



# 2021 SOUTH FORK ANNUAL REPORT



## HISTORY

Established in 1951 to provide labor for rehabilitation of the Tillamook Burn and meaningful work for Oregon State Penitentiary "honor" inmates (AICs)

## VISION

**Provide** safe, effective, skilled AIC labor to the State Forest and Protection from Fire Programs.  
**Promote** public safety by diligently maintaining crew security standards and holding AICs accountable.  
**Reduce** recidivism by modeling pro-social behavior and teaching work skills that help AICs to be productive citizens upon release.

# Words from the Camp Manager

Greetings from South Fork Camp,

After 2020 challenged us like no other year with a devastating fire season and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, 2021 presented a new set of obstacles as well as opportunities to improve operations and continue to serve the public. The winter of 2021 started out like many other with reforestation work being a big focus for us. The pandemic threw a wrench into the contracting world so South Fork was asked to plant trees to alleviate stress on the planting contractors currently working. This was a big success and South Fork was off to a good start.



On April 14, an Adult in Custody walked away from a recreation crew working in the Gales Creek Campground and is believed to have severely assaulted two women, leaving them with serious injuries, and stealing their car. He was apprehended later that night. The victims went through a horrible experience, and all of us at ODF and DOC were heartbroken over the attack. This type of incident, although very rare is a stark reminder of how important crew security and public safety is for outside work crews. The months that followed brought two work stoppages and three program reviews, with an ongoing security review. This included a one week reset training that was held at the Tillamook District office, where ODF and DOC staff participated with leaders from around the state to incorporate updated security protocols and improve staff security practices. This was an extremely valuable training that was the foundation for resuming work at the camp. On December 6, 2021, the crews went back to work with new guidelines and a renewed purpose to ensure AIC accountability and public safety is at the forefront of the operation.

We also had another very busy fire season. The crews were busy locally on the Game Hog and Cedar Butte fires along with other smaller local fires much of the summer. Crews were also called down to Grants Pass to work on a lightning bust there and then again to the Cougar Peak fire near Lakeview at the end of the summer. All said and done it was another big fire season for ODF and another reminder of the value of South Fork and our employees. Great Work Everyone!

Although the crew work was stopped for much of the fall, the employees contributed in other ways. By doing a lot of the work the AICs do in reforestation, recreation and on other projects, our employees helped fill a hole left by the idle AIC crews. This helped get crucial work done that would have likely got dropped if not for their efforts.

Our employees are the heart and soul of this work program. With support from both agencies all the employees stepped up to help the camp continue to make great contributions to both ODF and the public. Great work everyone at South Fork and those throughout the agency who helped us through a very difficult year! A big thank you to Sydnee Donowho for putting together this report.

Dave Luttrell,

Camp Manager

# YEAR IN REVIEW

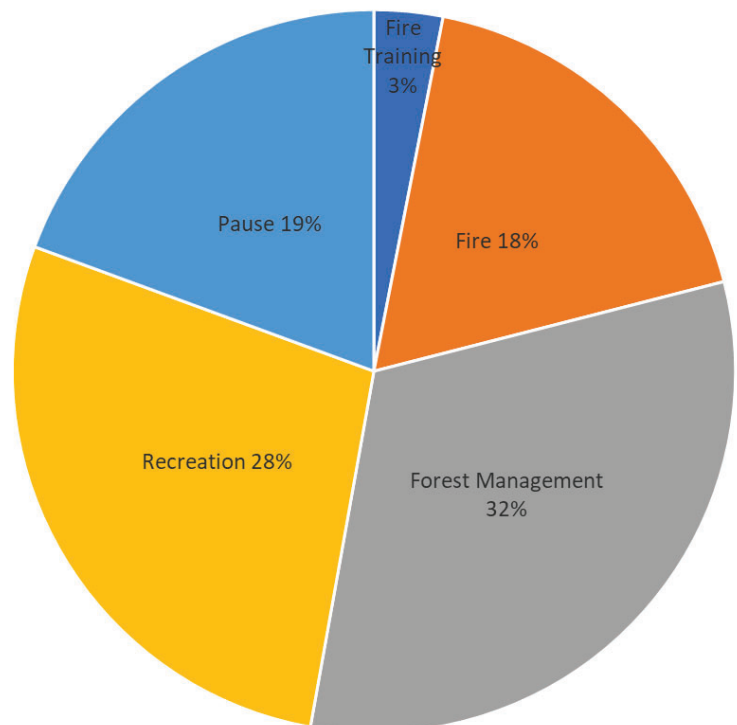
South Fork Forest Camp is a unique partnership between Oregon Department of Corrections and Oregon Department of Forestry. ODF uses crews of AICs (Adults in Custody) to perform labor in reforestation, campground and trail maintenance as well as wildland fire-fighting across the state. In return, ODF models pro-social behavior and provides them with skills that help them to be productive citizens upon release. South Fork has a considerably lower recidivism rate relative to other facilities within DOC.

Work stoppages and a considerable amount of training took crews away from some of the project work, but as a result a much safer and resilient South Fork emerged. New partnerships were formed at the upper management levels of ODF and DOC and the result was a more unified and connected staff relationship at the camp.

Significant contributions by reforestation crews in 2021 include, tree planting, tree packing, release, bud capping, tubing, and trapping. In REI crews worked on trail and facility maintenance as well as many special recreation projects. The crews also lend support to the ODF roads team by brushing and opening roads, as well as special road projects.

Fire crews were once again busy for much of the summer on local and out of district fires. The crews performed admirably helping on fires when other crews were not available or needed elsewhere.

**Crew Day Allocation**



CREWDAYS BY DISTRICT	TOTAL
ASTORIA	253
FOREST GROVE	393
NORTH CASCADE	122
TILLAMOOK	269
TFC	9
WEST OREGON	26



# REFORESTATION

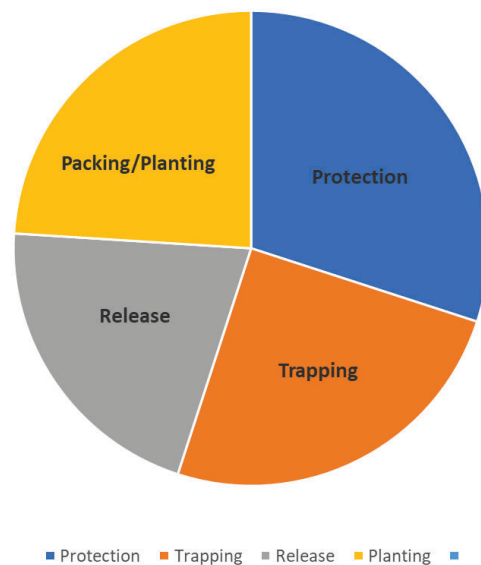
PROTECTION	TOTAL
BUD CAPS PLACED	433,900
ACRES CAPPED	1,487
MAN DAYS CAPPING	1,461
TUBES/PINS PLACED	9,792
MAN DAYS TUBES/	211

TRAPPING	TOTAL
ACRES	2,113
TRAPS SET	15,933
ANIMALS CAUGHT	4,555
MAN DAYS	169

TREE PLANTING & PACKING	TOTAL
TREES PLANTED	66,770
ACRES PLANTED	142
MAN DAYS PLANTING	414
MAN DAYS	739

RELEASE	TOTAL
SAW ACRES	731
SAW MAN DAYS	1,180

Reforestation



# REI

South Fork supports REI in day-to-day operations on the landscape as well as many special projects across all five districts in NWOA.

Crews maintained and developed 85 miles of trail in 2021, utilizing over 1,350 mandays to do so.

With the increase of public in the forest there is an extensive amount of time spent on facility maintenance, dispersed campsite cleanup, and dumpsite cleanup. In total South Fork spent over 3,000 mandays on maintenance and cleanup.

Work in the Santiam Canyon in REI continues with projects at Shellburg Falls and Santiam Horse camp.

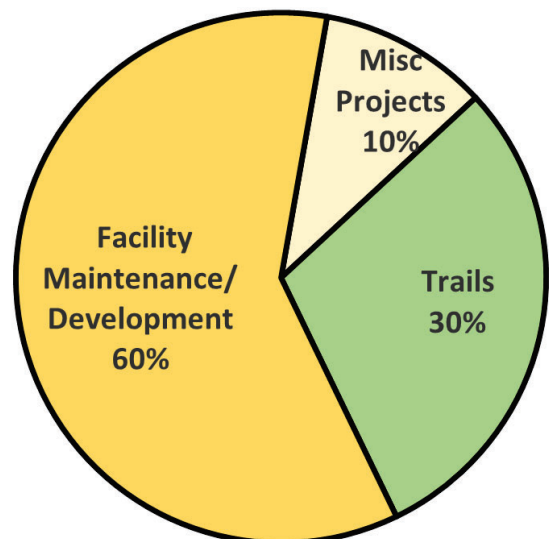
Good progress was made in 2021 on some of the trails and the Horse Camp.

With enhanced safety and security South Fork went to 5-person REI crews in December of 2021. This will allow us to have enhanced supervision of crews in public settings.

TRAILS	TOTAL
MAINTENANCE	82 MILES
DEVELOPMENT	3 MILES
MANDAYS	1,385



## REI MANDAYS



REI MANDAYS	TOTAL
MAINTENANCE	2,880 Mandays
TRAILS	1,432 Mandays
MISC.	498 Mandays

# FIRE SEASON

FIRE	TOTAL
NWOA FIRES	8
NWOA FIRE CREW DAYS	164
OUT OF AREA FIRES	3
OUT OF AREA FIRE CREW DAYS	1,482
TOTAL FIRES	11
TOTAL FIRE CREW DAYS	312
AIC FIRE TRAINING	53



Fire season started early again in 2021 in the NWOA and around the State. The first fires of the season were in June, the fire that challenged us most was the July 4th Game Hog fire on the Forest Grove District. This fire was on some of the steepest, most treacherous terrain any of our firefighters have seen in years. And after a rekindle the 200+ acre fire challenged us for the next few months. The Tillamook Districts Cedar Butte fire was also a challenge with firefighters working in 100 degree temperatures. An early lightning bust sent a strike team of crews to the Applegate complex in Medford. The Cougar Peak fire wrapped up the season for our crews on the Klamath/ Lake District which was hit exceptionally hard during the 2021 season.



# SHOP PROJECTS



Down at the shop, refurbishment was completed on one of the crummy boxes. This box was mounted to a Ford F550 chassis and is currently in use providing transport for the AICs from camp to work. Custom made to fit a full crew and their supplies these refurbished boxes are put back into new condition at a significant savings for the State Forests Division.

New recreation trailers were purchased to replace two of the older trailers, these trailers have been equipped with additional accessories fabricated in the welding shop and equipped with water tanks on the side and two swinging rear doors for easy access to tools.

In addition to these great accomplishments, three brand new Tillamook State Forest signs were made to display at the entrance to the forest on highway 26. These custom log frame signs will welcome visitors for years to come.



# TUFFY CREEK REARING POND



In partnership with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, South Fork raises and releases over one hundred thousand fish every year. Last year was no exception. Fry delivered from the Trask Hatchery are looked after by one of the shop's AICs. This designated AIC feeds the fish, maintains the pond, and keeps detailed records of data vital to the ODFW program. Once the fish are mature enough, they are released directly into nearby Tuffy Creek or transported to area rivers and streams.

2020	TOTAL
STEELHEAD RAISED & RELEASED	46,465
CHINOOK SALMON RAISED & RELEASED	66,528
FISH PELLETS FED	7,188 Lbs.



# The Safety & Wellness of South Fork

South Fork staff have gone to great lengths to keep both staff and AICs safe and healthy. Not only was it imperative to adapt to ODF's COVID guidelines, it was equally as important to know DOC's. Forest Crew Coordinators did and continue to do an exceptional job at following all standards even if it adds a little more work to their plate. They hold every AIC on their crew accountable making sure they are all wearing face masks, and they have their crew carriers sanitized on a regular basis.

The working environment surely looks different than it used to. Plexiglass barriers divide us and masks hide our faces, but the biggest take away is that ODF staff have become a stronger team doing their part to reduce the risk of infection within their crews and other staff.



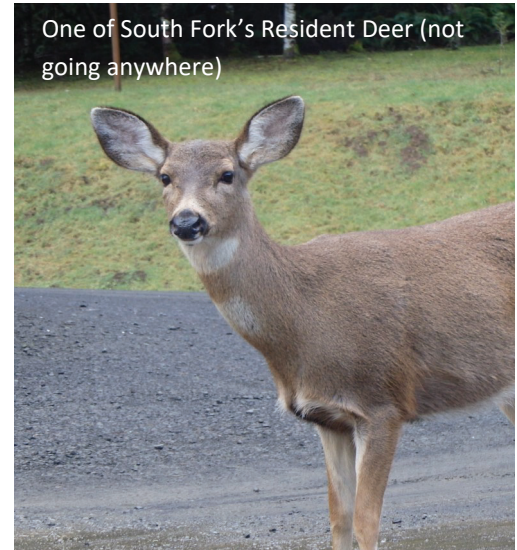
Unfortunately, COVID-19 restrictions and state building closures prevented South Fork from taking part in the Capital Tree tradition. This annual event is the product of cooperation between South Fork and the districts. In 2019 the Astoria District donated the tree from the Clatsop State Forest while the Forest Grove District donated the excavator time and operator to do the heavy lifting. The South Fork crew was disappointed to miss out on the excitement of bringing a tree to the Capital Building, but are hopeful that COVID restrictions will be lifted and allow for it to take place in 2022.

# 2021 Staff Changes

**A big welcome and great job is in order for all of our new employees.**



Misty Hadermann -  
Wildland Fire  
Supervisor



Charlene Couch -  
Administrative Specialist 1  
(not pictured)

Todd Elliot -  
Forest Crew Coordinator



**We would like to say thank you and we wish you well to all of the employees moving on.**

## Departures

Brian Dietz—Forest Crew Coordinator  
Brandon Ferguson — Forest Crew Coordinator

# SOUTH FORK CURRENT ORGANIZATION

