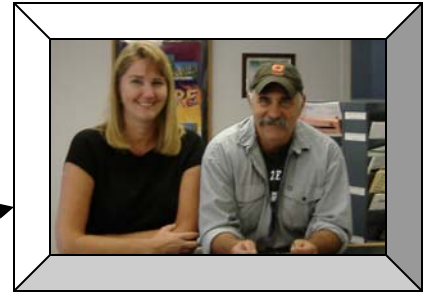
**Charlie Redheffer— 20Years  
Long-time seasonal, not pictured**



# RETIREMENTS



Call it the "YEAR OF RETIREMENTS" at the Forest Grove District Office. Even though **GREG MILLER** officially retired November 1, of 2006, he stayed on temporarily assisting the Recreation Unit and departed his workstation in April of 2007.



**JAY WORLEY** was ready to exit his vehicle only to utilize his expertise with Phil Logging. "Can't Stop Me" is his retirement motto.



**KAREN TILLEY**, retired in August of 2007. She is not pictured here. Word is she is home enjoying retirement time working on her quilt collection.



**JIM POSTON**, Heavy Equipment Operator is still breaking trail enjoying his new snowmobiles and 4-wheeling in the outback Sumpter country (not pictured).

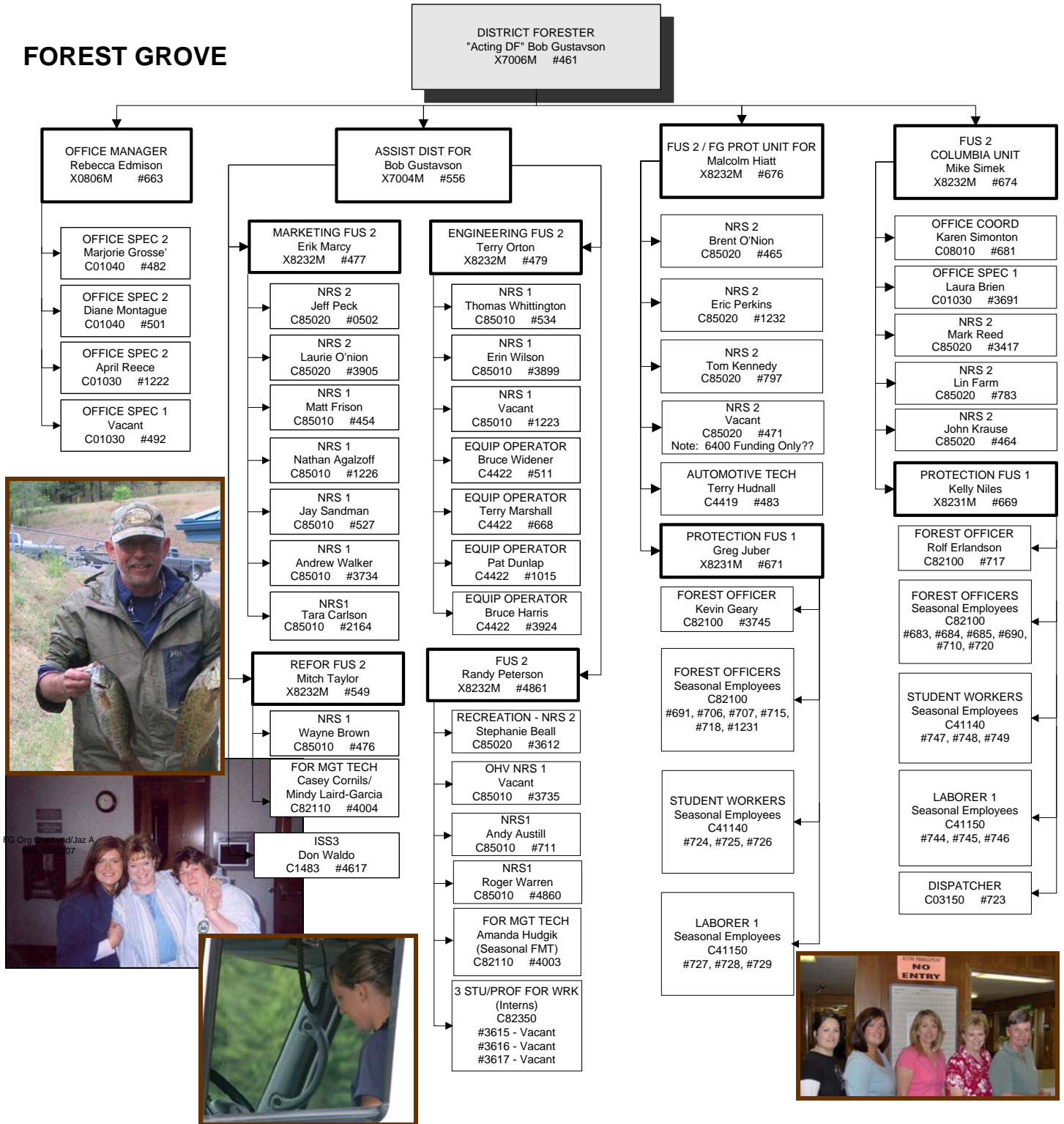


Forest Grove District's long-time, much-loved, District Forester, **DAVE JOHNSON**, exits with an unforgettable MacMenamin's send off. Dave's been seen planting trees, (a lot of trees!) and working very hard around his property.



# ORGANIZATIONAL CHART 12-07

## FOREST GROVE

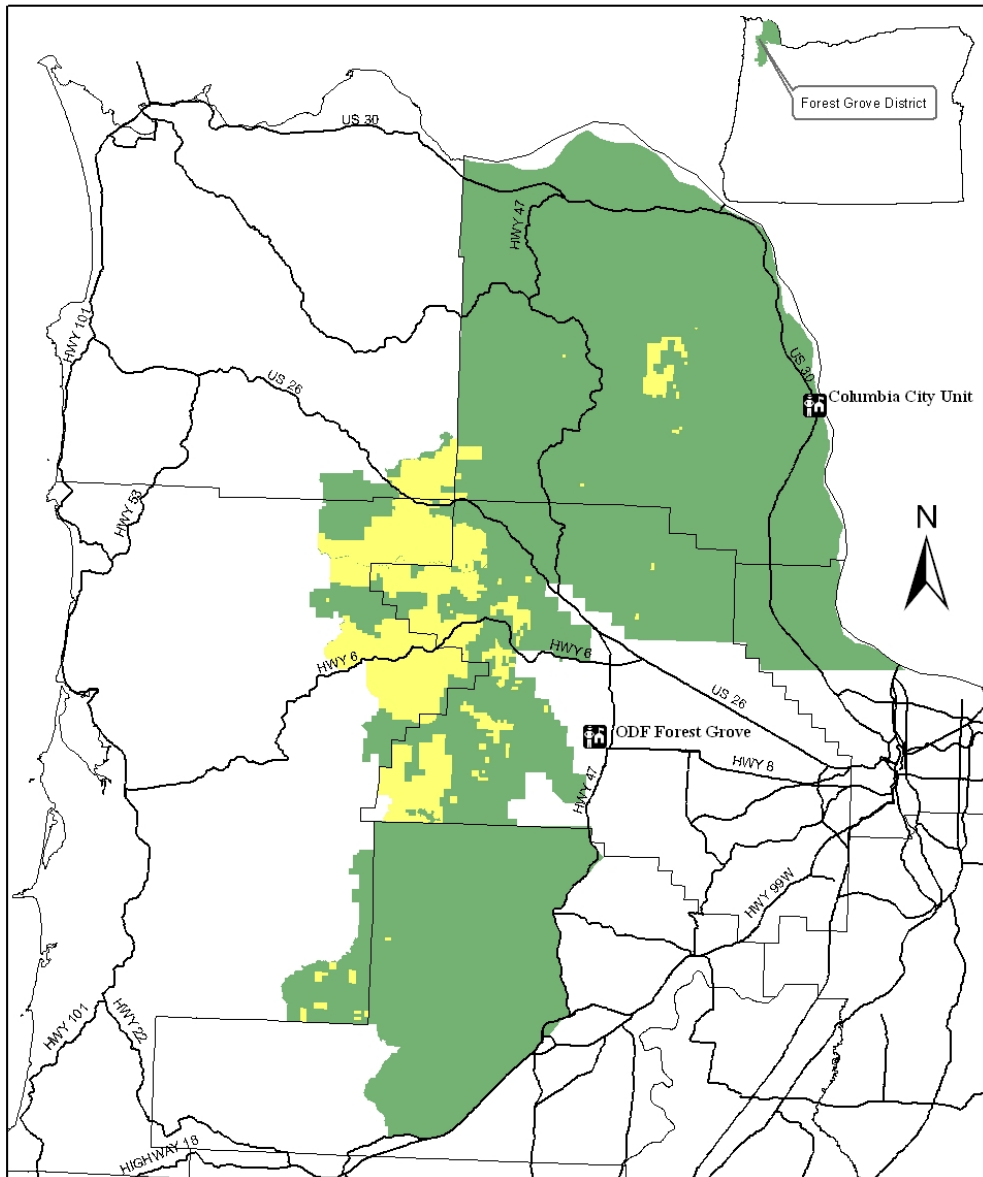


# MAP & INFORMATION

FOREST GROVE DISTRICT OFFICE  
801 GALES CREEK ROAD  
FOREST GROVE, OR 97116  
(503) 357-2191  
(503) 357-4548 FAX

COLUMBIA CITY UNIT OFFICE  
405 E STREET  
COLUMBIA CITY, OR 97018  
(503) 397-2636  
(503) 397-6361 FAX

website: <http://egov.oregon.gov/odf/field/fg/aboutus.shtml>



## Legend

- Highways
- County Boundary
- ODF Ownership
- Protection District

## Forest Grove District

0 2.5 5 10 15 20 25 Miles

