



# West Oregon District Annual Report 2014

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## Cover Photo:

- THE 86 ACRE CHIP ROSS FIRE WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS OF CORVALLIS IN AUGUST 2014. PHOTO BY ANDY CRIFE, GAZETTE TIMES

# West Oregon District Annual Report 2014

## From the District Forester



Welcome to the West Oregon District annual report for 2014. This report highlights some of the more noteworthy activities and accomplishments of the district this past year. Our office manager for the district, Larry Black, continues to take the lead in putting this report together, which always does an outstanding job of reflecting on the past year's activities on the West Oregon District.

Our district staff members and our working partners have always been the key to our success. In 2014, that continued to be the reason for our accomplishments both on and off the district.

Personnel changes continued to be a predominant feature on the West Oregon District in 2014. The past year brought the retirement of long time employee, Jim Doyal, from the State Forests unit. Jim's position was later filled by Matt McBride. Other employee changes included the addition of our new district dispatcher, Pat MacMeekin, and a new Community Wildfire Forester, Jerrin Robbins. These types of personnel changes have become part of our district culture the last couple of years.

The protection program on the district endured a slightly longer fire season in 2014. The district and its partners were all called on multiple times throughout the fire season to help out our neighboring states and districts during a very challenging fire season for the second year in a row. Fortunately for all of us on the West Oregon District, our final numbers reflect a fire season that saw "acres burned" well below average.

The state forest program continued with its work as outlined in the district's current Implementation Plan, however, a new forest management planning process was initiated in 2014. Management for, and around some of the T&E species continued to be a challenge for the district.

The private forests program saw a major change in 2014 in how we conduct our business with the landowners and operators. The new on line "e-Notification" system went live in early October. This has been a major adjustment for all involved.

In 2014, the district recognized Dave Wiger, NRS-1 in the state forests unit, with his 40 year service award. Dave has spent his entire career on the West Oregon District in the state forests program.

Finally, the district cannot be successful without the dedication and hard work of each employee and the strong partnerships with the West Oregon Forest Protective Association, forest landowners, operators, and our many other partners and cooperators. I would like to thank each and every one of them for their continued dedication and professionalism.

Thank you all-

*Mike Totey* District Forester



# West Oregon Fire Protection Association 2014 Directors and Members

## Officers:

### President

Randy Hereford—Starker Forests

### Vice President

Paul Betts—Miami Corporation

### Secretary-Treasurer

Tim Tompkins—Weyerhaeuser

### Directors

Jeff DeRoss — Hancock Resources  
 Donald Carr—Carr Family Forests  
 David Hampton—Hampton Affiliates  
 Kim Catron—Wakefield Farm  
 Sara Leiman—Coast Range Conifers  
 Lee Miller—Miller Timber Services  
 Steve Gravelle—Plum Creek Timberlands

### Advisory Directors

Steve Marx—ODFW  
 Jake Dollard—BLM  
 Andy White—ODF  
 Mike Dykzeul—OFIC  
 Kristin Babbs—KOG  
 Dan Eddy—USFS

### Members

Barclay Family Trust  
 Bureau of Land Management  
 Carr Forest Resources  
 Coast Range Conifers, LLC  
 Conf. Tribes of Grand Ronde  
 Conf. Tribes of Siletz  
 Crestmont Farms  
 Rose Esbenshade  
 Freres Timber, Inc  
 Georgia Pacific  
 Giustina Resources  
 Hancock Resources  
 Hampton Affiliates  
 Hukari Forest Products  
 Hull-Oakes Lumber Co.  
 Ron and Victoria Larson  
 Miami Corporation  
 Miller Timber Services  
 Plum Creek Timberlands  
 T&M Miller Family Trust  
 Jeralyn O'Brien Trust  
 Rosboro Lumber  
 Roseburg Resources  
 Diane & Lance Stein  
 Schroeder & O'Neil  
 Smith Hill Properties  
 Springer Logging  
 Springer Tree Farm  
 Starker Forests, Inc.  
 Stimson Lumber Co.  
 Van Eck Forest Trust  
 Wakefield Farms  
 Weyerhaeuser Co  
 Widow Creek Tree Farm

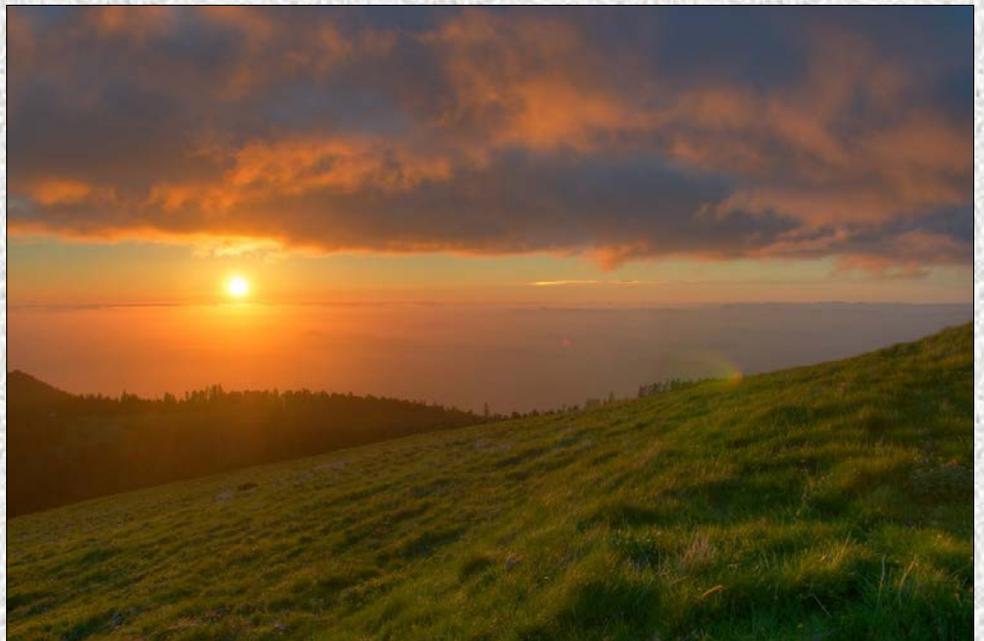


West Oregon all employee meeting in Newport included a tour of the NOAA research ships and the Mark Hatfield Marine Science Center



2014 Chili  
Champion  
Shirl Fredenburg

At L: Tom O'Connor, Evelyn Hukari, and Rick Harris oversee reforestation projects on West Oregon forestland



At R: Sunrise from Mary's Peak

# West Oregon District Annual Report 2014

## 2014 Fire Season in Review

West Oregon started the summer with multiple returning firefighters, three new firefighters and two new type six engines. All crew members were hired on June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014. The crew participated in refresher training courses as well as hands on training experiences at the Mid-Willamette Valley Interagency Fire School in Sweet Home. Fire season officially began on July 1<sup>st</sup> with Regulated Use restrictions going into effect on July 11<sup>th</sup>.

Fire crews were busy throughout the summer responding to 36 statistical fires, burning 25 state protected acres. The most significant fire of the summer was the 86 acre Chip Ross Fire in North-west Corvallis.

Fire crews also participated in two live fire training opportunities that not only sharpened their fire-fighting skills but benefitted the Corvallis Watershed project and helped restore some of the natural habitats for the endangered Fenders Blue butterfly. Crews participated in mock fire scenarios as well to help sharpen their skills on the fire line. Suppression and safety training continued to be

an ongoing focus as well as fire prevention activities, equipment readiness and project work.

Heavy rains ended fire season on October 14<sup>th</sup>.



## Live fire training continues to provide valuable experience for crews

The Philomath, Dallas and Toledo fire crews often have the opportunity to participate in training burns in logged units that need to be prepped for tree planting. What may not be as well known is the opportunity firefighters have to burn fields that are restoration areas for the endangered Fenders blue butterfly. There are numerous small grass fires that West Oregon responds to over the duration of summer. Burning fields in a controlled setting allows for firefighters to observe flashy fuel behavior and teaches skills on how to safely and efficiently perform initial attack. Burning fields that are habitats for the Fenders blue removes the non-native and invasive species and allows for their host plant the Kincaid lupine to thrive, creating a well-balanced eco-system. Good for the forest and good for the firefighters!



Photos: Top L- Rick Harris, Philomath Forest Officer. Below: Eli Grove and Bayard McLeod at the Bryant fire. Above R: Toledo Fire Crew with new Type 6 Engine. At L: Jackson Stout participates in live fire training at E.E. Wilson Natural Area. Below R: Field burn to support habitat restoration efforts for Fender's Blue Butterfly.



## A Fire to Remember—Chip Ross

On September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014 the district experienced one of the most intense wildland/urban interface fires they've ever had. The district was in a red flag warning for strong East winds and low relative humidity. Around 8:30 pm Dispatch received a call reporting a fast moving ¼ acre grass fire in the city of Corvallis, near Chip Ross Park. As Philomath engine 61 was in route to the fire, rural fire departments already on scene reported that the fire was rapidly spreading closer and closer to the homes surrounding the park. The personnel on engine 61 recall driving towards the fire and seeing a brightly lit up orange sky above all the townhouses. With no fuel breaks between the fire and homes, all residents of the crowded neighborhood were told to evacuate immediately, equaling 221 residences. Initial attack included 35 engines, three of which were ODF engines, 1 dozer, 1 five person crew and numerous overhead. The fire was stopped at 86 acres with only one damaged structure. Mop up efforts continued for seven days.



At R: Aerial view of Chip Ross fire proximity to urban interface. Above: Chip Ross fire lights up the night sky around Corvallis. Below: Crews mop up Chip Ross Fire. At R: Citizens observe fire operations in the distance



# West Oregon District Annual Report 2014



At L: Justin Marten and Blake McKinley find the hubcap while on Lost Hubcap Fire near John Day. At R: Allison Blair, Philomath Protection Supervisor teaches about firefighting at Get Outside Day.



At L: Philomath fire crew conducts pump training. At R: Mike Totey and Matt Hoehna at the Spray Heli-base for the Haystack Complex. Center L: The Philomath fire crew with the new type 6 engines. ODF participates in the Philomath Frolic parade.



## West Oregon Prevention

All three West Oregon offices make conscious efforts each year to make contact with the public and share fire prevention knowledge. This year Philomath participated in the "Get outdoor day" where folks had the opportunity to hear a fire prevention message and kids interacted with firefighters and sprayed water from the engine. All three offices engines went through local parades that

included the Philomath Frolic, Dallas Summer fest, and Toledo Days parade. Smokey is always a popular attraction at community events as well. He had the opportunity to visit a Toledo daycare and the Philomath Fire department open house.



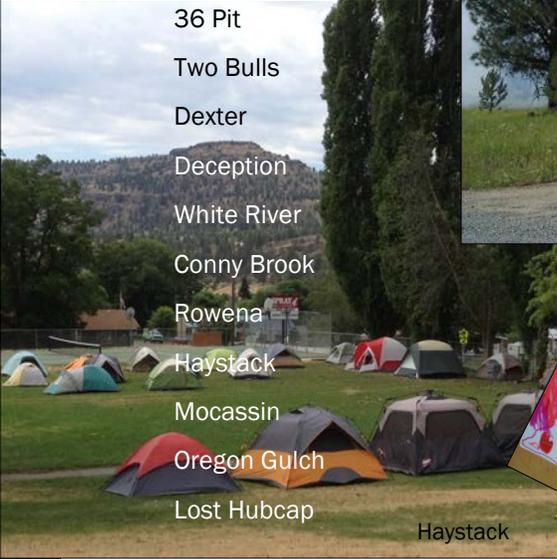
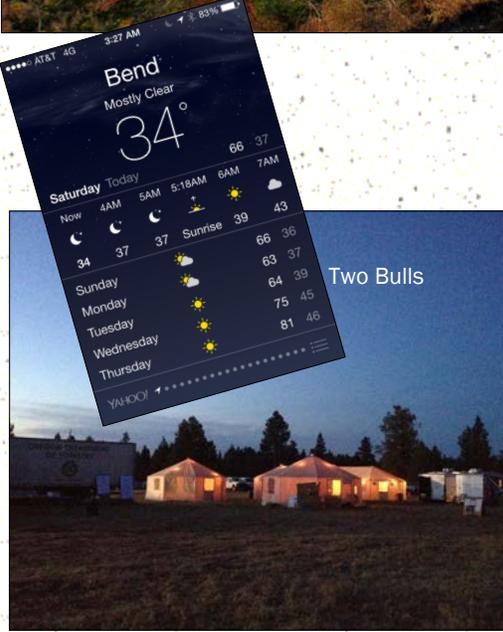
# Off District Protection From Fire

## West Oregon supports state-wide fire efforts

West Oregon's support of state-wide fire efforts continued to be robust in 2014. Personnel assisted efforts on nineteen different fires. The district provided 21 overhead personnel for a total of 457 days. West Oregon engines were deployed on 12 different fires for a total of 198 shift hours. The engines participated in seven move-ups totaling 86 shift hours.

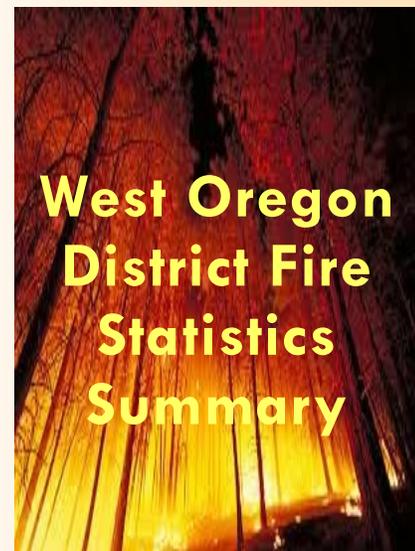
### Off District Assignments

- 123 Complex
- Bryant
- Waterman
- 5Mile
- Scoggins Creek
- Yellow Point
- 36 Pit
- Two Bulls
- Dexter
- Deception
- White River
- Conny Brook
- Rowena
- Haystack
- Mocassin
- Oregon Gulch
- Lost Hubcap



# West Oregon District Annual Report 2014

YEAR	FIRE SEASON			REGULATED USE		
	BEGIN	END	LENGTH	BEGIN	END	LENGTH
1980	7/7	10/15	100	8/9	10/15	67
1981	7/6	10/3	89	8/10	10/3	54
1982	6/1	9/28	119	8/21	9/21	31
1983	6/13	10/16	125	7/15	9/28	75
1984	6/28	10/9	103	8/3	9/7	35
1985	5/28	10/12	137	7/4	9/11	69
1986	6/24	9/25	93	7/17	8/5	19
1987	6/15	11/10	148	7/3	11/10	130
1988	6/29	10/13	106	7/23	10/6	75
1989	6/26	10/20	116	9/12	9/30	18
1990	6/30	10/5	97	7/23	9/17	56
1991	6/17	10/24	129	7/30	10/22	84
1992	6/1	10/23	144	6/23	10/6	105
1993	8/1	10/12	72	9/11	10/11	30
1994	7/5	10/21	108	7/18	10/14	88
1995	7/1	9/27	88	8/1	9/27	57
1996	7/8	10/14	98	7/24	9/16	54
1997	7/21	9/16	57	8/11	9/16	36
1998	7/13	10/5	84	7/29	10/2	65
1999	7/8	10/27	111	7/31	10/26	87
2000	6/28	10/12	106	7/27	10/9	74
2001	7/2	10/22	112	8/8	10/10	63
2002	7/1	11/6	128	7/16	10/5	81
2003	6/26	10/7	103	7/3	10/7	96
2004	6/28	10/6	100	7/1	9/16	77
2005	7/13	10/4	83	7/30	10/3	65
2006	6/26	10/19	115	7/19	10/17	90
2007	7/5	10/2	89	7/9	10/2	85
2008	6/30	10/6	98	7/14	10/4	82
2009	7/2	10/13	103	7/21	10/13	84
2010	7/8	9/23	77	7/24	9/18	56
2011	7/11	10/3	84	8/20	10/3	44
2012	7/11	10/16	97	8/8	10/16	69
2013	7/2	9/25	85	7/15	9/23	70
2014	7/1	10/14	105	7/11	10/14	95
20 YR AVERAGE			96			72
10 YR AVERAGE			94			74
5 YR AVERAGE			90			67

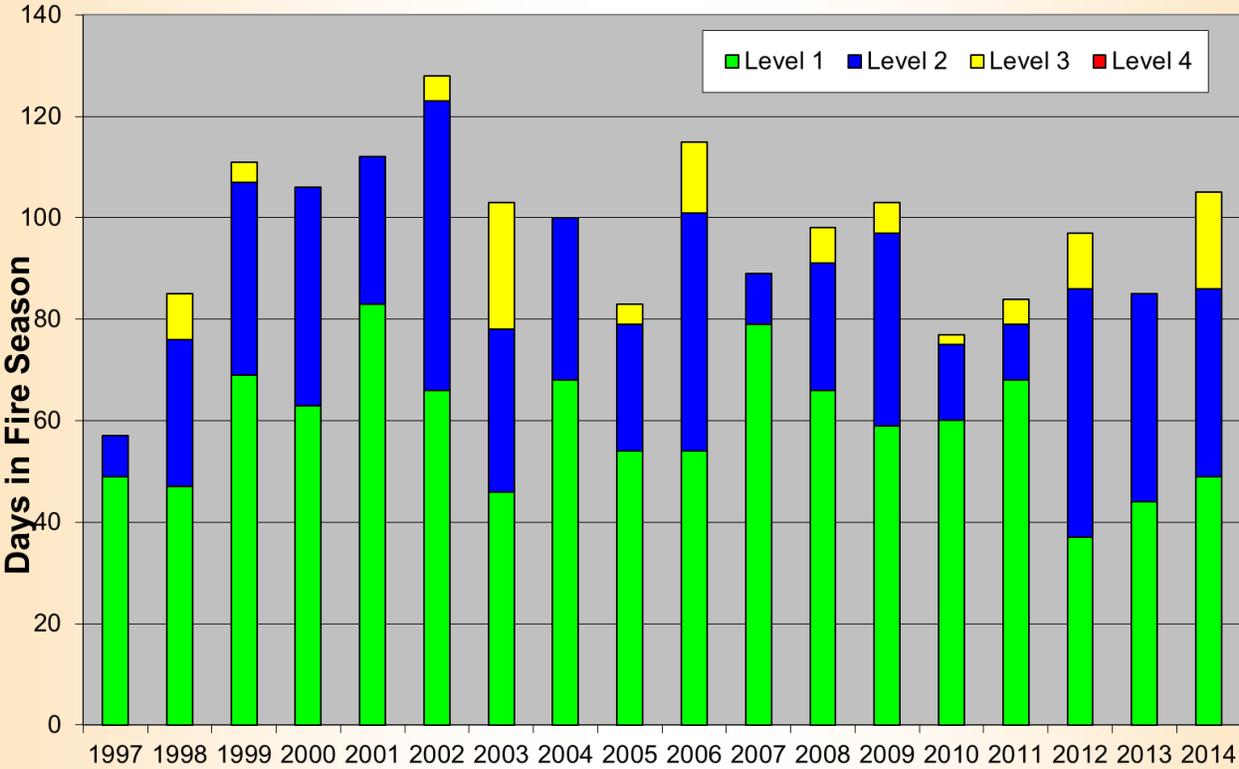


Above: Pat MacMeekin, District Dispatcher, participates in a training burn for the Fender's blue butterfly habitat

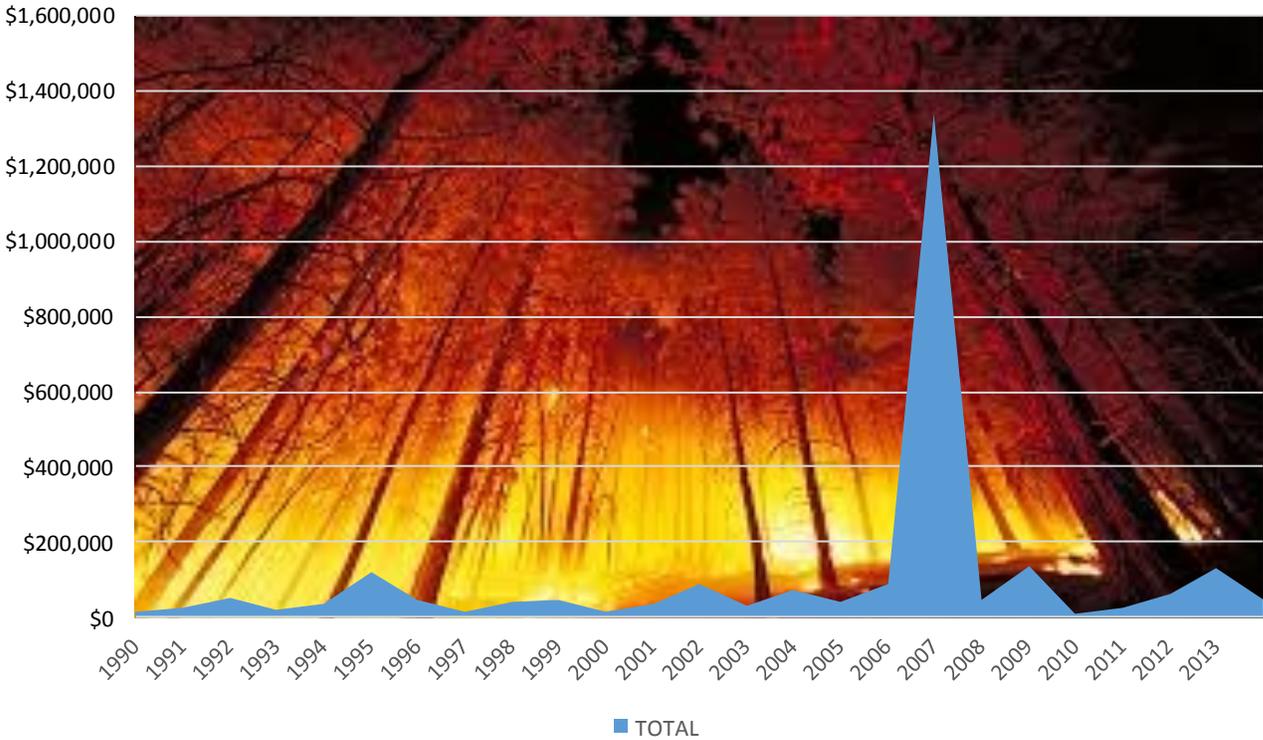
10 YEAR SUMMARY			
LONGEST FIRE SEASON	2002	SHORTEST FIRE SEASON	2010
YEAR OF MOST FIRES	2002	YEAR OF LEAST FIRES	2004
HIGHEST ACRES BURNED	2007	LOWEST ACRES BURNED	2011
HIGHEST COST	2007	LOWEST COST	2010



### West Oregon District Industrial Fire Levels Summary



### WEST OREGON SUPPRESSION COSTS 1990-2014



# West Oregon District Annual Report 2014

## State Forests Program News

### Personnel

In November, Matt McBride was hired as an NRS1 Sale Preparation Forester. Matt previously worked for Washington Department of Natural Resources.

After 15 years of service with the agency, Jim Doyal retired at the end of June. As a result of Jim's departure, Sale Preparation Foresters Dave Wiger and Joe Goldsby took over timber sale contract administration on sales Jim had set up. Dave Wiger also took over the road specialist duties Jim previously completed. Joe Goldsby continued to be the district aquatic expert, completing surveys for upper extent of fish usage.

### Wildlife

This year presented several challenges with regard to protection of Threatened and Endangered wildlife. Significant detections of Marble Murrelets will require the establishment of 1 new Marbled Murrelet Management Area. We continued to align historic Marbled Murrelet Management Areas with the revised 2013 Marbled Murrelet Operational Policy. All of these factors influenced sold and planned sales.

### Ice Damage

In November, portions of State Forests in Benton and Lincoln Counties were heavily damaged due to a rare ice weather event. Many acres of trees now have significant damage including broken tops and downed trees. The district is trying to assess the extent of the damage, and formulate a plan to manage the damage and minimize negative side effects like rot and beetle infestations. This event will create an increased workload for many years. Dan Borg, retired State Forest Unit Forester, was rehired as a temp to help identify and set up areas for salvage and rehabilitation.

### Recreation

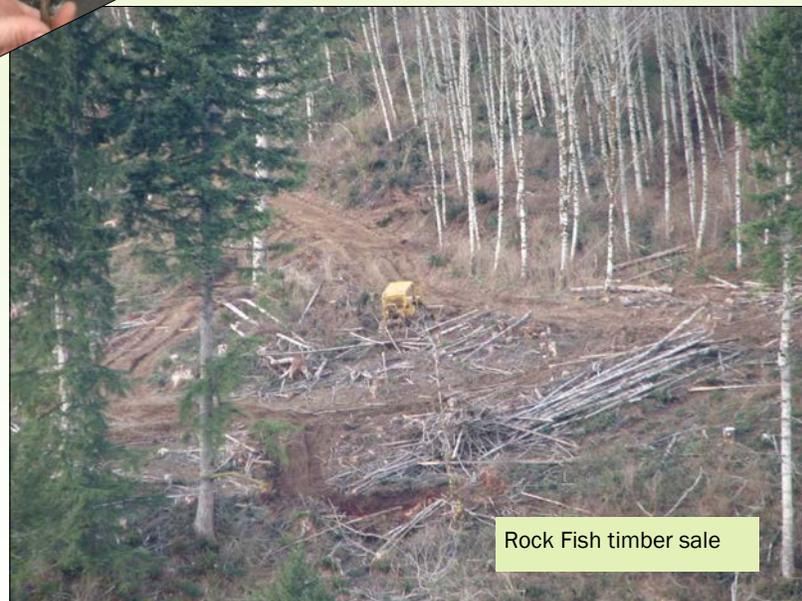
The Black Rock Mountain Bike Association (BRMBA) and Mt. Baber ATV Club continued to hold organized events this year. There were no expansions to the trail systems and all maintenance was performed by the particular club members.



Opening up roads after winter storm



District tour of ice damage on state forest land



Rock Fish timber sale

# State Forests Program

## 2014 ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Forest Products	Amount	Est. Volume MMBF	Est. Revenue
Timber Sales (Sold)	6	13.9	\$4,361,675
Salvage Sales (Sold)	1	0.1	\$100
Clear Cut Sales (Sold)	3	8.4	\$3,269,857
Partial Cut Sales (Sold)	4	5.5	\$1,091,818
Timber Sale Harvesting	6	3.8	\$1,426,248

\* SS Johnson was a combination partial cut and clearcut sale



2014 Personal Use Permits		
Product	Number	Income
Personal Use Firewood	68	\$1,360
Free Use Firewood	0	\$0
Free Use - Scrap Metal	1	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>\$1,360</b>
2014 Miscellaneous Forest Products Permits - Commercial		
Product	Number	Income
Salal	25	\$3,800
Firewood	3	\$300
Oregon Grape	1	\$100
Chanterelle Mushrooms	1	\$100
Other -salvage, danger trees, etc.	1	\$100
<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>\$4,400</b>

Reforestation Activity 2014	Acres	Labor
Site Prep. - Aerial Spray	115	Contractor
Site Prep. - Mechanical	85	Timber Sale Contract
Site Prep. - Pile Burning	90	District personnel & Mill Creek crew
Initial Plant	198	Contractor
Underplant	0	Contractor
Interplant	17	Reforestation personnel
Tree Protection - Tubing	198	Contractor
Tree Protection - MB Trapping	255	Mill Creek Crew
Release - aerial & ground spray	336	Contractor & Mill Creek crew
Pre-Commercial Thinning	700	Contractor
Stocking Surveys	270	Reforestation personnel
Invasive Plants - Survey/Monitor	0	State Forests Personnel
Invasive Plants - Treatment	20	Mill Creek Crew
Hand Release	100	Mill Creek Crew

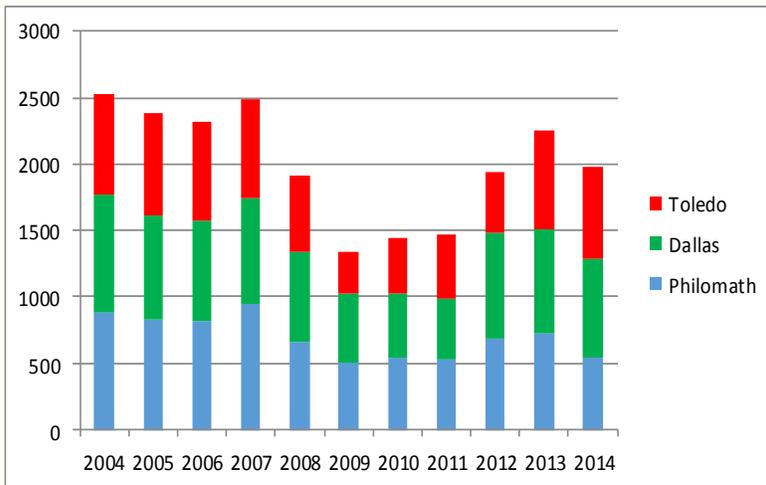


Murrelet platform branches

# West Oregon District Annual Report 2014

2014 Notifications for West Oregon District			
Unit	New NOP	Renewals	Total
Philomath	546	105	651
Toledo	693	130	823
Dallas	738	104	842
Totals	1977	339	2316

West Oregon Notifications by Year



Bill Mahr, Philomath Stewardship Forester, inspecting bridge installation on Woods Creek.

## State Forests Program

### Reforestation Updates

A significant portion of the Douglas fir planted this year were hold-overs from last year's too small 1+1 crop. The nursery had agreed to hold them over and grow them as a 1+2 stock type. The 1+1 Douglas fir crop intended for outplant in 2014 again did not meet specifications. The West Oregon District was the winner of all the ODF districts, however, with the largest % of DF meeting specs at 3%! In order to better judge seedling performance, reforestation personnel installed nursery stock trials in 3 of the planting units this year which required monthly measurements April through October. These side-by-side trials will be used to judge seedling performance of similar stock grown by different nurseries. In the spring of 2014, the district gained a year-around Mill Creek inmate crew to help primarily with reforestation work. The crew is also fire ready during fire season. District personnel from protection and the timber sales team helped to accomplish a larger than usual amount of slash pile burning that needed to be done prior to planting. Thanks to the other units for their help.



# Private Forests Program



Above: Hybrid larch and Douglas-fir plantation on Hampton lands just west of Valley Junction. Below Center: New bridge installation on a small non-industrial landowner. Bottom L 125' span bridge replaces a 42" culvert on Hancock property. Bottom R: Dave Thompson, Dallas Unit Stewardship Forester participates in physical habitat surveys training in May 2014.



## Private Forests Program continues to thrive in 2014

2014 was a very busy year for Stewardship Foresters in the West Oregon District. Philomath's Stewardship Forester, Bill Mahr, took an opportunity to fill a developmental roll as a Wildland Fire Supervisor in Toledo leaving Matt Flock as the developmental Stewardship Forester in Philomath.

All Private Forests personnel were very involved in project fires throughout the state. This left the staff at less than full capacity for about 3 ½ months. Despite approximately 130 personnel days on fire a lot of work was completed. On October 1<sup>st</sup>, the Private Forests program launched a new system for notifying operations. FERNs has provided a completely online system for users. Each office received a new computer for their FERNs kiosk allowing landowners and operators without access to computers a way to submit their notifications. So far 338 notifications have been submitted using FERNs throughout the district.

We received a total of 2312 notifications including FACTS, FERNs, and renewals for 2014. Of these notifications a total of 65.76 miles of new road was constructed and 118.75 miles of road was reconstructed. 14,701.61 acres of clear cut was notified for. This is enough to cover 11,308.93 football fields. While this seems like a lot of area the average unit size was only 29.64 acres. 552,919 MBF was notified for in all harvest types. This is enough board feet to frame 34,557 houses that are 2400 square feet in size.

We experienced a slightly longer than normal fire season this year. During fire season 134 industrial fire inspections were performed by stewardship foresters and forest officers throughout the district. The non-industrial landowners provided the largest percentage of deficient operations.

18% of all active operations were found to be deficient in one or more categories. 2 warnings and 3 citations were issued. Inadequate fire extinguisher was the biggest culprit for a failed inspection followed by inadequate fire tools on a truck and inadequate water pumping system.



# West Oregon District Annual Report 2014

## Prevention in the community

### Community Wildfire Fuels 2014 Accomplishments

Oak Creek/ Falls City	Began Oct of 2014 Currently 26.5 acres of fuels reduction and defensible space ongoing
Salishan/ Harlan	Began Oct of 2014 Currently 6 acres ongoing
Vineyard Gap	Will expire at end of 2015 18 of 175 acres have been treated
Pioneer/ Polk	Scheduled to expire at end of 2014, Extension for 2 more years pending 143 of 175 acre goal have been treated 203 of 175 acres have been committed Still some project funds left, 15 acres additional, extension will grant people time to finish the ongoing projects 60 acres ongoing
Mary's River Estates TARP	Ended June of 2014 126 of 100 acre goal completed with 29 defensible spaces
Vineyard Mountain TARP	Ended June of 2014 177 of 100 acre goal completed with 47 defensible spaces

The West Oregon District oversaw 39 acres of completed fuels reduction in 2014. Another 75 acres were planned in 2014 and should be completed during 2015. The District was awarded two new grants that began in October, they are the Oak Creek/ Falls City and Salishan/ Harlan grants. They will provide financial and technical assistance for landowners to reduce wildland fuels hazards on their properties. The Oak Creek/ Falls City grant currently has 26 acres of fuels reduction planned and the Salishan/ Harlan grant has 6 planned.

Grant program personnel changed a few times during 2014. January through May seasonal Forest Officer Bayard McLeod was brought on to increase capacity assisting in Philomath. Matt Flock, Community Wildfire Forester in Philomath took a developmental position June-September. After being awarded two additional grants the Dallas office hired Jerrin Robbins as an additional Community Wildfire Forester in September. In November Matt Flock accepted a promotion in Klamath Falls which left an opening in Philomath. This opening was then filled by Patrick MacMeekin in January.

The Pioneer/ Polk grant continued to be the most active again this year with 22 acres completed and 60 acres planned. The grant was set to expire at the end of 2014 but was granted a two year extension to finish existing projects and continue education and outreach to the remaining landowners. Currently 143 acres have finished treatment and 60 are in the progress.

Several grants expired in June including the Vineyard Mountain and Mary's River projects. With an extension and additional funds both were very successful projects exceeding their goals of 100 acres of fuels work each. Vineyard Mountain completed 177 acres of fuels reduction and created defensible space around 47 homes, Mary's River Estates completed 126 acres of fuels reduction and created defensible space around 29 homes.

The West Oregon District currently has 5 Firewise communities throughout Benton and Lincoln Counties. One additional Firewise community was established in 2014. Two more communities of Oakwood and Hidden Valley Heights are in the process of becoming Firewise Communities and should be completed in 2015.

Slash Burning Accomplishments		Acres 2013	Acres 2014	Tons 2013	Tons 2014
<b>Philomath</b>	Registered	4,593	2,499	51,104	37,088
	Accomplished	3,300	2,412	40,687	31,270
	<b>% Accomplished</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>84%</b>
<b>Toledo</b>	Registered	5,809	7,018	61,337	68,359
	Accomplished	5,524	5,609	43,583	46,802
	<b>% Accomplished</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>68%</b>
<b>Dallas</b>	Registered	4,568	5,637	42,068	59,259
	Accomplished	4,287	4,658	34,371	47,687
	<b>% Accomplished</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>80%</b>
<b>District Totals</b>	Registered	14,970	15,154	154,509	164,706
	Accomplished	13,111	12,679	118,641	125,759
	<b>% Accomplished</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>76%</b>

# Administration, Safety, and Personnel



At Far Left: Matt McBride joined the State Forests Program as a new NRS1 sale prep forester. Matt came to ODF from the Forks WDNR area. At Left: Jim Doyal retired from his position as NRS1 Sale Prep and Road Engineer forester in June.

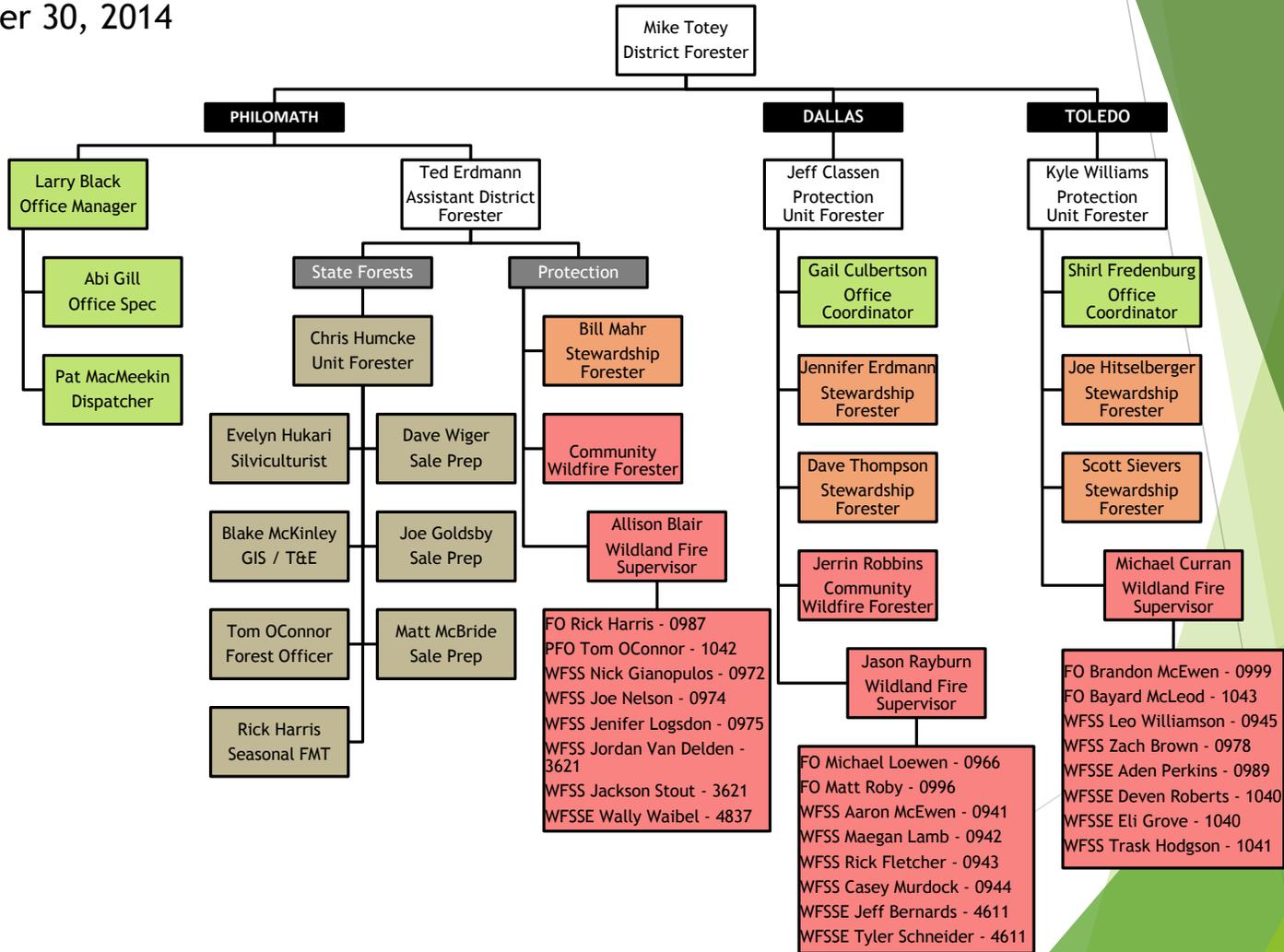
## 2014 Service Awards

2014 saw a large number of service awards presented at the December All-District Meeting. L: Dave Wiger (State Forests NRS1) receives his 40 year service award. At R: Chris Humcke (State Forests Manager) receives his 25 year award. Lower L: Allison Blair (Philomath Protection Supv) receives a 15 year award. Lower center: Joe Goldsby (State Forests NRS1) receives 10 year award. At Lower Right: Jennifer Erdmann (Dallas Stewardship Forester) receives 10 yr award.



# West Oregon District Employees

November 30, 2014



## West Oregon District

### Philomath Unit

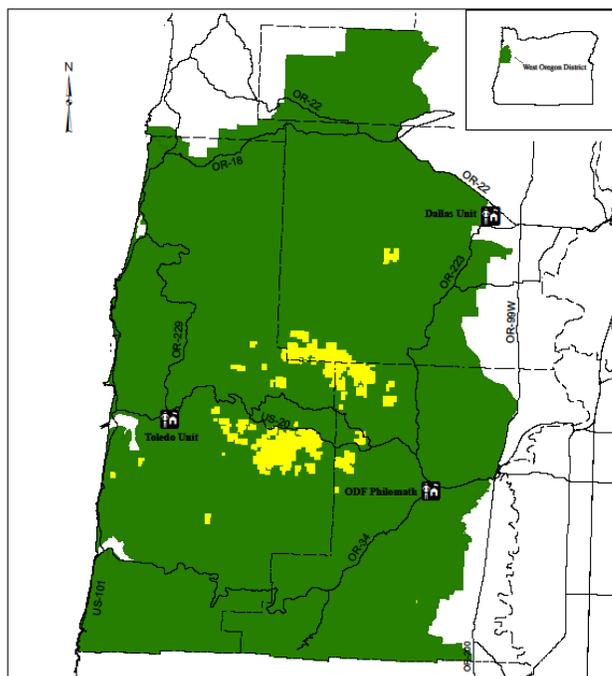
24533 Alsea Hwy  
Philomath, OR 97370  
(541) 929-3266 Fax (541) 929-5549

### Toledo Unit

763 NW Forestry Road  
Toledo, OR 97391  
(541) 336-2273 Fax (541) 336-5261

### Dallas Unit

825 Oak Villa Road  
Dallas, OR 97338  
(503) 934-8146 Fax (503) 623-9034



#### Legend

- Highways
- - - County Boundary
- Yellow Box ODF Ownership
- Green Box Protection District

#### WEST OREGON DISTRICT

