



# 2014 Annual Report

## ● KLAMATH-LAKE DISTRICT ●

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Forest Activity Electronic Notification System in effect.
- Lakeview Interagency Fire Center open.
- Klamath Lake Forest Health Partnership hosts forest health tours.
- 2014 significant fire season for the district.



*Oregon Gulch Fire viewed from the cockpit of an F-15 Fighter Jet stationed at the Oregon Air National Guard 173rd Fighter Wing, Klamath Falls.*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

District Forester	2
2014 Fire Season	5
Private Forests	11
State Forests	13
District Personnel	15
Safety & Wellness	16
Contact Information	18



# District Forester Perspective

2014 on the Klamath-Lake District will long be remembered for a variety of reasons. It was the second record year in a row in terms of fire statistics for the Department; although the District largely escaped last year's record setting pace, we were well involved this year. This was the year we finalized the purchase of the Gilchrist State Forest, the newest state forest in over 60 years. This year we also implemented FERNs across the state – an electronic notification system for harvest operations. This was a significant change from the way we've historically done business in our Private Forests Program. Through it all, Klamath-Lake employees continue to be positive, dedicated and professional. Our priority continues to be providing a valuable service to our landowners, stakeholders and the public.

Fire Season 2014 started on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, with conditions and indices quickly climbing due to the long term and continuing drought. Our first large fire, the Bryant Fire, occurred on June 19<sup>th</sup>, resulting in an ODF IMT deployment and ultimately burning over 1,300 acres. This was the first of five large fires we experienced on the District – the Bryant, Algoma, Moccasin Hills, Ferguson and the Oregon Gulch Fires. While our number of fires was close to the 10-year average, our number of acres burned was well above average. This was also the first year of our new, combined Interagency Fire Center that serves the entire District. While there are still some bugs to work out, we're confident we're on the right track to creating an effective center. Conditions were such that our statistics could have been much

worse, but thanks to aggressive, well-coordinated initial attack efforts by our fire fighters, landowners and cooperators, the majority of our fires were kept small.



The purchase of the Gilchrist State Forest was finalized this year. It now totals around 70,000 acres; this, in conjunction with Sun Pass State Forest and our scattered tracts, puts us at just over 100,000 acres of state owned forest land managed by Klamath-Lake District. Throughout the process of acquiring the Gilchrist State Forest, we received great support from Klamath County and many members of the local community. There is a high degree of confidence in our ability to manage forestland as evidenced by the continued support of our active management approach throughout Klamath and Lake Counties.

Our Private Forest staff has experienced some turnover this year with a retirement and a resignation. Jason Pettigrew, formerly our Wildland Fire Supervisor, transferred into one of the vacant positions and we recently hired Matt Flock to fill out our Stewardship Forester staff. We are looking forward to working with both Jason

and Matt in their new capacities. In addition to our staffing changes, our notification process has changed as well with the implementation of FERNs (Forest Activity Electronic Reporting and Notification System), effective statewide as of October 1<sup>st</sup>. In keeping up with the times, everything is now done electronically when submitting notifications of operations. This change was well received by both our landowners and staff and is proving to work fairly well for all involved.

Overall, Klamath-Lake District has had another successful year. We are blessed with wonderful employees who are well thought of and actively participate in our local communities. We continue to receive great support from our families, communities and the landowners we serve. Collectively, as we move forward and face more challenges, this level of support becomes even more relevant.

If you are reading this report, you are part of our mission and a part of a relationship that make Klamath-Lake District a special place. I look forward to working with you all in the coming year.



Thanks for another great year!

*Greg Pittman*

Booth Ridge, Lake County.

## Klamath-Lake District

**“The District administers programs on 1.5 million acres on Klamath and Lake Counties ”**

Established in 1908, KFPA was responsible for fire suppression and other fire protection activities on private land.



The Klamath-Lake District administers Department programs on more than 1.5 million acres in Klamath and Lake Counties located in south central Oregon. The District stretches north from the California border to Crater Lake National Park and east from the crest of the Cascades to the Warner Mountains east of Lakeview.

The District carries out the programs and policies of the Oregon Department of Forestry through the following local programs:

**Management** of 82,292 acres of state-owned forestlands.

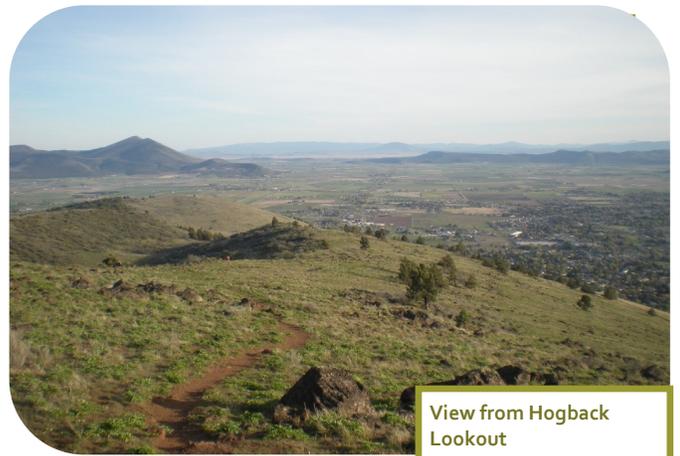
**Protection** from wildfire on more than 1.5 million acres of forestland in Klamath and Lake Counties.

**Administration** of the Forest Practices Act.

**Provide** Forestry and Community Assistance.

**Involvement** in local and federal land use planning targeting forest sustainability and wildfire issues.

The District maintains two offices, one located in Klamath Falls and one in Lakeview staffed by 26 permanent employees organized into four units: District Administration, Lake Protection, Klamath Protection, and State Forest Management. In addition, approximately 50 employees are hired each year filling seasonal positions for Wildland Fire Suppression, Fire Lookouts, and fuels reduction projects in the Protection program.



View from Hogback Lookout

## Klamath Forest Protective Association

The Klamath Forest Protective Association (KFPA) is a non-profit organization that represents all private landowners in the Klamath-Lake District.

Established in 1908 the KFPA was responsible for fire suppression and other forest protection activities on private land.

At that time associations of this type existed throughout the state to handle forest fire suppression in Oregon. Over time, however, many of these associations began turning their fire fighting responsibilities over to the state.

In 1975 the KFPA transferred its fire fighting duties by signing a cooperative agreement with the Oregon Department of Forestry.

Today the KFPA continues to work closely with the District Forester, providing advice in the general operation of the district's fire protection program. Members also provide input towards and approval of the annual protection operating budget.

KFPA works hard to make positive contributions to the local community. In addition to protection of private land from wildfires, KFPA has the following objectives: (continued on next page)

# KFPA Objectives



**Preserve** the private forests for the purpose of maintaining and enhancing timber and forage production.

**Protect** private forest and range resources from loss by fire, insect and disease.

**Enlist** the aid of other organizations in accomplishing these objectives.

KFPA's members collectively own and manage approximately 850,000 acres of private land in the District.

Each year Members elect a 13-person board of directors. These board members volunteer a lot of time to handle the association's affairs and work on various committees related to forestry, fire prevention and protection.

KFPA also promotes and sponsors forest fire prevention education for children, recognizing that our key to success in the future lies with them.

## KFPA Board of Directors

- Lee Fledderjohan, President : Fremont Sawmill
- Lon Casebeer, Vice President : Green Diamond Resource Company
- James Dahm, Secretary/Treasurer: Whiskey Creek Timber
- Kim Dykstra, Secretary /Treasurer Asst.
- Chris Johnson, Director: Whitefish Cascade Forest Resources, LLC.
- Glenn Lorenz, Director: Bar-CL, Inc.
- Glenda Stilwell, Director: Stilwell & Buchanan Ranch
- Brandon Wood, Director: J-Spear Ranch
- Bruce Wirth, Director: Meadow Lake, Inc.
- Edward Livingston, Director: Gerber Ranch



**Jim Dahm,** consulting forester, Whiskey Creek Timber Company landowner, and KFPA board member discussing forest management and permanent inventory plots.





**Bryant Fire.**  
Ignition 06/19/14

# Protection From Fire

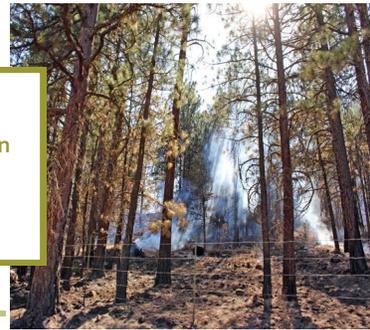
The Klamath — Lake District experienced a challenging fire season in 2014. The story of the 2014 fire season started well before the first fire ignited. The drought that began in Southern Oregon in 2012 intensified with the mild 13/14 winter and showed its influence on fire conditions by quickly reaching the extreme level at the start of the 2014 fire season within the district and especially in Klamath County.

The seasonal indices for the district tracked above average from the start of the season and stayed there with the exception of August where a series of thunderstorms provided some moisture which ultimately helped to lower the indices to more average levels. Even with some moisture being received during the

spring, fire season began with an adjective class of Moderate and quickly jumped to High, then Extreme where it stayed until the last 3 weeks of the season. Overall, the District’s fire danger was in a high adjective class for 24 days (18% of fire season), and extreme for 70 days (51% of fire season; 27 days longer than 2013).

In 2014, the District saw an average start to fire Season with the official declaration coming on June 2<sup>nd</sup> with additional public use restrictions put into effect for the Klamath River Canyon. Similar public use restrictions were enacted for the remainder of the district on June 25<sup>th</sup> (approx. 1-2 weeks earlier than normal) and remained in effect until September 26<sup>th</sup>. The District remained

in fire season for an additional 2 ½ weeks until it too was terminated Oct 16<sup>th</sup>. The Length of fire season was 136 days (15 days shorter than 2012) and public use restrictions were in place district-wide for 93 days (20 days longer than 2013). Even though the season length was near average, the conditions were above normal and conducive to large fires as a result of the persisting drought. These conditions were reflected in the length of time the district was at an adjective class of Extreme and in Regulated Use Closure.



**Ferguson Mop up**

“Fire season began with an adjective class of Moderate and quickly jumped to High, then Extreme.”

## Fire Season Statistics

**Retardant Drop on the Bryant Fire, June 2014.**



FIRE CAUSE	NUMBER OF FIRES			NUMBER OF ACRES		
	2014	10-YEAR AVERAGE	% OF 10-YEAR AVERAGE	2014	10-YEAR AVERAGE	% OF 10-YEAR AVERAGE
Railroad	0	.1	100%	0	.03	100%
Equipment	3	6.0	50%	1361.26	41	3320%
Recreationist	10	6.0	167%	4.3	8.78	49%
Smoker	0	1.0	0%	0	.54	0%
Debris Burning	8	9.0	89%	2580.77	75.69	3410%
Arson	0	3.0	0%	0	232.81	0%
Juveniles	0	1.0	0%	0	11.74	0%
Miscellaneous	5	8.0	63%	.50	17.62	3%
Total Human Caused	34	37.0	92%	4207.13	349.14	1205%
Lightning	60	48.0	125%	17,376.43	1266.47	1372%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>86.0</b>	<b>109%</b>	<b>21,586.56</b>	<b>1615.61</b>	<b>1336%</b>

# 2014 Fire Season Summary



Moccasin Hills

The District reported 94 fires on ODF protected lands burning a total of 21,584 protected acres, nearly 20,000 more than the 10yr average. This resulted in 109% of our ten year average in number of fires and 1,336% of our ten year average in acres burned. Human caused fires accounted for 36% of the number of fires and 19% of the acres burned during 2014. Compared to average, the number of human caused starts was down 8% and lightning was up 25%.

2014 fire season saw several small lightning events sparking numerous fires across all agencies within South Central Oregon. The district recorded 60 lightning fires which accounted for the majority of the acreage burned, but the human caused fires were definitely worth noting for '14. The District experienced 5 fires over 10 acres that became extended attack fires that challenged the local resources. Of these five fires, 4 were human caused. On June 19<sup>th</sup>, the Bryant fire, started by an active operation quickly took off in steep inaccessible terrain despite the best efforts by the landowner, operator, ODF, and cooperators. This fire burned 1,360 acres and was managed by the local type 3 team before transitioning to



*“District employees along with partners / stakeholders were successful in keeping 95% of the 2014 fires less than 10 acres.”*

ODF team #1. As a result of fireworks on July 4<sup>th</sup>, the Algoma fire burned 59 acres and required the mobilization of the local type 3 team. On July 13<sup>th</sup>, the Moccasin Hills Fire (human caused) quickly became a priority fire with its ignition being within a subdivision. This fire quickly burned 2,578 acres along with 17 primary structures and several other structures. Again, the local type 3 team was utilized for extended attack before the transition to ODF team #2. On July 25<sup>th</sup>, yet



Algoma at night.

another human caused fire ignited and quickly grew to 200 acres threatening several primary structures and outbuildings. This time, with a large interagency response, the Ferguson Fire was caught during initial attack and the local type 3 team was utilized for the next few days to finish holding action and mop-up on the fire. A lightning event that passed through Western Oregon and portions of Klamath County the ignited the Oregon Gulch fire on July 31<sup>st</sup>. The fire quickly grew to several thousand acres within the SW Oregon district during initial attack and crossed into the Klamath-Lake District and California where it burned several thousand additional acres over the next few days. The Oregon Gulch Fire averaged approx. 10,000 acres of fire growth per day for the first 3 days. This fire prompted the mobilization of both ODF team #2 and #3 along with Oregon State Fire Marshall Blue Team and a Unified Command with Cal Fire. After a challenging few days, this multi-state, multi-district, multi-team effort was able to make significant progress in containing this fire at 35,074 acres.



Helicopter over Ferguson and Moccasin Hills

# Fire Summary Continued

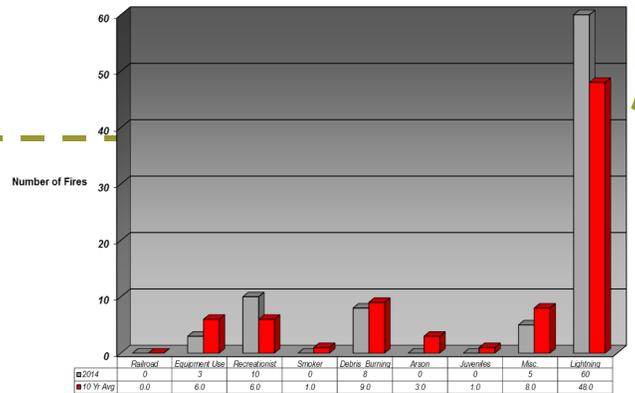
An item to note with these 5 large fires is that each of them were solely state jurisdiction, a rarity in the Klamath-Lake District where there is approx. 4,000 miles of common boundary between ODF and Federal jurisdictions.

The 2014 fire season was a challenge from the beginning. Not only was the Klamath-Lake District continually challenged with rapidly growing fires, but so was much of Oregon. The unprecedented 12 ODF IMT mobilizations across the state provided yet another set of challenges in supporting the Complete and Coordinated system with district personnel while also providing adequate protection within the district. The 2014 season could easily have been worse given the draw down created by

this extreme season statewide and the conditions that persisted throughout the summer. The Klamath-Lake District experienced their largest fires in June, July and early August, but conditions remained ripe for additional large fires throughout August and through much of September. The hard working and dedicated employees of the district who aggressively initial attacked fires and provided excellent cooperation and coordination with our partners/stakeholders waged a hard fought battle to keep the fires as small as possible and were successful in keeping 95% of the fires at less than 10 acres. The 2014 fire season will be remembered for many years to come and will be looked upon as one of the most significant seasons for ODF in the Klamath-Lake District.



Klamath Unit, Bryant Fire Mop Up



## Fire Prevention Poster Contest

Each year the District conducts the Poster Contest which is an outreach program that delivers fire prevention education throughout Klamath and Lake Counties. Since its beginning in 1995 the program has been extremely successful having been presented to over 14,000 students in both counties.

The program objectives include involving the communities' children in the wildland fire prevention efforts, increasing understanding of the risks and costs involved in suppressing forest fires, promoting awareness of the Oregon Department of Forestry, and preventing juvenile caused fires.

These objectives are achieved by the district teaming up with local schools, landowners, and businesses to conduct a forty-five minute

interactive presentation to second and fourth grade students. During this interactive session the students learn the role of the wildland fire fighter, what it takes to send resources to a fire, who is responsible for the cost of those resources, differences between good and bad fires, and how they can prevent fires by helping to educate the communities they live in.

Students are asked to create a unique wildland fire prevention message and to draw a picture to represent their message. The top 2 winning posters from each county are made into tray liner placemats for local community restaurants to use during fire season, and are displayed for public viewing at both Klamath & Lake County fairs as a reminder for residents and visitors to be fire safe.



Lake Unit Forest Officers presenting Safety Equipment to 2nd graders at Fremont Elementary.



Klamath Unit Employees, Dennis Lee (Unit Forester) and Jake Barnett (Forest Officer), present to 2nd & 4th graders at Bonanza Elementary



# Poster Contest Continued



An Awards Ceremony is held in each county at the end of the school year with the poster contest winners and their families to reward the students for their hard work on the fire prevention messages and to thank everyone for their support of the program.

ceremony at the Klamath Headquarters where Smokey Bear made an appearance to visit with the students and their families.



Klamath Ceremony

In 2014 the Lakeview unit held their award ceremony at Booth Park during a last day of school fieldtrip. Students constructed a hose lay for "tug of war" and ended the day by taking lunch with a firefighter.



Klamath held their

"Tug o War" Lake view



# Fire Prevention Co-op



The Klamath Unit has been actively involved with the Klamath Fire Prevention Cooperative (KFPC), currently two Klamath unit employees hold chairs on the co-op, Randall Baley (President) and Pam Brown (Secretary).

The KFPC annually participates in the Klamath County Fair hosting a fire prevention education station known as the Fire Prevention Gazebo. The group meets monthly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at the Gazebo located at the Klamath County Fair Grounds. Meetings are open to any person, agency or organization that has an interest in the prevention of fire incidents. The cooperative is an ongoing partnership that shares information within agencies and stays involved in community awareness.



# Grant Administration



Bullard Canyon before Fuels Reduction



Bullard Canyon after Fuels Reduction

Both the Klamath and Lake Units continue to work on fuels reduction grants located in multiple areas of the district. The primary focus of these grants has been to both educate and help landowners achieve defensible space around their homes and to reduce fire hazard fuels on their land. The year 2014 brought many opportunities to coordinate fuels reduction efforts with private land owner's as well as local municipalities.

In the fall of 2014 the Lake unit hired a fuels reduction crew to begin work on a fuel break in the Bullard Canyon area just east of Lakeview. Bullard Canyon is the Town of Lakeview's 1,600 acre municipal watershed made up of juniper, pine fir and some cedar trees. The scope of the project includes creating a 250' fuel break on each side of the roadways within the watershed. To date approximately 1.4 miles of roadway have been treated which equates to 80 acres. When completed, the project will total approximately 300 acres with 4.5 to 5 miles of fuel break.

The Klamath unit hires on a six person fuels reduction crew for spring and fall seasons. The 2014

spring fuel reduction season began on April 1<sup>st</sup> and ran thru May 30<sup>th</sup>, and the fall season began on October 20<sup>th</sup> with work completed on December 19<sup>th</sup>.

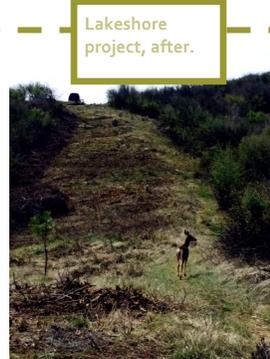
The fuels reduction crews consists of a crew leader with five members that for the most part utilize tools, power saws, and hand labor for the majority of the small tree and brush thinning. They then follow up with piling and/or chipping the debris products for either burning or landowner use. In addition to fuels reduction activities the crew also participates in other functions, such as fire suppression, prevention events, and general maintenance, as assigned.

These grant funded projects include such benefits as reducing hazardous fuels and increasing our ability to suppress wildfires in the high use areas such as Bullard Canyon. Also, through countless days of felling juniper, our seasonal workforce has gained valuable chainsaw experience.

“Through countless days of felling juniper, our seasonal workforce has gained valuable chainsaw experience”



Green Diamond Prescribed burn.



Lakeshore project, after.

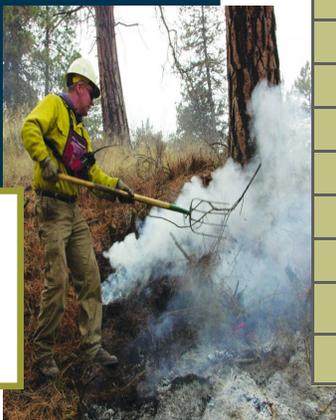


Lakeshore project, before.

## Grant Funded Projects

GRANT NAME	TREATMENT	2014 ACREAGE
Lakeshore	Fuel Reduction	104.6
Chiloquin	Fuel Reduction	31.1
Collier State Park	Pre-Commercial Thinning	2.0
Green Diamond Contract	Slash Treatment	1,783 piles
Bullard Canyon	Fuel Break & Fuel Reduction	80
Moore Park Piles*	Slash Treatment	350 small piles
Parker Mountain*	Fuel Reduction	N/A
Sand Creek Guard Station*	Fuel Reduction	N/A
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,133 Slash Piles</b>	<b>217.7 Acres</b>

\*Non-Fuels Crew Fuels Reduction Projects



Randall Baley, Fire Planner Klamath Unit, burning slash piles at Moore Park.  
\*photo courtesy of Herald & News

# Klamath-Lake Forest Health Partnership



The second tour through local landowner, John Hyde showcased the benefits of forest management and thinning on forestland.

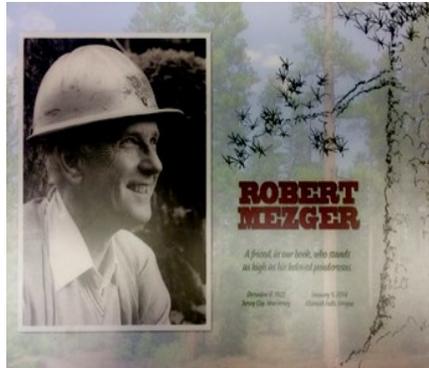
Partnership member and local landowner, Bob Mezger. The sign and a newly-planted ponderosa pine tree is located near the entrance to the ODF office in Klamath Falls in honor of Bob.

A third tour was hosted in cooperation with Oregon Small Woodlands

The Klamath-Lake Forest Health Partnership (KLFHP) continues to receive support and participation from District Stewardship Foresters. The Partnership focuses on projects promoting forest health and awareness in Klamath and Lake Counties through cooperative and scientific problem solving.

The KLFHP fosters a collaborative working group by providing a forum for local private landowners, ODF, NRCS, Forest Service, BLM, and OSU to come together a discuss pertinent forestry issues.

The Partnership had a productive year in 2014, participating in multiple tours related to local forest health issues. The first tour, of the Spring Creek area, focused on pine beetles and related forest health in the vicinity.



Association, Oregon Tree Farm System Oregon Forest Resources Institute, OSU, Klamath Watershed Partnership, ODF&W, Forest Service, and ODF, was held in October at the Gerber Ranch. This tour highlighted the benefits of partnerships and collaborative efforts in managing forests.

Additionally, in 2014, the Partnership designed and purchased a memorial sign in remembrance of long-time

The Klamath-Lake Forest Health Partnership continued to use the knowledge and resources of its participants to promote projects designed to alleviate the effects of mountain pine beetle mortality in the Spring Creek area. This will be a long-term project in which the Partnership will undoubtedly remain involved. The Partnership continues to be a valuable resource for local cooperators and timber owners.



Picture top left (Before thinning) Picture bottom right (After thinning) A project completed with the "forestry mulcher" by landowner John Hyde, on the Yamsi Ranch, in Klamath County.



Landowner, John Hyde, with the "forestry mulcher" he uses for non-commercial thinning.

## Prevention



In the spring, fire prevention messages were seen and heard throughout Klamath County as we approached fire season which began on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. These messages continued all the way to the season end on October 16<sup>th</sup>.

Public service announcements with press releases about fire

prevention, the fire danger, and reminders about Regulated Use were consistently reaching the public through newspapers, radio, television, and internet.

In June, Klamath-Lake District partnered with the OSU Extension Service, several other agencies, and timber company representatives for

the annual 6<sup>th</sup> Grade School Forestry Tour. The tour gives personnel the opportunity to educate many 6<sup>th</sup> graders from Klamath County in fire management and fire prevention. Klamath-Lake District also took part in the Klamath County Fair, Fire Prevention Coop, and other community opportunities and events.



# Private Forest Program

Rob Wood  
(Forest Officer,  
Lakeview)  
conducting an  
industrial fire



management assistance as well as regulation of forest operations. In 2014 the stewardship foresters went

The stewardship foresters provide forestry assistance through a variety of methods; education, technical assistance, working groups, partnerships, one on one interaction with landowners, forest health grants and more.

The Private Forests Program provides education, engineering and enforcement of resource protection rules on forest operations and assistance to forest landowners. Services include forest health and forest

from 4, to 2, due to a retirement and a resignation, and up to 4 when the 2 vacant positions were filled at the end of the year. One Stewardship Forester is located in Lakeview, and 3 are located In Klamath Falls.



Ann Maloney  
(stewardship Forester,  
Klamath) teaching basic  
forestry skills to Silver  
Lake Grade School  
Students during an  
outdoor education two  
day event .

## Forest Practices Data

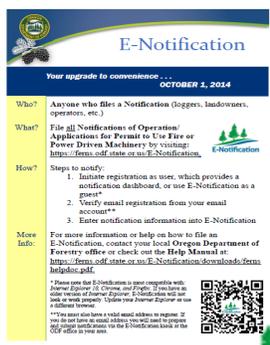
ITEM	KLAMATH	LAKE	TOTAL
New Applications	279	154	433
Continuations	98	25	123
Total	377	179	556

WRITTEN PLANS	KLAMATH	LAKE	TOTAL
T & E Species	12	1	13
Streams	15	8	23
Significant Wetlands	12	22	34

INSPECTIONS	KLAMATH	LAKE	TOTAL
Pre-Operation	14	16	30
Active Operations	9	27	36
Industrial Fire	6	12	18
Post-Operation	124	44	168
TOTAL	153	99	252

CITATIONS	KLAMATH	LAKE	TOTAL
Civil Penalty	0	0	0
Criminal Penalty	0	0	0

## Forest Activity Electronic Notification System



FERNS (Forest Activity Electronic Reporting and Notification System) arrived in 2014 requiring all notifications of operations to be submitted via a web-based system through the internet. District personnel are learning the new system right along with our landowners and operators.



Deanna Drinkwater (Office  
Coordinator, Lakeview)  
assisting an operator with his  
notification at Lake Unit

# Forestry Assistance

The stewardship foresters provided technical assistance to landowners for general forestry (20), reforestation (2), non-commercial thinning (6), fuel reduction (2), fire prevention (1), insect and disease (4), and stewardship plan monitoring (2).

Associated landowner accomplishments are shown in the accompanying table:

LANDOWNER ACCOMPLISHMENT	DISTRICT TOTAL
Non-Commercial Thinning	1455
Slash Treatment	1455
Reforestation	224
Fuel Reduction	310



Noel Livingston (Landowner / Board Member's son) and Kellie Carlsen (Lake Unit Stewardship Forester) discuss planning for and implementing prescribed burning, and landowner liability.



KFHP Spring Creek Tour

**“The Operators Breakfast provides an opportunity for landowners and operators to ask questions and share ideas”**

Green Diamond land located in Klamath County

## Operators Breakfast

The Annual Operators’ Breakfast meeting, in April, was held at Oregon Institute of Technology with forty-two landowners, operators and staff in attendance. The meeting was hosted by the Klamath-Lake District, Associated Oregon Loggers (AOL), and Green Diamond (formerly JWTR, LLC). Rex Storm, AOL Forest Policy Manager presented current topics from the legislature, proposed changes, and updates on various state-wide issues.

Salem staff gave a presentation about the upcoming FERNs (Forest Activity Electronic Notification and Reporting System) web-based notification system. District staff discussed fire season outlook, industrial fire equipment requirements, operations fires expectations, and OR-OSHA.

The operators’ breakfast serves as a reminder to landowners and operators that hot and dry weather will soon be upon us and provides tools and information to use while conducting their operations during fire season. It also provides an opportunity to discuss forest practices and other concerns, plus allows the landowners and operators an opportunity to ask questions and share their concerns.



SW View from Butte, Gilchrist

# State Forest Program

The Klamath-Lake District manages 82,292 acres of state forest lands. The district now has 2 State forests within its boundaries. The Gilchrist State Forest, which contains approximately 48,360 acres and the Sun Pass State Forest which contains 21,317 acres. The Gilchrist State Forest is located approximately 90 miles north of Klamath Falls, while the Sun Pass State Forest is located 40 miles north of Klamath Falls near the southeastern corner of Crater Lake National Park. Remaining state-owned land is scattered in a number of small parcels throughout the District, with the exception of two larger blocks of land tracts – Bear Valley and Yainax Butte.

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. These lands are managed under the direction of the Eastern Region Long-Range Forest Management Plan, while generating revenue for both Klamath County and the Common School Fund. Of the 82,292 acres managed by the District, 75,465 acres are Board of Forestry lands and the remaining 6,827 acres Common School Forest lands.

## Gilchrist State Forest



In March 2010, the Oregon Department of Forestry acquired approximately 43,000 acres of forestland from Fidelity National Timber Resources Inc., which had acquired them in 2006 from Crown Pacific. The property is part of larger holdings that were owned by the Gilchrist Timber Company for most of the 20th century.

The original purchase was financed with \$15 million in lottery backed bonds approved by the 2009 legislature with support from Governor Ted Kulongoski. The bonds will be repaid over twenty years with proceeds from the Oregon lottery. On June 11, 2010 Governor Kulongoski dedicated the acquired lands as the new

Gilchrist State Forest, the only Oregon state forest dedicated since the Sun Pass State Forest.

In June of 2014 ODF purchased 5,360 acres from the Conservation Fund. This purchase was completed with Lottery Backed Bonds the legislature had approved in the 2013 session. Funding for the additional 23,440 acres has been awarded to ODF and final acquisition is scheduled for summer of 2015. These lands are adjacent to the Gilchrist State Forest, and were purchased with the intent ODF would purchase them as soon as funding became available. Funding for these lands has been secured through Lottery backed bonds, General fund backed bonds and a Forest Legacy grant.

**“Funding for the additional 23,440 acres has been awarded to ODF”**

## Management Activities

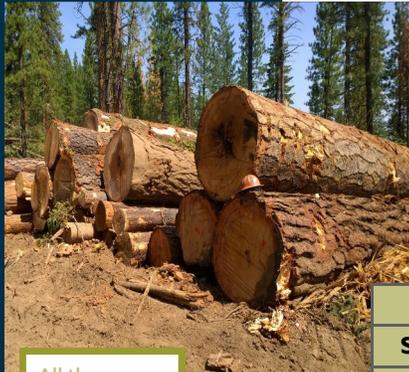
Approximately 3000 acres will be mechanically thinned in the Gilchrist State Forest in order to reduce stand density to acceptable levels. Diseased and overstocked material from 5.0 inches to 12.0 inches dbh will be removed. Ponderosa pine will be the preferred species to leave. The removed material will be sold as sawlog and pulp volume. It is expected that this project will result in a break-even cash flow. This project is supported by the management strategies from the 1995 Eastern Region Long-Range Forest Management Plan and policy direction as stated during the February, 2010 Board of Forestry meeting that approved the initial acquisition of the 43,235 acres of the Gilchrist State Forest.



To date the Gilchrist Intensive management has proven to be quite successful. The Purchaser will usually cut the material within a few months of the sale date, at this time they have the option to remove any volume as saw logs.

The remaining material stays in the unit to dry. The drying time varies, but usually 1 year to achieve the minimum moisture content needed. When this timeframe is met the Purchaser moves in the chipping equipment and begins moving the material in chip form. All of the sales listed on the following page are active, but final chipping has not occurred.

# Timber Sale Activity



All three pictures taken at Fast Track Timber Sale



COMMON SCHOOL LANDS		
SALE NAME	MBF Volume	Value
Double C	1,386	\$238,079

ACTIVE SALES - BOARD OF FORESTRY		
SALE NAME	MBF Volume	Value
Double Deuce	7,833	\$1,807,912
Fast Track	1,316	\$112,712
Red Tail Down	549	\$102,914
<b>TOTAL SALES</b>	<b>9,698</b>	<b>\$2,023,538</b>



SALES SOLD - BOARD OF FORESTRY			
SALE NAME	Acres	MBF Volume	Value
Brookie	373	4,462	\$1,454,070
Red Tail Down	305	807	\$1,597,206
MistleToad	395	2,003	\$529,385
Beavertail	163	646	\$138,950
PLJ	259	1,117	\$238,295
Pokegma Salvage	65	447	\$70525
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,560</b>	<b>9,482</b>	<b>\$2,634,839</b>

## State Forest Partnerships

*“Due to high water the barriers were modified in October of 2011. Additional barrier modification were completed summer 2014 ”*

The Klamath-Lake District in partnership with ODF&W, Crater Lake National Park, and USF&W is implementing a project to expand bull trout distribution downstream from Crater Lake National Park (Park) onto the State Forest portion of Sun Creek. This effort supports a USFW Draft Recovery Plan for Bull Trout in the Klamath Basin. Re-establishing headwater populations and increasing downstream distributions of bull trout have been represented by USFWS and ODFW as the most important recovery actions for bull trout in the Klamath Basin.

The first action needed for this restoration project was to install two temporary barriers that will prevent upstream migration of non-native fish into the bull trout recovery reach but allow for downstream migration of bull trout. The barriers can eventually be removed when bull trout have been established throughout Sun Creek and the threat from non-native fish has been mitigated. These two barriers were completed in November 2010. Due to high water these barriers required some

modifications, which were completed in October 2011. Additional Barrier modifications were completed the summer of 2014.

The removal of the non-native fish through a chemical treatment above these barriers took place in August of 2012; a follow up treatment was performed in August of 2013. Fish surveys will take place the spring/ summer of 2014 by CLNP



personnel to monitor the effectiveness of the barriers. This approach (*installation of barriers and removal of non-native fish with chemical treatment*) was used in the upstream portion of Sun Creek flowing through the Park. The Park project has been declared a success with large increases in distribution within

bull trout population and the park.

ODF, CLNP, USF&W, and Klamath Basin Rangeland Trust continue to explore opportunities to restore the natural channel of Sun Creek and connect to the Wood River.

# Lakeview Interagency Fire Center



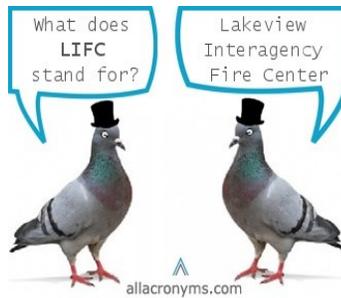
In 2014 the Lakeview Interagency Fire Center and the Klamath Falls Interagency Fire Center consolidated into one center located in Lakeview Oregon. Preparation for consolidation began in the fall of 2013 and continued

thru the winter and spring of 2014. During that time workloads, prioritization of projects, and coordination with partners both internally and externally were taking place across the South Central Fire Management Partnership in an effort to make the dispatch consolidation a success and fully functional for the Grand Opening which occurred with a ribbon cutting ceremony on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014.

The Lakeview Interagency Fire Center provides all risk dispatching services to five protection agencies which are the Oregon Department of Forestry, Bureau of Land Management, United States Forest Service, United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Park Service who have protection

responsibilities on approximately 8.4 million acres. In addition to the 5 primary agencies served by the Lakeview Interagency Fire Center several cooperative agreements and mutual aid agreements are facilitated thru the dispatch center that provide fire suppression assistance to several external partners that include Local Fire Districts, Rural and Volunteer Fire Departments, and Rangeland Associations.

Overall the consolidation and the services provided by the Lakeview Interagency Fire Center during the 2014 fire season were considered a success across the participating agencies within the South Central Fire Management Partnership. The dispatch center staff and agency leadership have received valuable input and thru lessons learned in 2014 will continue to refine and improve the services provided by the dispatch center to help every agency meet their mission.



**“LIFC provides all risk dispatching services to five protection agencies”**

## Personnel Changes

Personnel changes in 2014 were:

**Ann Maloney** retired from her Natural Resource Specialist II in the Private Forest Program.

**Jason Brush** resigned from his position as a Natural Resource Specialist 2 working as a Stewardship Forester in private forests.

**Jason Pettigrew** voluntarily left position as the Wildland Fire Supervisor and transferred into one of the Natural Resource Specialist II positions in Private Forests.

**Matt Flock** transferred from his NRS2 position in Philomath to the vacancy in Private forests. He maintained his position as a Natural Resource Specialist II.

**Bryson Williams** was promoted from his permanent position as an Automotive Technician II to the Wildland Fire Supervisor in the Protection Program.

**Teresa Thomas** was promoted from her position as a seasonal Wildland Fire Suppression Specialist to the Administrative Specialist II position at LIFC.

**Gandy Batten** hired on as a seasonal Wildland Supression Specialist if filling a temporary position as the Automotive Technician II.

The District values recognition for individual and team contributions that promote pride, motivation and a sense of accomplishment.

### Service Awards:

Jennifer Saltenberger	5 years
Dennis Lee	10 years
Brad Smith	15 years
Karen Anderson	15 years
Dustin Gustaveson	20 years
Bryan Koehn	25 years
John Pellissier	25 years
Greg Pittman	35 Years



Bryson Williams, Wildland Fire Supervisor

# Safety and Wellness Program



**Pictures:** Klamath Unit crews morning physical training hike.



The Klamath Lake District Safety and Wellness Committee served the district throughout 2014. A distinct trend across our district, as with the rest of ODF, was Flexibility. The committee maintained our core functions in the midst of a challenging and successful year. These core duties include development of our yearly safety plan, implementing the wellness program, OSHA posting and correspondence, and identifying and addressing developing trends.

The committee serves as an advisory group to district management that has numerous tangible benefits! Employee integration, among others, is a standout goal of the committee to encourage all employees to be a part of our safety program and to take ownership in our district's success. This includes trav-

eling to the various workstations from guard stations, field settings, and offices for monthly meetings and dialogue of issues current on our district. Promoting safety accountability and troubleshooting emerging issues are other focal points that the committee is committed to. All this in combination with our wellness program give our committee success in serving the employees of the Klamath Lake District.

The Committee will continue these core duties moving forward into 2015. As we look ahead and excitedly await the new and recurring challenges and hurdles we will continue to proactively attack that "creeping mediocrity" that can spoil well intended policy. With a little luck and continued tenacity we will fight to be the best we can be and encourage our district to do the same.

## Program Highlights and Accomplishments:

Monthly safety minutes were e-mailed out to all Klamath-Lake employees.

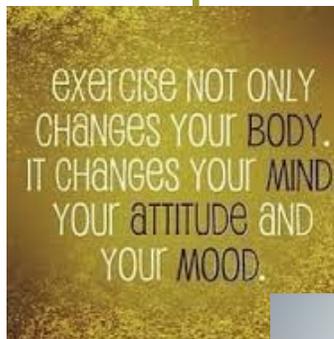
The Wellness board was maintained in both Klamath Falls and Lakeview, providing a new topic each month related to wellness.

Annual Fall Safety Review meeting was held in December in Klamath Falls. The meeting included a summary of safety and performance, as well as a yearly report from each unit.

*"We value physical and mental well being as a necessity to be the best that we can"*

### Wellness Monthly Topics:

- Winter Dehydration
- Superfoods
- Probiotics
- Anxiety
- Foot Care
- Energy Drinks
- Eat This-Not That
- Minding Your Mood
- Music Therapy
- Artificial Sweeteners
- Healthy Sleep



**Klamath Employees hike to hogsback lookout.**



# Employees in the Community



Kellie with her youth mentor program participant

Lake County Youth Mentor Program links a mentor with a youth to encourage academic success, reduce absenteeism and delinquency, and instill a desire to prepare for career success. To reach these outcomes, youth are paired with adults who will serve as role models to help develop skills such as good boundaries, time management, good study habits, strong communication, positive peer relationships, and respect for self and others. Kellie Carlsen, Lake Unit Stewardship Forester, joined the program in 2010 and has really enjoyed the one-on-one time. Her hope is to be a “positive influence in a younger person’s life!”

Pam Brown continues to be involved with the SMART (Start Making A Reader Today) program at Stearns Elementary in Klamath Falls. Deanna Drinkwater is active with Crater Lake Council Cub Scouts Pack 13 in Lakeview. Rob Wood and Kevin Burdon are volunteers with Lake County Search and Rescue. John Pellissier is in his 8th year of service on Board of Directors for the Klamath and Lake Counties Food Bank. Nancy Sherin has volunteered with Junior Achievement since 2012. In addition to the organizations listed above, Dennis Lee, Randall Baley, and Jake Barnett coach youth club sports in the Klamath Basin.



Thank you to everyone who found a way to give back to our communities.



“Thank you to everyone who helped and found a way to give to our communities”



## State Employees Food Drive

During the annual February State Employees Food Drive, Klamath Unit employees were responsible for raising \$7,494.18 equaling 29,976.72 lbs. of food (Four pounds for every dollar raised). In addition, employees collected 32,520.00 lbs. of produce and canned food that was delivered directly to the Klamath and Lake Counties Food Bank.

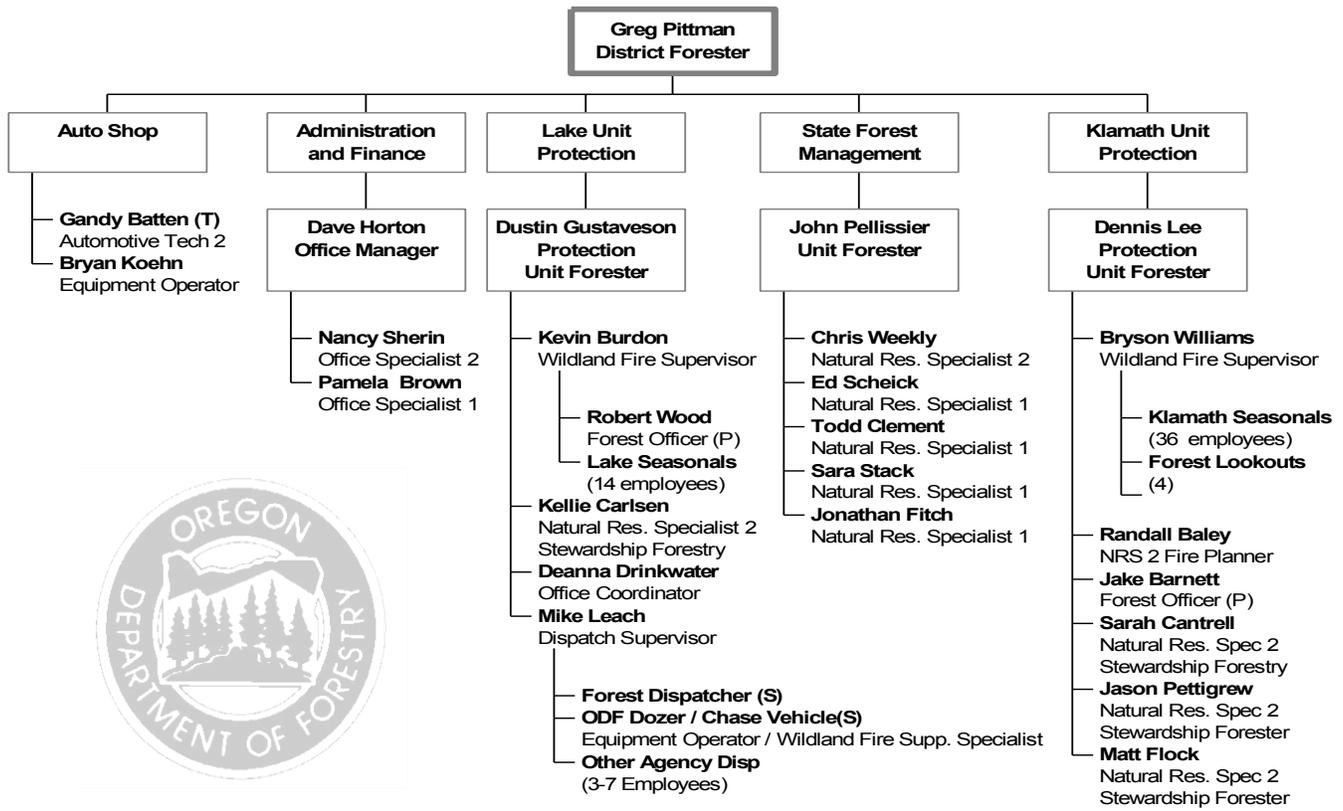
This averaged 3,472.04 pounds per employee which resulted in “Best in EOA” for the Klamath Unit. In 2014, our local Food Bank distributed 1.6 million pounds of food to nearly 70 agencies like the Senior Centers in Klamath and Lake Counties, YMCA, Cancer Treatment Center, Salvation Army, Saint Vincent De Paul, Klamath Hospice, The Gospel Mission and many, many more. Our service area covers 18,000 square miles from Christmas Valley to Keno and Chemult to Malin. Nearly 23,000 people ate from a food box last fiscal year. The food bank also provided food to assist in the preparation of 495,000 meals that fed kids, seniors, disabled and homeless.

**Niki Sampson, Food Bank director said, “Humility is alive and well in Klamath and Lake Counties. If you’re struggling and need some help, come see us. Take the help and when you get back on your feet do what others do, donate your time to help others. That’s what we do as Americans, right!”**



Mailing Address: PO Box 317 • Klamath Falls, OR 97601  
 3231 Maywood Drive • Klamath Falls, OR 97603  
 Ph (541) 882-1223 • Fax (541) 882-0065  
[www.klamathfoodbank.org](http://www.klamathfoodbank.org)

# District Personnel



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Fax: 541-947-3078



## WEBSITES

<http://egov.oregon.gov/ODF/>

<http://egov.oregon.gov/ODF/>

[FIELD/KL/aboutklamathlake.shtm](http://egov.oregon.gov/ODF/FIELD/KL/aboutklamathlake.shtm)