



# Oregon Department of Forestry

2014 Astoria District Annual Report



## **Mission Statement**

*To serve the people of Oregon by protecting, managing, and promoting stewardship of Oregon's forests to enhance environmental, economic, and community sustainability.*



## District Forester's Comments

### Dan Goody

Looking back on 2014, I am reminded of all of the things that kept all members of the Astoria District busy and want to start by thanking all of them for their service and hard work. At the beginning of the year, everyone was doing their part to make sure that we were on schedule to successfully meet our goals for managing our Protection from Fire, State Forests and Private Forest programs. This involved a lot of planning, budgeting and monitoring of our progress along with the important input from our stakeholders and members of the public.

In the Spring, we started developing our Fire prevention plans, scheduling training for various fire classes and preparing for recruitment of our seasonal fire fighters. At the time, none of us realized how important this work would be in the months ahead, including a second record statewide fire season. The 2014 fire season kicked off in January and concluded in November.

Due to good leadership in our Protection Unit, extra efforts in fire prevention and pre-fire suppression from our seasonal firefighters, and strong support from our cooperators, the Protection from Fire Program staff was able to keep most fires small here in Clatsop County and allow many District staff to help fight large fires out of District. An early June Incident Management Team fire deployment had some District employees traveling to Bend, which turned out to be the starting whistle for a marathon fire season. Once July came, there were District employees dispatched around the state to help fight some of the largest fires the Department has ever been engaged in.

Managing all of the activities on the Clatsop State Forest is a yearlong endeavor and due to an improving demand for logs, there were a significant number of active forest operations going on throughout the year. These operations not only provided jobs to local operators and mill workers and significant revenue to Clatsop County and taxing districts, they also allowed the District to enhance wildlife habitat, perform stream improvement projects and maintain our developed recreation campgrounds and trails.

The District's two Stewardship Foresters were also busy this past year administering the Forest Practices Act and ensuring that operators and private forest landowners understood the rules and were protecting water quality and the forest resources in the District.

The District understands that there is a lot of interest from the public and our stakeholders in what we are doing in Clatsop County and District employees were involved in a number of public meetings throughout the year. These included participation at a number of the Clatsop Board of Commissioners meetings, field trips, local meetings and the annual Community Leaders Tour. We appreciate the local media's willingness to share our information regularly.

In closing, I want to state how essential all of our stakeholders, volunteers and the public are to the District. Clatsop County Commissioners and staff, local Fire Departments, forest industry, operators, landowners and many other local agencies and private organizations have helped make the District successful over the past year. Thank you all!

I hope you enjoy this report. It is also available on ODF's website at <http://egov.oregon.gov/ODF/FIELD/ASTORIA/aboutastoria.shtml>



## Protection From Fire

In early January, there were two significant fires in the Astoria District that were the result of rekindled slash piles due to an extreme east wind event. The Falcon and Shingle fires burned a total of 300 acres. A Type 3 IMT was organized to manage the fires, which consisted of ODF employees from the NWOFPD. The fires in January set the tone for the season as the Oregon Department of Forestry had the first project fire of the season on June 7<sup>th</sup>, and the last one was at the end of September. There was a total of 12 IMT deployments. Everyone was able to gain valuable knowledge and firsthand experience. This experience provided opportunities for many position task books to be completed.

Neal Bond completed his 3<sup>rd</sup> year as the Protection Unit Forester. Dave Horning finished his 6<sup>th</sup> summer as the Protection Supervisor. Candice Pozdolski came on as our Seasonal Dispatcher. The program's mission is to safely prevent and suppress fires on forestland in a manner which minimizes costs and resource losses.

The Astoria District had a relatively mild beginning to fire season, which allowed us to be able to fulfill multiple off District request for engines and overhead. We started to heat up, and were battling east winds as we got into September, but we never had a fire start develop into something significant. Fire season started July 8<sup>th</sup> and ended on October 14<sup>th</sup> for a total of 99 days. During fire season this year, NW-1 spent 85 days at an Industrial Fire Precaution Level (IFPL) 1 and 14 days at IFPL 2. NW-2 spent 44 days at IFPL 1, 40 days at IFPL 2, and 15 days at IFPL 3. Regulated Use started on July 14<sup>th</sup> and ended on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, for a total of 81 days.

| Smoke Management | Number of Units | Acres | Tons   |
|------------------|-----------------|-------|--------|
| Registered       | 88              | 4,857 | 89,141 |
| Planned          | 35              | 1,921 | 30,415 |
| Accomplished     | 35              | 1,652 | 30,575 |



The first off-District engine request came in early June for the Two Bulls fire, and requests continued all summer long. The mild conditions on District allowed us to fulfill 12 off-District engine requests in addition to 4 overhead assignments. This led to a total of 233 man days off District for 2014.

The fire crew responded to 34 fires, 15 Stat fires, 2 Non Stat fires and 17 Non Fire Crew Action's (NFCA). The 15 Stat fires burned 7.84 acres.

There was an intense East Wind event that occurred in November that led to multiple fires on multiple land-owners throughout the District. The most significant was the Hug Point fire that burned approximately 143 acres in the Arch Cape drainage.

| 2014         | Number of Fires | Cost            | Acres Burned |
|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| NFCA         | 17              | \$2,377         | N/A          |
| Stat Fires   | 15              | \$29,071        | 7.84         |
| Non Stat     | 2               | \$260           | 0.02         |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>34</b>       | <b>\$31,708</b> | <b>7.86</b>  |



## Seasonal Protection Crew



**Brandon Knight, Carl Mahnke & Andres Lopez**



**Kurt Donaldson, Jacob Rose & William Keller-Scholz**



**Derrick Snow, Zach Parker & Mike Stailing**



**Zack Plant, Ami Kreider & Avery Peterson**



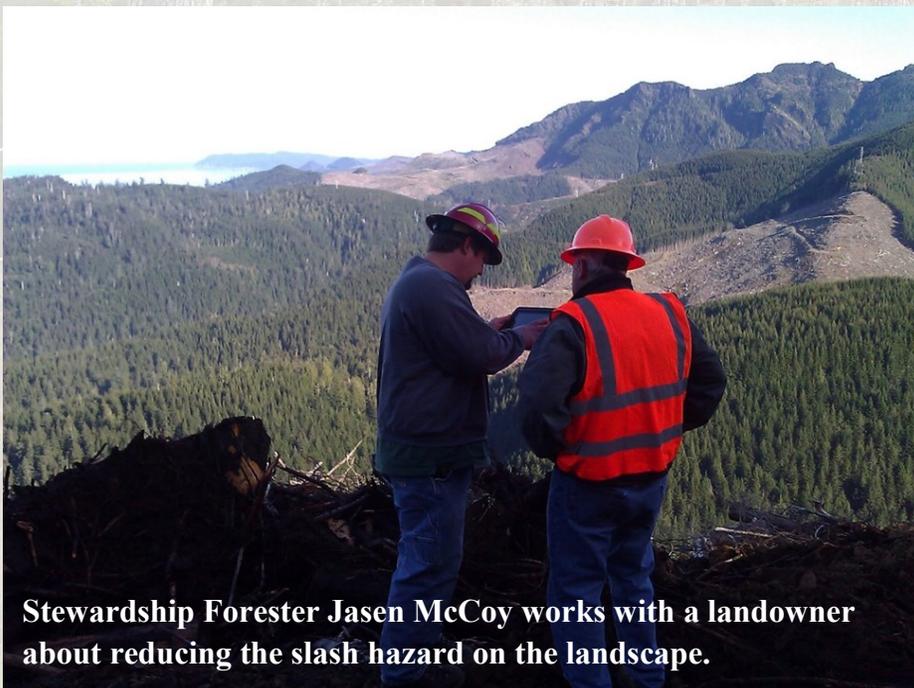
## Private Forests Stewardship Forestry

It was another successful year for the Private Forests program on the Astoria District. Jasen McCoy completed his 2<sup>nd</sup> full year as a Stewardship Forester and is starting to really grow into his position. He had another year full of challenges and is making decisions like a seasoned veteran. Ashley Lertora completed her 18<sup>th</sup> year as a Stewardship Forester and has been a constant in the County for the landowners and operators. Ashley and Jasen work very well together, bouncing ideas off of one another which has allowed both of them to grow professionally. This great collaboration has allowed them to provide the best service possible to the citizens of Clatsop County.

The Astoria District processed 564 notifications this year, which was up a little bit up from previous years. The five year average for the District is 549. We are slightly above the Districts' five year average, which can be attributed to a slight increase in the log market. We saw more and more small operations this last year due to the favorable market. The office staff continues to provide support to the Stewardship Foresters, helping them to get out to the field as much as possible.

Forest Activity Electronic Reporting Notification System (FERNS) came online in October. This new online notification system is allowing the Stewardship Foresters to conduct more inspections in the field and is helping them get to as many operations as possible.

It is always very satisfying for the Stewardship Foresters when they are able to help a landowner accomplish their goals while still maintaining all of the resource protection in the Forest Practices Act. Ashley and Jasen are able to balance their time so that each landowner received the help and guidance that they were looking for. The work that the Stewardship Foresters do upfront with the landowners/operators is a big reason why the outcome at the end of the harvest is a desirable one, for the landowner and resource protection. Education, rather than enforcement is always what the Stewardship Foresters are striving for. Pre-operation, active operation, post operation, reforestation checks, and industrial fire inspections are essential duties of the Stewardship Foresters.



**Stewardship Forester Jasen McCoy works with a landowner about reducing the slash hazard on the landscape.**

The Stewardship Foresters are active in landowner assistance, reviewing stewardship plans, and harvest operations. The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) relies on the Stewardship Foresters expertise to evaluate the most beneficial areas for stream enhancement.

Jasen and Ashley continue to participate in fire suppression. Jasen was able to get some experience as a Situation Unit Leader on two different fires last summer. Ashley is now on IMT 2 and participated in 5 separate Team deployments last summer. In total, Ashley and Jasen spent 44 days off District.



| Year | Notice of Operations | Units | Complaints | Unsatisfactory Conditions | Citations |
|------|----------------------|-------|------------|---------------------------|-----------|
| 2010 | 653                  | 967   | 10         | 2                         | 2         |
| 2011 | 478                  | 788   | 4          | 4                         | 0         |
| 2012 | 514                  | 1108  | 5          | 0                         | 1         |
| 2013 | 538                  | 854   | 2          | 3                         | 0         |
| 2014 | 564                  | 876   | 3          | 4                         | 1         |

| Stewardship Forestry   | 2014    |
|--|---------|
| Number of Notifications  | 564     |
| Number of Renewed Notifications  | 107     |
| Number of Pre-Operation Meetings//total inspections                              | 133/480 |
| Written Plans Processed  | 197     |
| Land Use Conversions/Afforestation   | 7/0     |
| Management Plans Reviewed  | 1       |
| Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Projects—# of days spent on OWEB review team. | 10      |



Stewardship Forester Ashley Lertora (bottom right) presents the city of Seaside with their Tree City USA award. This was Seaside’s 17th year of receiving this award.

### Administrative

Our Administrative Unit serves at the first point of contact and “the face” of the Astoria District. Office Specialists Wendy Metcalf and Angela Beck, along with Office Specialist 2 Allison McCoy, provide a wide array of administrative functions and support to our customers, both internally and externally. In 2015 alone, the admin staff has issued more than 225 wood cutting permits, in addition to the 792 from the previous year. With the introduction of electronic FERNS (Forest activity Electronic Reporting and Notification System), the manual notifications are dwindling and the electronic notifications are being generated. The staff also expertly provides all clerical, administrative, and business management support to the District.

The more things change, the more they stay the same...as the three pre-mentioned ladies have been in the Astoria Forestry unit for over 8 years each, there will be a change in the Office Manager position. Cindy Gauntz, the outgoing OM, will be retiring in spring, as she looks forward to retirement and spending valuable time with her granddaughters. Cindy came into this unit a year ago, bringing much experience and knowledge, which produced a proficient office. With that, she supervised the efficient operation of the Administrative Unit and was responsible for human resources and payroll functions of all permanent district employees. Filling in behind her departure will be Lisa Sprague, a State Employee of five years. Lisa brings managerial skills from another State agency and is familiar with many State programs used today at the Oregon Department of Forestry.

Knowing that with every challenge there is change, the administrative staff is ready to give quality service, with a professional behavior, keeping flexible and adaptable, and that will exemplify the District’s commitment to serve.



Dan Goody & Cindy Gauntz



## State Forests Management

### Assistant District Forester's Comments



Ron Zilli at Thor's Hammer

State Forest lands are managed to provide healthy, productive and sustainable forest ecosystems that, over time and across the landscape, provide a full range of social, economic and environmental benefits to the people of Oregon. The Astoria District manages 137,000 acres of the 145,000 acre Clatsop State Forest with minor portions being managed by the Forest Grove and Tillamook Districts. State forests in Astoria are managed with four sub units: two Timber Marketing Units, Reforestation and Forest Roads. Motorized recreation is managed within the Forest Roads Unit and non-motorized recreation is managed within one of the Timber Marketing Units. State forests staff also contribute significantly to the local and statewide fire effort. In 2014 state forests members spend at least 220 man days deployed to out of district fires and provided vital support to the in district fires on our neighbors private forestlands.

### Marketing

Timber harvesting operations which include thinning, regeneration harvests, and patch cuts continued as the primary tools used to actively achieve stand structure targets set out in the Forest Management Plan. Timber harvest volumes for FY14 comprised 76.8 MMBF generating approximately \$27.3 million in timber revenue, with just over \$17.5 million distributed to Clatsop County and local taxing districts.

State Forest marketing is done collaboratively between two management units. The Jewell Management Unit, led by Ty Williams, is comprised of Natural Resource Specialists (NRSs) Jenny Johnson, Derek Bangs, Kevin Berry, Dave Rygell, Nick Haile, Skip Cadman, and Forest Management Technician (FMT) Erik Burgher. The Sunset Management Unit, led by John Tillotson, is comprised of NRSs Jon Long, Ed Holloran, Andrew Arvin, John Choate, and Bryce Rodgers, and Information Systems Specialist (ISS4) Billy Harris. In the past fiscal year, the District's two management units were able to complete all of the fieldwork and contract preparation for all planned FY14 timber sales, using an integrated forest management approach involving

input from the District's Forest Management, Reforestation, and Forest Roads Units.

Timber Sale auction bids were up from the previous year, and the domestic log market remains strong, buoyed by a high demand in the export log market. The District's FY13 Sale Plan consisted of 11 timber sales. Project costs of the prepared sale plan totaled 13% of the estimated gross revenue and 10% of the estimated sold gross revenue. Rock crushing continues to be the District's highest project cost as a percentage of planned work.





### State Forests Management Marketing (continued)

The District experienced a slight increase of 3% in wood permit sales this year from 907 permits in 2013 to 936 in 2014. Permits are available by management basin and are for sale five days a week (outside of fire season) during business hours. There is no limit to the number of permits sold per basin but we still have a limit of five permits per individual and household.

Demand for special forest products was nearly identical to 2013 with one less permit being sold but there was a slight increase (11%) in revenue as a result of Permittees desiring to harvest more product per some permits. Moss and salal are the two forest products that generate the most commercial interest from the public. Sixty-four commercial permits were issued generating \$20,000 of revenue during 2014. Other special forest products include boughs, ferns, mushrooms, vinemaple, spruce-poles, pulp decks, and miscellaneous plants. One commercial woodcutting permit with an estimated 50 cords of firewood was auctioned for \$624.95 during 2014.

| Forest Products              | Number      | Estimated Volume | Estimated Revenue |
|------------------------------|-------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Timber Sales FY 14           | 11          | 75.0 MMBF        | \$31,018,293      |
| Timber Harvested             |             | 76.8 MMBF        | \$27,256,276      |
| Misc. Forest Products        | 64          | Permits          | \$20,000          |
| Woodcutting Sales            | 936 permits | 1,872 cords      | \$18,720          |
| Commercial Woodcutting Sales | 1           | 50 cords         | \$624.95          |
| Partial Cut Acres            | 1,682       |                  |                   |
| Clear Cut Acres              | 1,000       |                  |                   |



Green Giant



Buster Brown 2



# State Forests Management

## Forest Roads Unit

### **Astoria District Engineering Accomplishments**

|                           |    |
|---------------------------|----|
| Miles of Road Improved    | 32 |
| Miles of Road Constructed | 7  |
| Miles of Roads Vacated    | 1  |

The Forest Roads Unit on the Clatsop State Forest, works collaboratively with District and department staff to provide support and recommendations in forest transportation planning, motorized forest recreation, fish passage upgrades, rock quarry management, forest road infrastructure maintenance, land survey needs, district easements, special use permits and timber sale project plans. The Forest Roads Manager is Frank Lertora. Steve Aiken, David Bailey, Cullen Bangs, Dewain Farner, Kraig Kirkpatrick, Will Lawrence, and Aaron Schlosser are members of the Forest Roads Unit. The unit supported the timber management units with the Annual Operating Plan by providing specialized assistance and assembling components of timber sale contracts.

As part of the Forest Roads Unit, the district road crew performed a wide range of projects across the forest, including road maintenance activities and recreation facility improvements.



**Will Lawrence, Dewain Farner, Cullen Bangs, Frank Lertora (kneeling), Aaron Schlosser, David Bailey, Steve Aiken, Kraig Kirkpatrick**



**Tide Water Crushing**





## State Forests Management Reforestation Unit

The Reforestation Unit, led by Larry Sprouse, is responsible for reestablishing trees and young stand management after the completion of harvesting. This is done through various methods, such as slash piling, site preparation, thinning, mechanical and chemical vegetation control and planting the site with the appropriate tree species and stock type to achieve a specific desired future condition.

The year began with the unit staffed with Bryce Rogers and Jeff Brown. Bryce transferred to the Sunset unit to continue his career with logging and forest management. Jeff Brown transferred to the Astoria Reforestation program in late 2012 from a position with the South Fork Inmate Camp. Jeff's long career with South Fork has provided him with experience in a variety of reforestation program activities.

Brad Catton joined the reforestation unit as an NRS1 position in October with experience from private forest industry and consulting. Robert Lefebvre joined the reforestation unit as an NRS1 in November soon after finishing his Master's degree from Oregon State under the guidance of Robin Rose.

Larry Sprouse retired from the Oregon Department of Forestry in February 2015 after a career that spanned several decades. Charley Moyer came on board in January 2015 to replace Larry. Charley brings extensive experience in reforestation from the private forest industry, most recently from Hancock Forest Management.



Jeff Brown & Larry Sprouse

South Fork inmate crews continue to provide extensive support to the district Reforestation Program through trapping, mechanical and chemical vegetation control work, thinning, noxious weed control efforts, and other reforestation activities.

Damage to newly planted units has been mainly from deer and elk browse. The district invested in some larger container seedling stock for planting this year as a potential approach to addressing animal damage. The district will monitor the success of this larger container stock along with the bare-root stock in consideration of purchasing seedlings in the future.

| Reforestation Accomplishments   | Acres          |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| Tree Planting Acres /Initial    | 1,276          |
| Tree Planting Acres/Interplant  | 225            |
| <b>Total trees planted</b>      | <b>427,800</b> |
| Chemical Site Prep Acres/Aerial | 785            |
| Site Prep Pile Burning Acres    | 198            |
| Manual Release                  | 250            |
| Roadside Spray                  | 218 miles      |



Brad Catton, Jeff Brown, Charley Moyer & Robbie Lefebvre



## State Forests Management Recreation



During 2014, recreation management on the Clatsop State Forest continued with the integrated management organization that was implemented in 2010. Non-motorized recreation continues to be managed by Ty Williams, Jewell Unit Forester, with assistance in the day-to-day operations by Natural Resource Specialist 1 (NRS1) Skip Cadman and Forest Management Technician (FMT) Erik Burgher. Management includes facility maintenance for four overnight camping facilities at Henry Rierson Spruce Run Campground, Beaver Eddy Campground, Gnat Creek Campground, Northrup Creek Horse Campground and several dispersed camping sites. The Recreation Unit also maintains 20 miles of non-motorized trails.

Motorized recreation on the Clatsop State Forest continues to be managed by Frank Lertora, Forest Roads Unit Manager. The OHV Team is made up of David Bailey, NRS1 and Aaron Schlosser, FMT. The OHV Team maintains 30 miles of trail, which is open to motorcycles, quads, side by sides, and now 4x4's. Continued funding was through an intergovernmental agreement between Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) and Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) to provide staffing for two OHV positions and limited service and supply for development and maintenance of the Nicolai Mountain OHV riding area. Inmate crews from South Fork assisted with trail construction, maintenance, and kiosk construction.

For 2014, budget restrictions continued, directing on-

ly facility maintenance and operations for the general recreation program and not engaging in any developmental activities.

South Fork inmate crews conduct a significant amount of maintenance and make improvements to all the District's recreation facilities. Their high quality work continues to be essential to the success of the recreation program. They also provided campground and trail maintenance improvements which included the Northrup Creek Equestrian Trail and the Demonstration Forest Trail at the Astoria District Headquarters. Work on the Demonstration Forest Trail also included the reconstruction of a foot bridge.



**Northrup Horse Camp**



## State Forests Management Recreation Continued

Budget levels did allow the District to continue the partnership with the Clatsop County Sheriff’s Office to provide a law enforcement officer on the Clatsop State Forest through the peak of our recreation season. The Sheriff’s Office, in turn, continued to provide funding for the law enforcement position they acquired in 2009 that focuses on OHV education and enforcement along with forest patrol and general law enforcement issues.



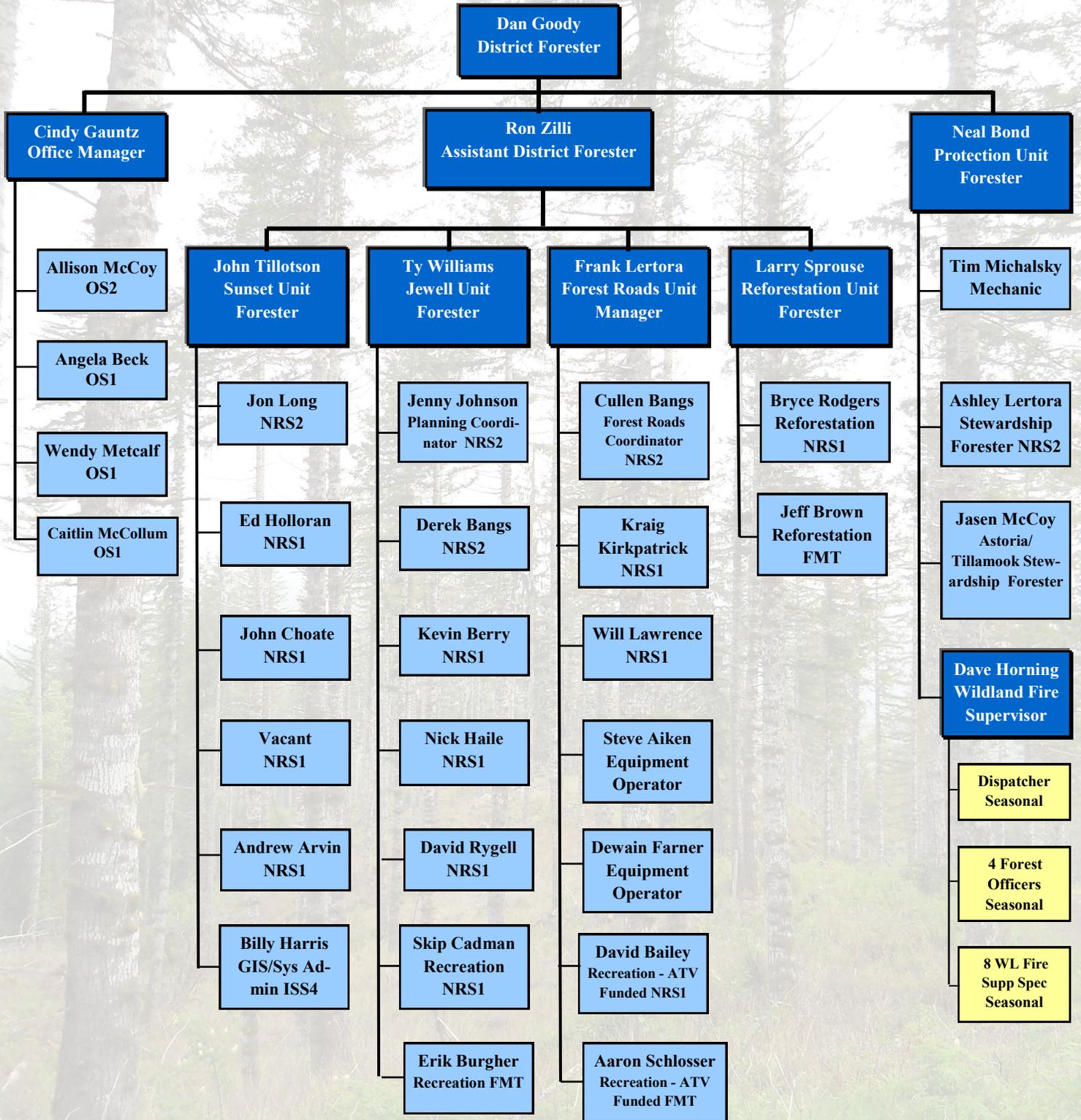
### Recreation Stats

|                                 |           |
|---------------------------------|-----------|
| Overnight Campers               | 17,592    |
| Campground Revenue              | \$53,963  |
| Hiking Trail Construction       | None      |
| Non-Motorized Trail Maintenance | 20 Miles  |
| Motorized Trail Construction    | 1.5 Miles |
| Motorized Trail Maintenance     | 21 Miles  |
| Volunteer Hours                 | 1,060     |





# 2014 Astoria District Organizational Chart



Management Service  
 Permanent Full or Part Time  
 Seasonal Positions