

# South Cascade District



**2014 Annual Report**



# District Forester Greg Wagenblast

Welcome to the South Cascade District,

As I am reading through the 2014 Annual Report, I am amazed and very excited about the amount and diversity of accomplishments the staff of the South Cascade District (SCAS) have achieved this past year. This district is made up of so many talented, professional & dedicated individuals and I feel honored to be working with them. This report will showcase some of their many achievements over this past year.



As I am told, "the only constant in life is change"... this year reflected that throughout the district and employees personal lives. We have a great group of dedicated people who respond when the fire bell rings, but there is a cost to that dedication... and that is to the families.

I want to honor and thank all of the families of each of our district staff who are there at home supporting their loved ones so they can go out on the fire line or be in the office during the day, or at midnight, working on a district fire or project fire that is on the other side of the state. There are times that birthdays, anniversaries and family gatherings are missed because of fire activity. Without our families support and understanding, these jobs would be much more difficult. The past 2 years have stretched the district in support of the statewide efforts as well as impacted all of the families.

Family is one of the most important elements to our staff and I want to say **THANK YOU!** to each and every family member as you all are part of the SCAS District team and share in the successes of this district!

Over the past year, we have seen several staff members promote or accept new positions outside the agency. I want to wish them great success and happiness with their career and family. With these vacancies we have had the opportunity to recruit some new folks to the district who have been able to compliment the great team that is already in place. I am excited to see the things to come with all of the district staff working together on many projects.



# District Forester Greg Wagenblast

Once again this past summer was very busy seeing 12 ODF IMT deployments across the state and keeping SCAS district busy supporting these deployments while protecting the lands within the district.

Our staff continues to impress me with their abilities and preparation throughout the season. For a second year in a row, the district staff have been able to support the multiple statewide requests while still maintaining the level of protection on the home front. The district team did an awesome job with the lightning event that resulted in 14 fires, minimizing the damages and acres burned.

I appreciate all of the support and coordination that was provided to the district by our Landowners, RFD's, Federal partners and neighboring ODF & DFPA districts with staff and resources.

As the summer progressed, we remained engaged with the Willamette National Forest (WNF) and several fires that occurred on the Middle Fork Ranger District (Staley and Deception). I appreciate the awesome partnership and great coordination that the WNF shares with SCAS and how we were able to work together on these fires and prevent impacts to private lands.

Towards the end of the season the district staff had another tremendous fire stop with the Row River Fire. My hats off to the great firefighting that occurred out there by our district staff and landowners. During this fire we were able to test the use of Scoopers thanks to the WNF obtaining the Scoopers for us when no other aircraft were available. The three Scoopers, along with all the ground forces, were able to keep a fire with significant growth potential on a high risk fire day at 10 acres while several other fires that occurred around the state at this same time grew large. Great job to all the folks out on the fire and the support staff at the office/dispatch making good things happen on the ground!

Even though we have had a busy fire season, our District staff have been fully engaged with Fire Prevention as well. These folks continue to amaze me with their efforts and creative thinking to making the fire prevention message fun & exciting.



# District Forester Greg Wagenblast

As part of the district prevention program, I had the great honor of participating in the Springfield Christmas Parade which is a highlight event within the community. Driving SMOKEY along the parade route and seeing the kids eyes light up is amazing. What is as equally exciting is to watch and hear the adults along the parade route get so excited about SMOKEY as well.

The SCAS staff has been involved with many events and additional efforts that I wish we could list, but they would be too numerous for this report. Staff across the district is fully engaged and dedicates a lot of time and effort towards prevention which I am so appreciative of all their efforts.

Another facet of our prevention program is our Fuels & Fire Planning efforts. I am happy to report that Brent Peterson has accepted our vacant Fire Plan Forester position and the program under Brent's leadership will cover the entire district with a broader approach to fire planning efforts. Brent has already moved this program forward this year and I cannot wait to see where he takes it over the next year!

Our Private forest program continues to be busy and going thru changes as well. Several significant events have occurred this year. The development and implementation of FERNS has occurred on the district. This new electronic notification program has resulted in much change to the process and activities on the district. The district staff has been engaged from the start and working together to coordinate the implementation and processes.

Along with this, Marvin Vetter (Springfield Stewardship Forester) accepted a detail to Eastern Oregon to work with the Rangeland Associations and we were very fortunate to have talented personnel backfill this position. We were able to have Nikolai Hall on loan from Western Lane (Thank you WL!) and our very own Protection Supervisor Brian Dally both fill in behind Marvin. They both were great additions to the team and have accomplished great work with our Private forest group. All of the district Stewardship Foresters have been busy with some great accomplishments this past year.

These folks are very talented and provide awesome customer service! I want to thank each one of them for their dedication and efforts this past year as the program continues to develop.



# District Forester Greg Wagenblast

All the great accomplishments achieved by our field staff would not be possible without the support and dedication of our district administrative staff in both units.

These talented folks work hard to keep the districts business operating every day and we could not do it without them. Whether its customer service at the front counter or on the phone to paying the bills, fiscal accounting/tracking or audit work, I am amazed at the talents, coordination and efforts behind the scenes that this group provides on a daily basis. Thank you Admin staff!

Looking back, this past year has had some challenges and opportunities for the district and our staff. But people have risen to the occasion! Everyone has met these challenges and been successful in so many things in the past year.

The District has had a very successful year thanks to our District staff along with our great partners (Our landowner community & Cooperators) and their support we received this year. Thank you for all your great efforts and support. I am truly grateful for all you do to make the South Cascade District so successful. Thank you!

I hope you enjoy reading about the great work and accomplishments of our awesome staff at SCAS District!

*Greg Wagenblast*

SCAS District Forester

## ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF



### STAFFING CHANGES:

Karen Swearingen accepted the position of Fire Operations Manager in Salem.

Chris Cline then came to the Springfield office from the Coos Forest Protection Association to fill the vacant position as the Eastern Lane Unit Forester.

Vickie Grimes left her position as the South Cascade District Business Manager for a position in the private sector.

Jerilee Johnson accepted the position as the new District Business Manager coming from Oregon Health Authority.

During the interim Brandy Simmons came over from Western Lane to help as the developmental District Business Manager.

Also, Joe Arbow left as the Fire Plan Forester to become a permanent Stewardship Forester in the North Cascade District.

The South Cascade District Administrative staff continue to provide the excellent customer service to all they had contact with in both the Springfield and Sweet Home offices. They also did a great job in maintaining the everyday operations even with extreme fire season during 2014 and assisting with fire assignments on the many occasions on and off district.

Gina Dally got her first actual “fire camp” experience when assigned as PTRC to the Rowena fire and assisted with two payment teams, Oregon Gulch and Yellow Point fires.

Nora LeDoux provided assistance as a radio operator for three fires this summer, Two Bulls, Scoggins, and Moccasin Hill.

Vicki DeLong maintained her position as Food Unit Leader on Team 2 at Two Bulls, Moccasin Hill, Beaver Hill/Oregon Gulch, Lost Hubcap, and Scoggins fires.

Kimi Dixon stayed on the home front and kept the Sweet Home office in business. She also provided her skills in Dispatch, assisting with communications on the Sweet Home unit when Cascade Dispatch had radio issues towards the end of the season.

Jerilee Johnson got her feet wet with two fires on the Eastern Lane Unit, the Dexter Complex and Row River. She also traveled to Prineville for tracking SPA helicopter activity.

Kimi Dixon and Nora LeDoux who have been the primary processors of the Notifications of Operations adjusted well with the changes that occurred this year from the paper notification to an electronic version famously known as FERNS. Changes are always difficult and especially to this magnitude, but they have been great at working with the landowners, operators, or timber owners to make this transition as smooth as possible.

Great job team!

# PRIVATE FORESTS PROGRAM

The Private Forest Program provides a wide variety of services to private landowners using best management practices to promote forest activities.

The Stewardship Foresters pass this information to the landowners by individual meetings or through classes promoted through Associated Oregon Loggers or the Department of Forestry.

The Stewardship Foresters' main emphasis is compliance of the Oregon Forest Practices Act, assistance to small woodland owners, and industrial fire prevention and education.

The FERNS electronic notification system was implemented October 1, 2014, replacing paper "Notification of Operations/Application for Permit" forms.



*"iPad camera works"  
SF's hard at work*



*Holman Creek*



*"ocean of fog"*



*Potts Creek*

# FOREST PRACTICES

**Eastern Lane** County has a large industrial forest land base, and the land and climate is capable of producing large quantities of wood products. Markets improved and timber harvesting activities increased in the Eastern Lane Unit during 2014 with 956 notifications received, reviewed, and processed. An additional 226 notifications were renewed for 2014. Stewardship foresters reviewed 122 written plans to protect Oregon's various resources and 14 plans for alternate practice.

Marvin Vetter had the opportunity to do a developmental Rangeland Protection Coordinator position from July through the end of the year. During Marvin's absence, Nikolai Hall from Western Lane temporarily filled the Stewardship Foresters position and earned valuable experience from exposure to Forest Practices work.

One of the main components of the Stewardship Forester's position is education. Over the last year, the Stewardship Foresters assisted with the annual operators' dinner, manning a booth at the Oregon Logging Conference, and the AOL Basic Forest Practices Workshop. The Stewardship Foresters have taught landowners and operators about the Forest Practices Act (sediment delivery, riparian management areas, reforestation, etc.).

The **Sweet Home** Unit was busy in 2014 for Stewardship Foresters Jim Ewing and Steve Kendall. Harvest activity increased because of good timber markets, resulting in 803 notifications being received, reviewed, and processed. An additional 134 notifications processed in 2013 were continued in 2014. The Foresters assisted landowners with resource protection by reviewing 124 written plans, 18 plans for alternate practice, and performing 644 operation field inspections.



## FORESTRY ASSISTANCE

### INDUSTRIAL FIRE

Stewardship Foresters and Forest Officers worked together again this year to conduct industrial fire inspections.

Both units also assisted with fire training and pre season fire inspections for the large timber companies.

In **Eastern Lane** there were 48 fire inspections with 1 violation.

**Sweet Home** performed 50 inspections and granted 20 waivers with no violations.

Both units held their annual pre-season Operators Dinner and program in late spring which were both well attended.

Due to the dedicated industrial fire prevention cooperation between the operators, landowners, and ODF, there were only 2 equipment fires in 2014.

In **Eastern Lane**, the number of notifications for small non industrial landowners also increased the number of forestry assistance inspections. Tim, Nikolai, and Marvin assisted the small non industrial landowners with their questions and forestry education.

In **Sweet Home**, Jim and Steve performed 32 field visits to assist small landowners with various technical issues related to forestland management.

Jim Ewing administered the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) in both Sweet Home and East Lane Units.

CREP projects establish vegetation buffers along streams which enhance water quality by filtering water runoff and reducing sedimentation, while improving wildlife habitat.



In conjunction with partnering agencies Natural Resource Conservation Service and Farm Service Agency, 9 potential CREP project site visits were conducted in 2014.

CREP project activities performed; 10 planting plans were reviewed, 6 revised, and 55 site visits were conducted to inspect and approve site prep, planting, and moisture conservation practices.

In Sweet Home, a Stewardship Plan for a small woodland owner of 43 acres was written and cost shared. A forest management plan was written by Jim for the 79 acre Thurston Hills Community Forest Tract, part of Willamalane Park and Recreation District in Springfield.

## EASTERN LANE



## PREVENTION

In **Eastern Lane**, 2014 was a productive/busy year for the Fire Prevention Program. The Unit was able to fulfill its Prevention goals to the public and land-owners and even add a few new events to our already large event calendar.

We again had a strong showing at some of the more popular events such as the Lane County Fair, Lane County Home Show, Logging Conference, and Springfield Christmas Parade. There was a long list of parades that the Unit participated in during the summer months as well such as the Creswell Fourth of July Parade, Marry Cole Days and others.

Other events to include Willamelane Parks and Recreation events and programs such as the Springfield Summer Fair and others. The main focus for these more traditional events was of course reaching out to our youth audience with the Smokey Bear message delivered through his “Five Rules”. We also appealed to the adult audience with informative discussions in regards to Firewise topics, Regulated Use Closure requirements, and Industrial Fire Prevention. An effort was made to better explain to the public our Regulated Use Closure Proclamations with new language prohibiting new activities such as exploding targets and sky lanterns. These objectives were also conveyed through active prevention patrols and Unit prevention signage.

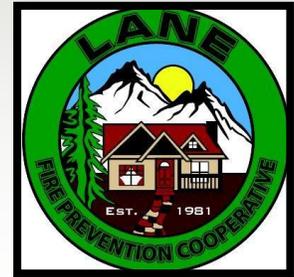
One new event this year was a full Firewise booth at the Cottage Grove Heritage Fair and Timber Show. This booth was staffed by our Forest Officers and afforded them great exposure and experience in public speaking and was very engaging for all. Another new event was “Movie Night” at both the Creswell and Cottage Grove Fire Departments. We partnered with our cooperators under one roof to spread a fire safe message to families of those communities.

## PREVENTION - EASTERN LANE

Again this year we partnered with the Umpqua National Forest at the Bohemia Mining Days and Miners Breakfast. Our Forest Officers conducted OHV inspections and again reached out to best interpret our Regulated Use requirements to the public with special emphasis on OHV enthusiasts.



**2014** was also a year of strong support and involvement in the Lane Fire Prevention Cooperative. One of the larger events for the Co-Op was our annual Team Teaching in the eastern Lane County elementary schools. The program reached out to over a dozen rural schools and nearly 1700 1st and 4th grade students. We are currently introducing new curriculum to better the program and strengthen our message for fire prevention.



Another successful event was our annual FireBusters program aired on local TV. This week long series featured an “Outdoor Safety” piece focused on fire safety in the outdoors.

Lastly, with Brian Dally serving as President (a member for two years now), has brought renewed energy, great representation, and involvement to the Co-Op.

As we enter 2015 we look forward to continuing to work hard to reach our many forest workers, residences and recreationalist to ensure our fire prevention message is well received and good relationships are built and fostered!

## SWEET HOME



LARAE GUILLOR (USFS) AND NEIL MILLER (ODF) AT FOSTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



The three Poster Contest Grand Champion winners



## PREVENTION

2014 brought another busy and eventful fire prevention season to Linn County and the Sweet Home ODF unit.

In March, the Sweet Home Unit in cooperation with the Willamette National Forest and Sweet Home Ranger District, carried out the annual Smokey Bear first grade fire prevention school program in Sweet Home, Lebanon, and Halsey Elementary Schools. Additionally, in June, Smokey and crew visited 60 additional 1<sup>st</sup> grade students at Oak Elementary School in Albany.

Students from these 14 Linn County schools participated in a fire prevention presentation and video on Smokey's five fire safety rules that taught students how to build, enjoy, and safely extinguish a campfire along with a reminder to never play with matches and lighters. Smokey Bear and his Forest Ranger helpers also reminded students how to report a fire to 911 and handed out litter bags that contained fire prevention message school supplies and the True Story of Smokey Bear booklet to a total of 676 students this year.

This year marked the 33<sup>rd</sup> annual Sweet Home Unit and Sweet Home Ranger district fourth grade poster contest where students are invited to construct a fire prevention poster that promotes a fire safety message. Eight fourth grade blended classrooms with 197 students participated this year in the Sweet Home School District. The three grand prize winning posters were reproduced on large bill boards by Sweet Home High School art students and displayed along the three major highway corridors that lead into Linn County forest land.

All contest poster entries were displayed at the Sweet Home Public Library for three weeks. The 27 first, second, and third place winners from each participating school were invited to ride on the Sportsman Holiday fire prevention float along with Smokey Bear, ODF Sweet Home Unit engines, and personnel following. Unit personnel and engines also participated in the Lebanon Strawberry Festival and the Albany Veteran's Parades.

## SWEET HOME



**HB 3199**



## PREVENTION - SH CONTINUED

Sweet Home personnel participated in the Brownsville Fire Department and Lebanon Fireman's Appreciation Days which promoted defensible space around structures in the urban interface and fire season safe burning practices within Linn County. The **Defensible Space Model Home** display, can show the recommended options to ensure your home will survive a wildfire, was used at both locations. The lightning bolt with smoking fire was a crowd favorite.

ODF participated with Keep Oregon Green during the Wildfire Awareness Month campaign in May. Information was given to the public through a number of social media sources that addressed home defensible space, debris burning, safe campfires, and traveling in forest recreation areas.

Prior to our fire season, the Oregon legislature passed house bill 3199 which prohibits the release of sky lanterns, discharge of exploding targets, or tracer ammunition during fire season on ODF protection districts. Information flyers were distributed to 13 local merchants that sell exploding targets and tracer ammunition in Linn County.

ODF Sweet Home personnel also presented AOL/OR-OSHA fire safety training to 135 logging employees and cooperators. ODF also assisted Cascade Timber Consulting with their industrial fire engine inspections.

Forest Officers and unit personnel educated the public with over 170 fire prevention contacts during fire season. In addition, 29 warnings and 4 citations for burning without a permit, regulated use violations or failure to provide for a safe campfire were written. During regulated use, 14 campfire waivers were issued.

This year four NFDRS decals were replaced at two local Fire Departments and two unit sign board locations. Two new off season defensible space information board signs were constructed. One fire season sign board was replaced at Canyon Creek.

Again this year, the ODOT VMS reader board was activated on Highway 20 at Foster Reservoir to provide information to the traveling public of current fire restrictions and danger.

The Sweet Home Unit only burned two acres this year so our fire prevention efforts have led to another successful season.

# FUELS REDUCTION & COST SHARE

In 2014 there were (5) federal grants being administered on the district. The grants were the Sky High, SE Lane, McKenzie Biomass, Mohawk Biomass, and the McKenzie/Oakridge.

## Sky High WSFM #449007-07

- 8 projects completed: (2) landowner Cost Share projects & (6) ODF Fuels Crew defensible space projects

### Accomplishments

**Brush: 15.2 Thin: 9.7 Prune: 25.2 Chip: 8 L&S: 7.2 Haul: 0 Piles: 0  
Burn: 0 Thin/Mast: 10 Slash: 10 Biomass: 8 Homes: 33  
Acres: footprint—25.2 Acres: treatment—56.2**

- Presented SB360, FireWise & RSG handouts at (2) Homeowner Association meeting, 18 attended
- Lane County Homeshow, March 6-9, 2014 approx. 1,000 educated at the ODF booth

## SE Lane WSFM #449003-02

- 64 projects completed: (9) landowner Cost Share projects & (55) ODF Fuels Crew defensible space projects

### Accomplishments

**Brush: 197.15 Thin: 86.5 Prune: 194.15 Chip: 84 L&S: 16 Haul: 36.9  
Piles: 6 Burn: 0 Thin/Mast: 82.15 Slash: 94.15 Biomass: 60.4  
Homes: 138  
Acres: footprint—197.15 Acres: treatment—791**

## McKenzie Biomass CA #449990-07

- 57 projects completed: (15) landowner Cost Share projects & (42) ODF Fuels Crew defensible space projects
- Presented SB360, FireWise & RSG handouts at (4) Community/ Homeowner Association meeting, 68 attended

### Accomplishments

**Brush: 97 Thin: 62 Prune: 106 Chip: 61 L&S: 6.5 Haul: 0 Piles: 7  
Burn: 2 Thin/Mast: 13 Slash: 28.5 Biomass: 39.35 Homes: 158  
Acres: footprint—117 Acres: treatment—383**

- Grant expired in 2014

# FUELS REDUCTION & COST SHARE, CONT.

## Mohawk Biomass CA #449990-10

- 48 projects completed: (20) landowner Cost Share projects & (28) ODF Fuels Crew defensible space projects
- Presented SB360, FireWise & RSG handouts at (3) Community/Homeowner Association meeting, 46 attended

### Accomplishments

**Brush: 144.6 Thin: 80.61 Prune: 138.6 Chip: 100.5 L&S: 6.5 Haul: 0  
Piles: 0 Burn: 0 Thin/Mast: 37.97 Slash: 52.58 Biomass: 108  
Homes: 143  
Acres: footprint—197.15 Acres: treatment—791**

- Grant expired 2014

## McKenzie / Oakridge CA #449996-01

- 28 projects completed: (4) landowner Cost Share projects & (24) ODF Fuels Crew defensible space projects

### Accomplishments

**Brush: 83.85 Thin: 64.58 Prune: 80.08 Chip: 56.08 L&S: 10 Haul:  
18.58 Piles: 0 Burn: 0 Thin/Mast: 0 Slash: 4.27 Biomass: 38.8  
Homes: 85  
Acres: footprint—89.85 Acres: treatment—310.32**

- Grant expired 2014

## Total Grant Accomplishment to 01.01.2015

### Total Accomplishments

**Brush: 537.8 Thin: 303.39 Prune: 544.03 Chip: 309.58 L&S: 46.2  
Haul: 55.48 Piles: 13 Burn: 2 Thin/Mast: 143.12 Slash: 189.5  
Biomass: 254.55 Homes: 557  
Acres: footprint—588.8 Acres: treatment—2101.82**

## Cumulus Radio Campaign - April 17 thru May 16, 2014

KNRG reached 53,000, KZEL reached 53,000, STAR reached 53,000, KUGN reached 32,000, Sport reached 20,000

Total: 211,000 listeners

# PROTECTION PROGRAM - EASTERN LANE

In the wake of a record setting 2013 fire season, the 2014 fire season proved to be just as challenging. With numerous starts and above average acres burned, the 2013/2014 fire seasons are the worst two back to back fire seasons on record for the agency. The state got kicked off very early with large fires in the Central Oregon District and the Klamath-Lake District, both of which required ODF IMT deployments. This was just the precursor to the 2014 fire season.

Eastern Lane fire season:

- Started July 1<sup>st</sup> and ended on Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> for a total of 106 days.

The duration of the 2014 fire season was in line with the District's 10 year average.

Locally on the Eastern Lane Unit:

- 47 statistical fires (*Lightning (17), Equipment Use (14), Miscellaneous (6), Debris Burning (5) and Recreation (5).*)



Deception Complex

Units burned were just over 38 acres.

- 14 non-statistical fires
- 82 NFCA

While the total number of fires was higher in 2014, the total acres burned was half of 2013.

At the beginning of the fire season, we continued our participation at the **Mid-Willamette Valley Interagency Fire School** in Sweet Home. There were a handful of new firefighters that needed the basic S-130/190, and several firefighters that received more advanced training in Initial Attack Incident Command, leadership, fire investigation, and Single Resource Boss (Engine Boss).

Once done with Fire School, the unit completed required training for all seasonals before the official start of fire season on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July.

Required training consisted of first aid/CPR, drivers training, forest law refresher and other miscellaneous basic fundamentals of fire suppression.

## PROTECTION PROGRAM - EASTERN LANE, CONT



On the evening of August 10<sup>th</sup>, the unit received a lightning storm with abundant lightning and minimal moisture. The result of this storm and storms for the next several days, was the Dexter Complex. The unit experienced multiple fire starts almost immediately after the lightning started. There were fires from Lost Creek to the Linn/Lane county line and everywhere in between.

In total the storms produced all 17 of our lightning fires. Most of the fires were under 1 acre, but Dexter Cr (just under 14 acres) and Thomas Cr. (just under 5 acres) were the largest of the 17. Along with the fires on state protection, the unit was monitoring several other fires on adjacent land that had potential to threaten private lands. Another large fire that the unit experienced was the Row River 10,000 fire. This fire burned 10 acres east of Cottage Grove. The fire started on a very hot, dry day (September 5<sup>th</sup>) and personnel on the ground did a great job minimizing acres burned. Along with the district's engines, dozer, and tender, the unit received help from the USFS Cottage Grove Ranger District, an Eastern Oregon strike team of engines, contract crews, and Canadair 415's and 215's (scoopers).



In addition to the statistical fires that the unit had, we were also able to provide assistance to several of our neighboring agencies. One of the larger fires that we assisted was

the Springfield Mill Fire. This fire originally started in the Swanson Plywood Mill across the street from the office. Within minutes, the fire had completely engulfed the mill complex and with the intense radiant heat spread to the wildland. Overall, the fire burned 35 acres of wildland south of the mill site. We also had the opportunity to help South Lane Fire and Rescue on multiple incidents just outside of our protection district. One of the larger incidents was the Bradford Lane Fire on September 5<sup>th</sup>. This fire was caused by a down power line and burned approximately 15 acres.

As mentioned above, we were not the only area in the state experiencing a heavy fire load. 2014 was a historic year with the amount of fire that was on the landscape statewide. Overall the unit was able to support firefighting efforts not only on the home front, but also across the state. There was a total of 12 ODF Incident Management Team deployments, of which we were able to provide support for all 12.

# PROTECTION PROGRAM - SWEET HOME

The 2014 fire season for Sweet Home:

- July 1<sup>st</sup> through October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014 and lasted 136 days

Rainfall:

- June through September rainfall was 4.80 inches compared to the 25 year average of 5.79 inches, most of the rain fell in June with 2.41 inches of rain fall..
- Fire season ended October 14, 2014 after nearly 7 inches of rain fell and colder temperatures took over.



To start out the 2014 fire season the Sweet Home Unit hosted the **Mid Willamette Valley Interagency Fire School** for the 15<sup>th</sup> consecutive year.

Participants attended from:

- South Cascade, North Cascade, West Oregon , Western Lane and Forest Grove Districts
- Willamette, Siuslaw, Umpqua, Rogue and Siskiyou National Forests
- Salem, Eugene and Medford BLM.

Training was held for one week in the later part of June at the Sweet Home High School where basic, intermediate and advanced level classes were taught. Field training was conducted on nearby Cascade Timber Consulting forestland where live fire was introduced and students, overhead and teaching cadre participated.

## PROTECTION PROGRAM - SWEET HOME, CONT

**Sweet Home** had 19 statistical fires, up from just 6 from 2013, burning 2.05 acres for 2014. Equipment use, power line fires and debris burning contributed to fire causes this year.



A couple lightning storms with limited to moderate moisture cruised up the valley from the south and produced several down strikes in the unit which were caught with aggressive initial attack.

Unit firefighters utilized the Avenza mapping program to locate fires which improved response times for efficient initial attack.



The Sweet Home Unit provided I.A. support to fires on USFS lands within the Sweet Home Ranger District and Eastern Lane Unit. The Sweet Home Unit sent a type 4 engine for I.A. support for Eastern Lane personnel that were suppressing multiple fire starts from lightning.

In mid July the Sweet Home Unit sent overhead to the Bingham Complex in the Mt Jefferson wilderness in support of the Southern Cascades Incident Management Type 3 Team, team members were deployed to the Middle Fork Ranger District to the **Deception Complex** burning near the town of Oakridge. Unit firefighters and admin personnel were deployed on numerous fires throughout the state with multiple deployments in support of the state mobilization efforts.

# DISTRICT MOTOR POOL OPERATIONS



As always, the EL Unit auto shop was busy all year round. Some of last year's bigger ELFPA projects were to re-chassis 05-630 (4637) 300 Gal. Type 6 with an 2014 Dodge 4500 4x4 chassis.



We also completed a re-chassis of the ELFPA district 2,800 Gal. Tender 93-626 (4626) with an 1999 FFP Freightliner Truck Tractor chassis that was Acquired through the FFP program. The older chassis' s were sold to help offset costs.



Late last fall we were also able to repaint the Dump Truck (Dozer Transport) to help preserve and extend the life of the truck.

**Eastern Lane:** EL kept busy with daily maintenance and repairs of the Unit fleet, back-filled critical needs for the Sweet Home Unit and made several emergency field repairs throughout the district during fire events.

**Sweet Home:** No new engine fabrication occurred in the Sweet Home Shop in 2014.

A new mechanic was hired and provided great service to the equipment pool. All the backlog of maintenance from not having a mechanic for several months was quickly brought current. After almost six months the mechanic resigned. A recruitment for a new mechanic will occur in 2015.

## FACILITIES - EASTERN LANE

This year's Facilities for Eastern Lane saw a new porch cover for Holeman guard station. Wind and weather plagued the front door to the guard station, making the seals and paint on the doors age prematurely.

An overhang roof covering the two entrance doors was attached to the side of the building giving relief to rain and wind, and adding cool shade in the hot summer months.

Crews have noticed a difference regarding inside temperatures in the summer.



At Holeman, we also completed the plumbing and electrical hookups for a washer and dryer for crews to wash work clothes and other items as needed.



At HQ the main entrance had some railings added to the stairway, to help folks that may need a little support. Trees were added to the railing to give it a forestry appeal

## FACILITIES - SWEET HOME

Facilities work on the Sweet Home Compound in 2014 consisted of both planned improvements and emergency repairs.



**Residence # 1:** Extensive work was completed on the residence. New windows were installed and sized to meet current code. New siding, eaves, gutters and metal wrapping of the fascia were installed. The work was completed just before the big fall rains.



**Lookout:** The roof of the Green Peter Lookout was damaged and partially torn off during a big winter storm. A new metal roof was installed on the lookout.

**Office:** During a cold spell in January the office heat pump and furnace failed. Multiple bids were requested and a new unit was installed.

# SMOKE MANAGEMENT

## **Eastern Lane**

Registered Acres – 8,544

Accomplished Acres – 5,795

Registered Tonnage– 52, 833

Accomplished Tonnage – 42,037



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## **Sweet Home**

Registered acres - 5,473

Accomplished Acres - 5,186

Registered Tonnage - 32,376

Accomplished Tonnage - 29,518

No Intrusions and 1 escaped slash unit that burned onto BLM



# IN MEMORY

## Leroy Petersen

1931 - 2015

The District would like to express our deepest appreciation to longtime Board Member, supporter and friend...Leroy Petersen.

Leroy had been a member of Eastern Lane Forest Protective Association for many years. Leroy served on the Board of Directors from 1995 until his health made it necessary to step down in the fall of 2014.

Leroy's dedication to this District, its landowners and the Fire Protection Program within the State of Oregon will be missed. Thank you Leroy for your service!



Leroy Petersen (center) and his brother, Alan, are joined by Leroy's grandsons, Halden, (left) and Charles.