

FOREST GROVE DISTRICT 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



Our Mission: To serve the people of Oregon by protecting, managing, and promoting stewardship of Oregon's forest to enhance environmental, economic, and community sustainability.



Salmonberry Pit Fire, July 2023

District Forester, Mike Cafferata

Dear Forestry Community,

Thank you to all for a successful 2023. It was a year of relative calm in the local area despite the many changes going on around the state regarding natural resources.

Regarding private landowners and the Oregon Department of Forestry, the community readied and implemented the Private Forestry Accord. In July of 2023, the expanded stream buffer rules went into effect for large landowners and on January 1, 2024, all the new rules went into effect. The district and agency trained and provided training in advance of these changes. While the new rules have caused confusion and consternation, considering everything, it feels like a smooth transition. We are available and ready to help anyone that needs it in 2024.



Work continued in 2023 to contain the Emerald Ash Borer, first discovered in Forest Grove in 2022. Infected trees have been removed, and a quarantine is in place to slow the spread. So far, the Emerald Ash Borer has only been detected within the city limits of Forest Grove, however the whole natural resource community is working together to slow and limit the damages.

In the State Forest Program, tremendous effort and discussion has focused on management of the Tillamook State Forest and the whole state forest system. The department is closing in on a Habitat Conservation Plan with a 70 year commitment, with a change from the current shifting mosaic of forest stands to a land allocation model. The Board of Forestry has listened to 16.5 hours of public testimony and received over 10,000 comments. This year will be spent submitting the drafted plan to the federal services, and completing work on the complimentary Forest Management Plan that the Board of Forestry will have to approve.

The Oregon Climate Change Research Institute released their sixth assessment in January of 2023. The assessment is a resource for planning around climate related natural hazards. Regarding forests, if greenhouse gas emissions continue at current levels, the assessment projects an increase of 5 degrees Fahrenheit by the 2050s and 8.2 by the 2080s for Oregon. These changes are well within the planning horizon of foresters and land managers. Precipitation is projected to increase in the winter but decrease in the summer. East wind events are projected to decrease slightly. A local working group has started focusing on this, with a goal of developing some technical guides to land management that incorporate a view of the changing climate. This will be work in 2024.

This report summarizes the work of 2023. Thank you to the district, area, and state staff for their hard work, and thank you to the many landowners and operators that helped as well. We hope 2024 is a great year for you all.

Regards, Mike

Protection from Fire— Forest Grove District Forest Grove & Columbia City Units



Fire season began early when we sent resources to Canada to help with their early May fires. Locally our fire season started early as well with multiple pre-season fires starting on Mother’s Day, May 14th. The pre-season fires set the stage for a busy early fire season. The shoulder season activity made it challenging for the seasonal fire staff to attend fire school and complete the rigorous training required. They did accomplish all their training, as well as successfully responding to these early fires. Fire season officially started June 14th, and our first red flag day was July 14th.

We sent resources to Canada, neighboring Districts, large statewide fires, and out-of-state fires. All these incidents allowed our staff to gain experience and add to their qualifications.

Even with the early start to fire season our total number of fires was below our 5-year average. All in all, the season started quickly but progressed at a more moderate rate through August and September. That’s hopefully a reflection of our fire prevention efforts as we continue to educate the public on their activities and how it relates to fire risk. We had a few lightning storms, the largest being in August. The lightning events came with significant rain and as a result we only ended up with 1 lightning fire.

Even as fire season ended, on October 1, there were opportunities to send resources on out-of-state assignments in Kentucky and North Carolina to assist with their extreme fire activity. Managing the slash burning activities through Smoke Management kept the Protection Units busy throughout the remainder of the fall and early winter.



Regards, Eric Perkins, Unit Manager

Forest Grove District Fire Season Stats 2023

Began: June 14, 2023
Regulated Use Began: June 14
Regulated Use Ended: October 1
FS Ended: October 1, 2023

Total Fires Calls: 52
Stat Fires: 23
Non-Stat Fires: 14
Non-Fire Crew Actions: 15
Stat Acres Burned: 34.99

Fire Causes

Debris: 6
Equipment: 8
Lightning: 1
Miscellaneous: 9
Recreation: 7

Smoke Management Units

Tons Registered: 17,136
Tons Burned: 11,454
Acres Registered: 19,057
Acres Burned: 12,364

Forest Resources

The Forest Grove District Forest Resources Program had a successful 2023. The District processed 1102 notifications this year, this is comparable to the 5 year average of 1080. A large work demand this past year was continuing to learn and understand what the Private Forest Accord means to landowners, to educate and train staff as well as landowners and operators, and to continue to fine tune work processes which have all been affected by the rule changes. Industrial PFA rules took effect July 1, 2023. Small Landowner PFA rule changes took effect Jan 1 of 2024. Moving forward, Road Condition Assessments (RCA's) and stream flow determination is an anticipated increased work load for 2024. A monthly Stewie/SFO check-in was implemented to come together on the new rules and ensure consistency amongst the group. The goal of these check-ins is to collaborate, and share knowledge across the district. When working with landowners and operators, the Foresters continue to focus on education and engineering to help landowners meet their goals and objectives while still maintaining the level of protection the Forest Practices Act requires.

Everyone in the FR Program is part of the complete and coordinated fire system. Whether it was locally, across the state, out of state (Kentucky/North Carolina) and even out of country (Canada), this group all participated in these fire-fighting efforts.

Regards, Jasen McCoy,
Protection Unit Forester

**Forest Resources
Private Forests**

2023 Private Forest Statistics

New Notification of Operations: 1102
Operation Inspections: 468
Industrial Fire Inspections: 83
Citations Issued: 3
Complaints Investigated: 11
UNSATS: 3

Forest Grove Unit

In the Forest Grove Unit, Brent O'nton, Eric Jacobs, and Nick Maslen are the Stewardship Foresters while Taylor Johnson is the Small Forest Landowner (SFO) Forester. The year was spent preparing to administer the new FPA and working through various processes/efficiencies on how the three Forest Grove Unit Stewardship Foresters and the one SFO Forester can best assist each other, given the extra capacity of the new SFO position.



Columbia City Unit

Mark Reed retired at the end of June with over 30 years of service. We would like to thank Mark for all of his hard work and effort over the years and wish him the best in his well-earned retirement. Stewardship Foresters Kevin Nelson is now covering the north portion of Columbia County and John Krause continues to cover the southern portion of Columbia County. Recruitment for the new Small Forest Landowner (SFO) Forester is in progress and is anticipated to be staffed early 2024.

FISCAL YEAR 2023

Product Sales

Advertised Timber Sales: 13
MBF Advertised Volume: 65,100 MBF
Bid Value Revenue: \$40,801,530
Modified Clear Cut Acres: 1,476
Partial Cut Acres: 195
Misc. Forest Product Permits: 313 for \$31,300.00
Commercial Firewood Permits: 0
Woodcutting Permits: 516 for \$10,320.00

Recreation Information

Visitor Nights: 11,994
Registered Overnight Campers: 7,898
Campground Revenue: \$ 94,264.00
Non-Motorized Trails Maintained: 55.8 miles
Non-Motorized Trail Constructed: 0.8 miles
OHV Trails Maintained: 39.8 miles
OHV Trails Constructed: 1.1 miles
Volunteer Hours:
OHV: 3250 Camp Hosts: 2032
Value of Volunteer Contribution: \$168,000

Reforestation Stats

Initial Tree Planting: 1,687 Acres
Inter-Planting: 309 Acres
Herbicide Release: 35 Acres
Mechanical Release: 412 Acres
Aerial Site Prep: 1,044 Acres
Herbicide Site-Prep: 233 Acres
Noxious Weed Mgmt.: 354 Acres
Tree Protection: 2,041 Acres
Surveys: 3,979 Acres
Trees Planted: 831,755 Seedlings

Roads Unit Accomplishments

Roads Maintained: 29 miles
Roads Improved: 50.7 miles
Roads Constructed: 8.9 miles
Roads Vacated: 1.7 miles
Fish Barriers Replaced: 0
Rock Volume Crushed: 33,117 cubic yards
Installs/bridges replaced: 2
Fire Gates Installed: 0
Total Project Work: \$2,561,020.00

STATE FOREST



The Forest Grove District manages forest land which includes a full range of social, environmental and economic benefits including; sustainable and predictable forest products, properly functioning aquatic habitats, native wildlife habitat and recreation. The District accomplishes these goals through an organization of functional units: Marketing which includes Planning and Contracts, Forest Roads, Recreation and Reforestation.

Acres Managed by the Forest Grove District:
Board of Forestry Land - 116,180.51 acres
Common School Land owned by DSL - 610.00 acres

Approximately two-thirds of the revenue from Board of Forestry Lands are distributed to the counties in which the lands are situated for distribution to local taxing districts. The State retains approximately one-third of the revenue to cover land management costs. Revenue from Common School Lands go into the State Common School Fund.



Lightening Strikes



Nature has a special way of keeping us on our toes. Lightening is a factor for wildfire every year. Lightening struck these trees found by our Forest Grove District Protection Members. This tree did not catch fire regardless of it's dry state, a surprising yet welcome occurrence during our active fire season.



Forest Grove District 2023 Personnel Changes

Natalie Lubischer — NRS 1, January 2023

Nick Maslen — NRS 2, March 2023

Jessie Garcia — Dispatcher, April 2023

Jessie Gilbert — NRS 1, May 2023

Cleo Vredenburg — Office Specialist, July 2023

Christ Trapp — NRS 1, August 2023

Karen Simonton — Temp Retiree, August 2023

Tricia Watson — Administrative Specialist, October 2023

Retirees:

Andy White — May 2023

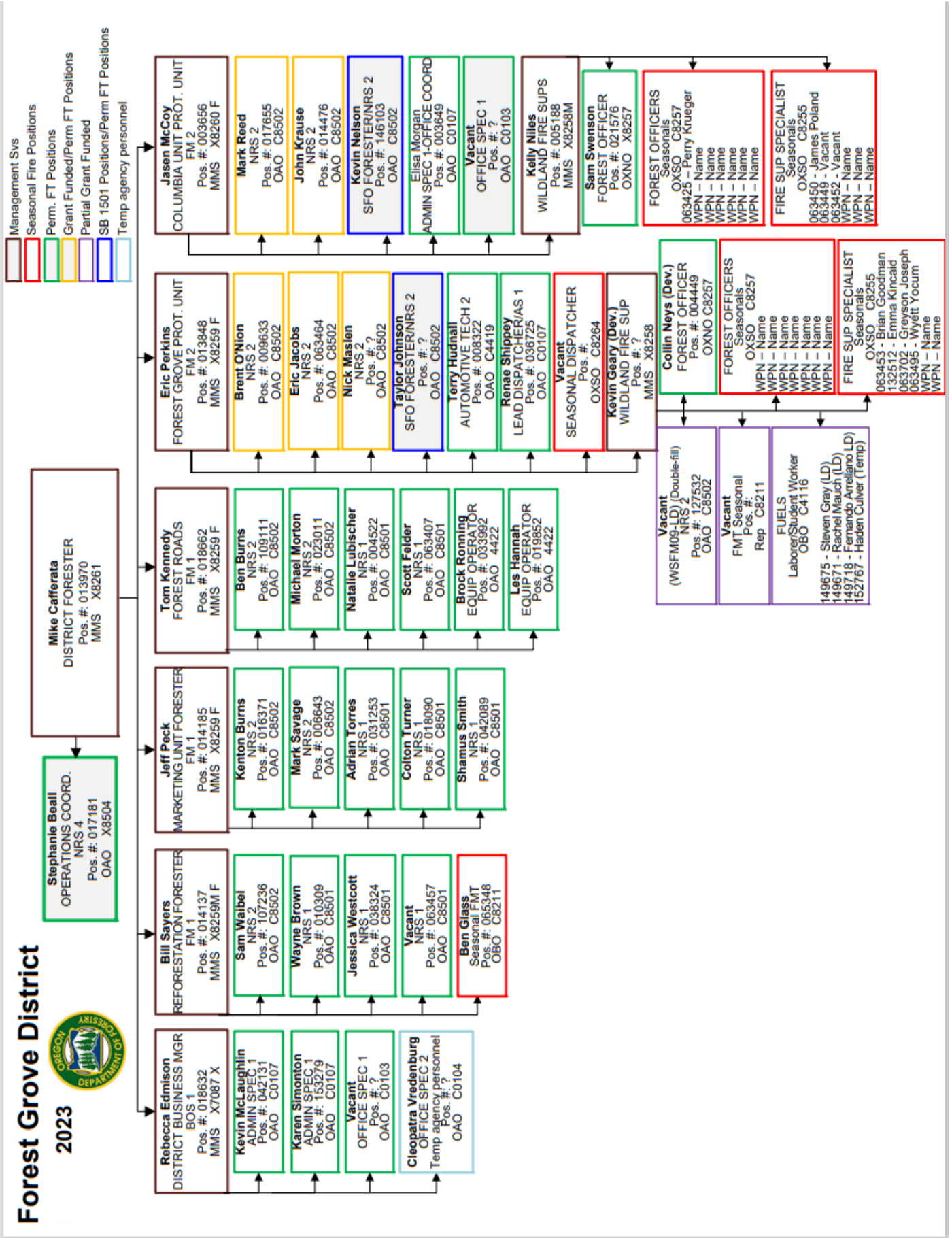
Mark Reed — July 2023

Randy Peterson — November 2023



We take a moment to thank our retirees for their years of dedicated service to ODF and to welcome our newest employees to the team. We look forward to the many years ahead.

Forest Grove District Operations Organization Chart



2023 DISTRICT PHOTOS



NORTHWEST OREGON FIRE PROECTIVE ASSOCIATION

The NWOFFPA works with the Forest Grove, Tillamook, and Astoria Districts to maintain an effective fire prevention and suppression system. The association has a Board of Directors made up of landowner representatives that review the level of protection and accompanying budget. Its primary objectives are to protect forest resources and to communicate with others to ensure wise policy decisions affecting forest protection and fire suppression.

NWOFFPA	Company/Agency/Landowner	Name
Board of Directors	Roman V Ranch	Kathryn VanNatta, President
	Stimson Lumber Company	Rodney Jacobs, Vice Prsident
	Giustina Land & Timber	Rebecca Windle, Secretary & Treasurer
	Weyerhauser	Steve Keniston
	Oregon Department of Forestry	Kevin Boyd
	VanNatta Bros. & Tie Cabin Tree Farm	Jess VanNatta
	Urwald Tree Farm	Ron Larson
	Oregon State University	Steve Pilkerton
	Rayonier	Brad Marlow
	NuVeen	David Dougherty
	Hampton Lumber	Sam Sadler
Advisory Directors	Oregon Department of Forestry	Don Everingham
	US Forest Service	Dan Eddy
	BLM	
	Oregon Dept. Fish and Wildlife	Paul Atwood
	OFIC	Kyle Williams
	Keep Oregon Green	Kristen Babbs
Members	Barber Family Trust	Paul Barber
	Landowner	Dick Enger
	Landowner	KC VanNatta
	Evenson Timberland Agency	Eric Evenson
	Arbor House Tree Farm	Scott Hayes
	Keasey Family Corporation	Ralph Keasey
	Luoto Logging, Inc	Bob Luoto
	Nichols Logging, Inc	Dan Kloppman
	Landowner	Paul Nys
	Schroeder and O'Neil	Neil Schroeder
	Teavin Brothers Land & Timber	
	Landowner	Kristen Babbs
	Starker Forests, Inc	Randy Hereford
Cooperative Members	Oregon Hunters Association	Amy Patrick
	OSU Extension Fire Specialist	Aaron Groth
	Oregon State Fire Marshal	Alan Fitzpatrick
District Foresters	Forest Grove	Mike Cafferata
	Astoria	Dan Goody
	Tillamook	Kate Skinner

Contact Us

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