

# Central Oregon District 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



*(The Dalles Fuels Crew on Hatchery Falls Creek Fire on West Oregon District)*

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# District Forester Message

It is my pleasure to present to you the 2023 Central Oregon District Annual Report. As the District Forester, I have been blessed to work with dedicated and talented staff who are intentional in serving our landowners across the district. I can also report for the first time in five years that our district leadership team is at full capacity with no actings or job rotations in place as we shuffled through all the personnel changes from the implementation of SB762. Below you will find a brief overview of the accomplishments from this past year. A special thanks to The Dalles Unit staff for assembling and publishing this report.

I'm happy to report for the third year in a row that our fire responses were down compared to our 10-year average. Lightning activity was below average, not to mention Hurricane Hillary dropped more than 2 inches of rain on the east side of the district in August. According to the numbers, 2023 was a below-average fire season accounting for a total of 92 statistical fires across the district, burning a total of 919 acres which is 10% of the 10-year average. Of those 919 acres, the Winslow Road fire accounted for 70% of those acres burned in the district this year and was caught in one burn period while battling 50 mph winds in grass. Overall, the district did an outstanding job catching fires at initial attack keeping fires small and resource loss to a minimum.

Forest resource staffing across the district has been extremely busy this past year working with partners to help resolve the wildfire crisis that has been designated across most of the district. Federal funds from mostly the Inflation Reduction Act and the Infrastructure Investment Jobs Act have allowed federal and state agencies to secure funds for treating fuel projects across the landscape. Foresters across the district have done an outstanding job of securing funds totaling just under 29 million dollars, working with our partners and landowners over the next 5-10 years to achieve these goals. This task is a great undertaking and complex, but staff are diligently working with cooperators and partnerships to make a difference for all Oregonians. Not to mention, this was also the year the Private Forest Accord was implemented requiring several training courses for agency staff, and landowner workshops to provide for seamless implementation of new rules in the Forest Practices Act.

Last but not least, the administrative staff across the district continue to be the glue that keeps the district operational, allowing our staff to accomplish the mission of serving our landowners. Our admin staff continue to lead the agency in business services, utilizing technology in multiple facets to accomplish the mission in support of field operations. Whether managing the budget, paying fire bills, completing audits, or tracking grants for our landowners; our admin staff are highly dedicated to the mission and their work, with their efforts being demonstrated in accuracy and cost savings to our landowners.

Overall, 2023 was a very successful year for Central Oregon District, keeping fires small and assisting landowners in achieving landscape goals. Most importantly to me, there were zero serious safety accidents to report for which I'm most thankful. As you read this report, I hope that you will see the demonstrated efforts of the Central Oregon District employees and our best efforts to serve the landowners across this vast district footprint.

District Forester

Rob Pentzer



# Safety and Wellness

The Central Oregon District Safety Committee brought great progress and stewardship in 2023, despite staffing changes prevalent across the district. The committee continued to drive the safety and wellness of our employees as a top priority to provide the best services to our landowners and partners.

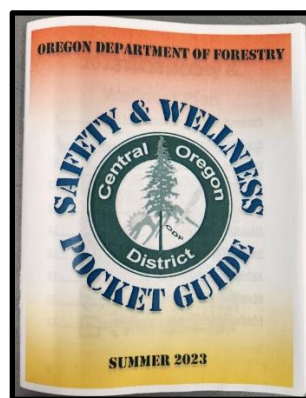
This year district staff developed innovative electronic reporting system for 'near misses.' The new reporting mechanism breaks down barriers and allows for more comprehensive and objective data to be collected that helps steer committee initiatives. The Dalles Unit had a courtesy OSHA visit to help ensure our facilities and equipment are up to standard. The visit was helpful in identifying and driving corrections of several items that were shared across the district to help bring all facilities into compliance.

The safety committee held a competition meant to engage all employees in driving our "Safety First" culture. All unit offices produced "Pocket Guides" meant to be a quick user-friendly reference for all things safety. The combination of each unit submission created a great easy to read guide that will be distributed in 2024.

District engagement and support for physical and mental well-being has long been a part of our culture but continues to grow. Our agency's partnership with Responder Life continues to benefit to our employees and led to the development of an agency Peer Support program. Central Oregon District has several employees who volunteer to be a valuable resource to our employees in their time of need.



*The Dalles Unit Receiving the 2023 "Golden Pulaski" safety award for their Pocket Guide submission.*



# Protection from Fire



The Central Oregon District again had a much lighter than normal fire season in 2023. While the number of statistical fires (92) was 72% of our 10-year average, the very low number of acres burned (919) showed the culmination of several factors, including a wet spring weather pattern, reduced lightning strikes across the District, prevention efforts, aggressive initial attack, and available severity resources. A mild fire season allowed Central Oregon District the opportunity to return favors from previous years and help others in need. By doing so, we were also able to gain valuable experience in places like Alberta Canada, Kentucky, North Carolina, Douglas FPA and Western Oregon. Overall, the summer provided a good experience for all our crews, and we were successful in our initial attack suppression efforts. The season kicked off early, before the spring rains arrived, with a 37-acre escaped ditch burn on April 15 east of Prineville. Other notable fires include the Juniper Creek Fire North of Sisters reported on August 20, resulting in Level 2 and 3 evacuation notices in the Lake Chinook RFD area as well as a call out of the COFMS Interagency Type 3 team. This fire

was contained at 106 acres. The wind driven Winslow Road Fire that occurred on August 29 near Dufur also resulted in evacuations and was quickly caught at 836 acres. Aggressive initial attack and a quick response from local cooperators and federal partners in conjunction with the use of district resources were critical to these successes. The district also benefitted from having GNA/FFR crews available from across Central Oregon District to assist in control and extinguishment of smaller fires at each unit as well as banding together as a larger crew to assist Western Oregon. Throughout 2023 fire season, the moderated weather allowed for training and developmental opportunities. Managers shifted to cover each other, and others stepped up into acting management roles. This undoubtedly will lead to greater resiliency and flexibility in the future.



# COD Dispatch



On December 13, 2023, Columbia Cascade Dispatch Center (WACCC) was recognized at the USFS Region 6 Regional Forester’s Honor Awards Banquet as the Team of The Year. The award acknowledged both permanent and seasonal dispatch staff, including ODF employees Angela Peterson and Ben Hansel. This achievement highlights the outstanding collaborative relationship between ODF and the Forest Service at Columbia Cascade. They have dedicated themselves to building a cohesive team of highly skilled dispatchers who work effectively together and love where they work.

The Columbia Dispatch team exemplifies the pinnacle of excellence in service, interdependence, diversity, and safety. In the face of wildfire crises and complex challenges, they have consistently shown unwavering dedication to their community, the environment, and their agency’s values. Their exceptional commitment to these values is why they are deserving recipients of the 2023 Regional Forester’s Honor Award. Their actions and achievements have set a standard of excellence that will inspire and guide the agency and community for years to come.

Central Oregon Interagency Dispatch Center’s (COIDC) Center Manager, Jada Altman, was recognized in 2023 by the Pacific Northwest Interagency Incident Business Group for the “Teamwork Makes the Dream Work” Award which reflects Jada’s and COIDC’s ability to make interagency policies, procedures and agreements run smoothly and seamlessly between agencies.

As with WACCC and COIDC, John Day Interagency Dispatch Center (JDIDC) also houses interagency personnel and resources, which included ODF detailing Eric Smith into the Assistant Center Manager position during the 2023 fire season. All these dispatch centers work together and share these resources which include USFS, BLM and ODF working side by side achieving great successes that are reflected in the following 2023 COD dispatch statistics.

2023 Annual COD Dispatch Statistics	Overall Incidents Created	Federal and State Stat Fires	Federal and State Stat Fire Acres	ODF Stat Fires	ODF Stat Fire Acres	ODF Non-Stat Fires	ODF Non-Stat Fires Acres	ODF NFCA	IROC Requests	Hosted ADs
WACCC	1791	217	3,927.43	37	741.19	18	2,213.66	32	5,851	73
COIDC	919	261	10,424.28	39	163.64	26	50.64	90	8,329	90
JDIDC	271	68	38.19	20	15	21	4,936.50	29	1,169	27
<b>COD Total</b>	<b>2981</b>	<b>546</b>	<b>14,389.90</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>919.83</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>7,200.80</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>15,349</b>	<b>190</b>

# Aviation



In COD, severity aviation resources began their 2023 fire season contracts on June 26 and the last aircraft was off contract effective September 26. The Dalles Unit hosted two Fire Bosses, FB 231 & FB 232. John Day Unit hosted SEAT 860, Type 2 Helicopters 8CC & 9KB, and a type 3 helicopter 7AB with helitack crew. The Prineville Unit hosted a detection fixed wing and two SEATs, T860 & T829.

The SEATs and Fire Bosses from COD combined for 329 Flight Hours while the 3 helicopters combined for 144 Flight Hours and the detection fixed wing flew 95 hours. The three SEATs delivered 57,006 gallons of retardant and 28,050 gallons of water enhancer on 24 separate incidents. The two Fire Bosses delivered 626,000 gallons

of water on 19 incidents. Helicopters 8CC & 9KB delivered 177,480 gallons of water on 14 separate incidents. Helicopter 7AB delivered 10,260 gallons of water on 6 incidents and flew 34 passengers.

The 9 severity aviation resources hosted within COD supported multiple incidents for ODF in all three areas of the state. Additionally, these aircraft provided support to Washington DNR, USFS, BLM, and OSFM. These aircraft were truly statewide resources that were used cooperatively amongst our partners.



# Prevention



Prevention continues to be a big part of district business, spanning multiple programs. The Units across COD maintained participation and officer positions within the 3 fire prevention coops in COD, Central Oregon Fire Prevention Cooperative (Prineville-Sisters), Gant and Harney County Fire Prevention Cooperative (John Day-Fossil) and Mid-Columbia Fire Prevention Cooperative (The Dalles). Fire staff, foresters, admin and RFPA staff all participated and assisted with various fire prevention activities and events across the district.

During 2023, all Coops played a significant role in helping expand prevention messaging. Central Oregon Fire Prevention Coop was able to secure grant funding through OSFM to produce 6 commercials/PSAs for local TV spots and online targeted ads. Mid-Columbia Fire Prevention Coop was able to get a USFS grant to produce 4 commercials/PSAs for local theaters and online targeted ads, as well as a grant through Keep Oregon Green (KOG) to start building a “Fire Free Days”, similar to what currently exists in Central Oregon, where the public can discard yard debris free of charge at local landfills to reduce hazardous fuel loading and help inspire spring cleanup.

Fossil, John Day, and Monument participated in the Grant County Fair, and 3 parades - the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade, Grant County Fair Parade, and decorated a float for the annual Timber Trucker’s Light Parade. They also participated in Fire Day at Prairie City School where they taught campfire safety to the next generation of outdoor recreationists.

Prineville and Sisters had booths at both the Central Oregon Sportsman Show and the Central Oregon Home and Garden Show. They also had booths at the Deschutes County Fair, Jefferson County Fair, and the Crook County Fair, as well as their annual Hunters Information Booth outside Rays in Prineville for hunting season. Prineville-Sisters assisted COFMS with team teaching, educating 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders across Central Oregon on fire safety both in the forest and at home.

The Dalles Coop had prevention booths at both the Hood River County Fair, as well as the Wasco County Fair. They also set up a prevention booth for the influx of visitors to the forests for Memorial Day weekend and were able to spread fire prevention and fire danger messaging to approximately 100 folks as they stopped by the Memaloose Eastbound Rest Stop on I-84. They also participated in and had booths at several other including Cherry Fest, Kids Safety Fair, Threshing Bee, The Dalles Get Ready Event, National Night Out, and the E.L.F.F. Food Drive. The Dalles was able to spread Smokey’s and Sparky’s fire safety and prevention messaging to nearly 1600 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students across Wasco, Hood River and Sherman Counties.

Education is a big part of prevention, and all areas hosted a handful of different community meetings with multiple goals at each. Through these community meetings we are able to promote good defensible space practices, promote the Firewise USA program, and spread information to the public of potential grant opportunities to aid in the financial burden of fuel mitigation work on various scales. Community meetings are great opportunities to interact with the public, answer common questions, and bring clarity to the confusing terminology of fire season, regulated use closures, burn bans, IFPL, and public use restrictions.

John Day saw the addition of the Antelope Lane Firewise Community. The Dalles was busy with the addition of 3 new officially recognized Firewise Communities - Stonegate HOA, Hess Road, and Baldwin Creek, with a few in the hopper for 2024. Prineville worked closely with Jefferson County to train their folks up on Firewise, defensible space, and home ignition zone assessments.

The first ODF Wildfire Prevention and Investigation Symposium since pre-COVID was held in Sunriver this year. It was a full week of great information sharing, clarification on policy, procedure and interpretation, and afforded opportunities for networking and collaboration of ideas to expand programs on local units. A lot of great conversations were had, and it was a great opportunity to help bridge the gap of issues field staff experience and Salem recommended solutions.

## Forest Resources

The Central Oregon District Forest Resources Program has grown over the last few years and consists of Forest Practices, NRCS Administration, Federal Forest Restoration Program (FFR)/GNA, and Grants/Joint Chiefs. These programs provide landowners, cooperators, and other agencies with services to achieve their land management goals. The Forest Resource Program will continue to grow to meet the demand for services. While these programs continue to expand and become more complex, the Forest Resource Program still assists the protection program with Industrial Fire inspections, Smoke Management, as well as fire response and support.

The table below gives a snapshot of how the Forest Resource Program staff assists the Protection Program, including the number of hours helping with district fires as well as large fire support. Outside of fire season the Forest resource Program also administers the Smoke Management Program and in 2023 accomplished 9306 tons of slash pile burning.

Fire Restrictions and Prevention					
	IFPL 1	IFPL 2	IFPL 3	IFPL 4	Total
<b>TD MH-1</b>	39 Days	27 Days	63 Days	0 Days	129 Days
<b>TD MH-4</b>	39 Days	37 Days	53 Days	0 Days	129 Days
<b>Waivers</b>	0	0	2	0	2
<b>Warnings/Citations</b>	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0
	<b>Fire Danger Low/Mod/High</b>		<b>Fire Danger Extreme</b>		<b>Warnings/Citations</b>
<b>PVL/SIS</b>	86 Days		43 Days		1/1
<b>John Day/Fossil</b>	86 Days		43 Days		0/0
<b>Waivers</b>	8		3		
	<b>Fire Inspections</b>				
		<b>The Dalles</b>	<b>JD/FOS</b>	<b>PVL/SIS</b>	<b>Total</b>
		6	19	21	46
		<b>Hours Assisting Protection Program</b>			
		<b>District Fires</b>		<b>Large Fire</b>	
		484		3476	



# Forest Practices

Central Oregon District Stewardship Foresters spent 2023 learning and preparing for the new Forest Practices Act Rules being implemented in 2024, brought about by the Private Forest Accord. COD hosted a couple of these training courses. Through the implementation of the Private Forest Accord, COD was able to add a Small Forest Landowner Forester in The Dalles and added an additional Stewardship Forester in John Day. With the geographical size of COD, it can be difficult to get foresters together in person. However, Central Oregon District reestablished its multi-day Foresters Meeting which is a time for foresters to gather, share ideas, learn together, and see what the other units have going on. We find this helps provide consistency throughout the district and improves communication among our foresters. In 2023, the John Day Unit submitted a nomination for Tim Rude of John Day, who received a Merit Award for Operator of the year.

Forest Practices				
	The Dalles	John Day/ Fossil	Prineville/ Sisters	Total
2023 NOAPS	136	158	107	401
2022 Continuations	56	31	34	121
FPA Inspections	56	26	15	97
Written Plans	35	14	7	56
Written Statements/ Warnings/Civil Penalties	5/2/1	0/0/0	0/0/0	5/2/1

# Grant Administration



Central Oregon District assisted landowners with a variety of grant-funded forest management activities in 2023 under our Forest Resources Division. Assistance comes in the form of cost-share incentives to complete fuels reduction projects to reduce fire hazards, strengthen forest health and increase defensible space, primarily on non-industrial lands. Grant work is being completed in all three units of the Central Oregon District. A majority of the grants are federally funded, with additional state funding provided by the Small Forestland Grant (SFG) and Landscape Resilience Programs (LRP).

The John Day Unit had four active grants and brought one grant to completion during 2023. All sign-ups for the Morrow/Wheeler Community Assistance grant were accomplished with remaining dollars allocated, and work will continue for administration and certification of treatments. The South Fork Partnership Landscape Scale Restoration grant was administered for completing final contracted fuels thinning, piling, and pile covering, leaving burning treatments to be completed in CY24. The SGCHFR Small Forestland Grant was completed in CY23, serving 17 landowner certifications for a total of 88 acres of treatment. The newly awarded John Day, Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG) began entering into landowner agreements September 2023, and currently have agreements exceeding half of the total to be allocated.



The Prineville-Sisters Unit administered planning and implementation of 8 ODF grants in 2023. Stewardship Foresters and Community Wildfire Foresters have worked together to get these funds on the ground across the Unit. Throughout the year we closed out 3 of our active projects which completed 161% above planned acres. Of active grants, there is an overall goal to treat 1,105 acres and currently have 1,458 acres under contract.

The Dalles Unit currently has 3 active ODF grant programs. Two of which are within the final stages of completion (LSR & WSFM Northern Wasco). Final acreage signups are identified for the LSR grant in 2024, set to be completed by expiration date (no reportable

activities occurred in 2023). Completion certifications are ongoing for the WSFM Northern Wasco grant. Our WSFM Central Wasco grant, targeting hazards trees within defensible space zones around homes, underwent an approved modification to mitigate inflation rates and scope of work. A WSFM grant was submitted for Hood River County and a CWDG application was submitted in Wasco County in 2023, with award announcements planned for 2024. The Dalles Unit administered a Wasco County cross-boundary LRP project, treating over 1100 acres.

**The table below displays grant accomplishments by Unit within the District:**

2023 Grants				
Grant Name	Landowner Signed Cost Shares	Signed Cost Share Acres	Total # of Acres Treated	Status (Active, Active/ New, Complete)
<b>John Day Unit</b>				
SGCHFR SFG	17	88	88	Complete
SFJDP LSR	N/A	N/A	223	Active
Grant D-Space CWDG	13	163	0	Active/New
Wheeler-Morrow CAG	9	47	6	Active
<b>Prineville/Sisters Unit</b>				
La Pine 2	0	0	166	Complete
N. Prineville	0	0	521	Active
Greater Sisters	0	0	386	Complete
S. Prineville	27	86	30	Active
Billy Chinook	14	158	116	Active
Three Creeks	6	45	55	Active
Buttes to Basins	6	69	12.5	Active
SFG Chipping	11	24	94	Complete
<b>The Dalles Unit</b>				
WSFM North Wasco (7 Mile)	3	22	63.65	Active
WSFM Central Wasco	3	9	9	Active
Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR)	N/A	N/A	N/A	Active

# Natural Resources Conservation Service

The partnership between COD and NRCS continues to grow and be very valuable to our landowners. Across the District this year many landowners and partner agencies have seen and felt the impact of the work done by our collective efforts.

In 2023, NRCS Hood River County was approved for a new Conservation Implementation Strategy (CIS) for the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). With this, the figures below reflect ODF's assistance with Wasco certifications, FY23 & FY24 EQIP inventories, Basic Forest Management Plans, and acres allocated for EQIP program practice 666 (Forest Stand Improvement) as well as Hood River County new EQIP applicant inventories. In addition, The Dalles Unit is currently administering fuels reduction treatments on ODFW, Dept. of State Lands, and City of The Dalles sites through 2 interagency Joint Chiefs projects. They are assisting NRCS with EQIP projects on private lands through the allocated NRCS funding tied to these Joint Chiefs projects.

The Dalles Accomplishments	Inventory	Layout	Certification	Plans	Plan Acres
Acres	931	931	248	22	530

Prineville & Sisters Stewardship Foresters and NRCS Foresters were responsible for NRCS accomplishments in 2023. The increasing work exceeded the amount of time they could allot once the Joint Chiefs and other CIS funding opportunities continued to compound. 2023 found the Prineville-Sisters Unit without the added capacity of partner position Forester, Sam Mitchell, after he took a new position with the Ochoco National Forest. Crook County did fund two new CIS programs this year to increase our partnership impact with the Upper Crooked River Forestry CIS and the Grizzly Mountain Forestry CIS. 2023 was a big year for planning cross boundary burns with multiple agreements now in place and waiting for appropriate weather windows.

Prineville-Sisters Accomplishments	Inventory	Layout	Certification	Plans	Plan Acres
Acres	240	658	1,935	-	-

In John Day, 2023 marked significant changes for our NRCS and Forest Resources programs. After 16 years as the John Day Stewardship Forester, Kirk Ausland was promoted to a Salem position in March, as an NRS3 FPA Enforcement Coordinator. An additional SFO - Stewardship Forester position was added to the John Day Unit, with Matthew Brown being hired into this NRS2 position covering Morrow/Wheeler/Gilliam counties. Matthew spent 30% of his time with NRCS as of May, and Austin Reimer returned to the John Day Unit as a permanent Stewardship Forester for Grant and Harney Counties. Kara Doescher was promoted into the NRS2 Coordinator Forester position in May and hit the ground running in the midst of CSP sign-ups. Marnie Woodbury was promoted to an NRS1 NRCS Field Forester in June, and Mari Jo Itel began with us as an NRS1 NRCS Field Forester in August. Justin Tryon continued as the primary NRS1 Field Forester in Fossil throughout the year. While staff changes occurred, the need for foresters continually increased. We are in our second year of "Upper John Day: Southern Blues Restoration" Joint Chiefs and partnered to add an additional CIS: Northern Harney Range and Forest Health with NRCS, Harney County.

John Day/Fossil Accomplishments	Inventory	Layout	Certification	Plans	Plan Acres
Acres	9,205	7,245	5,670	11	26,965

# Federal Forests Restoration Program



The Federal Forest Restoration (FFR) Program is thriving in COD and continues to grow through Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) work, collaborative engagement, and FFR grant programs. The mission of the FFR program is to increase the pace, scale, and quality of forest restoration on federal lands in Oregon. In COD, the FFR program is contributing to forest restoration on the Deschutes, Ochoco, Mt. Hood, and Malheur National Forests that is above and beyond the already planned work of the US Forest Service (USFS). FFR program staffing grew in 2023, with one to two new NRS2 Forester positions added to the District to expand capacity in GNA contract development and administration.

The federal Wildfire Crisis Strategy (WCS) is a key part of the FFR program's workload in COD. The Central Oregon National Wildfire Priority Landscape consists of nearly all of the Deschutes NF and the entire Crooked River National Grassland (CRNG), which is administered by the Ochoco NF. ODF has entered into multiple GNA agreements with the Deschutes and Ochoco, utilizing funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) to plan and implement fuels reduction and forest restoration activities within this focal landscape. FFR staff will be administering NEPA support contracts on the CRNG and Deschutes NF for wildfire risk mitigation planning, as well as implementing fuels reduction projects across the Deschutes to meet the objectives of the Wildfire Crisis Strategy. A portion of the Mt. Hood NF, including the Hood River and Barlow Ranger Districts within the COD boundary, has been designated as the second focal landscape in COD under the WCS. ODF staff from The Dalles Unit will continue to implement forest restoration projects within this landscape through GNA.



ODF fuels and forestry crews in John Day, Prineville, and The Dalles have continued to perform at a high level in their contribution to the FFR program. In 2023, these crews implemented over 400 acres of fuels reduction, timber stand improvement, and forest restoration projects across the District, in addition to assisting with pile burning, aspen stand improvement, and providing critical data collection surveys across dozens of units that will inform future restoration needs on USFS lands.

The FFR program also contributes to forest restoration through implementation of GNA timber sales. As of the end of 2023, FFR has generated over \$500k in GNA timber sale revenue on the Deschutes, as well as \$124k on the Malheur, and \$7k on the East Zone of the Mt. Hood. This revenue will go toward additional planning and

implementation of forest restoration projects on the respective National Forests. The FFR program looks forward to our next GNA sale on the Malheur, which was put under agreement in 2023 and anticipated to be awarded in 2024. In 2023, ODF entered into a new agreement with the Ochoco, both to fund ODF staff to help plan and implement forest restoration projects, as well as laying the groundwork for a GNA timber sale, potentially slated for 2025.

## Administration/Fire Finance



COD Fire Finance hit the 2023 season with a brand-new team with the personnel changes listed below. There were not a lot of large fires across the District, making it an ideal year for learning and gaining knowledge for all of the new staff.

Tracy Wrolson accepted a permanent position as the head of the Protection Finance Unit in Salem. This opened the position of District Business Manager for the District. Gina Miner was hired into the District Business Manager position in April 2023. Hailey Hughes was hired into the Administrative Specialist 2 position for the John Day unit, also in April 2023. Dauna Rictor did a rotation from dispatch into the Administrative Specialist 2 position for the Prineville unit from July to December 2023. Carrie Boss was promoted from Office Specialist 2 to Administrative Specialist 2 for the Prineville unit in December 2023. Dauna Rictor was hired into the Office Specialist 2 position for the Prineville Unit in January 2024. Shelly Speakman held down the only position that

did not change in administration as the Office Specialist 2 position for the John Day unit.

With all of the position changes over the last year, the fire finance side of things did not suffer. COD Fire Finance closed out 8 fires prior to and including FY2021, and developed processes to excel into the future while maintaining support for all current business and logistical fire support needs.

We continue to master existing processes and learn new avenues to be efficient in customer service to the District and our landowners.



## **Personnel Changes**

- Gina Miner – Hired as the District Business Manager
- Rick Fletcher – Hired as the Assistant District Forester
- Dustin Gustaveson – Hired as the John Day Unit Forester
- Allison Rayburn – Accepted position as the EOA Rangeland Coordinator
- Kiel Nairns – Accepted position at Salem ODF as Cost Recovery Specialist
- Jon Oliver – Accepted another position out of state
- Andy Dwyer – Hired as The Dalles Community Wildfire Forester
- Vance Cates – Hired as The Dalles Small Forestland Owner Forester
- Marc Desjardin – Accepted position at Salem in the Forest Resources Program
- Cameron Scott – Promoted into the COD FFR Coordinator position
- Brandon Vos – Promoted into a John Day PFO Fire & Ice position
- Marnie Woodbury – Hired into a John Day NRCS NRS1 Forester position
- Kara Doescher – Hired into a John Day NRCS NRS2 Forester position
- Austin Reimer – Hired into the John Day PFA Stewardship Forester position
- Mary Jo Itel – Hired into a John Day NRCS NRS1 Forester position
- Eric Smith – Stepped into the John Day Interagency Dispatch Center Assistant Center Manager developmental for part of 2023
- Amanda McHatton- Stepped into the John Day Interagency Dispatch Center Assistant Center Manager developmental for part of 2023

## **Service Awards**

- Kristin Dodd (The Dalles Unit Forester) – 25 years of service
- Vance Cates (The Dalles Small Forestland Owner Forester) – 5 years of service
- Eli Carnaglia (John Day WFSS) – 5 years of service

## **Central Oregon District Budget Committee Members**

Chris Johnson, Chair, Deschutes County Shanda Asset Management  
John Breese, Crook County, Breese Ranch & Forest Landowner  
Roy Beyer, Crook County, Forest Landowner  
Ross Ryno, Wheeler, Ranch & Forest Landowner  
MT Anderson, Grant County, Rancher  
Sharon Livingston, Grant County, Ranch & Forest Landowner  
Archie Osborne, Grant County, Ranch & Forest Landowner  
Tommy Norton, Jefferson County, Grazing Landowner  
Doug Thiesies, Hood River County, Forester  
Jeremy Grose, Hood River & Wasco County, Green Diamond  
Cecelia Wiley, Wasco County, Forest Landowner  
Bill Hunt, Wasco County, Ranch & Forest Landowner



