



OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY

"STEWARDSHIP IN FORESTRY"



COOS DISTRICT 2007 ANNUAL REPORT

DISTRICT FORESTER COMMENTS

Welcome to the Coos District annual report for 2007. The past year was once again a busy one for the employees of the district. In addition to the regular activities of managing the Elliott State Forest and administering the Private Forests program, work on the Elliott State Forest planning process continued meaning an additional workload for district employees.

The past year was a challenging one for the timber industry. In 2007 the decline in the national housing industry greatly affected the timber market in the state. This, in turn, has affected both our Private Forests program and the State Forests program. Reduced demand for logs has meant a slowdown in harvesting on some private lands; and for the Elliott, some of our younger timber sales had no bidders. Locally the closure of the Coos Bay rail line has affected the transport of lumber products out of the Coos Bay area, forcing mills to rely on trucking to get their products to inland markets. The effects from the general downturn in the timber market will continue to be felt for the next several years.

Though the timber market was down, district employees continued to be very busy during the year. On the Elliott State Forest work continued on setting up and administering timber sales, laying out new roads to access sales, maintaining our existing road system, property line survey on the Elliott and other districts, and reforestation and young stand management. Our inmate crew coordinators continued their supervision of Shutter Creek inmate crews working on the Elliott and on fires throughout the state. In the Private Forests program Stewardship Foresters continued to be busy administering the Forest Practices Act and assisting Family Forestland owners. The Administration Unit provided support in many ways including general oversight and management, payroll and bill paying, GIS and computer system maintenance, vehicle fleet maintenance, and biologic assessments and surveys.

In addition, there were several personnel changes in both the Private Forests and State Forests programs in the district during 2007. The personnel section at the end of the report has details on the changes over the past year.

In addition to their work on the district, many Coos District employees spent time away from their families during the summer to help fight major fires in other parts of the state. Employees remaining on the district took on additional work to fill in for those on fire assignments. This important contribution to the Fire Protection program by all the district's employees is much appreciated.

In short, Coos District employees accomplished much in 2007. I am very appreciative of their dedication and professionalism, and the valuable work they accomplish for the people of Oregon.

Jim Young

District Forester

STATE FORESTS FOREST RESOURCES UNIT

During the 2007 calendar year, we sold seven timber sales totaling 20 million board feet of timber for a total of \$10.8 million. The team administered 15 timber sales, resulting in the harvest of 23.7 million board feet of timber and producing \$13.3 million for the Common School Fund and counties. The team also completed sale preparation for the 2007 sale plan.



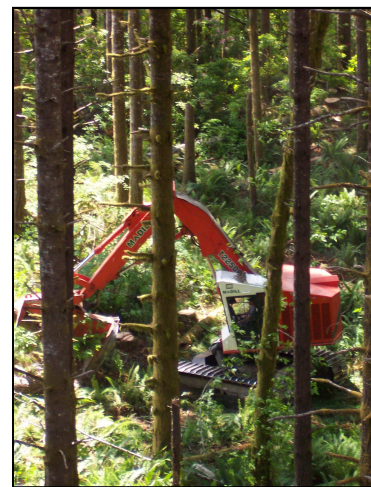
Left to Right: Nick Morris, Norma Kline, Gloria Clary, Jon Haynes, Ryan Greco, Matt Wells

The timber team was busy in the spring of 2007 developing the availability review for the Implementation Plan for the revised Elliott Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and Forest Management Plan (FMP). The purpose of the availability review was to take the goals, objectives, and constraints developed in the HCP and FMP, and verify that they could be implemented in the field. The team developed the availability review using the Elliott's Stand Level Inventory (SLI), spatial data in the geographic information system (GIS) and knowledge of the ground.

The timber team also began working on a mature stand thinning sale proposal for the 2010 annual operation plan. This project includes 1000 acres of mature stand to maintain stand health, create structural characteristics beneficial to wildlife, and produce revenue. We estimate that approximately 10,000 board feet per acre will be harvested in the thinning operation. The district began working with the USFW and ODFW to ensure that the thinning prescriptions and locations meet the intent of both the current and planned Habitat Conservation Plans and Forest Management Plans. The proposed units will be surveyed for marbled murrelets in the 2008 and 2009 survey seasons.

We welcomed a new limited duration forester aboard, Matt Wells, an Oregon State graduate. Our summer interns were Chris Sorenson from Northern Arizona University and Kellen Murphy from Syracuse University in New York. Chris and Kellen spent the summer cruising young stand thinning units and classifying streams according to the department's aquatic riparian strategy guidelines. Classification of the streams by the interns in advance of sale prep work has been a big time saver for the Coos Team.

During the summer, Nick was dispatched to the Cottonwood Creek fire near Joseph as a radio operator. Ryan went to the Shelton fire in Fossil and the Poomacha fire in San Diego as a status check-in recorder. Gloria and Matt were dis-



Madill feller-buncher harvesting the Ash Valley School timber sale.

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patched to the Shelton fire- Gloria as a time keeper and Matt as a radio operator. Jon Haynes, once again represented ODF at the Tsalila education days in Reedsport. Gloria and Matt helped out staffing the ODF booth and talking to school children about forestry at the Tsalila education festival. Gloria and Matt also helped out with the SAF's Resource Days at South Slough. Gloria attended the SAF convention in Portland.

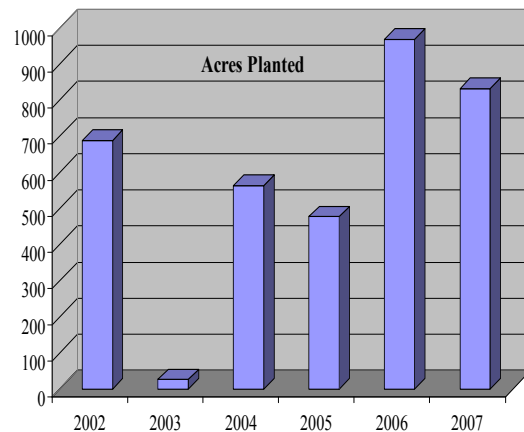
It was another productive year; the timber team had the opportunity to participate in a variety of interesting projects while keeping on top of the primary goals of timber sale planning and administration.

STATE FORESTS REFORESTATION

The year 2007 brought some changes to the Reforestation team but many of the silvicultural operations used on the Elliott State Forest were the same as in the past. The team consists of Roger Johnson as the unit supervisor with foresters Mike Davidson and Terry Leischner and forest inmate crew coordinators Dave Derrick and Delos Devine. One major change was the promotion of Delos Devine to a new position and the hiring of his replacement Ryan Olson.

The year's tree planting season was delayed by snow until January 23rd, a delay of three weeks from the normal January 2nd start date. To get the very best planting done, a request for proposal (RFP) was used to evaluate qualifications, experience, and price per acre, for several bidders. "Forests for the Future" from Turner, Oregon, was selected to do the planting on 628 acres in 18 units. The contract included both initial planting and interplanting using bare root seedlings. The majority of the seedlings planted were Douglas-fir but some units had a mix of 30% hemlock and red cedar. With a surplus of seedlings remaining after completion of the contract in March, we contracted for the interplanting of an additional 154 acres and 40,000 seedlings. In addition, the inmate crews planted approximately 15,000 seedlings on 50 acres in March and April. The season was completed on April 13th with over 300,000 seedlings planted on 832 acres.

Two herbicide management projects, used to reduce vegetative competition, were completed this year. The first was a small spring pre-emergent aerial helicopter spray on 40 acres over planted seedlings in a progeny test plantation. The second was our larger late foliar aerial helicopter site preparation spray



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on 387 acres. This project was completed in September on 14 units that were scheduled to be planted in January 2008. The non-native vegetation program was also continued by treating Scotch broom, during the Spring using ground equipment.

The Forest Inmate Crew Coordinators, using inmates from the Shutter Creek Corrections Facility, worked throughout the year using two 10-man crews. These crews do all mountain beaver trapping on the Elliott, plant small acreages and brush roads. These crews are also available for state-wide fire-fighting dispatch and in 2007 they went to three fires for a total of 12 working days.

STATE FORESTS ENGINEERING

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 assistance to local watershed groups when joint watershed enhancement projects are carried out on the Elliott.

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 2007, the crew laid out, designed, and prepared project costs and exhibits for 1.75 miles of new construction, 5.0 miles of road improvement, 0.7 mi of new road surfacing, seven rock stockpiles, and one fish passage culvert replacement. During the 2007 road construction season, a total of 1.1 miles of new roads were constructed, 1.2 miles improved, 0.9 miles surfaced, and four rock stockpiles were completed.

This past year, the survey crew completed two public land survey projects and began working on a third project involving just over two miles of property line along the southerly boundary of the Elliott. One survey was located in the Klamath District and the other two on Coos District. The Klamath project proved to be quite interesting in that the survey involved the border between Oregon and California.



Left to Right: Jennifer Griffith, Chris Hall, Tim VanVleet, James McIntosh

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 year started and ended with the crew performing major storm cleanup throughout the Elliott. December storms had

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left the roads blocked by down trees and small slides across the forest. In the fall of 2007, the crew worked on a joint project with the Coos Watershed Association on the 7600 road. Under this project, the crew replaced 19 existing culverts and added ten new culverts in order to improve the drainage for the road system.

PRIVATE FORESTS PROGRAM

The Private Forests Program encompasses various aspects of promoting and supporting landowners in improving forest health, timber, fish and wildlife habitat, soil and water quality, recreation opportunities and aesthetics of private forests through information, technical assistance, financial incentives and regulation.

Forest Practices

The purpose of the Department's Forest Practices Act 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 administration of Oregon laws and rules that direct sound forest management practices while minimizing resource impacts during commercial forest operations. These goals are met through a balance of prevention, education, monitoring and enforcement, and by coordinating activities with other state and federal agencies, and local governments.

In administering the Forest Practices Act, the District's Stewardship Foresters continue to place their emphasis on prevention through education and engineering by conducting pre-operation visits on environmentally sensitive operations, reviewing and commenting on written plans and training operators and landowners. The Stewardship Foresters addressed many different issues and situations during the past year. Wetlands, riparian management areas, High Landslide Hazard Locations and reforestation occupied a large percentage of their field time. In a continued effort to increase the knowledge of landowners, industry personnel and the general public about good stewardship of the forest, they participated in numerous field visits with landowners and operators.



Left to Right: Mike Hogan, Jennifer Wright, Dave Taylor, Gary Schulz, Tuch Koreiva, Delos Devine

Education

Stewardship Foresters in cooperation with others used funds made available by the USDA Forest Service to complete three educational projects. After almost a year in the

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making, ODF partnered with several other local agencies to develop the South Coast Landowner Resource Guide which was mailed to nearly 5000 landowners. The intent of the Guide is to address some of the challenges landowners face in managing their lands by compiling and exploring resources, and providing examples of best management practices.

Also, the cooperative effort resulted in the Native Species Center of Powers display of information to inform small woodland owners and the public on forest issues such as noxious weeds, recreation and forest disease. Additional information was presented on forest area hikes, trails, camping and special forest products such as baskets and wreaths.



Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program collaborative work project.

The Forest Service funds were also used to help the Curry Soil and Water Conservation District provide woodland owners with information about noxious weeds that occur in Coos and Curry Counties. Material was made available at local libraries in Brookings, Gold Beach, and Langlois.

The Coos Chapter of the Society of American Foresters, South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, Oregon State University Extension, Oregon Department of Forestry and the Bureau of Land Management teamed up to host the Natural Resource Days field trips for local 5th grade classes. Close to 350 fifth graders from Coos Bay, North Bend, Coquille, and Myrtle Point schools completed hands-on activities during the field trips to learn about tree measurement, elements affecting tree growth, soils, plant identification, and wildlife. Local foresters and natural resource professionals led the children through interactive learning experiences.

Financial Incentives

Non-industrial forest landowners took advantage of cost-share programs to assist them with planning as well as implementing their non-commercial forest activities. As a result several hundred acres were enrolled in the federal Stewardship Plan program, and the Environmental Quality Incentives Program and Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (both federal programs administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service). These programs were used to cost-share non-commercial forest activities and establishment of riparian buffers on agricultural land.

Insects and Disease

ODF and several other local, state and federal agencies continued to work hard to control the spread of Sudden Oak Death in Curry County. Unfortunately, detection of

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the disease outside the quarantine area resulted in the expansion of the quarantine area in early 2008.

Urban and Community Forests

Two cities in the District were once again presented with Tree City USA awards for their efforts of tree care and management within their cities. Coos Bay and Reedsport both received Tree City awards for their stewardship of their community forest. Both cities have been recipients of these awards for many years. Urban and community forests provide many benefits for Oregonians including shade and aesthetics.

Other Activities

As in past years, the District's Stewardship Foresters spent many long hours during the summer assisting other Districts in their suppression efforts on major wildfires throughout the state. With their many cumulative years of experience and training, the Stewardship Forester staff are a valuable resource in helping to manage and control these fires.

For 2008 the District's Stewardship Foresters look forward to working 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 in promoting sustainable harvest and resource protection of Oregon's forests.

ADMINISTRATION

Personnel Changes

Retirements

Ann Toman – Retired at the end of June with over 13 years of service. Ann held the position of Office Specialist 2.

Bob Fields – Retired at the end of July with over 28 years of service. Bob held the position of Natural Resource Specialist.

Promotions

Delos Devine promoted to Stewardship Forester in June.

Tod Haren promoted to Information Systems Specialist in January.



Left to Right: Jim Young, Randy Smith, Tod Haren, Greg Kreimeyer, Echo Nickerson, Jennifer Olson

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New Employees

Matthew Wells was hired in January to fill a limited duration Natural Resource Specialist position.

Jennifer Olson was hired in June to fill the position of Office Specialist 2.

Ryan Olson was hired in October to fill the position of Forest Inmate Crew Coordinator.

Resignations

Pam Wilson – Resigned in August, Pam held the position as Office Specialist 2. Pam moved on to take a position with the South Slough Estuary.



Elliott State Forest

Summer Interns

Chris Sorensen -- Worked May through August as an Intern on the Timber Team.

Kellen Murphy – Worked May through August as an Intern on the Timber Team.

Cooperative Work with Coos Forest Protective Association

Les Goertz assisted the district with motor pool fleet maintenance during part of 2007.

Dave Johnson assisted the reforestation team with tree planting inspections during part of 2007.

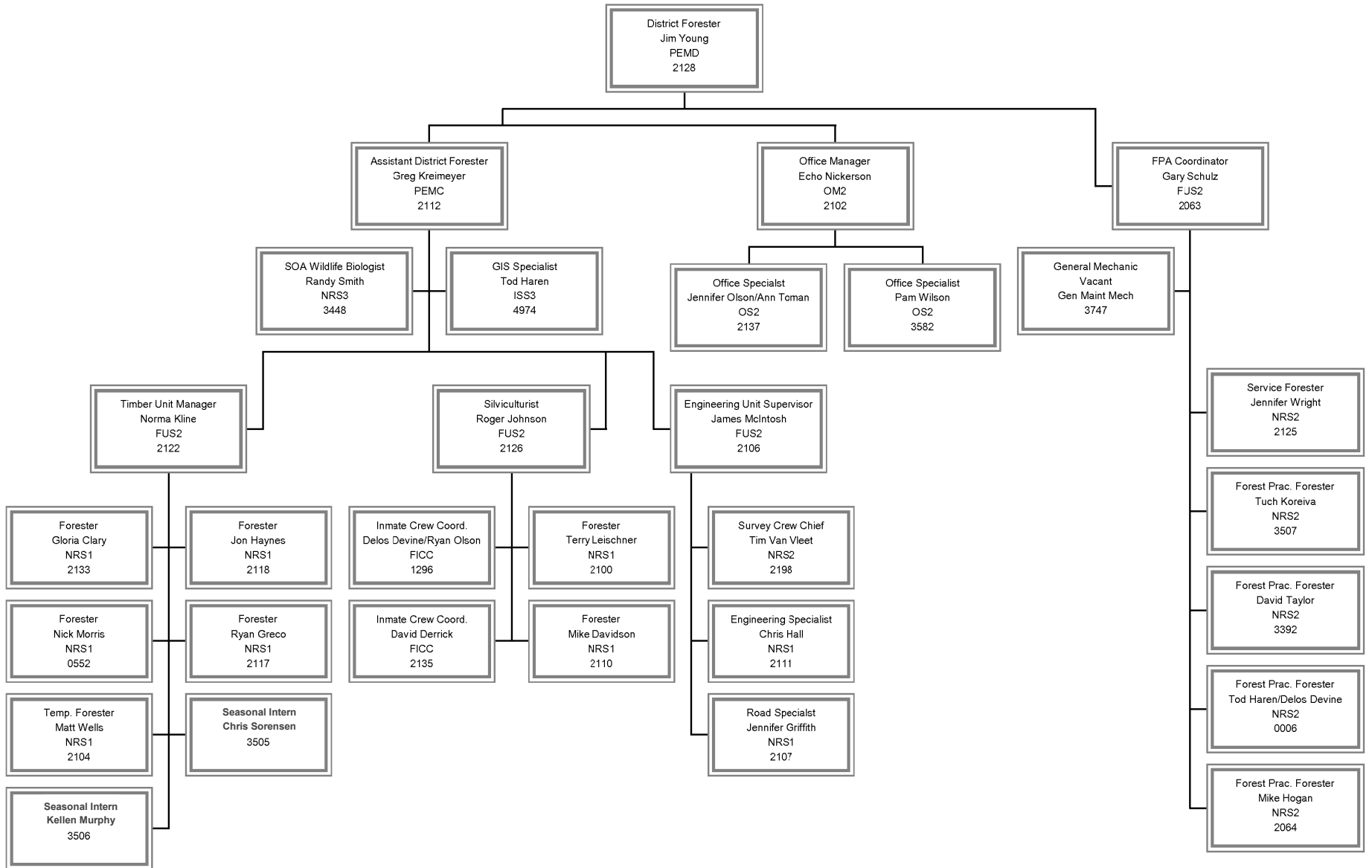
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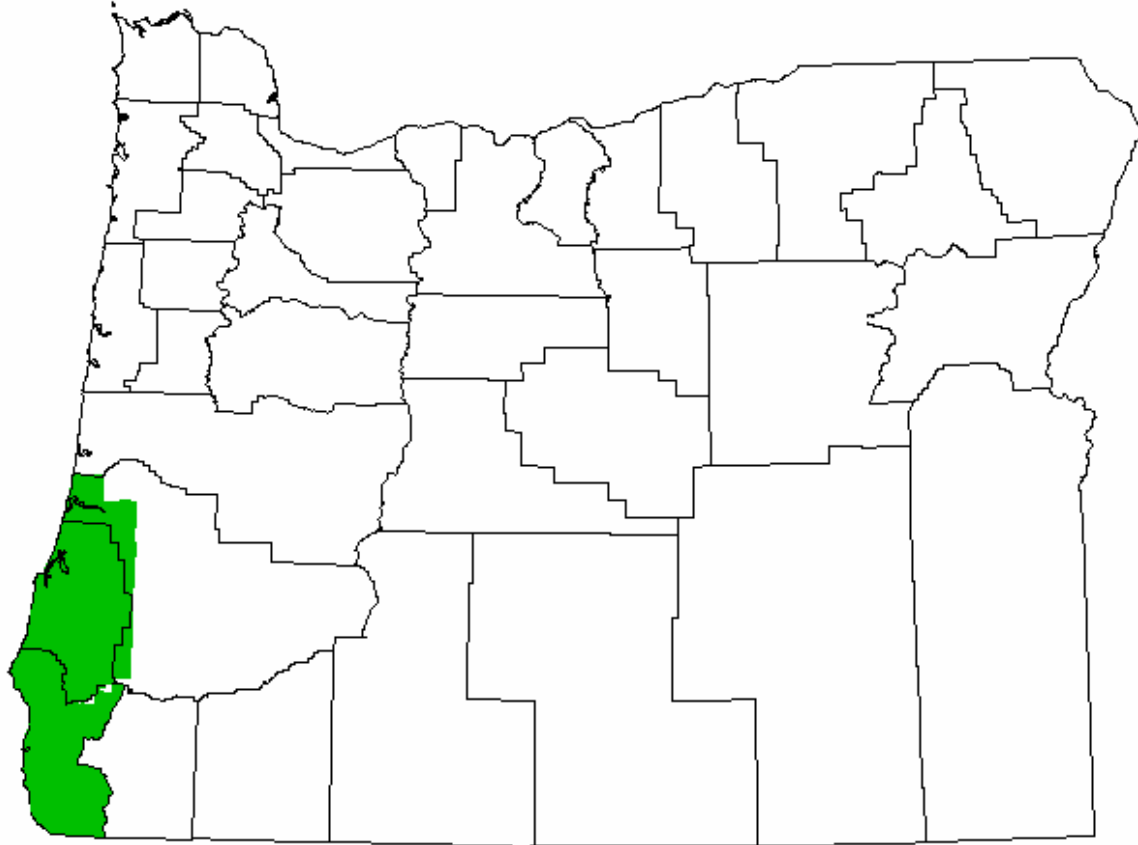
Front cover photo: Log Truck hauling logs to the mill after being harvested from Fish Divided timber sale on the Elliott State Forest. Photo was taken by Ryan Greco.



COOS DISTRICT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

2007





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