

# **OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY**



## **COOS DISTRICT 2005 ANNUAL REPORT**

# DISTRICT FORESTER'S COMMENTS

The past year was a special one for the Coos District. It was the Elliott State Forest's Golden and Diamond Anniversaries. Diamond because it was 75 years since the Elliott became the first state forest in Oregon, and Golden because it was 50 years since the Department of Forestry began formal management of the Elliott State Forest.

To celebrate these milestones, the district held a tour of the forest in July that included three former District Foresters, and many other individuals that had worked on the forest over the years. From my perspective it was a very informative tour because the foresters that had actually lived the history of the Elliott were there to tell us how the forest became what it is today. Everyone who has worked on the Elliott should be proud of their stewardship of this beautiful forest over the last 50 years. (See the related story on the next page.)

The planning process for the Elliott Forest Management Plan and Habitat Conservation Plan continued resulting in a final draft FMP at the end of 2005. This was a significant accomplishment for the planning team. One in which everyone that participated can take pride. Attention for the next year will focus on completing the HCP and its associated Environmental Impact Statement.

The Private and Community Forests Program on the District remained at a busy pace in 2005 with many notifications for forest operations throughout the district, and continued demand for assistance to family forest landowners.

The engineering, timber and reforestation teams on the Elliott continued their fine work in managing the Elliott State Forest for the benefit of the Common School Fund and the counties. The district is fortunate to have a great staff of professionals who are dedicated to high quality forest management.

And the Administrative Staff kept the district functioning well as always in terms of fiscal accounting and personnel management.

My sincere appreciation goes to all the employees of the Coos District for another safe and productive year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Young". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**District Forester**



# The Elliott State Forest – Both Diamond and Golden

**By Jerry Phillips**  
**Retired District Forester, Coos District**  
**Oregon Department of Forestry**  
**Coos District**

It's not often that one can simultaneously celebrate both a diamond and a golden anniversary. But this year, the Elliott State Forest, located a few miles northeast of Coos Bay, can observe such a combination.

Created through a large exchange of scattered state "school lands" for one solid block of then national forestlands, the "Elliott" became Oregon's first state forest in 1930. So this year marks its 75<sup>th</sup> – or diamond – anniversary.



Jerry Phillips, retired District Forester

The golden anniversary comes from 50 years of management under the Oregon Department of Forestry. The 1955 Legislature paved the way for management to begin that year on July 1.

The 25-year delay in timber management was due mostly to our nation's Great Depression during the 1930s and the fact that the Elliott was a comparatively young forest. Ninety percent of the forest was in natural re-growth following the huge 1868 forest fire, so it wasn't ready for the commercial market until the 1950s.

All that occurred on the Elliott State Forest until the mid-1950s was work by the CCCs (the Civilian Conservation Corps), constructing roads, fire lookouts, and telephone lines.

My connection with the Elliott began on July 1, 1956. I helped on the first inventory crew and helped lay out many of the early timber sales. I spent my entire career on the Elliott, and from 1970 to 1989 I was the Coos District forester, so the Elliott is important to me.

It should be important to all Oregonians. Annual revenue generated from timber harvests goes into the state's Common School Fund, where it is carefully invested by the Department of State Lands. The income from those investments is distributed yearly to every public school in the state, on a per-child basis.

When management on the Elliott began, the Common School Fund was very small. Since then, hundreds of millions of dollars have poured into that fund from Elliott timber harvesting, and today totals nearly \$900 million – mainly from that source.



Jim Young, Rick Rogers, Clark Seely, Jerry Phillips

Oregonians should also be pleased to know that the Elliott State Forest has always been managed on a conservative, sustained yield basis. And over the years, more emphasis has been placed on non-timber values, such as fish, wildlife and recreation.

The concept of Oregon having its own state forest came in 1912 from one of our state's most farsighted and conservation-minded governors, Oswald West, best known for his actions to preserve Oregon's ocean beaches as public property and accessible to all.

Gov. West noticed that the national forests – only about five years old at that time – had become a social and economic boon for the country. He figured those benefits also could be realized in Oregon, with its considerable timber acreage granted at statehood to support public education.

These scattered lands were traded to end up with a more manageable consolidated forest. Negotiations started in 1912 and took 18 years to complete, and spanned World War I.

Francis Elliott, Oregon's first state forester, shepherded this project along the entire time. Then, unfortunately, he died the very year it was completed in 1930. So the state honored his memory by naming the forest for him.

The forest's land mass grew slightly between 1936 and 1949 when Coos and Douglas counties transferred tax-delinquent parcels to the state. This represents about 9 percent of the total 93,000 acres.

Gov. West and his friend, State Forester Francis Elliott, would be proud of their creation today, 75 years later, with its beauty, productivity and other public values.



Cheese (grilled) sandwiches and tomato soup for lunch on the anniversary tour. Chef Bob Fields and assistant Pam Wilson.



**TOUR ATTENDEES:**

Back Row: David Sturdivant, Cliff Mann, Rick Rogers, Gary Schulz, Rick Howell, Steve Purchase, Bob Fields, John Lilly, Craig Royce, Jim Young, Steve Thomas, Clark Seely, John Barnes, Jerry Phillips, Tuch Koreiva, Dave Cooper, Greg Kreimeyer, Stuart Love, and John Griffith.

Front Row: Pam Wilson, Art Simpson, Chuck Goodwin, and Dan Shults.

Behind the camera: Terry Leischner

## STATE FORESTS Forest Resources Unit

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During the 2005 calendar year, we sold nine timber sales totaling 27 million board feet of timber for a total of \$12.4 million. The team administered 17 timber sales, resulting in the harvest of 25.7 million board feet of timber and producing \$14.1 million for the common school and county trust funds. The team also successfully completed the 2005 sale plan and began the 2006 sale plan.

The timber team continued to provide support for the forest management planning effort. This included completing a preliminary availability study to assess the Draft Forest Management Plan objectives, and providing information for the Draft Implementation Plan.



Norma Kline (Unit Forester), Nick Morris, Jon Haynes, Ryan Greco, Matt Leise, Gloria Clary

We welcomed one new forester aboard, Matt Leise, a Northern Arizona University graduate. Jon Haynes spent five months in the Private and Community Forest Program in a Stewardship Forester developmental position. Art Simpson, a Northern Arizona University student, was our summer intern.

Gloria Clary was dispatched to the Blossom Fire as an inmate crew liaison and Art Simpson was dispatched to the Simpson Fire as a radio operator. Jon Haynes, once again represented ODF at the Tsalila education days. Gloria Clary, Nick Morris, and Ryan Greco helped out at the annual Lower Umpqua tree plant. All told, it was a successful and productive year.

On August 2, 2005, a motorized carriage crashed during harvesting operations on the 31-acre Piledriver Timber Sale, igniting the Marlow Creek Fire. Despite the immediate response by the logging crew, the fire quickly spread beyond their capabilities. Coos Forest Protective Association responded quickly with an aggressive initial attack, involving air tanker drops of fire retardant, and helicopter water drops, and by the next morning the crews on the ground had the fire lined and contained. The state suffered little loss. A fortunate result, considering that the Marlow Creek fire started in steep terrain, in dry in-unit fuels, and that CFPA was simultaneously battling a challenging fire in Camas Valley. In total, the fire burned 44 acres including 31 acres of felled and buck, three acres of stream buffer, two acres of reproduction, and eight acres of 70 year old timber. The burned felled and bucked was yarded and shipped to the mill.





## STATE FORESTS

### Engineering

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The Coos District Engineering Unit provides services and support for operations on the Elliott State Forest including land surveying, timber sale project work and forest road maintenance. The land surveying program extends its services to other districts located within the Southern Oregon Area and the Klamath-Lake District. The Engineering Unit also provides technical support to local watershed associations as the need arises.

The Coos Engineering Unit assists with the Elliott timber sale program by conducting cable logging analysis, road layout and design, contract preparation and the administration of project work. During 2005, the crew laid out, designed, and prepared project costs and exhibits for 3.0 miles of new construction, 8.4 miles of road improvement, and 0.8 miles of rock surfacing. During the road construction season, a total of 1.1 miles of new roads were constructed, 12.0 miles improved and 1.0 mile was surfaced.

The need arose this year for the survey crew to temporarily change their work assignments. About four months out of the year were spent assisting with the timber sale program. The crew assisted by reconning the sale areas, laying out access roads and gathering field information used in the road design process and cost estimation. The survey crew did complete one cadastral survey and continued working on the Elliott corner maintenance and remonumentation program. This activity is an ongoing process designed to perpetuate the existence of survey corners that were originally established by the General Land Office in the late 1800's. Along with these activities, they re-marked several Elliott property lines that proposed timber sale boundaries will occupy in the coming years.

Other projects completed during 2005 were the replacement of two large culverts deemed barriers to fish. One of the culverts was located in a tributary to Elk Creek and the other in Bickford Creek. The Engineering Unit conducted site surveys and prepared designs for each of the culverts. The installation of the Bickford Creek culvert was done as a project under a timber sale contract whereas the Elk Creek culvert was conducted as a joint project with the Coos Watershed Association. Coos Watershed prepared bid documents as well as the contract and administered the project. The contract for the Elk Creek tributary project was awarded to Nehalem Marine and the Bickford Creek project was carried out by Coos Bay Timber Operators.



Tim VanVleet, James McIntosh (Unit Forester), Chris Hall, Jennifer Griffith

Road maintenance for the 550 miles of road in the Elliott State Forest is performed by a road maintenance contractor under the guidance of the forest road specialist. The contractor provides the essential equipment and personnel to perform routine road maintenance. Routine road maintenance includes grading, ditching, spot rocking, brushing, culvert cleaning and culvert replacement. The contract was awarded to Little Log Logging on August 1, 2005. It took more time than expected to get everything up and running. When the crew and equipment arrived, they

found themselves with a back log of projects immediately followed by extensive damage as a result of severe wet weather that hit the area in November and December. Through the labors of everyone involved, all is in tact and maintenance operations are running efficiently.

## STATE FORESTS

### Reforestation

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The Reforestation Team had a busy year in 2005 with some personnel changes which affected the work load for all and weather conditions which interrupted the projects. The year started off with a planting season where approximately 176,000 tree seedlings were planted using inmate crews and a contractor. Work began in early January using inmate crews to plant nearly 68% of all trees. As the season continued a contractor with one crew was added, to complete all planting by April 18. Approximately 18% of all stock planted was western hemlock and western red cedar and the average planting costs for labor and materials was about \$233 per acre on the 477 acres planted.

During the spring of 2005, Mike Davidson and Terry Leischner continued their long time practice of inspecting all roads for invasive plant species. They treated many acres for Scotch broom, the most common problem that is found on many of the gravel roads of the Elliott. These acres were treated using either a back pack sprayer or an ATV sprayer. It has been found that

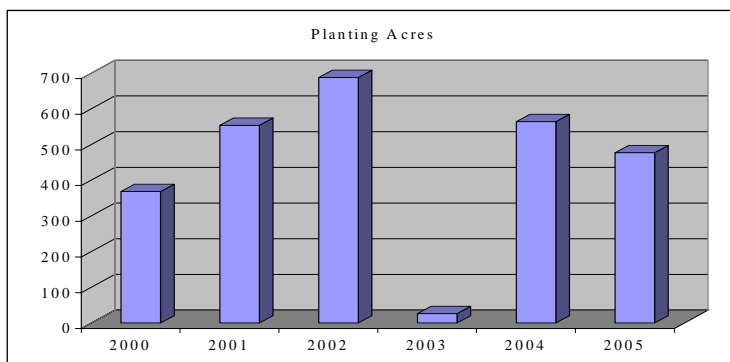


Roger Johnson (Unit Forester), Terry Leischner, Mike Davidson

after repeatedly spraying, for a number of years, that there are significantly less plants being found. Unfortunately, because of the invasive nature of the plant there continues to be “new” areas of infestation.

Also during 2005, the 47-acre harvest unit “Lone Surprise” was prepared through prescribed burning to become a cooperative progeny site. This unit located on the east side of the forest was ignited with a helicopter drip torch. Later approximately five acres of gentle terrain were fenced to be planted by the cooperative in 2006.

This year, the team was without Terry Leischner for most of the year due to his temporary duty assignment to update the district’s stand level inventory and create maps for the Elliott FMP and HCP. In August Forest Inmate Crew Coordinator, Steve Varland, resigned to follow other pursuits. Delos Devine and David Derrick continued working with the inmates to accomplish numerous projects including many acres of trapping for the mountain beaver, road brushing and fire fighting both on and off the District.





Delos Devine, David Derrick

The vegetation management program continued in the fall with a late foliar site preparation on the “new” harvest units. Treatment consisted of a combination of foliar and soil residual herbicides on next seasons planting units. These site specific prescriptions are used to reduce competing vegetation in preparation for planting tree seedlings. This 622-acre helicopter herbicide spray project was conducted September 17 & 29.

## **PRIVATE AND COMMUNITY FOREST PROGRAM**

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### **Stewardship Forest Administration**

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The purpose of the Department’s Private and Community Forest Program is to promote forest practices that are consistent with sound management and protection of trees, soil, air, water, and fish and wildlife resources while assuring the continuous benefits of the forest resource for current and future needs. This is achieved through effective administration of the Oregon Forest Laws and Rules that direct sound forest management practices while minimizing resource impacts during commercial forest operations. The purpose is met through a balance of education, monitoring and enforcement, as well as coordinating activities with other concerned state agencies, federal agencies and local governments.

The district adheres to this policy by coordinating and consulting with other agencies and organizations, conducting extensive prevention activities and, when necessary using enforcement.



David Taylor, Jennifer Wright, Tod Haren, Mike Hogan, Tuch Koreiva, Gary Schulz (Unit Forester), Pam Wilson

It has been a very busy and interesting year for the District Stewardship Foresters. During 2005 the District Stewardship Foresters processed close to 2000 new notifications and renewals. With regard to enforcement actions three citations were issued during the year. This low amount is a testament to a heavy emphasis on prevention and education and to the excellent cooperation between landowners, operators and the Stewardship Foresters in the District.

Due to a shift in workload involving one Stewardship Forester spending a year at Salem Headquarters finalizing the details of HB3264, the District was able to provide for several individuals to gain valuable experience working in the Private and Community Forest Program. All the Stewardship Foresters participated in fire suppression activities in 2005. Many long hours throughout the summer were spent aiding in suppression efforts.



Two Tree City USA recognition presentations were made at Reedsport and Coos Bay. Both were well received at the respective city council meetings.

We look forward to working, as in the past, with the forestry community on issues that will be identified in the future and those that we are now solving together. This cooperation insures the future success of Oregon's Forest Practices Act in promoting sustainable harvest and resource protection.

## Forestry Assistance

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Coos District has one Stewardship Forester tending primarily to non-industrial forest landowners (NIFL) forestry assistance needs, while the District's other Stewardship foresters focus on administration of the Forest Practices Act.

Once again, a number of non-industrial forest landowners received cost-share for non income producing forest activities through federal and state programs. The Forestland Enhancement Program (FLEP) is a voluntary program for non-industrial private forest (NIPF) landowners. It provides for technical, educational, and cost-share assistance to promote sustainability of the NIPF forests.

The Pacific Coast Demonstration Project, funded through the USDA Forest Service, continued to fund upland forest projects in young plantations in the South Fork of the Coquille watershed. Also, some Stewardship Funds were used to develop forest stewardship plans with the assistance of a consulting forester. This program encourages long-term stewardship of privately-owned woodlands through the development of a ten-year action plan that documents the forest resource, landowner management objectives and recommended practices or activities for the land



Matt Anderson, Project Manager from the Coos Watershed Association and Jennifer Wright, Stewardship Forester visit a riparian planting project which is part of the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program.

Efficient collaboration between Stewardship Foresters, the local Natural Resource Conservation Services (NRCS) and Coos Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) personnel continued all through the year, assuring completion of Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Contracts and Environmental Quality Incentives Program Contracts.

This year these different programs contributed to the accomplishment of over 400 acres of timber stand improvement, 64 acres of site preparation, over 100 acres of plantation, close to two miles of improvement of fish habitat as well as almost two miles of road improvement.

As of December 8, 2005, eradication treatments for sudden oak death were in progress on 51 sites, totaling approximately 88 acres. The majority of sites are on private land. Both the number of newly infected trees and the number of newly infested acres increased in 2005 compared to 2004. This increase may be partially attributable to the unusually wet spring and summer weather. Of the nine new sites detected in 2005, eight were within 1/4 mile of

previously known sites, and one was approximately 1/2 mile away from a known site. This latter site consisted of two infected trees just east of the current quarantine boundary, and on the east side of the North Fork Chetco River. Both infected trees had no crown symptoms, and were discovered during ground surveys triggered by the recovery of *P. ramorum* from rhododendron leaf baits in a nearby stream in October 2005. In addition to these nine new sites, nine existing eradication sites were expanded to include infected trees that were found near their perimeters in 2005. At the landscape level, the distribution of newly infected trees continues to suggest spread in a north to northeast direction, following the south to southwest winds that prevail during rainy periods.

Monitoring within the eradication sites has shown that the pathogen survived cutting and burning on many sites, primarily in stumps and sprouts of host plants that were infected prior to cutting. Since 2003 all stumps and sprouts of host vegetation on private land were treated with herbicide to kill sprouts and prevent future sprouting. On federal lands sprouts are being cut and burned repeatedly in order to keep sites free of host sprouts until the pathogen can no longer be recovered. Ongoing chemical and mechanical destruction of sprouts on all sites will be essential to curtail future spread of the pathogen. The eradication protocol on private land now requires injecting trees with herbicide at least two weeks prior to cutting to prevent sprouting.

Despite several new occurrences of *P. ramorum* in 2004 and 2005, distribution of the pathogen in Oregon forests remains limited to a very small area near Brookings, suggesting that the eradication effort has at least slowed the spread of the pathogen. Repeated aerial surveys and ground checks have failed to detect the pathogen in forests beyond this area. The forested area in Oregon under quarantine by the Oregon Department of Agriculture and USDA- APHIS was 11 square mile as of the end of 2005, and will increase soon to include recent discoveries. Efforts to eradicate the pathogen from Oregon forests likely will continue for several years.

In 2005 Stewardship Foresters continued to work cooperatively with the local OSU Extension Forestry Forest Educator. Stewardship Foresters also maintain beneficial relationships with the Oregon Small Woodland Association, watershed councils, ODFW and the Coos County Weed Advisory Board.

## Safety

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The Coos District Safety Committee had several accomplishments during 2005 including:

- Conversion of the District Safety Plan to the new Model Safety Plan format.
- Conducted all required safety and fire refresher training.
- Acquired 2 new OHV's for District use and implemented new checkout procedures.
- Conducted office ergonomic assessments for many employees and purchased new chairs for several employees.
- Provided sweatshirts with the ODF and new district logo as the 2005 safety recognition award.
- Completed upgrades to the employee entrance walkway at the south end of the building.
- Provided safety whistles, poison oak/ivy block, insect repellent and vehicle first aid kit refills for all field employees.
- Acquired reflective safety road triangles for all district vehicles.
- Updated Emergency Medical Evacuation Procedures cards and placed in vehicles and posted around the office.
- Upgraded and expanded safety bulletin boards in the main office hallway.
- U.S. Coast Guard speaker discussed emergency helicopter evacuation procedures from the forest and OR-OSHA speaker discussed safety around active logging operations.

## Administration

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### Personnel Changes

Another year of change at Coos District.

Arthur Simpson II – Hired May thru August as an Intern on the Timber Team and worked on Simpson Fire.

Ryan Greco - Promoted from Limited Duration to Permanent NRS1 on the Timber Team in January.

Nick Morris - Hired in February for Limited Duration NRS1, and promoted in August to Permanent NRS1 on the Timber Team.

Matthew Leise - Hired in August as a Limited Duration NRS1 on the Timber Team.

Steve Varland - Resigned in August as Forest Inmate Crew Coordinator.

Michael Hogan - Returned in November to his NRS2 position at Coos District from a Career Development assignment in Salem.

Jennifer Wright – Served as part-time Planning Coordinator for the Elliott FMP/HCP planning process.



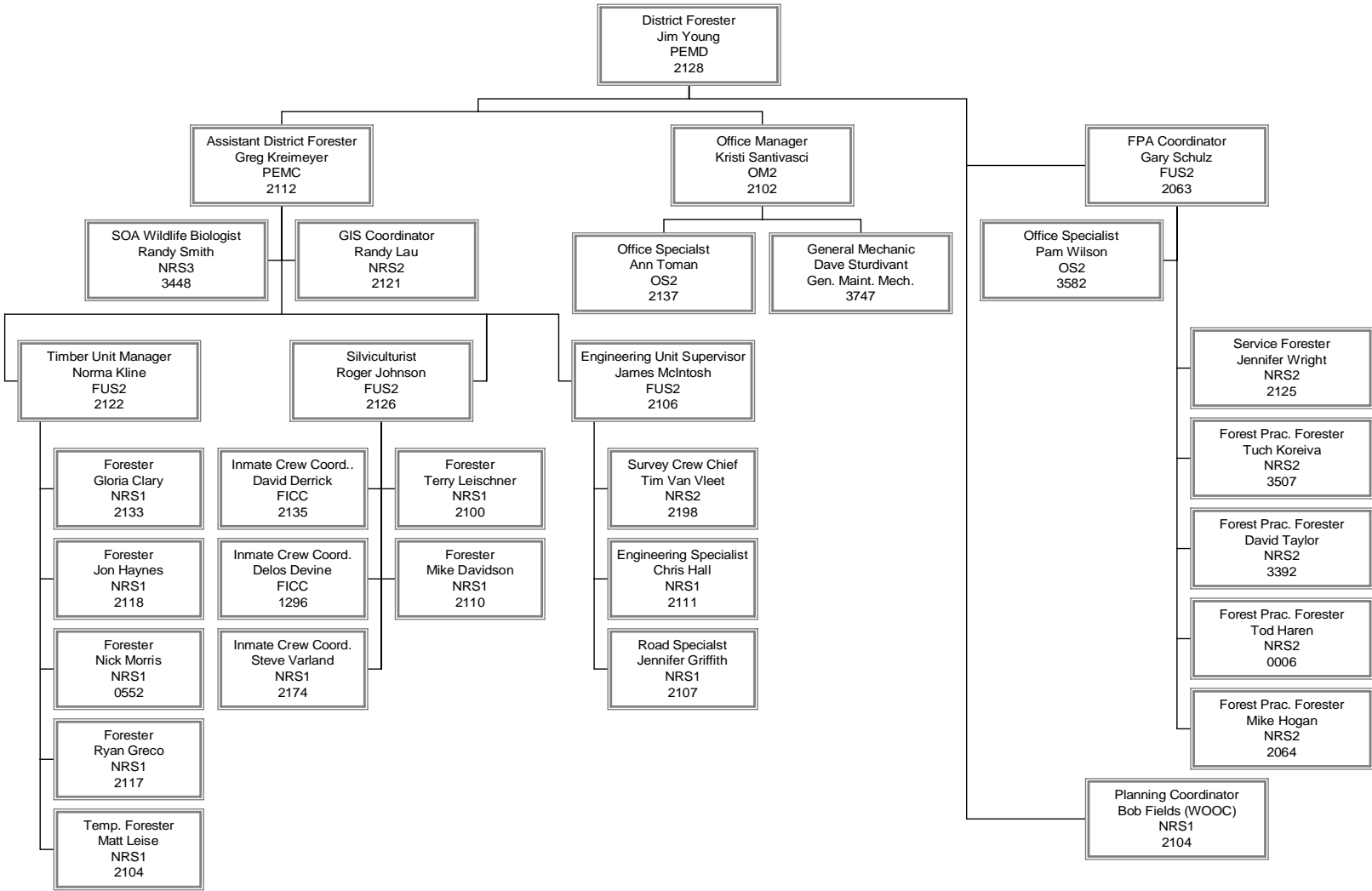
Greg Kreimeyer, Ann Toman, Jim Young (District Forester), Randy Smith, David Sturdivant, Bob Fields, Kristi Santivaschi

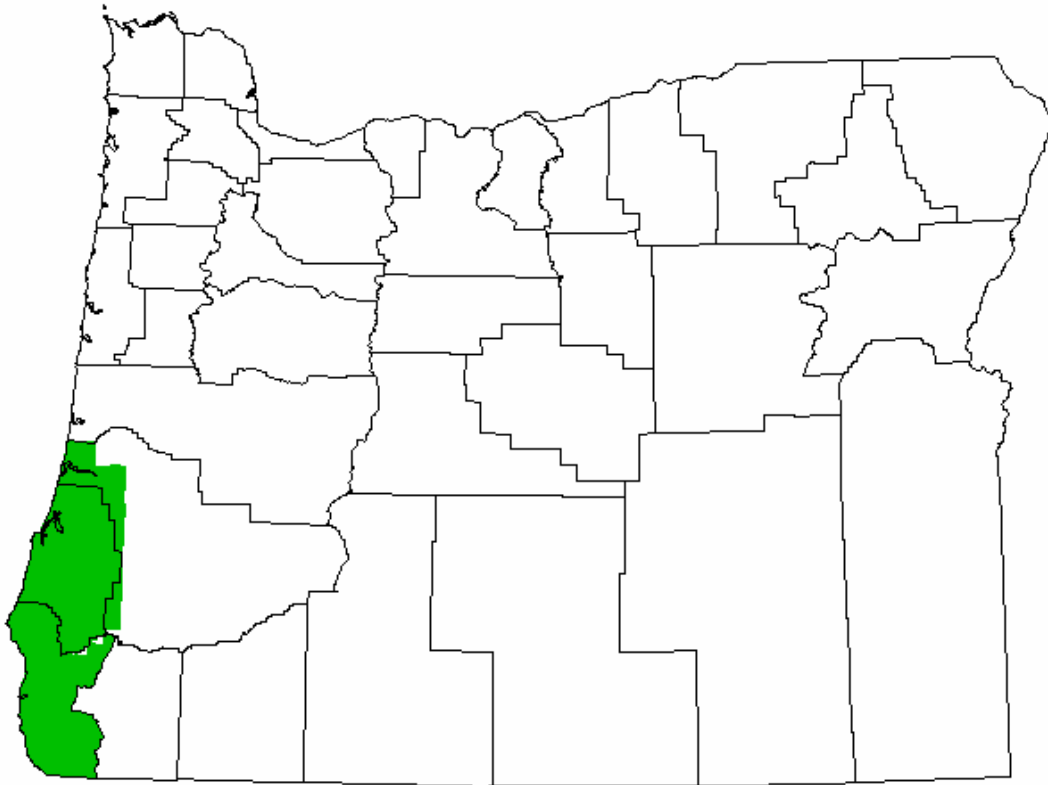


Randall Lau



# Coos District Organizational Chart – 2005





OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY

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