

South Cascade District



2023 Annual Report

Welcome to the South Cascade District

I am pleased to present the 2023 Annual Report for the South Cascade District. First off, I want to say thank you to the district staff who contributed to this report as well as Nakia Stafford for compiling, editing, and finalizing this report. I am writing this as the Interim District Forester. Chris Cline accepted a job rotation as the Division Chief for Fire Protection for ODF. We all know Chris will bring his passion for fire protection to Salem. While I fill in for Chris, I have asked Jerrin Robbins to fill the Sweet Home Unit Forester role. Justin Wolfe has agreed to fill in behind Jerrin in the role of Stewardship Forester. My thanks go out to Jerrin and Justin for taking on new responsibilities.

2023 was a year filled with new opportunities and challenges in both fire suppression and forest resources. The Private Forest Accord (PFA) brought us many changes in forest management rules. The PFA also added an SFO Forester to the district to help administered new FPA rules specific to small forestland owners.

The new FPA was fully implemented in 2023 requiring many training courses for ODF staff and landowners. The new rules continue to be a humongous change for our Stewardship Foresters, Unit Foresters, and Admin staff. Their extra work and dedication to helping landowners navigate the new rules is noticed and appreciated. In December Ron Staley Enterprises, one of our local operators, was recognized as the 2023 Northwest Operator of the year. We are very proud to share the good work going on in the district.

The 2023 fire season was challenging for the district. We had more fires than normal, and we had multiple fires go into extended attack. The South Cascade District and our landowners and operators had to engage on multiple federal fires that threatened or burned on private property.

As you will see in the following pages, we continue to implement many prevention programs and fuels reduction projects across the district. The FFR work continues to make positive impacts on federal ground in and near the district.

I want to mention the outstanding efforts of our employees and I also want to say thank you to their families for the support they give, especially through a challenging fire season.

The South Cascade District would not be successful without the partnerships we have with the Eastern Lane and Linn Forest Protective Associations, forest landowners, operators, neighboring districts, federal agencies, and fire department partners. I would like to thank each of them for their continued dedication and professionalism. I would say the complete and coordinated fire protection system is alive and well in the South Cascade District.

Craig Pettinger

Interim District Forester

PREVENTION

South Cascade East Lane Unit partnered with the Willamette National Forest for Smokey Bear team teaching at our rural schools which includes Oakridge, McKenzie, Marcola, Walterville, Lundy, and Pleasant Hill. The program consists of 1st graders learning about Smokey Bear and Smokey's Five Rules of Wildfire Prevention. Smokey's 5 basics are: 1. Only you can prevent wildfires. 2. Always be careful with fire. 3. Never play with matches or lighters. 4. Always watch your campfire. 5. Make sure your campfire is completely out before leaving it. Additional information includes talking points such as when you should call 911. What is a good and bad fire? Watching the video titled "A Day in the Forest with Smokey Bear" and finishing by meeting Smokey Bear. The Sweet Home office also participated in the prevention program, visiting 10 schools in the Linn County area this year.

The 4th grade Advanced Fire Prevention program consists of a refresher teaching when to call 911, matches, lighter safety, and common causes of fire. We explain the fire triangle including the 3 elements it takes to start a fire, a prevention detective power point (involving student participation) and finish with dressing up a student in wildland fire gear. This includes the PPE we carry in our line gear pack and hand tools. We had 455 students go through our program and each student was given a Smokey Bear bag. This program was put on by our Eastern Lane employees in the Cottage Grove area with 2 of our rural schools, Dorena & London, where 105 additional students participated, met Smokey Bear, and received a Smokey bag. We hope to grow the Smokey Bear program in the Cottage Grove area in 2024.

We had several organizations reach out to Sweet Home and Eastern Lane to bring Smokey Bear to many events, involving festivals, safety fairs, and parades. These are some of the many events we participated in.

June 24th Springfield Willamalane Childrens Festival

July 4th Creswell Parade

Aug. 5th Cottage Grove Annual Emergency Preparedness Fair

Sept. 15th – 16th South Lane Fire District movie night

Oct. 5th Springfield Jerry's Fire Safety



The fire crew really enjoys being involved in the prevention of fire and talking with the public about the issues that we face and informing the public of what they can do to help. Keep Oregon Green is instrumental in helping deliver this message by providing over 30,000 coffee sleeves for the second year in a row to be distributed to local coffee shops.



PROTECTION

The 2023 fire season started on June 5th, 2023, and ended on October 10th, 2023, for a total of 127 days. Fire crews were trained and ready for what turned out to be a challenging summer for the South Cascade District.

On May 31st, 2023, Eastern Lane started with a preseason fire. The Reuben Leigh fire, which was stopped at 41 acres with the help of multiple air and ground resources. Several lightning storms brought a few large federal incidents that burned onto private land, including Bedrock and Lookout, as well as the lightning storm on August 24th that started 6 additional large fires including Grizzly and Horse Creek.

The week of August 1st began with the 39-acre Sodaville Cutoff fire with level 3 evacuations near Lebanon, OR. ODF crews along with Lebanon Fire and ODF aviation resources made a quick stop before reaching ODF protected lands. On the afternoon of August 4th, the Priceboro fire ignited and burned 310 acres. The fire, supported by 20+ mph winds, quickly anchored itself in and threatened the Mt. Tom subdivision near Harrisburg, OR along Interstate 5. Level 3 evacuations immediately went into place and a 3-county response from the Emergency Operation Center was activated. A conflagration was initiated for the Oregon State Fire Marshal local resources to be mobilized and an all-out air campaign developed to slow the fires' growth. The fire was attacked throughout the night. Dozer lines were established, and crews were able to hold the fire in check. The Southern Oregon Area Jefferson Agreement was enacted which brought in ODF resources from DFPA, CFPA, Western Lane and Southwest that were assigned under a Type 3 IMT to replace exhausted local ODF crews.

On August 7th in the evening hours a fire was reported in the Wiley Creek Drainage 7 miles from Sweet Home, OR. The fire originated on a small parcel of U.S.F.S. lands surrounded by multiple industrial timber landowners and rural residents around Whiskey Butte. The fire was burning in old growth timber with cliffs, rock bluffs and difficult access. Local ODF and U.S.F.S. worked together. ODF took control of the fire due to the threat to private lands. A short incident management team was established and supported by its leadership from Salem as well as Salem Coordination Center who took the lead in suppression and all ordering. The weather was in the low 90's with 100-degree weather forecasted. With fire activity greatly increasing, that brought the need to bring in additional aviation assets including scoopers and multiple air tankers. In all, the fire burned 244 acres with 23 acres being private timber land.

The Eastern Lane Unit extensively assisted the Sweet Home Unit and Western Lane District with initial attack response with numerous fires including Priceboro, Wiley, Moon Mountain, 7k, and many others.

The district also assisted with several out of state assignments. Resources were sent to Kentucky, Alaska, North Carolina, as well as Alberta, Canada.

The South Cascade District responded to a total of 63 STAT fires, 24 NON-STAT, and 135 NFCA's during the 2023 fire season.

South Cascade Statistical Fires			
Cause	2022 Fires	2023 Fires	2023 ODF Acres Burned
Lightning	2	12	642.12
Railroad	0	0	0
Equipment Use	7	15	27.8
Recreation	7	9	3.54
Smoking	1	2	.3
Debris Burning	10	14	26.97
Arson	0	1	.10
Juveniles	1	1	.01
Miscellaneous	5	7	966.5
Under Investigation	3	2	332.50
Totals	36	63	1999.84



Green Peter Reservoir

MID WILLAMETTE VALLEY INTERAGENCY FIRE SCHOOL

In June of 2023, the Sweet Home Unit hosted the Mid-Willamette Valley Interagency Fire School. The last fire school our unit hosted in 2019, ran for over 20 years prior to covid. Over 200 students attended courses throughout the week and participated in field exercises. The last day of training consisted of live fire and certifications for new and returning firefighters to begin the journey with The Oregon Department of Forestry and our federal partners. Students represented districts from Astoria, Tillamook, South Fork Forest Camp, Forest Grove, West Oregon, North Cascade, Western Lane, South Cascade, Salem Headquarters, Bureau of Land Management, United States Forest Service Willamette, Siuslaw, United States Fish and Wildlife Service and Bureau of Indian Affairs. Thank you to everyone for making this fire school a successful training opportunity for our firefighters. Our hope is to keep providing opportunities to train and learn together.



SMOKE MANAGEMENT

South Cascade	2022	2023
Registered Tonnage	80,838	82,976
Accomplished Tonnage	47,577	87,278
Registered Acres	22,073	16,668
Accomplished Acres	8,690	15,962



2023 fall burning started at the end of October and continued through the end of the year. The weather was favorable with plenty of rain and snow that helped most all our landowners complete their treatment of slash projects with little interruptions and good consumption. In East Lane, ten month Forest Officers helped tremendously in slash rating, data entry and burn permitting. We are happy to report there were no smoke intrusions.

FNRL FIRE SCHOOL

2023 was the 7th year that ODF South Cascade Sweet Home Unit has partnered with the Future Natural Resource Leaders. FNRL is a student leadership association dedicated to personal growth and career success through Natural Resources. Camp Tadmor outside of Sweet Home, hosted over 100 students from throughout the state to attend the 3-day event. During this high school fire school the students learn skills and gain valuable experience while working with forest industry leaders that could help them with future career opportunities in the forest industry. Students learn safety techniques as well as learning fire suppression activities such as hose lay, fire pumps, fire line construction and first aid. The groups then compete to strengthen and build crew cohesion amongst one another.



OUT OF STATE ASSIGNMENTS



Jackson Wojdylak

Chris Cline

Kobe Olson

John Flannigan

Kenai, Alaska

Alberta, Canada



Connor Devore

Ben Cline

Kyle Heflin

Jason Wickizer

Colton Anderson

North Carolina

Christopher Jones

John Flannigan

Kentucky



FOREST RESOURCES

2023 was another busy year for the Forest Resources Program. The District received over 1700 new notifications of operation which were reviewed and inspected for compliance with the forest practices rules. Staff assisted landowners with technical assistance and education, administered the industrial fire program with inspections and waivers, added to the protection programs capabilities in various roles, and worked with other cooperators to implement various programs.

Much of the timber salvage from the Holiday Farm fire wrapped up but reforestation work continued.

Justin White was added as a new position to the district in early 2023 to be the Small Forestland Owner Forester to assist non-industrial landowners with regulations that would be implemented in 2024. Justin spent much of 2023 educating landowners of the upcoming rule changes.

No citations of the forest practices rules were issued in 2023, while several written statements of unsatisfactory condition were issued.

2023 NOAPS	South Cascade District
New Notifications	1791



Steve Kendall standing next to a culvert slated for replacement.



Completed fish passage after culvert replacement.

FPA Enforcement	South Cascade District
Unsatisfactory Conditions Issued	6
Civil Penalties	0

INDUSTRIAL FIRE

The Industrial Fire program in the South Cascade District consists of Stewardship Foresters and Forest Officers working under the direction of their respective Unit Foresters.

An important part of the Industrial Fire program is the summer industrial fire inspections. Both landowners and operators are encouraged to reach out to their local ODF office to receive a pre-season inspection of their equipment to ensure fire readiness once fire season arrives.

In June of 2023, Cascade Timber Consulting held their annual fire truck inspection in Sweet Home. For over 25 years contractors have participated in this inspection event. With the help from The Oregon Department of Forestry, the trucks were inspected to make sure the equipment is ready and meets the required standards.



IFPL	# Days
IFPL 1	41
IFPL 2	68
IFPL 3	13
IFPL 4	5
TOTAL	127

Local operators having their equipment inspected at the annual Cascade Timber Consulting inspection event.

SMOKE DETECTION CAMERAS

Warner Mountain Lookout became the newest active camera on the District in June of 2023.

Since installation, both the Warner Mountain and Table Mountain cameras have been extremely valuable in detecting new starts. Additionally, agreements for Nebo and Bear Mountain sites have been updated. Green Mountain and Scott Mountain are the last remaining sites to install and should be completed in the spring of 2024.

FUELS REDUCTION PROGRAMS

Fuels Reduction—Eastern Lane

The Eastern Lane Unit fuels reduction program utilized Western States Fire Manager and Community Assistance grant funds to implement fuels reduction activities on private lands throughout our local communities. Fuels reduction treatments consisted of defensible space treatments and larger, strategically located shaded fuel breaks. This was achieved through a combination of landowner cost shares and efforts provided by the Eastern Lane fuels crew. In total 44 projects were completed, treating over 140 acres. The fuels crew assisted multiple local industrial timber owners with slash burning for a total of 7 days. In addition to fuels reduction activities the program provided educational material to 500 landowners via mailings and attended 6 community events. Over 100 educational site assessments were completed in response to the overwhelming interest from community members seeking guidance to better prepare for wildfire and inquiries related to the fuel's reduction program.



Fuels Reduction – Sweet Home

Fuels reduction in the Sweet Home Unit has been a long term coordinated effort between the Oregon Department of Forestry and the Linn County Juvenile Department. This program is funded under Title 3 of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act. The purpose of the funding is to identify, contact, and educate landowners to the benefit of adequate defendable space for homes and structures in the occurrence of a wildland fire.

The Oregon Department of Forestry provides a Fire Planning Forester to contact landowners, identify work projects and then coordinate these needs with the Linn County Juvenile Department. The Juvenile Department offers a youth work crew and leadership to manage the crew on eligible sites to perform the needed work. Project work includes pruning, thinning, brush cutting, and chipping of vegetation around structures within the home ignition zones. The members of the work crew are given the opportunity to work in a team building environment while learning valuable work habits.



GOOD NEIGHBOR AUTHORITY & THE FEDERAL FOREST RESTORATION PROGRAM

2023 witnessed several developments for the Federal Forest Restoration program at South Cascade. The team was distributed between the North Cascade office in Stayton and the South Cascade office in Springfield. This has allowed staff to encompass a larger geographical area. The district welcomed four new hires for the winter season to aid in the reforestation efforts with our BLM counterparts. With almost all permanent and seasonal positions filled, NWOA's FFR crew is almost at full capacity, allowing for greater reach across even more ranger districts and national forests.

As the FFR program continues to grow, so does an exciting workload for program staff. This year, field crews worked with USFS and BLM to complete thousands of acres of planting inspections on federal ground, treat an eight-acre tract of wildland-urban interface land for fuels reduction, and assist with the layout and cruising of several sales. The Springfield and Stayton offices sold Bits (1,521 MBF), EFR (774 MBF), and Dry Beard (6,799 MBF) to successful bidders. These sales will begin this summer, with pre-haul roadwork occurring on all three sales. During the 2023 operating season, administrators continued to oversee logging operations on two active sales: GM and Twins. Both these sales will close out this summer. As always, FFR staff found new ways to increase productivity, attend various training courses, contribute to the fire program, and have fun out in the woods.



GIUSTINA RESOURCES CO-OP

Through an agreement with Giustina Resources, we were able to hire seasonal fire-fighters to help with planting inspections, slash treatment, timber cruising, and a large workload of stocking surveys. This has been a great way to provide practical learning experiences to seasonal fire staff who have an interest in Forestry/Silviculture, as well as off-season work, and to help with seasonal retention.

NORTHWEST OREGON AREA OPERATOR OF THE YEAR

RON STALEY ENTERPRISES



The awards, announced by the Oregon Department of Forestry on December 4th, 2023, recognized forest operators who protect natural resources at a level that consistently meets or goes above and beyond requirements of the Oregon Forest Practices Act. Ron Staley Enterprises received the Northwest Oregon Area Operator of the Year Award



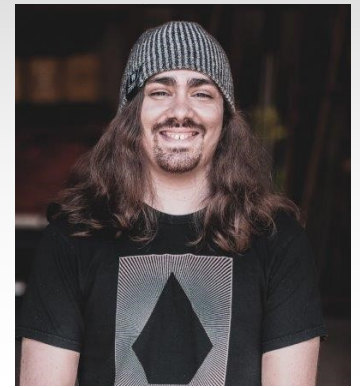
STAFF CHANGES

2023 provided the South Cascade District with a variety of staff changes. Multiple employees have stepped up to fill behind others to keep the district operations flowing.

The following were the staff changes that occurred:



Callie Baker began her career with ODF as a temporary dispatcher in 2022 for the Sweet Home Unit. As of February 2023, Callie is now a permanent state employee, working as an AS1 in the Eastern Lane Unit. Callie's duties include payroll timekeeping, onboarding and offboarding of seasonal firefighters, as well as assisting with fire finance.



Tyler Church became a Wildland Firefighter for ODF Eastern Lane in June 2016, working his way to a Limited Duration Position as an AS1 in October 2021. As of October 2023, Tyler is now a permanent AS1 in our front desk position, covering Accounts Payable, FERNS notifications and assisting with dispatch.

Chris Cline, South Cascade's District Forester, has taken a developmental position as the Protection Division Chief in Salem, as of December 2023.

Craig Pettinger, Sweet Home's Unit Forester, has taken the role of Acting District Forester in Chris' absence.

Jerrin Robbins, one of Sweet Home's Stewardship Foresters, has stepped in to fill the Sweet Home Acting Unit Forester position behind Craig.

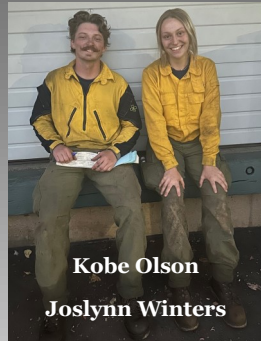
Justin Wolfe, WFSS for our Sweet Home Unit, has accepted the position as Acting Stewardship Forester, behind Jerrin.

Justin White accepted the new position as an SFO Forester for the Southern Oregon Area, working out of the South Cascade District. Prior to accepting this position, Justin was a WFSS in Sweet Home from 2017 to 2022. Justin received his bachelor's degree in Forest Operations Management from Oregon State University in 2022, giving him extensive knowledge in this field.

SOUTH CASCADE DISTRICT FIRES



DISTRICT STAFF



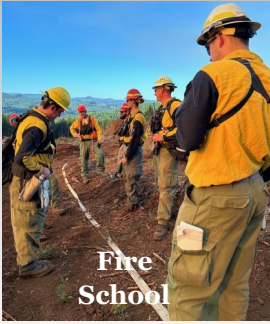
Kobe Olson
Joslynn Winters



Nakia Stafford



Dave Batten
Jackson Wojdylak



Fire School



Craig Pettinger
Chad Calderwood
John Flannigan



Adrian Kast



Yellowbottom Fire



Staff Picnic



Callie Baker, Tyler Church
Renae Meyer



Carl Lemmer
Adrian Kast



Justin Wolfe



Justin Wolfe
Jacob Sieminski
Kami Hart, Kobe Olson



Eijah Woodward



David Batten



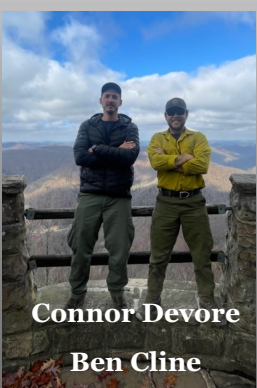
Eastern Lane Staff



Katen Edwards
Ben Cline
Kyle Heflin



Kentucky Assignment



Connor Devore
Ben Cline



South Cascade District Staff



Sweet Home Staff

Eastern Lane Forest Protection

Association (ELFPA) Board of Directors

Founded 1913, Incorporated 6/24/1938

President—Chase Kinion, Campbell Global

Vice President—Ted Reiss, Giustina Land & Timber Co.

Secretary—Mark Willhite, Sierra Pacific

Treasurer—Dylan Johnson, Weyerhaeuser Co.

Kenny Rose, Giustina Land & Timber Co.

Susan Fricke, Eugene Water and Electric Board

Will Hansen, RDK Land and Timber

Karl Morgenstern, Eugene Water and Electric Board.

Cary Hart, Giustina Land & Timber



Linn Forest Protective Association (LFPA) Board of Directors

Founded 1911, Incorporated 7/31/1936

President—Eric Kranzush, Giustina Land and Timber

Vice President— Caleb Brown, Frank Timber Resources, Inc.

Secretary/Treasurer—Jill Bell, Weyerhaeuser Co.

Milt Moran, CTC South Santiam Tree Farm

Scott Melcher, Melcher Family LLC

Brian Carroll, Linn County Parks Department

Jeremy Norby, Giustina Resources

Christy Tye, Udell Family

Randy Hereford, Starker Forests, Inc.

Megan Thornton, Campbell Global

Marty Suing, Small Woodland Owner



SOUTH CASCADE DISTRICT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART—2023

South Cascade District
March 3, 2023



Chris Cline
District Forester
District Forest Manager
Pos. #: 036205
MMS 8261 SR33F

John Flannigan
Unit Forester Eastern Lane
Forest Manager 2
Pos. #: 008809
MMS 8260 SR30F

Renaee Meyer
District Business Manager
BOS1
Pos. #: 034162
MMS 7087 SR24X

Craig Pettinger
Unit Forester Sweet Home
Forest Manager 2
Pos. #: 015120
MMS 8260 SR30F

Stewardship Forester/ NRS2
OAO 8502 SR24
023008 - Brian Daily
002563 - Tim Meehan
017163 - Dan Menk

Bob Millam
General Mechanic
Automotive Tech 2
Pos. #: 001465
OAO 4419 SR23

Connor Devore
Community Planning Forester
Natural Resource Spec. 2
Pos.: 065765
OAO 8502 SR24

Vacant
Seasonal Dispatcher
Wildland Fire Dispatcher
Pos.:
OXSO 8264 SR15

Brent Peterson
Protection Supv - HQ Ops
Wildland Fire Supervisor
Pos. #: 013561
MMS 8258 SR25

Isaak Post
Protection Supv - Field Ops
Wildland Fire Supervisor
Pos. #: 043754
MMS 8258 SR25

Vacant
Forest Officer
Pos. #: 063477
OXNO 8257 SR23

Keith Teague
Forest Officer - Permanent
Pos. #: 014862
OXNO 8257 SR23

Jay Feldman
Forest Management Tech
Pos. #: 151987
XAO 8211 SR16

Forest Officer
FO Seasonal
OXNO 8257 SR23
063477 - Benaiah Cline
063660 - Jason Wickizer
063661 - Nicholas Mortensen

Vacant
Co-Op
Wildland Fire Supp. Spec.
Pos. #:
OXSO 8255 SR17

Wildland Fire Supp. Spec.
WFSS Seasonal
OXSO 8255 SR17
WPN - Vacant
WPN - Vacant

Vacant
Co-Op
Laborer/Student Worker
Pos. #:
Rep Code 4116 SR12

Wildland Fire Supp. Spec. Entry
WFSS Seasonal
OXSO 8254 SR13
WPN - Vacant
WPN - Vacant
WPN - Vacant
WPN - Vacant
WPN - Vacant

Wildland Fire Supp. Spec.
WFSS Seasonal
OXSO 8255 SR17
063662 - Carson States
063663 - Hayden Stewart
063668 - Jonathan Bridges
063667 - Kayln Simpson
063674 - Katen Edwards
064705 - Miles Higa

Wildland Fire Supp. Spec. Entry
WFSS Seasonal
OXSO 8254 SR13
WPN - Vacant
WPN - Vacant
WPN - Vacant
WPN - Vacant
WPN - Vacant

Wildland Fire Supp. Spec. Entry
WFSS Seasonal
OXSO 8254 SR13
063477 - Brandon Williams
132640 - Iris Garber
132643 - Jayce Clevenger
063671 - Lawrence Jackson
113310 - Vacant
132642 - Ollias Laughlin

Winter Co Op
Transportation Maint Spec 2
Rep Code 4152 SR19
WPN - Vacant
WPN - Vacant
WPN - Vacant

Callie Baker
Administrative Specialist 1
AS1
Pos. #: 023804
OAO 0107 SR17

Tyler Church
Administrative Specialist 1
AS1
Pos. #: 143550
OAO 0107 SR17

Vacant (LD)
FFR Unit Forester
Forest Manager 1
Pos. #:
MMS 8259 SR27F

Kolton Vickers
GNA Forester
Natural Resource Spec. 2
Pos. #: 031252
OAO 8502 SR24

Matt Luciani
GNA Forester
Natural Resource Spec. 1
Pos. #: 132264
OAO 8501 SR21

Connor Reardon
Forest Management Tech
Pos. #: 132207
OXNO 8211 SR16

Easton McVeigh-Walker
Forest Management Tech
Pos. #: 132201
OXNO 8211 SR16

Stewardship Forester/ NRS2
OAO 8502 SR
028520 - Jerrin Robbins
009151 - Steve Kendall

Nakia Stafford
Administrative Specialist 1
AS1
Pos. #: 007366
OAO 0107 SR17

David Batten
General Mechanic
Automotive Tech 2
Pos. #: 063526
OAO 4419 SR23

Vacant
Seasonal Dispatcher
Pos.:
OXSO 8264 SR15

Nick Case
Protection Supervisor
Wildland Fire Supervisor
Pos. #: 002848
MMS 8258 SR25

Chad Calderwood
Protection Supervisor
Wildland Fire Supervisor
Pos. #: 014053
MMS 8258 SR25

Forest Officer
FO Seasonal
OXNO 8257 SR23
000423 - Carl Lemmer
063530 - Craig Wilson
063528 - Tomas Rosa

Wildland Fire Supp. Spec.
WFSS Seasonal
OXSO 8254 SR15
044528 - Jackson Wojdylak
040069 - Justin Wolfe
063505 - Kobe Olson
WPN - Vacant
WPN - Vacant

Wildland Fire Supp. Spec. Entry
WFSS Seasonal
OXSO 8254 SR13
WPN - Vacant
WPN - Vacant

Wildland Fire Supp. Spec. Entry
WFSS Seasonal
OXSO 8254 SR13
063534 - Parker Lemmer
063532 - Tucker Weld