

ANNUAL REPORT
2006

**WESTERN
LANE
DISTRICT**



Artwork from district employees, such as the late Craig Mackey, often graced the covers of Western Lane's Annual Reports. Stewardship Forester, Paul Clements, provided the personal touch this year.

FROM THE DISTRICT FORESTER

It was another successful year for Western Lane District. The fire season was long and dry, issues on pesticides and smoke were on the rise and our state forestland faced its first big wind event in several years. All were addressed effectively.

The fire season started normal but, lasted longer than usual. We were in fire season for 126 days and the rain during that period was almost nonexistent. With this lack of moisture, the district was at a level three closure for 19 days, from late August through early September. During this long season we had a higher-than-average number of fires (72), but only 60 percent of average number of acres burned.

The general public displayed a higher sensitivity towards both smoke and pesticides, and to some degree, logging. A group of landowners along Highway 36, self-named the 'Pitchfork Rebellion', appeared at numerous forums to express their disagreement with the practices of the timber industry.

In December, a wind and rainstorm put more than one million board feet of timber on the ground of the State Forest. After working to catch up on timber sale activity resulting from a personnel shortage the previous summer, the staff had to prepare additional salvage sales to capture the volume before decay occurred in the downed trees.

Work on the district's facilities continued with the preparation to sell the back 6 1/2 acres to the City of Veneta. The subdivision of the existing tract has been the first objective. This hopefully will be completed along with the sale during 2007.

Needless to say, none of this would have been possible without the hard work of dedicated employees who always answer the call no matter what the request or what time it comes. I would also like to thank the Board of Directors and landowners for all the help and support they offer the district on a continuous basis.

Sincerely,

Rick Rogers, District Forester

PROTECTION FROM FIRE

Western Lane District had a high potential for fire occurrence in 2006. Fire season began on June 26th and ran through October 29th. The potential for fire starts and growth exceeded the previous five year average. The hot weather and less than normal rainfall extended into late October. Public restrictions were imposed on July 19th and suspended on October 17th.

Below: Weyerhaeuser Helicopter, N108W, helps suppress the lightning caused, 8K Fire



Fire Prevention

Fire prevention is an integral part of the district's fire protection system. Through a diverse program utilizing various media, school programs, presentations, special events, public contact and other means, we were able to offer our fire prevention message. We made over 30,000 individual or small group fire prevention contacts and another 100,000 contacts using local media (TV, radio and newspaper) totaling more than 1,000 hours.

The administration of legal requirements is another facet of the fire prevention program. These requirements include issuing burning permits to forest landowners and the public, regulating logging operations and restricting access to forestland during periods of high fire danger. For calendar year 2006, the district issued 264 permits for slash disposal, issued 65 fire prevention warnings and/or citations, inspected and/or visited 186 operations, and issued 80 waivers.

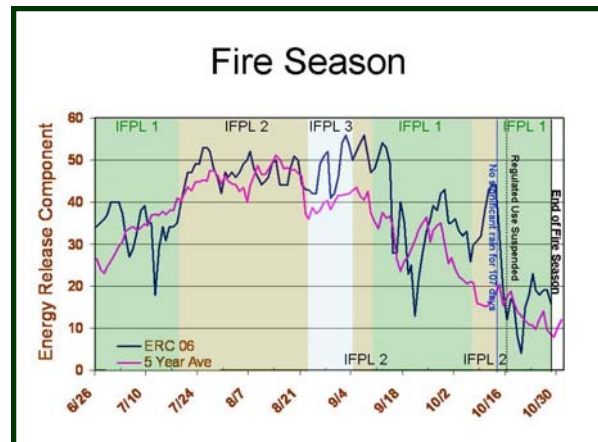
STATISTICAL FIRES PER YEAR

YEAR	NUMBER OF FIRES	NUMBER OF ACRES
2002	73	923.06
2003	90	664.49
2004	42	22.24
2005	39	101.61
2006	72	17.76
TOTALS	316	1729.16

Fire Suppression

Fire occurrence was up this last season, while the average acres burned were down. District crew members responded to 94 dispatches, with 72 of them resulting in statistical fires. There were less acres burned (17.76 acres) than the previous year. Lightning fires were the most costly. Debris burning and equipment use fires were again the leading fire cause in the district. Fires were hit fast and hard, which kept them small.

2006 Fire Season Summary		
Level	WT-1	SL-2
I	59 Days	59 Days
II	48 Days	67 Days
III	19 Days	0
TOTAL	126 Days	



PRIVATE FORESTS

FPA Administration	
Number of Notifications	1,236
Number of Notification Renewals	182
Number of Written Plans	452
Number of Public Safety Reviews	35
Number of Cost Share Projects	10

The Private Forests program in Western Lane District is administered by five Stewardship Foresters: Ole Buch, Jim Hall, Paul Clements, Jordan Ryder and Bob Johnson. Joe Lynch also stepped into the Stewardship role for five months last summer. Joe temporarily vacated the State Forests program to fill in behind Bob Johnson while Bob filled a fire investigator position in Prineville.

Western Lane is arguably one of the most varied and difficult stewardship regions in the state. There are high notification numbers, fish streams everywhere, incredibly steep ground, numerous protected wildlife species and a general public that has taken great interest in forest related activities.

Public safety reviews have now become one of the highest priorities within the district. These reviews are necessitated by our relatively high occurrence of debris flows in combination with the large number of residences and paved public roads located below prone areas. Often, consultation with ODF geotechnical specialists and private consulting

geotechnical engineers is necessary.

Public interest in forest activities continues to grow within the district. Twenty individuals now utilize the Forest Practices subscription process to obtain notification information. Stewardship Foresters spend increasing amounts of time answering questions and responding to comments from these subscribers and their local interest groups. One of these local groups, the 'Pitchfork Rebellion', landed the cover story in a free circulation called the *Eugene Weekly* last March. The group continues to express to the local area their feelings regarding chemical use in forestry.

Providing technical advice to non-industrial forest landowners and administering various tax credit, cost-share, and loan programs remain as duties for the Stewardship Foresters. Locally, they play a significant role as part of the volunteer pool for the Forest Field Day program. This field-based, natural resource education for middle school students occurs each spring and fall in Lane County. Thousands of sixth and seventh graders have been through this program since the mid-1990's.

'We now have over 20 individuals that utilize the Forest Practices subscription process...'



A multi-agency group met with landowners in 2006 to discuss the components and protection requirements for a significant wetland near Florence.

STATE FORESTS

The State Forests Program manages approximately 26,000 acres of forestland within Lane County on a sustainable basis. These lands are managed to meet an array of economic and environmental goals established by the 2001 *Northwest State Forests Management Plan*.

Over the past five calendar years, the total acres of timber auctioned has remained fairly

constant, averaging about 390 acres per year. Nearly 60% have been partial cut harvests. However, there has been a great fluctuation in net income from year to year due to the clearcut/thinning ratio, road costs,

and log prices. 2006 was a banner year for sale value with an auction price of \$6,690,000, less \$650,000 appraised road costs. This jump in income was primarily due to a 6.9 MMBF sale of common school timber near Vida, which sold for \$533/MBF. This was the first common school lands timber sale since 2000.

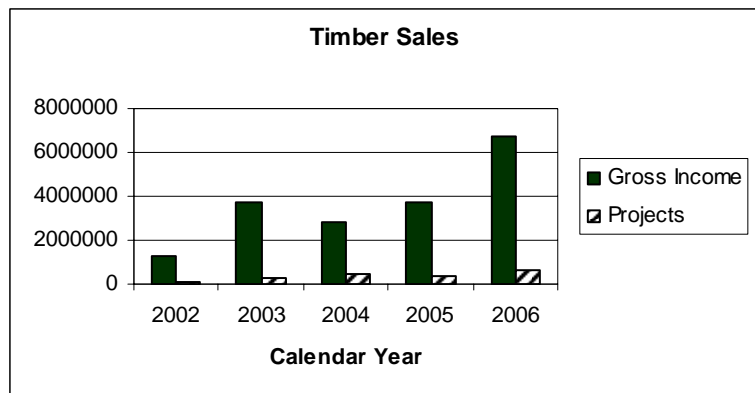
'2006 was a banner year for sale value with an auction price of \$6,690,000.'



Above: Created Layered Structure



Left: Hayne's Horizontal Salvage Sale



ADMINISTRATION



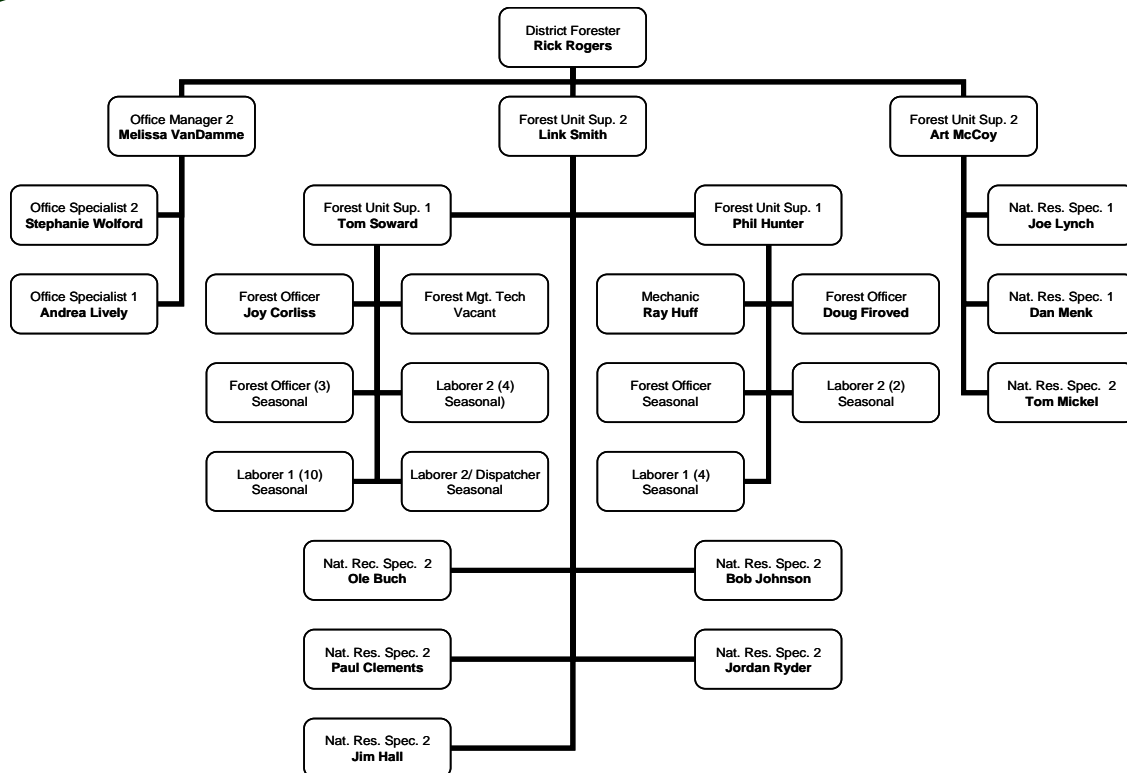
Western Lane Permanent Staff:

(From Left to Right)

Back Row : Jordan Ryder, Jim Hall, Ray Huff, Joe Lynch, Doug Firoved, Phil Hunter

Middle Row: Andrea Lively, Stephanie Wolford, Melissa VanDamme, Joy Corliss, Tom Soward, Bob Johnson, Dan Menk

Front Row: Ole Buch, Rick Rogers, Paul Clements, Link Smith, Tom Mickel, Art McCoy





"STEWARDSHIP IN FORESTRY"

WESTERN LANE DISTRICT
87950 Territorial Highway
Post Office Box 157
Veneta, OR 97487

Phone: (541) 935-2283
Fax: (541) 935-0731
www.odf.state.or.us