

Central Oregon District 2006 Annual Report

A district of the Oregon Department of Forestry

District Forester

Travis Medema

Budget Committee Members

John Aaron

Dan Bishop

John Breese

Virgil Ellett

Brent Gleason

Steve Hansen

Chris Johnson

John Morgan

JC Oliver

Archie Osborne

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Serving the Central Oregon Landowners And Oregonians



"STEWARDSHIP IN FORESTRY"

A Message from the District Forester

Travis Medema

Two significant themes stand out as I write the introduction to the Central Oregon District 2006 annual report. The first and most significant is the change in personnel due to retirements and transfers. Over the last year a combined 85 years of ODF knowledge and fire experience was lost from the John Day Unit with the retirements of Colleen Conlee, Steve Jolley, and Connie Wood. I would personally like to thank each of them for their dedication, hard work, and commitment to the Central Oregon District over the last 30 years.

District Forester Bob Young transferred to Salem to manage the work capacity and policy aspects of the department's fire program. The district will greatly miss Bob and would like to thank him for his leadership over the last seven years. Assistant Unit Forester Ryan Karjala also left the Central Oregon District this year to work for the Sisters / Camp Sherman Fire Department. The district will also miss Ryan and sincerely appreciates his commitment to the agency for the past 12 years.

There have been many personnel transfer's, promotions, and new hires within the district and I would like to welcome and congratulate every one! Please read through the administrative section of this report for personnel highlights.

The second most significant theme was fire season. This past year was a very active fire year due to repeated, significant, wide-spread lightning events. The district experienced an over 400% increase in lightning fires from 2005. Due to this increase COD hosted or was actively engaged with eight different Incident Management Teams, managed seven type three incidents, and staffed 200 plus other smaller fires. Over a 72 hour period in the middle of August the John Day unit staffed 70 fires. As one can imagine it takes a complete and coordinated system both inside and outside the District to manage such a significant work load. Even with extreme conditions and record setting fire numbers the acreage burned on the district was 70% of the ten year average; an excellent measure of how successful the District's Protection from Fire program was during 2006. I would like to thank all the employees, landowners, and cooperators that contributed to last year's successes.

Along with administration and fire, the Annual Report also covers accomplishments in other programs such as the Private Forests Program, Urban Forestry, Rangeland Protection Associations, the Oregon Forestland Urban Interface Program, Nation Fire Plan accomplishments and much more. Once again the district was very engaged with local counties and private landowners in landscape level fuel treatments and community wildfire planning.

It is truly my pleasure to have the opportunity to work with such talented and dedicated employees. I look forward to the up-coming year and being able to share next year's accomplishments.

Thanks again to all who made it such a successful year

Travis Medema
COD District Forester

From the Editor

As I enter my 19th year with this department I look back and realize all the changes we have made through the years, some good and some not-so-good, and I am once again reminded we continue to make it because of the people. The people.

Day-to-day it is like family; when you spend 40 hours a week with anyone there are times of laughter, frustration, and compromise, but when the chips get down we rally together and pull through.

Each year seems to go by faster, budgets get tighter, and the winters are just as busy as fire season, but as long as we take

care of the people of this organization we can find ways to support each other, get the job done, and represent the Oregon Department of Forestry and the Central Oregon District with an excellence to be admired.

So as we go into 2007 let's remember the people of this organization. Things may seem to unravel around us at times, get busy, or become extremely stressful; however, we can make it through just fine if we keep our focus in the right place and on the good that we do.

Have a great 2007
Christy Donham

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Larry Hoffman Scholarship in Wildfire and Ecosystem Health



Scholarship Recipient
Chaylon Shuffield
Photo by Gretchen Bracher
College of Forestry, OSU

May 2005 marked the creation of a new fund in memory of **Larry Hoffman** made possible by gifts from his family, friends, and colleagues. Hoffman, who earned his bachelor's degree from Michigan Technical University in Forest Management, followed by a master's degree from the University of Idaho, was well known and respected for his knowledge of and passion for forestry through various positions he held with the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF).

Hoffman served as Service Forester for the Klamath-Lake District and as a Management Forester in Astoria, and then headed to Eastern Oregon, where he worked as a Forest Practices/Service Forester for the ODF Pendleton

office and as a Forester 2/Service Forester in Prineville, where he provided much-needed assistance to landowners. In 1989, Hoffman accepted his last and much-loved position as Forest Unit Supervisor 2 in The Dalles. He remained in this position until his death on June 5, 2004, at the age of 51.

The Larry Hoffman Scholarship Fund in Wildfire and Ecosystem Health commemorates the life of Larry Hoffman and provides scholarships to Oregon State University

College of Forestry undergraduate students in Wildland Fire or closely related aspects of Ecosystem Health.

The first recipient of the Larry Hoffman Scholarship Fund is **Chaylon Shuffield**. Chaylon is a senior in Forest Management and serves as a member of the College of Agricultural Sciences and College of Forestry Ambassadors. The Ambassadors provide outreach and recruitment for the colleges. Congratulations, Chaylon!

To make a tax-deductible contribution to the Larry Hoffman Scholarship Fund: address checks to the OSU Foundation with "Larry Hoffman Scholarship Fund" in the comment line.

Send to: OSU Foundation, 850 SW 35th Street, Corvallis, OR 97333. Gifts of cash or appreciated securities are welcome.

If you have any questions, please contact Lisa French at the OSU Foundation: 541-737-2900 or

Lisa.French@oregonstate.edu.

Central Oregon District Safety

The Central Oregon District Safety Committee worked very hard in 2006 to continue implementation of the wellness program as well as safety training. District employees benefited from the information and allotted time available through the wellness program; therefore, benefiting the district.

Hearing testing and health screenings were available again for all employees required to take the work capacity test.

The work capacity test has three levels: arduous, moderate, and light. The arduous test requires a person to walk three miles in 45 minutes carrying 45 pounds. The moderate test requires a person to walk two miles in 30 minutes carrying 25 pounds. The light test requires a person

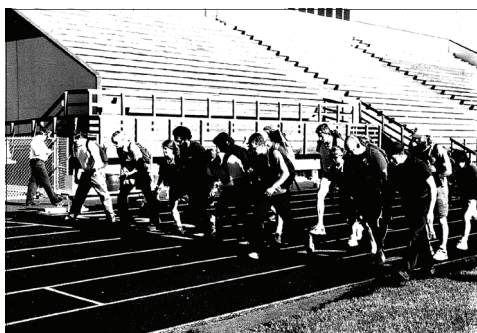
to walk one mile in 15 minutes. Making sure employees are ready for such a physical test is only good business on the district's part.

Driver training, first aid/CPR, hazardous materials, and lock-out/tagout, were among many of the training opportunities within the district.

In 2005 the safety committee vowed to bring the numbers of accidents/injuries down and they achieved their goal. In 2006 accidents/injuries were down by seven for a total of four which is outstanding compared to the number of exposure hours: 136,376.11.

We look forward to reaching a new goal in 2007.

**"Safety First;
Mission Second"**



The first work capacity test taken in COD in 1998

2006 Committee

Marc Kaschmitter—Chair

Matt Hoebna

Ryan Karjala

Ed Keith

George Ponte

Connie Wood

Central Oregon District 2007 Initial Attack Readiness Review



2007 - Water Handling

Initial attack readiness for each fire season is critical to meet the mission of the department "keep 94% of all fires under 10 acres."

Every year Central Oregon District fire fighters come together for a one day readiness review in hoselay's, water handling, and team work.

This has been a very successful challenge and proves it's worth each year.

Protection From Fire

The District in Review

Lightning, Lightning, Lightning, that's what this fire season brought us in the Central Oregon District. Statistics for this season were all about lightning fires, totaling 140 statistical lightning caused fires for the year with a total of 5,693 acres burned. Human caused fires only totaled 80 fires at 113 acres burned. It was an outstanding year for lightning storm watching.

Even with so many fire starts this season and extreme conditions, aggressive initial attack by district resources kept the majority of fires below 10 acres or less. Some of the larger fires provided some very unique situations with dual jurisdiction. Most acreage burned included fires with multiple jurisdictional fires. But with aggressive fire-fighting efforts and valuable cooperation with the federal partners the district did an outstanding job in suppressing these fires.

The first of the large incidents,

Black Crater, occurred on the Prineville-Sisters Unit. The next was the Maxwell fire which was also multi jurisdictional, on the John Day Unit. These fires provided some unique challenges in regards to management objectives. The District in both instances provided teams assigned with an agency representative. This provided for better communication back to the district on the status of these incidents.

The next large incidents on the district were the Shake Table Fire and the Two Cabin Complex, on the John Day unit. Shake Table was primarily located on federal lands, but with the number of fires burning around the nation, resources were short and an Oregon Department of Forestry Incident Management Team was assigned to manage the incident. An Oregon Department of Forestry Team was assigned to the Two Cabin Complex as well.

There were a number of other federal incidents that did not

cross onto district jurisdiction where each unit either assisted with resources or agency representatives over the season. With just as many incidents within the District area this became key between the agencies involved for coordination and sharing of resources.

Although we had such a busy season a number of district personnel had the opportunity to go on assignment outside of the state.

Support was sent to Texas, Arizona, and New Mexico; positions were mainly filled with overhead from around the district.

The district survived a very busy season. There was great cooperation throughout the district and between each and every unit. Without this kind of teamwork on the district there would not be such good success.

Central Oregon District 2006		
General Cause	Fires	Acres
Lightning	140	5,693
Railroad	3	0
Equipment Use	11	23
Recreationist	14	59
Smoking	7	.36
Debris Burning	27	26
Arson	3	1
Juveniles	8	1
Miscellaneous	7	.79

From the Community Section of the Central Oregonian November 14, 2006

Crooked River News: Firefighters care about the environment

WRITER IN TRAINING



SIERRA SMITH

Editor's note: This is an ongoing series written by students at Crooked River Elementary.

Student says we are lucky for ODF

We are very lucky to have such brave firefighters that care so much about the environment. There are many different jobs that need to be done to fight a fire. Chuck Dalton, Carley Luehrs, and Ben Duda have all been serving in the Oregon Department of Forestry for several years.

First of all, I would like to tell you what Chuck does for the ODF. When Chuck is helping to

fight a fire, he is in charge of creating a fire line to prevent the fire from spreading. He does this by operating a bulldozer around the perimeter of the fire to clear away bushes and trees to create a fire line.

Next, Carley and Ben are working hard for the ODF. When they are fighting a fire, they are both in charge of taking water and supplies to the fire by driving the engine trucks. Once they are at the fire, they help the firefighting crews put out the flames.

Finally, I would like to tell you how the firefighters get trained.

To be a firefighter, a person has to be able to carry a 25 to 30 pound pack on their back for three miles in a certain amount of time. Firefighters are taught about how fires burn so they can try to prevent the spread of the fire, as well as put it out. They are also trained to use many different tools including a special axe, shovel, and water.

It is great knowing that we have brave, willing firefighters to keep our forests, homes and communities safe. Thanks for your hard work firefighters!

Protection From Fire (cont)

Unit Perspectives

John Day-Fossil-Monument

Fire season 2006 proved to be a challenging year for the John Day Unit. Fire danger indices set new records 21 days during fire season and for 59 days, we were above the Unit's critical threshold for large fires. Unlike last year, the 2006 fire season produced numerous lightning events which started before the official declaration of fire season and lasted throughout. On the John Day Unit, 42 days of the 123 day fire season (81 days in regulated closure) recorded some level of lightning activity within the Unit's boundaries.

The first main lightning bust occupied the Independence Day weekend. Lightning sparked nearly one dozen fires this first week of July with most remaining under ½ acre but one burning 200 acres of grass and junipers. Just a couple of weeks later, the next lightning bust occurred, again igniting several blazes, but this time with temperatures reaching triple digits, fire size increased as well.

The first major fires for the unit appeared the last week of July. The first, the Maxwell fire which burned in the Bridge Creek Wilderness Area just south of Mitchell posed significant threat to private ODF protected lands. For 2 weeks we provided resources and interacted with the Ochoco NF and the fire team to help them be successful and to protect ODF protection. In the end, the Maxwell fire burned 7,000 + acres of which 17 were privately owned. This fire also provided a landmark for the department and its use of the Rind concept for wilderness fires.

While the Maxwell fire was burning wilderness within the Fossil sub-unit, the Black Rock fire was burning timber and range on private, US Forest Service, and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) ground between Seneca and Burns; thankfully for the excellent relationship with the BLM, together we were able to stop the fire at 713 acres, 254 of which were ODF protected.

Just as the Maxwell and Black Rock fires were winding down, the next significant lightning event passed over the unit. This event, lasting for three or so days sparked over 70 fires on the unit. If it wasn't for the hard work of the initial attack crews, copious amounts of move-up resources, and the rain that accompanied all but the initial day of this storm, the unit would have had numerous project fires, but in the end, only one project fire emerged. The Two Cabin Complex located around Monument, consisted of eight fires ranging in size from ¼ acre to 287 acres for a total of 800 + acres. ODF Team 3 managed this complex for several days until the unit workload slowed enough to turn it back to the unit.



2006 Fire Training

Protection From Fire (cont)

Unit Perspectives

John Day-Fossil-Monument (cont)

For the next couple of weeks, initial attack slowed but didn't cease, then came the next lightning event. Besides igniting several fires on ODF protection, it also sparked several blazes on National Forest Lands, some of which quickly became the Shake Table complex. Shake Table, located SE of Dayville was comprised of nine fires, eight of which were caught during initial attack by the USFS. Due to the lack of national resources, ODF Team 2 was assigned to manage the complex for the Malheur NF. This fire presented some very difficult challenges to fire managers working the fire.

The weather was less than cooperative; high winds coupled with hot temperatures, low relative humidity and a very unstable atmosphere. For a brief window the weather subsided and firefighters made excellent progress, but were unable to completely contain the fire before the next extreme weather event. On August 28th the second extreme weather event occurred. On this day, the fire built a tremendous head of steam in a very inaccessible, steep, drainage containing copious amounts of dead and down material. When these fuel conditions aligned with the terrain and the weather, the fire became plume dominated, making an 8000 acre run in one burning period with spot fires three-plus miles ahead of the main fire front. During this run, the fire spotted onto private ODF protected lands and quickly grew. After several more hard days of work, the fire was contained at 14,453 acres of which approximately 400 were on private timberland.

After the Shake table fire wound down, initial attack on the unit stabilized with only a couple more extended attack fires. In all, the 2006 fire season brought 98 statistical fires to the John Day unit, of which, 89 were lightning caused consisting of 1400 acres of ODF protection burnt and the nine human caused fires burnt a total of 25 acres



Protection From Fire (cont)

Unit Perspectives (cont)

Prineville-Sisters

The Prineville-Sisters Unit experienced a very busy fire season along with the rest of the district. Fire season began for the unit with a number of lightning storms in the area in early May and kept the unit very busy through the beginning of October. In comparison to the previous years the unit ended up with 49 lightning caused fires, up from only 8 in 2005 and 36 in 2004. This drastic increase in lightning fires was outstanding. The number of human caused fires for 2006 was less than 50% of total fires at 40.

The unit had one type III complex and two large fires that we were involved with. The type III incident occurred on the Prineville Sub-Unit. There were a total of 16 lightning starts that occurred on July 2. The Acting AUF, Ben Duda, made the decision on July 3 to make a complex out of the 16 fires and utilized local resources to suppress all of the fires. The largest fire that occurred during this time was the Cat Mountain fire which was contained at 15 acres in size. Due to very aggressive initial attack from the local resources the other 15 fires were all contained to 1 acre or less.

The Sisters unit was involved with two large fires that both started in the Mt Washington Wilderness area. The Black Crater fire which started on July 24th, started in the wilderness area approximately two miles from private lands. The Unit was involved with suppression efforts beginning at initial attack. Due to extreme conditions the fire burned onto private lands and caused the evacuation of several subdivisions in the area. Although the fire did not burn into the subdivisions, private lands were involved totaling 4,252 acres. The second fire started on August 7th; Lake George fire origin was again in the wilderness located at the base of Mt Washington. The unit again was involved from the beginning supplying crews, engines, and dozer 91 to assist the Forest Service with suppression. The Lake George fire was within two miles of private lands. A type I team was called in to take over both the Lake George fire and Black Crater, which was in the mop-up stage. Due to some very aggressive initial and extended attack from local resources, along with mutual aid, the Lake George fire was kept inside the wilderness area and did not burn on to private lands.



Firehawk Water Drop

Over all the season kept both Prineville and Sisters very busy throughout with lightning storms every month until early October. Due to some very well trained and experienced crews, along with good leadership, the unit was able to contain 98% of all the fires on the unit at 10 acres or less. With how busy the season was personnel kept up with the challenge at hand and did an outstanding job.

Protection From Fire (cont)

Unit Perspectives (cont)

The Dalles

The Dalles Unit spent 29 days (MH-4) and 42 days (MH-1) in extreme fire danger with 16 (MH-4) and 14 (MH-1) of those setting new record high Energy Release Component values. Fire crews responded 61 times to reported fires, 33 were statistical fires, 18 were non-stat fires, and 10 of which turned out to be smokechases. Total fire acreage for the Unit was held below average to 52.47. Fire starts were below average as well.

On July 6th, Mid-Columbia Fire & Rescue (MCF&R) toned out for a brush fire at the west end of The Dalles. The fire started behind the Chenoweth Rim Apartment Complex across the street from the ODF compound. ODF provided mutual aid initial attack almost stopping the fire before it ran up the hill. The protection responsibility was between MCF&R and the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. The fire ended up burning 15 acres. It gave ODF an opportunity to respond with numerous engines as well as an early season training fire.

In early August, The Dalles Unit dodged a lightning bullet, but the Mt. Hood National Forest was not quite so lucky. They had several smoke reports that required attention but didn't have enough resources to staff them all. ODF sent engines to help initial attack some of the fires. One of the fires occurred on Bluegrass Ridge in the Mt. Hood wilderness which potentially threatened ODF protection. The Northwest Interagency Management Team was assigned to this incident. ODF staffed an agency representative and helped the team acquire local resources and provided some overhead fire personnel.

Two fires accounted for 95% of acres burned on the unit. These two fires occurred two days apart in late October, both of which were caused by hunters. ODF had very little staffing left at the time and utilized mutual aid with Federal cooperators and local Fire Departments.



Kelly Spring Fire

Private Forests Program

The five Stewardship Foresters across the district continue working with landowners and operators administering the Oregon Forest Practices Act and providing landowner assistance. Notifications dipped a little this past year but Stewardship foresters throughout the district remain busy with operation inspections, assistance programs such as: National Fire Plan, Bark Beetle Mitigation, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Conservation Reserves and Conservation Reserve Enhancement Programs.

Personnel changes are the biggest change this past year. Russell Lane promoted from a Stewardship Forester to Unit Forest in the John Day Unit and with his promotion, Kirk Ausland was selected to fill the vacancy. Kirk comes to the John Day Unit from the Tillmook District where he worked with the Department in the State Lands Management program.

Congratulations Russ and Welcome Kirk!



Successful Reforestation

Private Forests by the Numbers	
2007 Central Oregon District Accomplishments	
Notifications	944
Stewardship Plan acres	3,600
Assistance acres (non-Fire Plan)	425
Bark Beetle Mitigation	255
Reforestation Tax-credit acres – final	10
Reforestation Tax-credit acres – preliminary	17
CRP/CREP Planting Acres	162
CRP/CREP Fencing Miles	0
CRP/CREP Stream enhancement Miles	39
CRP/CREP Planning Acres 2007	780

Urban and Community Forestry Assistance

The 1992 Oregon Legislature directed the Oregon Department of Forestry to provide technical assistance to Oregon cities and community groups to help them plant, manage, and care for the urban forest (ORS 526.510). In partnership with other agencies and organizations, including the USDA Forest Service, ODF helps cities capitalize on the many economic, environmental, and social benefits that trees provide. Each year, ODF's staff of three professional urban foresters provide such assistance, through the agency's Urban & Community Forestry Assistance Program (U&CFA). As one of the three "urban foresters", Katie Lompa, community assistance forester covers the 18 counties which make up the Eastern Oregon Area.

The City of Redmond, as a first-time addition to Oregon's list of Tree City USA Communities, received an award in the spring. This accomplishment was met through the focus assistance of the community assistance forester and a U&CFA grant over the course of eight months.

The Central Oregon District communities being recertified as a Tree City USA for 2005 included: City of Bend, City of Madras, and Sunriver Owners Association.

In addition to Tree City USA status, the City of Madras received a Tree City Growth Award for going beyond the Tree City standards. Tree City USA Growth Awards recognize the completion of special projects and environmental improvement, while encouraging higher levels of tree care.

The City of Prineville celebrated Oregon Arbor Week by planting a legacy of trees. A total of 90 trees, 40 different species were planted to create the Baldwin Industrial Park Arboretum. The city received a Community Forestry Assistance Grant and

technical assistance from the ODF UC&FA program to plan and implement the event which had city staff, ODF EOA employees and citizen volunteers out in mass with shovels in hand.

The Cities of Metolius and Prineville, through an educational scholarship from the ODF UC&FA Program, each sent a staff member to the High Desert Green Industry Conference. The conference is an educational and networking event for professionals who manage or maintain planted landscapes. The event is presented by ODF in partnership with OSU Extension and Oregon Landscape Contractors Association.

With Deschutes County's land being developed to meet the demands of the high population growth, the ODF U&CF Program saw a need to educate the citizen's of Bend, Redmond and Sisters on how to maintain healthy thriving trees. To do so, op-ed pieces were run in each city's newspaper to highlight tree care steps.

Gilliam County can boast having a Certified Arborist on staff, thanks to receiving an exam scholarship from the International Society of Arboriculture and the USDA Forest Service. The ODF U&CFA Program loaned educational materials to the recipient of the scholarship and is now working with him to "pay back" for the scholarship by assisting the three incorporated cities within the county – Arlington, Condon and Lonerock - with arboriculture issues.



Prineville's Arbor Week Tree Planting

"A record high of 43 Oregon communities have received the Tree City USA award."

Visit www.treecityusa.org

National Fire Plan Grant Funded Projects



Masticating Equipment

This has been a very busy and productive year for the Central Oregon District, implementing and coordinating grants funded by the National Fire Plan within the Wildland Urban Interface.

In 2006 the Prineville Unit provided landowners with 195 grant related defensible space assessments and 23 non-grant educational assessments. The majority of these assessments took place in subdivisions within Sunriver, Sisters, and Cloverdale, comprising of one acre home sites and / or vacant lots for a total of 218 acres treated. A total of \$68,800 was allocated to homeowners and landowners in these project areas.

The Prineville Unit also has a chipper grant that has been implemented throughout several Central Oregon communities; this National Fire Plan Grant has been split into two programs. One program provides a chipper and chipper staff to help the low in income,

elderly, handicapped or other needy homeowners to reduce and dispose of fuels within defensible zones around their homes and vacant lots. In 2006 Central Oregon District personnel provided 65 days of fuel reduction services to 233 households and 17 vacant lots which included chipping and disposing of fuels. This effort resulted in 3,204 cubic yards of chips or 320 dump truck loads. The second program provides for contract services.

National Fire Plan fuels reduction grant funding was also spent helping larger landowners with thinning and ladder fuel reduction. This part of the program reached ten landowners; allocating \$43,603 and accomplishing 108 acres of thinning and 234 acres of fuels reduction.

The Dalles Unit continues to work on seven grants funded by the National Fire Plan; four of these grants are nearing completion, while funds are still being distributed on the three remaining grants in Wasco and Hood River County. Funds are being distributed in areas considered high priority treatment areas in the Community Wildfire Protection Plans completed for these two counties in previous years.

The Dalles unit has signed up, and work has been completed on, 200 plus landowners in Wasco and Hood River Counties since receiving grant funds in 2002. Accomplishments for The Dalles Unit in 2006 include 39 evaluations, 302 acres accomplished, and \$181,002 allocated.

In John Day, National Fire Plan grant programs and related activities in 2006 were spread out over Gilliam, Wheeler, Grant and Morrow Counties. Funds have been allocated for fuel reduction projects within these counties, covering 800 acres. Two ODF employees cover this very large area, and make contacts with landowners, administering and implementing the National Fire Plan.

A lot of time and effort has been dedicated to making the National Fire Plan Program a success in the Central Oregon District. The accomplishments, dollars allocated and dollars paid out to landowners do not reflect the amount of hours spent and miles traveled by our dedicated Central Oregon District employees. Some how, with all the other duties assigned, district employees have been able to implement and make the National Fire Plan Program a huge success. Kudos to these folks for their dedication and efforts.

Unit	Defensible Space Evaluations	Acres Accomplished	Grant Dollars Disbursed
The Dalles	39	302	181,002
Prineville/Sisters	218	560	112,403
John Day		800	283,000
District Totals	257	1662	576,405

Fire Prevention



**The New Central Oregon Fire Prevention Cooperative Fire Prevention Trailer
Purchased with a State Farm Insurance grant and National Fire Plan Grant funding**

The Central Oregon District is one of the most highly populated wildland urban-interface areas within the state of Oregon. Deschutes County alone has grown over 60% in the last ten years. Because of the rapidly growing number of residents and recreationists and the highly diverse topography and fuel types, district employees have developed and adopted many innovative fire prevention programs and with constant evaluation these programs have proven their worth.

Fire prevention has three faces: engineering, enforcement, and education. Engineering and enforcement play a very important role in fire prevention; however, District employees know that the highest payoff is education.

The District stays highly active with the various fire prevention cooperatives in each unit. Unit employees continue to be the lead in many of the fire prevention cooperative programs; bringing fire prevention awareness and education to Central Oregon landowners and visitors.

Fire prevention has two main audiences: children and adults. Many programs in place reach thousands of children each year: Team Teaching reaching nearly 6,000 first graders, FIREBUSTERS reaching nearly 20,000 K – 5th graders, and the Cascade Children's Festival reaching 4,000 children; add on outdoor schools, fairs, parades, rodeos and you can see how fire prevention and the Oregon Department of Forestry make their name in each community.

Along with previously listed events, Health and Safety Fairs are another great source to reach both children and adults. For instance, the Annual Health and Safety Fair, held during Cherry Festival Weekend in The Dalles, in partnership with Mid-Columbia Medical Center, has public contact numbers well into the thousands. Hunter Information Booths are another main attraction; they are staffed in specific locations to contact big game rifle hunters coming through the area. They are provided with fire prevention restrictions, road closures, safe campfire information, and more. Fire Prevention at Hunter Education classes has also been a huge benefit to the dropped number of hunter related fires on the district. The district continues to sign areas with fire prevention information, write burn permits, and regulate the use of fire on private forest lands. Fire Prevention's National Fire Plan Funding and Wildland Urban Interface Fire Protection Act can also be reviewed within this year's annual report.

Partnering with other public fire and life safety agencies has been an amazing benefit to our agency. Pooling scarce resources, such as people and funding, to accomplish programs we may not otherwise be able to pursue provides consistent fire prevention messages across Central Oregon.

"Partnering with others has been an amazing benefit to our agency"



Oregon Forestland Urban Interface Fire Protection Act

"We now have 130 trained assessors and have partnered with 200 real estate agents"

The Central Oregon District has been making steady progress implementing Oregon's Wildland Urban Interface Fire Protection Act of 1997 (SB-360). Deschutes County is at the two year threshold of needing to certify their property; landowners that have not certified their property are calling daily to request certification packages. Deschutes County now has 130 trained assessors; most are associated with Home Owner Associations, and many are busy helping neighbors certify their home sites.

Through a cooperative agreement with the Sunriver Homeowners Association, the Central Oregon District was able to certify 4,200 homes within the resort; leaving only eight homes that for one reason or another do not meet the SB 360 standards, and as a result were not certified.

Crook and Wasco County Classification Committees have both completed their classification process and public meetings are scheduled for early 2007.

Jefferson County Classification Committee will be holding their initial meeting in February of 2007.

Central Oregon District employees are working with several counties to incorporate SB 360 treatment standards into county building codes; to-date Deschutes, Jefferson, and Wasco Counties have specifically referenced SB 360 in their respective building codes.

The District is in the process of establishing cooperative agreements with Awbrey Glen Home Owners Association to specifically incorporate SB 360 standards into their covenants, conditions, and restrictions (CC&R's), the agreement will establish a process where the owners association will certify all properties each five year cycle, maintain a minimum of three certified assessors, and provide the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) with a data disk each five years to be integrated into the statewide SB 360 data system. The District believes there are several other resort communities that will incorporate ODF's standards into their CC&Rs and enter into a similar agreement.

Other items in the works: the District is developing information packages for real estate companies, title companies, and the building industry. The packages will explain the Wildland Urban Interface Fire Protection Act, provide DVD examples of how the formulas work, and incorporate treatment guides and certification forms. On a side note, during 2006 the District co-sponsored three workshops in conjunction with local real estate companies to gain the support and understanding of real estate agents throughout Central Oregon for SB 360. During 2005 and 2006 COD has trained over 200 real estate personnel, provided them with home treatment guides, classification maps, and certification forms, all to be utilized during home sales where SB 360 applies.

Central Oregon District staff is working with Salem to develop a Public Service Announcement to further local home owner awareness of the Wildland Urban Interface Fire Protection Act, how to apply the formulas, and where to get additional information.

Administration

The year 2006 has held quite a few changes in the Administration Unit. After 30 years of service, Colleen Conlee, from the John Day Unit retired; she completed the year as a temporary employee to keep the John Day Unit afloat during fire season. Connie Wood also retired this past year and will continue to work as a temporary employee until spring.

We have also added capacity to the administrative staff members on a part time basis. This has been a great help with the ever increasing work load in the Central Oregon District.

Tracy Mizer moved from part time to full time in the Prineville Office. This gives us full day coverage for the receptionist position and has allowed us to shift some duties between staff, so that we can pick up some of the pieces that were not getting completed.

State Employee Food Drive

Every year state employees give of their personal time and money to help the needy in their community. One way this is done is through the Governor's State Employees' Food Drive.

For the Central Oregon District this year marked the third annual Green Bean Cup tournament where \$140.00 and 20.12 pounds of food was collected. Before the end of

Kathy Emmons was hired in The Dalles Unit as a part-time Office Specialist 1. Kathy retired from Clackamas Community College and has several years of experience in office administration. Kathy provides administrative support for dispatch and Private Forests Program. Kathy is a pleasure to work with and is a tremendous asset to the Admin Unit.

The Prineville Unit hired an Office Specialist 1 for the Sisters' Office. This position has been vacant for many years. Suzanne Lind came to us with 23 years of experience in the Sisters School District; the last 14 years she was the head secretary at the high school. She provides the administrative support for the Oregon Forestland Urban Interface Coordinator, as well as functioning as the receptionist for the busy Sisters' office.

the food drive another \$740.00 was collected!

In all, once cash was converted to pounds and added to the food donated, Central Oregon District employees donated 5420.12 pounds of food for needy families in Central Oregon.

All the proceeds went to the local St. Vincent DePaul.

Service Awards

Gordon R Foster-15 yrs

Dennis Klein-15 yrs

Tony Lompa-20 yrs

David Meyer-20 yrs

Travis Moyer-15 yrs

Promotions

Russ Lane—Unit Forester, JD

Ben Duda—Assist UF, Sisters

New Hires

Kirk Ausland, Stewardship Forester, JD

Sherry Rose, Admin Spec, JD

Julie Bullock, Office Spec 1, JD

Chris Cook, Permanent FO, JD

Chris Lewis, Permanent FO, JD

Kathy Emmons, Office Spec 1, TD

Transfers

Bob Young transferred to the State ODF headquarters

David Bailey, transferred to South Fork

Retirees from ODF

Colleen Conlee, 30 yrs

Steve Jolley, 30 yrs

Connie Wood, 25 yrs

New Horizons

Ryan Karjala went to work for Sisters/Camp Sherman Fire Department

“Central Oregon District Employees donated 5420.12 pounds of food to help the needy in their community”

Range Land Protection Associations

Rangeland Fire Protection Associations (RFPA) were actively engaged in fighting fire this summer. Three of the associations were heavily impacted by fire activity: Fields Andrews, Ironside, and Burnt River. With help from the Bureau of Land Management collectively they fought 22 fires burning over 109,000 acres. The Fields Andrews RFPA lost a type 6 engine while engage in a running attack operation in-line with two other engines; there were injuries or threat to fire fighter safety. This was an association owned vehicle that was purchased from the BLM.

The Oregon Department of Forestry, partnering with the Office of the State Fire Marshal, OSU Extension Service, and County Fire Defense Board Chiefs, assisted landowners in the formation of two new RFPA's: Post Paulina and Brothers Hampton.

Options included the formation of a Rural Fire District, Rangeland Fire Protection Association, annexation into an existing Rural Fire District, or contracting with another existing agency. Both of these areas chose to form Rangeland Fire Protection Associations.

These areas include approximately 624,000 acres of private land that previously had no fire protection services interspersed within in BLM lands and adjacent to ODF Forest Protection Districts and US Forest Service protected lands. This increases

the private lands protection capacity and reduces the impacts of wildfire on adjacent public lands and private forestlands. It also develops positive cooperative relationships between the rural landowners/ranchers and the public land agencies.

Each association is operational and both have two fully operational fire trucks and are working on additional slip-on fire units.

Support was given to the six existing RFPA's: Ironside, Burnt River, Twickenham, Crane, Silver Creek, and Fields Andrews. Support included: fire training, seeking grant opportunities, grant writing, mentoring, technical support, presentations, needs assessments, equipment procurement, equipment maintenance, GIS mapping, prevention activity, coordination with federal agencies, membership brochures, coordination of annual reports to Board of Forestry, and funding RFPA insurance.

Partnering with the Snake River Correctional Facility a new RFPA logo was developed. This logo has been designed and approved by all agencies and RFPA's, and is ready for procurement. This logo has also been turned into an 11 inch vehicle door sticker or magnet for RFPA use. A RFPA informational brochure was also developed based on the concept of



photo from the Rangeland PA brochure

“Neighbors helping Neighbors.” The brochure is in print and available at all Eastern Oregon ODF offices, OSU Extension offices, and OSFM offices. Additionally the same concept of the brochure was developed specifically for individual RFPA's as a tool in informing prospective members and a membership application.

There have been many requests from Central and Eastern Oregon communities to explore the options for fire protection and the creation of Rangeland Fire Protection Associations, and we look forward to presenting them their options and the opportunity to form an RFPA of their own.

Working Group;

OSFM
OSU Extension Service
County Court
County Fire Defense Board Chief
Local Federal agencies
Local ODF District
Neighboring Fire Protection agencies

“Rangeland Fire
Protection
Associations—
Neighbors helping
Neighbors”

Interagency Dispatch Centers



“ ERC’s were at a record high; numbers in the 97th percentile”

The Central Oregon Interagency Dispatch Center (COIDC) dispatches for the Prineville/Sisters Unit within the Central Oregon District of the Oregon Department of Forestry; as well as for the Ochoco National Forest, the Deschutes National Forest, and the Prineville District of the Bureau of Land Management. It was a busy year in 2006 with an above average number of fires.

The 2006 totals for COIDC were 324 lightning fires burning 39,365 ac. and 166 human caused fires burning 225ac. Of those fires there were 49 lightning fires on ODF protection burning 4,275ac and 40 human caused fires burning 32acres. The 10-year average was 27 lightning caused and 40 human caused fires.

There were five major lightning storms lasting three or more days with Energy Release Components at record setting highs for late July thru mid September; reaching numbers in the 97th percentile. Energy Release Components help predict how hot a fire will burn.

During fire season Central Oregon Interagency Dispatch can have 20—25 people staffing the initial attack radios, shared resources, the media desk, and ordering.

This coordinated effort, sharing resources, is a benefit to every agency represented at the center.

The Dalles Unit dispatch, which dispatches only for The Dalles

Oregon Department of Forestry, had a quiet year for lightning fires with only two fires. They dispatched nine different employees to 17 different incidents; some of these were out of state. Total fires for The Dalles were 33 stat fires and 18 non stat for 52.48 protected acres burned.

The John Day Unit dispatch for the Oregon Department of Forestry moved into the new John Day Interagency Dispatch Center in June of 2006. The center dispatches for the Malheur National Forest and the John Day Unit of the Oregon Department of Forestry. They had a busy year, with a higher than normal number of fires for both the Malheur National Forest and the Oregon Department of Forestry.

Dispatch Center	Total Fires	Lightning	Human Caused
COIDC	490	324	166
JDIDC	175	165	10
THE DALLES	51	2	49