



ANNUAL REPORT

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY

From the State Forester



**State Forester
Marvin Brown**

Dear Readers,

Once again it is a pleasure to provide you our Annual Report.

As you can see, the Oregon Department of Forestry administers a diverse set of programs. We support the Governor, the Legislature and the Board of Forestry in their development of state policy regarding forests. We protect our forests from fire, insects and disease. We help private landowners manage their forests. We manage state-owned forests. And, we assist in the management of urban forests.

Functionally, these are all the things we do, but none of that answers “*WHY?*”

We implement these programs to ensure that Oregon’s forests are sustainable in both the near term, and for the benefit of future generations. We understand that to be sustainable, forests collectively in Oregon need to provide a complete and interdependent set of environmental, economic and social values.

These are the values – for example, clean air, clean water, wildlife habitat, wood products and income from timber, beautiful scenery and places to recreate – that make forests so important to people.

But they are also the individual pieces in a “House of Cards” that represents sustainability. If you pull any one of those cards out, sustainability of forests as a whole is in jeopardy. Each “card” supports the other and has to be thoughtfully provided if we are to sustain these important resources.

Economic values are what pay for providing the environmental and social values. Environmental values underpin the basic resources that generate economic return. And, social values create the emotional commitment that supports proper management and protection of our forests.

The varied programs we report on here are meant to generate this complete set of values in order that we can promote the sustainability of our forests. We hope you will conclude that we are doing our best at that responsibility. If you don’t think so, then let us know.

Forests are important to all of us now, and they are important to the generations that will follow us. We need to know if we’re getting it right.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marvin Brown". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

On the cover: Clockwise from top: Residents of the Camp Sherman community found a way to thank firefighters during the Lake George, Puzzle, and Black Crater fires last summer; through environmental education, ODF’s Jon Mayer helps students appreciate the natural world; Pygmy Nuthatch and coyote pups in Eastern Oregon; opening day at the Tillamook Forest Center; cable logging on the Clatsop State Forest; fire officials gather to remember firefighters at a new memorial in Salem.

Wildlife photos by Ted Schroeder.

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The Oregon Board of Forestry supervises all matters of forest policy within Oregon, adopts rules regulating forest practices, appoints the State Forester, and provides general supervision of the State Forester's duties in managing the Oregon Department of Forestry. The seven-member citizen board is appointed by the governor and confirmed by the state senate.

Board members lead Oregon in implementing policies and programs that promote environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable management of Oregon's 28 million acres of public and private forests. The board has prioritized its work into the following overarching work plans:

- **Forestry Program for Oregon implementation** - building Oregonians' understanding, acceptance and support for sustainable forest management;
- **State Forests management** - working with stakeholders to determine how new scientific information may be used to guide changes to forest management plans, including habitat conservation;

- **Forest vitality** - maintaining a healthy, productive forestland base and forest sector, and encouraging landowner investments that promote forest health;
- **Urban Forestry outreach** - building Oregonians' connections with forestry, and raising awareness and appreciation for urban forestry principles and contributions trees make to our urban areas;
- **Dynamic forest ecosystems** - increasing scientific understanding and public appreciation for natural processes - such as landslides and blow-down - that actually have positive effects, including benefits for wildlife habitat;
- **Forest regulation** - encouraging the use of incentives to encourage landowners to achieve public benefits such as habitat protection on private land;
- **Wildfire risk management** - improving the department's fire-protection efforts, including enhanced cooperation with other agencies;
- **Invasive species** - a work plan to address this emerging issue, which has major implications for Oregon's environment and economy, is in draft form.

OREGON'S BOARD OF FORESTRY PRIORITIZES WORK PLANS

Nearly 40 percent (11 million acres) of Oregon's forests are privately owned and are managed for a variety of uses. Because tree harvesting on federal lands has declined significantly in recent years, more than 80 percent of the timber harvested in Oregon comes from private forestlands. Private forest landowners range from companies with thousands of acres to families with small tracts. Many family woodlands are close to urban areas — the highly visible “forests in our backyards.”

The first such law to be adopted by any state, the **Oregon Forest Practices Act** helps protect water quality, sensitive wildlife habitat and other environmental values during harvesting. The Act also ensures reforestation after harvesting to benefit future generations. Forest landowners who plan to do a

commercial forestry activity are required to submit a “*Notification of Operation*” to their local Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) stewardship forester. Stewardship foresters advise landowners about requirements of the Forest Practices Act, and ensure that landowners live up to their responsibilities — one of many ways in which ODF foresters help keep forestland healthy and productive.

In 2006 alone, stewardship foresters processed 18,995 notifications.

Stewardship foresters provide on-the-ground assistance to help landowners reach their management goals while protecting forest resources. They help landowners access state and federal dollars for reimbursement of private landowner projects that help improve or protect forest resources. Programs such as the *Forest Land Enhancement Program* (FLEP)

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PRIVATE FORESTS PROGRAM

PRIVATE FORESTS PROGRAM

(cont'd from page 3)

are used to address insect and disease problems, the build-up of forest fuels that increase the risk of catastrophic wildfires, and other threats to Oregon's forests.

During 2006, 2,186 landowners received assistance with various management activities that affected about 114,128 acres of forestland.

Sudden Oak Death

Sudden Oak Death, an invasive fungus-like pathogen, was first identified in forests outside the city of Brookings in southwestern Oregon in 2001. Although the Oregon Department of Forestry has engaged in an aggressive eradication program on behalf of the Department of Agriculture since that time, in 2006 the number and acreage of infested tanoak trees in southwest Oregon returned to initial infection levels. Nonetheless, the eradication program – primarily funded by the US Forest Service – is still considered effective, maintaining the disease at low levels and within a 26 square-mile quarantine (note: multiple countywide Sudden Oak Death quarantines are currently in place throughout coastal California).

ODF is currently developing a workplan to deal with forestland invasive species.

To learn more about the Sudden Oak Death eradication program and other ODF forest health monitoring projects, visit: www.oregon.gov/ODF/PRIVATE_FORESTS/fh.shtml.

Forest Health Monitoring

Insects and disease can cause significant tree mortality, growth loss, and damage over large areas each year. Still, their value as a natural part of the forest ecosystem contributing to decomposition, nutrient cycling, vegetation diversity, and wildlife habitat cannot be overlooked.

The 2006 statewide annual aerial survey for insects and disease indicated overall declines in bark beetle populations. In contrast, increased damage caused by black bear, Swiss needle cast, and defoliating and conifer needle sap feeding insects was observed. Ongoing monitoring for non-native insects identified both Asian and European Gypsy Moths, as well as several exotic wood-boring species.

In 2006, Forest Health Monitoring staff made more than 1,200 contacts with landowners, land managers, and other agency staff through site visits, technical training sessions, and other interactions. For more information about the Department's Forest Health program and for copies of the Forest Health Highlights, see www.oregon.gov/ODF/PRIVATE_FORESTS/fh.shtml.

Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds

The Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds seeks to improve water quality and restore salmon runs. Volunteer activities are Oregon's home-grown response to listings of coho and other salmon species under the federal Endangered Species Act. Forest landowners continue to be one of the largest contributors to these volunteer activities. The plan encourages forest managers to maintain

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photo by Frank Evans, ODF

A male and female coho salmon spawn in a side channel of the Wilson River near the Tillamook Forest Center.

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or add woody debris to streams across 13 million acres of state and private land. Many do so voluntarily, and as habitat improves, so do fish populations, including those listed as threatened or endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act.

Cutting red tape to improve salmon habitat

In 1999 federal agencies began requiring permits for placing logs and other woody debris in streams. The process of obtaining a permit often took months, and many landowners and managers simply stopped putting wood into streams. After attempts to streamline the permitting process, the Department tried another approach. In 2006, ODF asked the EPA to allow placement of large woody debris under the Section 404 silvicultural exemption. The EPA agreed to this approach, and ODF has completed the process of adding these requirements to Oregon Forest Practices rules.

This change should really streamline the process for land owners working with state stewardship foresters and habitat biologists with whom they are accustomed to working. Once again, private landowners will be free to volunteer their support for Oregon's salmon habitat enhancement plan.

Selling the D.L. Phipps Nursery

In 2006, the decision was made to close and sell the D.L. Phipps Nursery. Seedlings will be available for this coming 2007-2008 planting season, fulfilling existing contracts and providing seedlings for family forest landowners as needed. To encourage private nurseries to increase their production of speculative or non-contract seedlings, tree seed was offered for sale in quantities consistent with the nursery's past production.

The process of selling the Nursery facility has begun. One state agency has expressed interest, and if that interest does not lead to a sale, the property will be offered for public bid.

Legislative direction to assure a source of forest tree seedlings to owners of nonindustrial private forests remains in place (with direction to consider means other than operating a state forest nursery). The department is now undertaking a focused review of the state to determine the availability and source of seedlings for family forestland owners. Preliminary results show that gaps in availability are likely to be minor.

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PRIVATE FORESTS PROGRAM

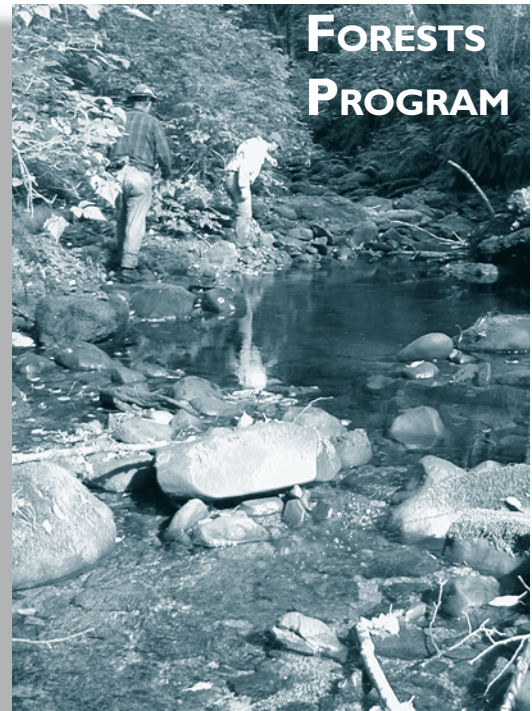


photo by Cynthia Orlando, ODF

An ODF stewardship forester and an Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife official check a stream in western Oregon for the presence of fish.

OREGON PLAN FOR SALMON AND WATERSHEDS

The Oregon Plan, nearly a decade old, has become so integrated into ODF's culture and day-to-day routine that its progress can seem imperceptible. These actions add up. *Oregon Plan accomplishments for calendar year 2006 are not yet fully tabulated by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, but the following 2005 figures are an opportunity to take a moment to reflect on what the department and private forest landowners recently accomplished:*

Improved Stream Crossings	Cumulative (Years 1997-2005)	Year 2005
State Forests	198	16
Private Industrial Landowners	1262	54
Family forestland owners	97	7
Total:	1557	77

Large wood placement projects		
State Forests	101	10
Private Industrial Landowners	362	14
Family forestland owners	67	7
Total:	530	31

Note: Participation by private forest landowners constitutes more than 68 percent of what is reported to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board.

PRIVATE FORESTS PROGRAM

(cont'd from page 5)

Forest Practices Monitoring

To ensure rules are effective in maintaining and protecting resources, the innovative approach of the Oregon Forest Practices Act makes continual reevaluation critical.

The Oregon Forest Practices Act requires leaving at least two standing dead or live green trees and two downed logs per acre on



photo courtesy Jeremy Groom, ODF

ODF interns assisted the agency in field studies to monitor water quality last year.

clearcut harvest units 25 acres or larger. In 2006 the Forest Practices Monitoring staff completed field data collection to assess compliance rates and to characterize the types of trees and downed logs being retained. Sixteen randomly selected harvest units were measured by field interns from Oregon State University's College of Agriculture and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Monitoring staff also completed field data collection in 2006 for the first phase of the High Aquatic Potential project. This phase sought to determine whether a geographic information system (GIS) could accurately predict where in streams large woody debris would benefit salmonids. Field data were collected to verify GIS model accuracy.

Data collection and analysis continued on efforts to evaluate the effectiveness of riparian (streamside) rules in meeting state water quality standards for temperature, and desired conditions for riparian forests and streams.

The Long-Term Stream Temperature study continued in 2004. ODF is monitoring stream temperature in several basins in a forested watershed to increase understanding of patterns and trends in relation to the forest management occurring within the basin.

The Department continued its participation in several other research projects, including the Hinkle Creek paired watershed study, which compares two watersheds, one where timber harvest occurs and one that is not experiencing harvest.

To learn more about ODF monitoring projects, visit: www.oregon.gov/ODF/PRIVATE_FORESTS.

Forests and carbon storage: a way to address climate change.

As forests grow, they remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store it in wood, branches, leaves, roots, snags, down wood and soil. Thus, they help reduce atmospheric carbon dioxide - a greenhouse gas thought to be contributing to rising global temperatures.

Many national and international businesses are looking for ways to offset their carbon dioxide emissions by supporting actions that keep it out of the atmosphere. Such interest may lead to markets where companies purchase "forestry carbon offsets" - transferable certificates or notes representing a measured amount of carbon dioxide removed from the atmosphere and stored as carbon - from forest landowners who manage their forests in ways that avoid losses to fire, insects and disease, and development.

In 2006, ODF continued its participation in the federally funded *West Coast Regional Carbon Sequestration Partnership* (WESTCARB). As part of this project, ODF is responsible for monitoring and reporting protocols in the dry, fire-prone forests of southwestern and eastern Oregon. Also, through the *Forest Resource Trust's* "Stand Establishment Program," ODF continues to fund the establishment of new forests on agricultural, range, pasture and brush lands.

The Oregon Department of Forestry manages about 780,000 acres of forestlands, which represents about three percent of Oregon's forests.

State forest lands are concentrated in five state forests: **Tillamook** and **Clatsop** in northwest Oregon, **Elliott** northeast of Coos Bay, **Santiam** east of Salem, and **Sun Pass** north of Klamath Falls. There also are a number of smaller tracts, scattered mostly in western Oregon's Coast Range.

Nine districts manage state-owned forests. All state forest lands are actively managed under four adopted forest management plans to provide economic, environmental, and social benefits to Oregonians. Most of the revenue from timber sales goes to county governments and local taxing districts, and to the Common School Fund to benefit schools throughout the state.

The Tillamook Forest Center opened in the spring of 2006, culminating a 10-year development project. The center and its programs help visitors understand and appreciate the Tillamook State Forest, its natural and cultural history, and its management. Education programs reached 2,362 students in 2006. Interpretive programs for older, more leisure-based visitors to the forest reached 3,434 people.

During its first year of operations, the Center welcomed more than 57,000 visitors from 49 states and 28 countries. Visitors have given the Center an overwhelmingly positive review with comments including "great job," "money well spent," and even, "eighth wonder of the world."

In 2006, two watershed analysis projects – the Miami River and the Upper Nehalem – were completed in Oregon's state forests. The information from these interrelated watershed processes is used to improve existing plans and accomplish future forest management objectives.

A statewide public opinion survey conducted in the spring of 2006 found Oregonians concerned about how forest management affects the environment,

the timber industry and recreation. Seven out of 10 Oregonians said they believed ODF does a good job managing state forests. Similar surveys are planned every two years.

State forestlands have become popular recreation destinations. Hiking, mountain biking and equestrian use of the trail system has increased moderately, while camping and day-use activities are most popular during the summer months. Off-highway vehicle use has increased dramatically, resulting in some trails being closed because of excessive resource damage.

Research and monitoring projects focused on the following overarching themes: monitoring the implementation of the management plans, stand structure development and its relationship to wildlife, hydrologic functions and aquatic and riparian habitat, young stand development, forest health, and socio-economic indicators.

STATE FORESTS PROGRAM



RECREATION IN OREGON'S STATE FORESTS

Numbers at-a-glance:

- Developed Campgrounds:** 14
- Campsites:** 250
- Camping user days:** 30,782
- Developed trailheads and day use areas:** 37
- Trail miles: (non-motorized)** 186
- Trail miles: (motorized)** 250

2006 State Forests revenue to counties & schools

Revenue to Counties	Revenue to CSF	Total
\$57,997,327	\$9,656,593	\$67,653,920
Visitors to Tillamook Forest Center (April 06 to March 07): 57,866		
Fiscal Year	Acres Reforested	Seedlings Planted
2006	9,474	3.6 million
2005	5,663	1.9 million
2004	7,348	2.2 million
2003	4,037	1.2 million
2002	4,517	1.6 million

URBAN FORESTRY PROGRAM

ODF's urban forestry program enables Oregonians to reap the economic, environmental, and social benefits that trees in cities provide.

Tree City USA communities reported the following statistics for 2006:

36,074 trees were planted
3,969 hazard trees removed
33,995 trees were pruned

\$34 million was invested in caring for the urban forest

Oregon continues to provide an innovative, high quality urban forestry program at little cost. The program helps cities make an investment in the future of their communities and helps enhance livability for all Oregonians.

ODF's Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) Assistance Program helps Oregonians improve their quality of life by promoting community investment in our urban forests.

In 2006, program staff continued to provide technical, financial and educational assistance to cities, schools, universities, local and state agencies, non-profit and civic organizations across the state. In some cases, staff serves as de-facto city foresters, making tree evaluations and recommendations for Oregon's smaller cities, who may not have the funds or the need for full-time urban foresters. The program is staffed by two federally funded professional positions.

In 2006, ODF's urban forestry program was proud to have the help of AmeriCorps intern Sarah Kresse. Kresse assisted with tree and park inventories and other technical projects in cities

all across the state, including Prineville, Echo, Lakeview, Sisters, Metolius, Hermiston, La Grande, Boardman, Independence, Florence, Myrtle Point, Brownsville, Mount

Angel, Durham, Estacada, McMinnville, Oregon City, Central Point, Bandon, Lincoln City, Junction City and Sandy.

Highlights of Kresse's many accomplishments included planting 90 trees in an arboretum near the entrance to the Baldwin Industrial Park in Prineville, and a tree planting project at Miller Park in Florence, where, with help from the middle school's "stream team" and a high school stream ecology class, some 60 trees were planted.

Other high points

The ODF urban forestry program serves cities large and small throughout the state. A record number of 45 Oregon cities, from as large as Portland to as small as Echo, received the Tree City USA award during 2006. Tree City USA, a program of the National Arbor Day Foundation, has been sponsored by ODF since 1976. ODF also hosted the annual state urban forestry conference, where 90 representatives of more than 25 Oregon cities heard speakers make presentations about the importance of tree inventories and management plans.



Tree planting in Florence, Oregon.

photo by Sarah Kresse, ODF

FIRE PROGRAM

The 2006 wildfire season challenged Oregon Department of Forestry firefighters, as the number of fires surged past the 10-year average. Most fire activity occurred in the Cascades and eastern Oregon.

In spite of severe weather and fuel conditions throughout much of the season, ODF and its landowner and agency partners were able to control 96 percent of all fires at 10 acres or smaller.

Air attack

In 2006, the department continued its strategy of swift initial attack augmented by aircraft. Two state-leased air tankers supported firefighting operations on state-protected forestlands as well as some U.S. Forest Service lands. Based in Redmond and Medford, the two DC-7 tankers flew 127 missions and dropped nearly 400,000 gallons of fire retardant on 18 wildfires statewide. A legislatively approved “wildfire severity fund” paid for the tankers, as well as a smaller lead plane that guided them to their drop sites.

Severity-funded helicopters stationed in Roseburg, Klamath Falls, John Day and La Grande, as well as northwestern Oregon, added a tactical punch to department firefighting efforts on numerous smaller fires that displayed high potential to grow large.

Total cost of the enhanced aviation resources, aimed at minimizing damage to the forest resource, was \$2.4 million.

New Wildfire Prevention Tool

Citizens concerned about the wildfire threat to Oregon’s expanding wildland-urban interface acquired a new tool for fire prevention planning. A data layer that displays the interface boundaries described in the various community wildfire protection plans (CWPPs) was added by Fire Program staff to maps on the Oregon Explorer Internet portal, <http://oregonexplorer.info/>.

The map feature enables portal visitors to see what portion of a community falls within the designated wildland-urban interface, as defined in the CWPP. The new map layer is expected to be a boon to communities adjacent to federal forestlands. For example, when a federal agency proposes a forest fuel-reduction treatment or a timber sale nearby, community planners will be able to tap interface data on Oregon Explorer to collaboratively develop alternative proposals that address local concerns.

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photo by Paul Ries, ODF

A helicopter drops water on the George Fire in the North Cascade District near Lyons last summer.

2006 FIRE STATISTICS* AND HIGHLIGHTS

Cause of fire	Acreage
Lightning-caused:	387 fires burned 9,662 acres
Human-caused:	960 human fires burned 1,614 acres
Total:	1,347 fires burned 11,276 acres
Fire statistics (10-year average)	
Lightning-caused:	296 fires
Human-caused:	758 fires
Total:	1,054 fires burned 21,343 acres

* Statistics are for the 15.8 million acres of public and private forestland protected by the Oregon Department of Forestry.



The Applegate Fire, above, and Rocky Top Fire, right, kept ODF firefighters busy last year.

photo by Jim Basting, ODF

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The business of fire

The business side of firefighting is the engine under the hood – seldom seen, but essential to forward progress. As in previous years, the Fire Program’s financial and administrative staff in 2006 guided the department in applying for and using federal grant funds, assisted with budget preparation, and maintained financial reporting and accountability for the diverse types of funds and resources managed within the program.

When major wildfires occurred in 2006, the work unit handled the multitude of transactions, including equipment leases, firefighter contracts, and interagency reimbursements generated by large-scale firefighting operations.

And, when volunteer and rural fire districts placed requests with the department for much-needed equipment such as fire engines, Fire Program staff coordinated the acquisition and distribution of used, but serviceable gear from the Federal Excess Personal Property program.

Fire weather

Like a Pulaski and a shovel, the pocket card is basic equipment for every Department of Forestry firefighter headed to the fire line. It gives guidance on what to expect about fire behavior, based in part on weather data from years past. In 2006 the Fire Program’s meteorology unit examined nearly 4 million weather records encompassing 10 years of data. Combined with local fire history, the cards will enable firefighters to accurately assess the current fire situation - a key to fighting fire safely and effectively.

Jim Trost was promoted to meteorology manager in November. As a staff meteorologist for nearly 20 years, Trost produced weather forecasts to facilitate controlled burning and minimize smoke intrusion into protected areas. In addition, he generated special forecasts to aid in the prediction of landslides. As manager of the meteorology unit, he will oversee these functions as well as other fire-related weather forecasting services.

2006 FIRE SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

Central Oregon District – While weather is a key factor in most wildfire seasons, it played a dominant role in the Central Oregon District last year. Of the 5,808 acres of forestland that burned, lightning-caused fires consumed 5,693. In sum, 219 fires occurred in 2006, with human-caused blazes playing only a minor role overall.

Walker Range Patrol Association – After many intense fire seasons, Walker Range enjoyed a relatively mild year in 2006. Twenty-three wildfires occurred, but firefighters were able to stop them all at an aggregate loss of less than an acre.

Northeast Oregon District – State and federal severity resources provided much-needed help as the district faced its second challenging

season in a row. Four large fires occurred on federal forestlands, each requiring the deployment of a federal incident management team. District firefighters assisted with all four, as some of the fires spread onto private lands while others threatened them. All told, 86 wildfires occurred on district-protected lands, burning a total of 3,311 acres.

Klamath-Lake District – The key components of the district’s fire-suppression force functioned smoothly, as firefighters held an above-average number of fires to relatively small losses. By season’s end, 127 fires had burned only 197 acres – nearly a third more fires than the 10-year average but only about five percent of the average acreage burned.

EASTERN OREGON AREA

Coos Forest Protective Association – Though fire season wasn’t declared until the third week of June in the association’s jurisdiction, CFPA personnel were already fighting fire in February. They responded to 23 blazes prior to the season, with 17 of them escaped backyard debris burns. Once the season officially got underway, it stretched on through October. The double punch of state severity-funded helicopters working in concert with forest industry ships caught several high-potential fires before they could grow into major incidents.

Douglas Forest Protective Association – The Umpqua National Forest stationed a helicopter in Roseburg for both the National Forest and the association to use, fortifying DFPA’s air attack, which included an association-leased helicopter and a state severity-funded ship. This enhanced aviation capability contributed significantly to an impressive season statistic: no fires larger than 20 acres in size. Despite severe weather conditions, DFPA and its

partners and landowner cooperators held 89 fires to a total of just 60 acres burned - well under the 10-year average of 688 acres.

SOUTHERN OREGON AREA



photo by Cody Watson

ODF Forest Officer Curtis Clark monitors progress at the Naue Way Fire, which burned 15 acres near Cave Junction in May.

2006 FIRE SEASON HIGHLIGHTS *(continued)*

SOUTHERN OREGON AREA *(continued)*

Southwest Oregon District – In a welcome break from previous years, the district experienced a fairly mild season in 2006 with no especially large fires. While the total number of fires came in close to the 10-year average, firefighters held the acreage burned last summer to three percent of average, as 226 fires burned just 158 acres.

South Cascade District – An August thunderstorm bristling with dry lightning started 17 wildfires, two of which became major incidents: Boulder Creek and Rocky Top

No. 5. In the following month, the Middle Fork Fire burned more than 1,000 acres. Overall, the district responded to 105 fires that burned a total of 1,205 acres.

Western Lane District – The protracted fire season produced 72 wildfires that burned just 18 acres. While the number of fires was up, firefighters were able to hold down the acreage to only 60 percent of average. As in the previous year, debris burning and equipment use were again the leading causes of wildfires in the district.

NORTHWEST OREGON AREA

Astoria District – Despite hot, dry conditions that spawned 21 wildfires, district fire personnel were able to limit the resource losses to fewer than 12 acres. Forest landowner cooperators made a big difference in the season outcome, as they responded quickly to fire starts with both personnel and equipment.

Forest Grove District – When it comes to the social impact of a wildfire, sometimes location and timing trump size. Such was the case with the Diabetic Camp Fire last summer. The small blaze closed Highway 6 for three hours on the Friday afternoon of a three-day weekend, turning the busy route to the coast into a parking lot. During the rest of the season, district firefighters held an above-average number of fire starts to less than half the average acreage burned.

Tillamook District – Fire personnel fought 16 wildfires during the season, holding them to a total of only 57 acres. While the district traditionally turns in low numbers, firefighters responded rapidly to fire reports, knowing that the lush growth of the northwestern Oregon forests harbors enormous fire potential.

West Oregon District – The 2006 fire season dragged on and on, ending up as the second longest in 10 years. During that time, 48 wildfires burned 50 acres – the low acreage a testament to the district's rapid response. Recreation-related fires stood out among the various causes, accounting for 40 percent of the total fires.

North Cascade District – With 183 statistical fires - nearly three times the 10-year average – district firefighters were on the run throughout the season. But in spite of so many fire starts, they were able to hold losses to only 188 acres burned.

FOREST RESOURCE PLANNING PROGRAM

During 2006, the Forest Resource Planning Program led and participated in several projects, including:

- Developing sustainable forest management indicators, organized around the seven strategies of the *2003 Forestry Program for Oregon*. These indicators ultimately will provide the means to identify outcomes and measure progress towards the goals of sustainably managed forest resources.
- Serving on the Oregon Forest Biomass Work Group;
- Serving as the agency lead for State of Oregon agency involvement in the Bureau of Land Management’s plan revision process for its lands in western Oregon;
- Completing the Dynamic Forest Ecosystems Work Plan for Board of Forestry approval;
- Forming the Interagency Mapping and Assessment Project;
- Outreach about the Board of Forestry’s strategic plan, the *Forestry Program for Oregon*, to other state boards and commissions.

2006 GOVERNOR’S FOOD DRIVE



Once again, agency employees stepped up to the plate during the **Governor’s State Employees Food Drive**.

Reaching out to help Oregonians in need, agency employees exceeded every expectation and challenge that was presented to them during the 2006 campaign, hosting chili feeds, making payroll deductions, and donating dollars and food.

TOTAL POUNDS OF FOOD DONATED – 6,377

Total payroll deductions and cash contributions:	\$38,936
Total pounds of food / employee:	383 (exceeding the State Forester’s challenge of 358 pounds per person)
Grand total:	239,994 pounds of food

BEST IN AGENCY:

The Molalla Unit,
(North Cascade District) @ 3,038 pounds per employee

AREAS

Area Director: Mike Bordelon

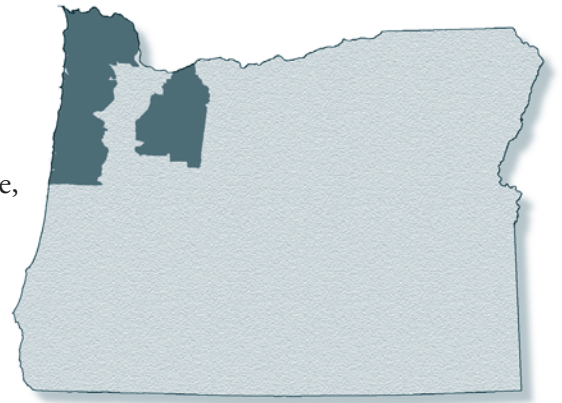
Headquarters: Forest Grove

NORTHWEST OREGON AREA

Acres of Protected Lands: 3.3 million

Districts: Astoria, North Cascade, Forest Grove, Tillamook, Tillamook Forest Center, West Oregon, South Fork Inmate Camp, J.E. Schroeder Seed Orchard

Unique Features: Approximately three-quarters of the state's 790,000 acres of state forests are in Northwest Oregon Area.



Recreation is an important consideration in the Northwest Oregon Area. With state-managed forests close to metropolitan areas, it's no surprise that people from urban areas are interested in nearby recreation opportunities.

Tillamook State Forest – less than an hour's drive from Portland – probably comes to mind first for most people. It has camping, motorized and non-motorized trails, picnic sites, and scenic viewpoints. It's also had an established recreation plan in place for more than 10 years that – along with ongoing public input – has guided the development of recreation opportunities.

Two other states forests are now joining Tillamook as a recreation destination. Clatsop State Forest to the north of the Tillamook and Santiam State Forest east of Salem have begun to implement their own recreation plans.

The Oregon Department of Forestry manages these state forests to achieve a range of social, environmental and economic benefits. Harvesting is designed to be compatible with other uses. It's used to improve forest health, develop diverse wildlife habitat and preserve water quality. Harvesting also contributes revenue to local schools and counties, and it helps fund the development of recreation opportunities.

American Dipper Bird (*Cinclus mexicanus*) surveys a creek near ODF's new Tillamook Forest Center in northwestern Oregon.



Photo by Chris Friend, ODF

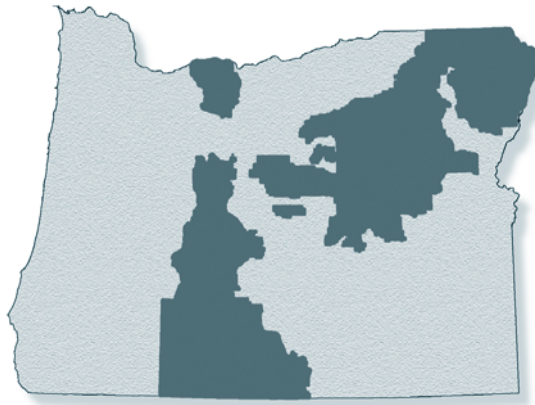
Area Director: Cliff Liedtke

Headquarters: Prineville

Acres of Protected Lands: 5.5 million

Districts: Central Oregon, Klamath Lake, Northeast Oregon, Walker Range

Unique Features: The largest of the three areas, the Eastern Oregon Area covers two-thirds of the state. Lightning-caused fires account for 50 percent of all wildfires.



EASTERN OREGON AREA

In 2006, eastern Oregon experienced a very active lightning-caused fire season, with one lightning strike after another throughout the season. During just one storm, 70 fires had to be dealt with in a 72-hour period in the John Day area. Fortunately for ODF's district staffs, total acres burned were down considerably from average on ODF-protected lands last year. Landowner involvement, interagency efforts with the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management, extremely effective use of "severity resources" (air tankers, helicopters, crews, and engines), and the planning and efforts of the districts all contributed to our high success rate.

ODF was also actively involved with numerous large interagency fires throughout the summer, including the Black Crater Fire (near Sisters), and Shake Table Complex (near Dayville).

Staff worked under Oregon's Forestland-Urban Interface Fire Protection Act, encouraging homeowners to take action to help protect themselves from the risk of wildfire. The Community Wildfire Protection Planning process was established, with numerous areas' plans completed and others in progress. Several grant-funded projects are ongoing to encourage landowners to take proactive action to help themselves.

The Klamath Outdoor Science School provided exposure to the world of forestry to more than 500 students during its first year of

(continued on next page) Photo by David King, ODF



EASTERN OREGON AREA

(continued)

operation. The backdrop for this outdoor education effort is the ongoing management of the Sun Pass State Forest, which does an excellent job of providing for the environment, society, and the economy.

A few years ago, it was estimated that there were more than 6 million acres of lands that no one would respond to if a fire occurred. Today, this number has shrunk to less than 3 million acres. The number of Rangeland Protection associations continues to grow, with several currently going through the formation process. Using grant funding, one individual is now working with the

Rangeland Protection associations to assist them with organizing, training, and equipping themselves, and with the costs of their liability insurance.

For its operations in the Klamath Lake District, Holgate Logging and Contracting was selected as the Eastern Oregon "Operator of the Year" for 2006. ODF's stewardship foresters worked effectively with the various landowners to help them meet their personal goals over the long term. By continuing to work together up front, numerous problems were prevented, and end results contributed to the continuous growing of Oregon's forests.

SOUTHERN OREGON AREA

Area Director: Dan Shults

Headquarters: Roseburg

Acres of Protected Lands: 5.8 million

Districts: Coos Management, Coos Forest Protective Association, Douglas Forest Protective Association, Roseburg Unit, South Cascade District, Southwest Oregon, Western Lane, D.L. Phipps Nursery

Unique Features: Two of the state's three forest protective associations are located in the Southern Oregon Area.

Progressing through the federal permitting process, determining the future of a program and battling forest fires are some of the highlights for the Southern Oregon Area in 2006.

The Elliott State Forest currently manages for marbled murrelet habitat under a 1995 owl Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). In 2006,



the Board of Forestry and the State Land Board approved pursuing a revised HCP which could increase annual harvest from 27 million board feet to 40 mmbf. This plan revision will provide business and management certainty while complying with the federal Endangered Species Act. Substantial agreement on HCP strategies has been reached in negotiations with

(continued on page 16)

the federal agencies. The department has hired a contractor who is working on a draft Environmental Impact Statement, a necessary step in the process.

Following lengthy evaluation and consideration, in 2006 the decision was made to sell the DL Phipps Nursery located in Elkton. Private nursery capacity has increased over time, and as a result, Phipps seedling sales have decreased, indicating that the private sector has the necessary capacity to meet most of the demand. The department is following the established state process for disposing of excess property. In the meantime, Phipps will honor all existing seedling contracts and will have speculative seedlings available for family forestland owners through the spring of 2008.

An August 7 lightning storm ignited 25 fires in the South Cascade District, all of which were contained quickly except for two blazes. The Boulder Creek and Rocky Top No. 5 fires near Sweet Home grew in size and complexity in old-growth timber on steep, inaccessible terrain. Local ODF personnel responded with inmate crews and out-of-district engines, and battled the fires for four days. A Type III firefighting organization managed the fires for two weeks to complete containment and mop up. The Boulder Creek Fire burned 63 acres and Rocky Top No. 5 fire burned 28.

photo by John Seward, ODF

On September 1, a small column of smoke was reported in the Middle Santiam drainage. The fire grew quickly and at initial attack was 20+ acres in size. Fire personnel aggressively fought the fire, but unfortunately, with temperatures near 90 degrees, a strong east wind and low humidity, the fire grew quickly. By mid-afternoon, after growing to several hundred acres it hit steep ground, and began to spread rapidly. A Type I Incident Management Team was ordered and, on September 2, 2006, ODF Fire Team 3 was in place to handle the fire suppression activities. The Middle Fork Fire burned 1,070 acres.

A lack of rainfall combined with coastal winds turned 2006 into an active fire season for the Coos Forest Protective Association (CFPA). By the start of fire season, June 22, CFPA had responded to 23 fires that had already burned 40 acres. Seventeen of these fires were attributed to backyard burning. On May 12, the Oberman Road Fire, south of Bandon and west of Highway 101, burned 15 acres of gorse and forced the evacuation of an RV park.

CFPA suppressed 74 human-caused fires and four fires caused by lightning in 2006 that burned a total of 187 acres. The largest fire of the summer took place August 21 when a series of arson-caused fires burned together in the Weatherly Creek drainage. This fire, known as Fall Creek, burned 142 acres of logging slash. Located in the northeastern corner of the District, CFPA was assisted by Douglas FPA, the Western Lane District of the Department of Forestry and Roseburg Forest Products.

SOUTHERN OREGON AREA (continued)

Agency leaders

The Department recognized a number of employees for exceptional work during 2006.

Awards included the new James E. Brown Leadership Award, as well as awards for technical achievement, team achievement, and work that honors the agency's *working guidelines*.

To learn more about the winners and their accomplishments, visit www.oregon.gov/odf

2006 PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS

From the top, clockwise: A helicopter pilot prepares to refill his bucket from the Green Peter Reservoir at the Middle Fork Fire near Sweet Home last summer; Stewardship forester Jordan Ryder discusses a release project with a landowner in western Oregon (some 2,186 landowners received assistance from ODF foresters in 2006); using an increment borer, environmental ed specialist Steve Hernandez shows school kids how to tell the age of a tree; ODF monitoring staff studied downed log retention last year, just one of many factors that contributes to desirable habitat for fish; America's kids flocked to their parent's workplaces for the 5th annual "Take Your Child to Work Day," including lucky visitors to ODF's State Forester's office in April.



photo by Tom Fields, ODF



photo by Jim Liesch, ODF



photo by Cynthia Orlando, ODF



photo courtesy Liz Dent, ODF



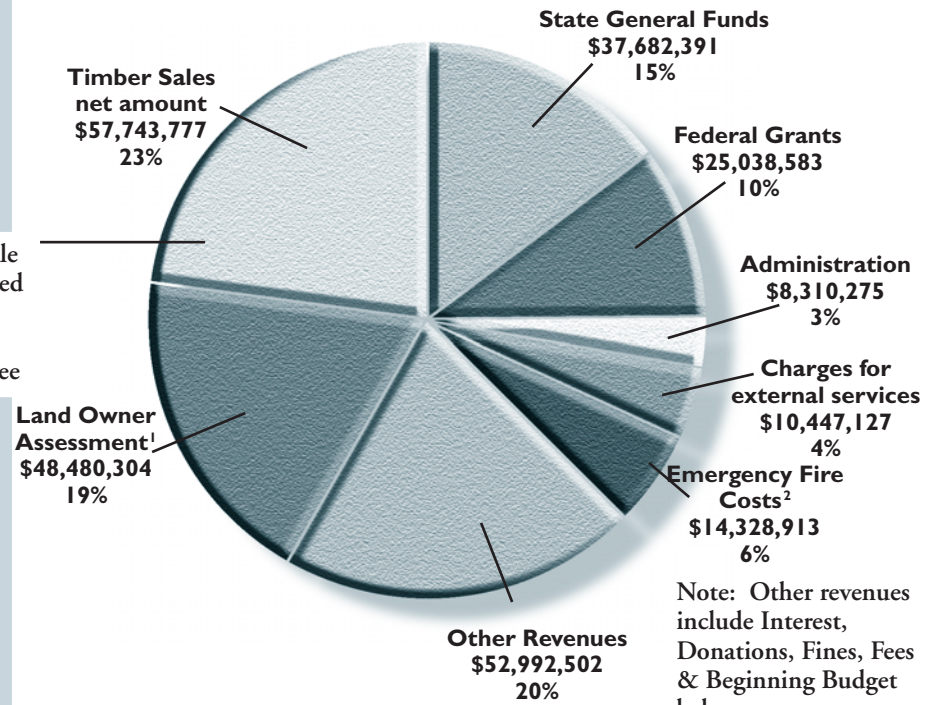
photo by Jon Mayer, ODF

BUDGET

These charts are based on the Department's 2005-2007 legislatively adopted budget at the close of the 2005 legislative session.

Most revenue from the sale of timber on state-managed lands is transferred to certain counties or to the Common School Fund (see page 7).

MAJOR REVENUE CATEGORIES (TOTAL \$255,023,872)

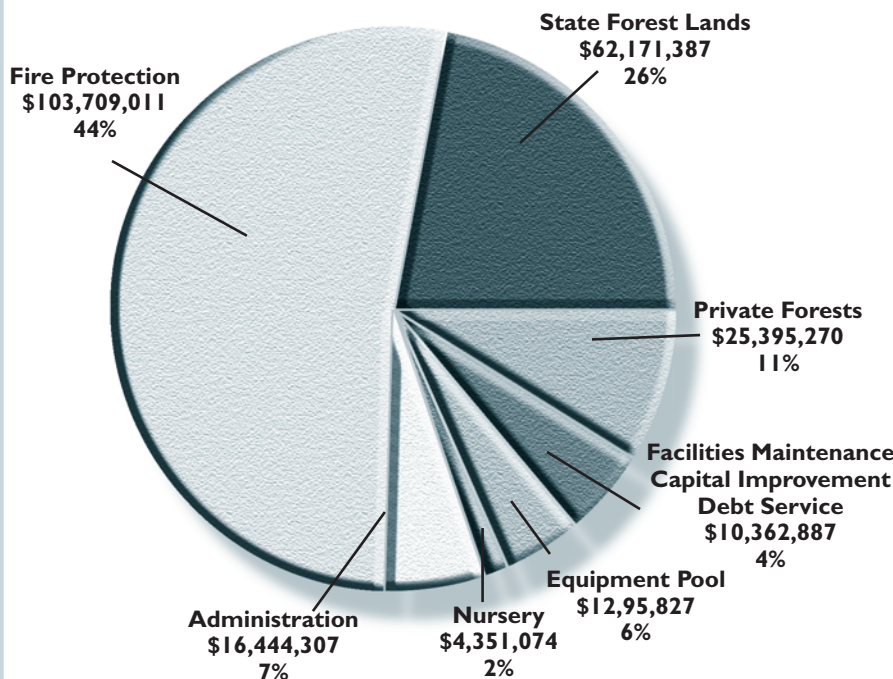


Note: Other revenues include Interest, Donations, Fines, Fees & Beginning Budget balances.

¹ Monies derived from forest landowner fees related to regular and emergency fire protection.

² Monies derived from federal reimbursements (FEMA, US Forest Service) and insurance and cost recoveries.

MAJOR EXPENDITURE CATEGORIES (TOTAL \$235,389,763)



ABOUT THE OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY



"STEWARDSHIP IN FORESTRY"

Oregon's forestlands are one of the state's most valuable assets, and comprise 30.2 million acres or 48 percent of Oregon's total land base.

Of that, the Oregon Department of Forestry's 700 permanent and 700 seasonal employees:

- *protect* 15.8 million acres of private, state, and some federal forestlands from fire;
- *manage* 780,000 acres of state-owned forestlands;

- *administer* the Oregon Forest Practices Act on all state and private forestlands; and,
- *assist* private forest landowners, local government and community groups.

The department is administered at the Salem headquarters. Throughout Oregon, directly implementing the department's programs, are three area and 13 district offices, and additional, smaller, units and sub-units.

To find a field office location, go to www.oregon.gov/ODF/offices.shtml.

OREGON'S FORESTS DELIGHT THE EYE EACH SPRING.



photos by Cynthia Orlando, ODF

Clockwise, top right: Western Bleeding heart (*Dicentra formosa*), Monkey flower (*Mimulus sp.*), and Western Trillium (*Trillium ovatum*) – which sometimes turns pink with age – are all common springtime forest plants.