



ASTORIA DISTRICT ANNUAL REPORT 2025



District Forester's Comments

Dan Goody

Looking back on 2025, I am reminded of all the things that kept members of the Astoria District busy and want to start by thanking all of them for all their service and hard work. The beginning of the year started with implementing large policy changes in all three operational divisions in the agency, with everyone doing their part to make sure that we were on schedule to successfully complete our goals for Protection from Fire, State Forests and Forest Resources. This involved a lot of planning, budgeting and monitoring our progress along with the important input from our stakeholders and members of the public.

In the Spring, we started developing our Fire prevention plans, scheduling training for various fire classes and preparing for recruitment of our seasonal fire fighters. Locally, the 2025 fire season was an average year, that included a lightning fire in South County and ended with a bang with the Knob Point Fire, which closed out fire season the day it was controlled.

Due to strong leadership in our Protection Unit and supporting State Forest staff, extra efforts in fire prevention and pre-fire suppression from our seasonal firefighters, and strong support from our cooperators, the Protection from Fire Program staff was able to keep most fires small here in Clatsop County.



Managing all the activities in the Clatsop State Forest is a year-long endeavor and due to continued demand for logs, there were a significant number of active forest operations going on throughout the year. These operations not only provided jobs for local operators and mill workers and significant revenue to Clatsop County and taxing districts, but they also allowed the District to enhance wildlife habitat and perform stream improvement projects.



The District's two Stewardship Foresters were also busy this past year administering the Forest Practices Act and ensuring that operators and private forest landowners understood the rules and were protecting water quality and the forest resources in the District.

The District understands that there is a lot of interest from the public and our stakeholders in what we are doing in Clatsop County and District employees were involved in a number of public meetings throughout the year. These included participation at several the Clatsop Board of Commissioners meetings, legislative field trips, local meetings and the annual Community Leaders Tour. We appreciate the local media's willingness to share our information regularly.



In closing, I want to state how essential all of our stakeholders, volunteers and the public are to the District. Clatsop County Commissioners and staff, local Fire Departments, forest industry, operators, landowners and many other local agencies and private organizations have helped make the District successful over the past year.

Thank you all!



I hope you enjoy this report. It is also available on ODF's website at
<https://www.oregon.gov/odf/>



Protection

Neal Bond



Protection Unit from left to right: Bryce Rodgers, Jiang Fei Koch, Andres Lopez, Ami Kreider, Neal Bond, Robert Hopkins, and Craig Sorter.

Fire Season 2025 was a more average year statewide, however the Astoria District experienced an above average season. There were two fires of significance in 2025. The Northfork Fire started on September 6th and burned 1.5 acres, in steep terrain with reprod and many down logs. On October 6th, the Knob Point Fire started and spread quickly due to sustained East Winds. This fire took 5 days to control and spread to 100 acres. The fire was burning in a recently harvested unit with incredibly steep terrain and difficult access. The crew did a great job on all fires this year, while maintaining an excellent safety record.

Neal Bond completed his 14th year as the Protection Unit Forester. Ami Kreider completed her 3rd year as the Wildland Fire Supervisor.

Andres Lopez completed his 7th year as the Permanent Forest Officer. Hazel Blacksten was hired as the seasonal Wildland Fire Dispatcher. The Unit strives to prevent and suppress all fires on forestland and quickly and as cost effectively as possible.

The District went into fire season started on June 23rd and fire season ended on October 10th for a total of 109 days. During fire season this year, NW-1 spent 109 days at an Industrial Fire Precaution Level (IFPL) I. NW-2 spent 52 days at an IFPL I and 57 days at an IFPL II. Regulated use started on June 23rd and ended on October 10th for a total of 109 days.

The fire crew responded to 53 fires in 2025. This included 7 Stat fires, 0 Non-Stat fires and 46 Non-Fire Crew Action's (NFCA). The 7 Stat fires burned a total of 107.21 acres and cost approximately \$316,000 to extinguish. The cost of responding to the NFCA's was approximately \$10,000.



Protection by the Numbers

Fire year 2025	Number of Fires	Cost	Acres Burned
NFCA	46	\$10,205	N/A
Stat Fires	7	\$305,835	107.21
Non-Stat	0	\$0	0.00
Total	53	\$316,040	107.21

Smoke Management	Number of Units	Acres	Tons
Registered	80	5,090	34,860
Planned	61	2,242	22,769
Accomplished	52	1,686	19,132



Engine 3073: Colby Jones (WFSS) & Seth Looney (WFSS)



Engine 3075: Stanley Clausen (WFSS), Michael Berger (FO), & Connelly Fromwiller (WFSS)



Engine 3071: Nathan Mahoney (FO), & Treven Moreland (WFSS)

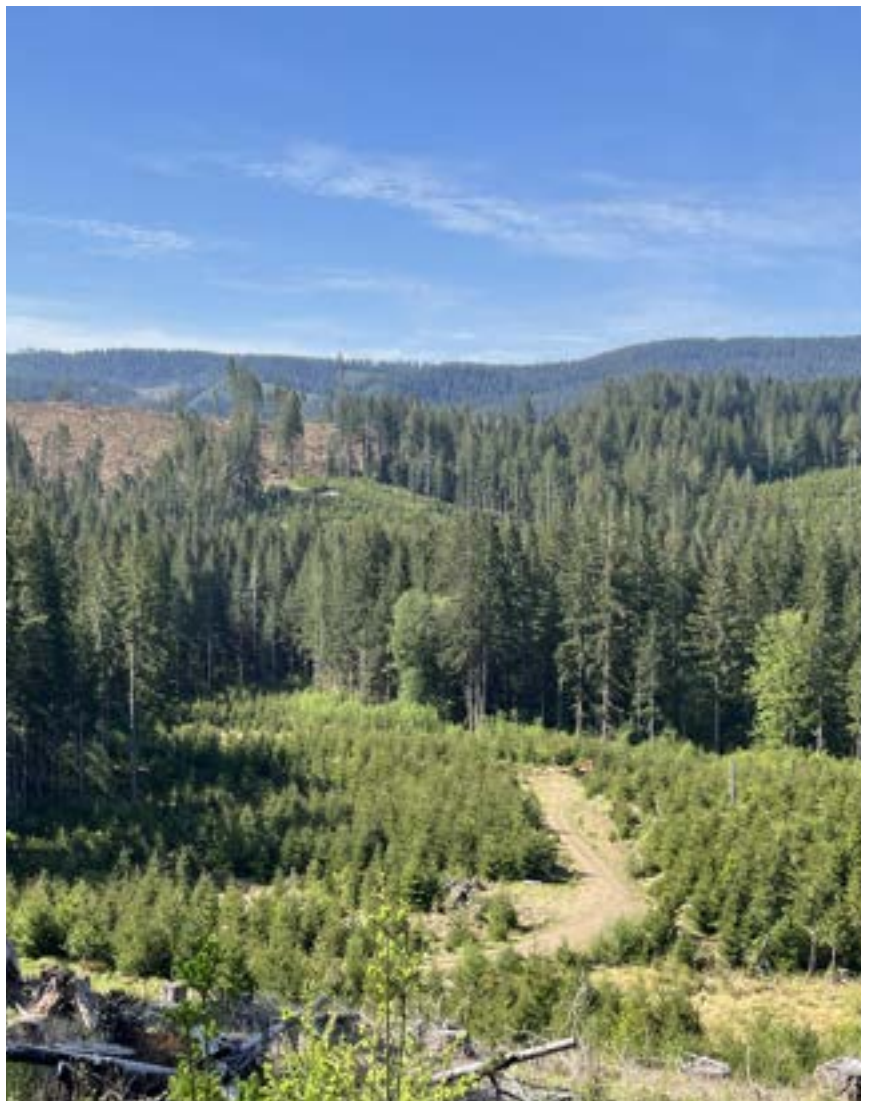


Engine 3076: Jason Leeper (FO), Max Berger (WFSS), & Ryan Hass (WFSS)



Left: Visitors measure tree circumference during Sixth Grade Forestry Day.

Below: Timbersale view on Clatsop State Forest.



Forest Resources

Stewardship Forestry

The Astoria District Forest Resources Program had a very successful year. Bryce Rodgers completed his 6th year as a Stewardship Forester. His knowledge, skills and experience are a great asset to the District as well as the landowners and operators. Craig Sorter completed his 3rd full year as a Stewardship Forester. He has a solid understanding of the Forest Practices Act and is working well with the landowners and operators.

The Astoria District processed 354 notifications this year, which was down slightly from the previous year and a bit lower than the District's five-year average of 384. The Stewardship Foresters are very familiar with all the advantages and benefits of the Forest Activity Electronic Reporting and Notification System (FERNS). With the streamlined process of FERNS, this allows them to be out in the field more, identifying issues, before they become problems. They work with landowners and operators to take corrective steps before an issue becomes a violation. I would also like to recognize what an amazing job the office staff does of helping customers navigate and complete notifications with FERNS.



(from left to right) Craig Sorter, John Krauss, Bryce Rodgers, Jason Bergeson of Quality Excavation, and Kate Skinner.

Education, then enforcement remains the guiding principle for the Stewardship Foresters when working with landowners and operators. They are very diligent in helping the landowners accomplish their goals, while still maintaining all the protection of the Forest Practices Act. The increased efficiency of FERNS has allowed the Stewardship Foresters to give the upfront time needed so that the operation is set up for success.

This year the Astoria District nominated Quality Excavation, Inc. for the Operator of the Year award for replacing failing undersized fish pipes for Lewis and Clark Tree Farm managed by Nuveen Natural Capital. Quality Excavation was selected as Northwest Oregon's Operator of the year. They went above and beyond the requirements of the FPA and did a fantastic job on a fish pipe installation. They took the extra time and dedication to provide the resource protection needed. This shows the commitment that both Quality Excavation and Nuveen have to sustainable management as well as fish population management and water quality. Congratulations to Quality Excavation.

Year	Notice of Operations	Complaints	Unsatisfactory Conditions	Citations
2021	415	0	2	2
2022	390	0	0	3
2023	364	0	2	0
2024	398	0	0	0
2025	354	0	0	0

The Astoria District had a more active fire season this year. Bryce and Craig did not hesitate and jumped in whenever and wherever they were needed. They were instrumental in the success of fire suppression and they welcome the opportunity to pass on their experience. Statewide, the Department of Forestry experienced a more average fire season. Craig is a Documentation Unit Leader for ODF Incident Management Team (IMT) 1. He was dispatched to two different fires and spent a total of 29 days off District. While these fire assignments were challenging at times, he was able to learn and grow from these experiences. Bryce did an amazing job holding down the homefront, while Craig was deployed. This is equally important as day-to-day operations need to continue, even though there is an emergency. We would not have been as successful without their efforts. I thank them both for their commitment to the fire program.



District Operations Coordinator's Comments

Brad Catton

State Forest lands are managed to sustain healthy, productive ecosystems that deliver lasting social, economic, and environmental benefits to the people of Oregon. The Astoria District oversees 137,000 acres of the 145,000-acre Clatsop State Forest, with the remaining portions managed by the Forest Grove and Tillamook Districts. The State Forests program is structured into three primary subunits: Timber Marketing, Reforestation, and Forest Roads. Recreation management is coordinated through the Northwest Oregon Area Office in Forest Grove, with staff assigned to the Astoria District. Alongside these responsibilities, our team plays an essential role in firefighting efforts, making significant contributions each season.

As the District Operations Coordinator, I coordinate all aspects of State Forest operations in the Astoria District and am available as your first point of contact for any inquiries related to State Forest matters.

In these challenging times, we continue to focus on identifying revenue-generating opportunities and reducing expenses. For the last two fiscal years, each of our units has operated with a vacant position. This, combined with the demands of fire season, the implementation of multiple forest management plans, and recent changes in forest practices, is a remarkable achievement.



Many thanks to the SOLVE volunteers who removed a substantial number of invasive species from the Demonstration Forest in April, clearing the way for native species to thrive.

Notable achievements beyond our normal operations included:

- April 19 - The Astoria District hosted a Solve event in the Demonstration Forest and Arboretum. Folks from as far away as Longview participated.
- May 15 – We hosted the State Forests Advisory Committee (SFAC) Tour. Field stops included a first-entry thinning operation, a review of post-harvest thinning results in older stands, and a recently completed thinning operation in a Habitat Conservation Area (HCA). The tour also highlighted transportation system planning, including a ridgetop tie-through road bypass, installation of a new Type F culvert, and a road vacating project towards our riparian conservation goals and objectives.
- May 20 – Clatsop Forest Economic Development Committee (CFEDC) Tour. This event provided an opportunity to engage community leaders and the public on the importance and the status of the forest sector within the regional economy. This year's tour included a stop at an active harvest unit on the Clatsop State Forest demonstrating the economic, environmental, and social benefits of active forest management.
- September 24 & 25 – Another successful Sixth Grade Forestry Day, chaired by Will Lawrence and supported by multiple ODF districts, local natural resource groups, and community partners.

At the Astoria District, we strive to be leaders in the field of forestry and continue to promote sound stewardship while providing for positive environmental, economic, and social outcomes. I believe that the work highlighted in this report exhibits that commitment.



Derek Bangs orates at the State Forest Advisory Committee tour in May.

State Forests Management



State Forest lands are managed to provide healthy, productive, and sustainable forest ecosystems that, over time and across the landscape, provide a full range of social, economic, and environmental benefits to the people of Oregon. Plans for management are done on a fiscal year basis, so this report will describe Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) accomplishments.

The Astoria District manages the majority of the Clatsop State Forest with minor portions managed by the Forest Grove and Tillamook Districts. The Astoria District is managed to implement the goals, objectives, and strategies of the Northwest Oregon State Forests Management Plan, which was adopted in 2001 and updated in 2010, the DRAFT Western Oregon State Forests Management Plan of 2023. Our District Implementation Plan, which was approved in 2023, is put into practice on approximately 137,000 acres. Board of Forestry land accounts for slightly over 98 percent of the ownership of the Forest; the remaining portion is Common School lands.



Top: The sun shines on a trail in Clatsop State Forest.

Left: A Trillium in full bloom.

Marketing

John Tillotson



Left to Right: Justin Bush, Kevin Berry, Michele Huffman, John Czarnecki, John Tillotson, Avery Peterson, and Ryan Simpson.

Timber harvesting operations which include thinning, regeneration harvests, and patch cuts continued as the primary tools used to actively achieve stand structure targets set out in the Forest Management Plan. BOF Timber auctions for FY25 comprised 54.558 MMBF generating approximately \$27.12 million in anticipated timber revenue, with just over \$17.15 million anticipated to be distributed to Clatsop County and local taxing districts. In addition, anticipated CSF harvest volumes for FY25 comprised 85 MBF generating approximately \$35,500 in anticipated timber revenue.

The Marketing Unit, led by John Tillotson, was comprised of Natural Resource Specialists, Kevin Berry, Avery Petersen, Justin Bush, Michele Huffman, Ryan Simpson, and John Czarnecki. In the past fiscal year, the District's marketing unit was able to complete all the fieldwork and contract preparation for all planned FY25 timber sales, using an integrated forest management approach involving input from the District's Forest Marketing, Reforestation, and Forest Roads Units.

Timber Sale auction bids for the Astoria District in FY2025 averaged \$529 and an average of \$522 for all State Forests. The District's prepared FY25 Sale Plan consisted of 11 timber sales, ten of which were marketed and sold, one that didn't sell and is being remarketed, and one additional salvage sale.



Marketing

continued

Project costs of the prepared sale plan totaled (\$1,246,685) 5.4% of the estimated prepared gross revenue. Rock crushing and hauling durable rock long distances continues to be the District's highest project cost as a percentage of planned work.

The District experienced little change in firewood permit sales this year from 538 permits in 2024 to 542 in 2025. Permits are available by management basin and are for sale five days a week during business hours. There is no limit to the number of permits sold per basin, but there is still a limit of five permits per individual and household per year.

Demand for special forest products decreased somewhat by 16% from 140 permits in 2024 to 118 permits in 2025. Moss and Salal are the two forest products that generate the most commercial interest from the public. Other special forest products include boughs, ferns, mushrooms, vinemaple, spruce-poles, biomass, and miscellaneous plants.

Forest Products	Number	Estimated Volume	Estimated Net Revenue
Timber Sales FY 25	12	55.57	\$26,898,096
Timber Harvested FY 25	--	59.10 MMBF	\$29,344,600
Pulp Harvested	--	7,088 Tons	
Misc. Forest Products	118	Permits	\$11,700
Woodcutting Sales	542 permits	1,084 cords	\$10,720
Partial Cut Acres	114	--	--
Clear Cut Acres	1,377	--	--



Forest Roads

Cullen Bangs

In conjunction with District and Department staff, the Forest Roads Unit works to provide support and recommendations in forest transportation planning, fish passage upgrades, rock quarry management, forest road infrastructure maintenance, land survey needs, district easements, special use permits and timber sale project plans.

Astoria District Forest Road Accomplishments	
Miles of Road Improved	53.3
Miles of Road Constructed	6.9
Miles of Roads Vacated	3.2

The Forest Roads Manager is Cullen Bangs. Members of the Forest Roads team include Forest Roads Coordinators, Kraig Kirkpatrick and Cole Hatcher. Forest Road Specialists; Dewain Farner and Brittany West. The Astoria Road Crew includes Equipment Operators, Jeremy MacDonald and Steve Aiken.

The unit supported the Marketing Unit with the Annual Operating Plan by providing specialized assistance and assembling components of timber sale contracts.



Roads Unit: Kraig Kirkpatrick, Jeremy MacDonald, Steve Aiken, Brittany Lampa, Dewain Farner, Cole Hatcher, and Cullen Bangs

Reforestation

Will Lawrence

The Reforestation Unit, led by Will Lawrence, is responsible for establishing trees and young stand management after the completion of harvesting. This is done through various methods, such as slash piling, site preparation, thinning, mechanical and chemical vegetation control and planting the site with the appropriate tree species and stock type to achieve a specific desired future condition.

The unit is currently staffed with Will Bennett and Tony Rudolfi.

Reforestation Accomplishments	Acres
Tree Planting Acres /Initial	1,168
Tree Planting Acres/Interplant	254
Total trees planted	380,586
Chemical Site Prep Acres: Aerial	497
Chemical Site Prep Acres: Backpack	94
Chemical Release Acres: Aerial	0
Chemical Release Acres: Backpack	0
Mechanical Release Acres	179
Site Prep Pile Burning Acres	1,497
Pre-commercial thinning Acres	0



South Fork adults in custody crews continue to provide extensive support to the district Reforestation Program through planting, trapping, mechanical vegetation control, thinning, noxious weed control efforts, and other reforestation activities.

Reforestation Unit: Will Lawrence, Tony Rudolfi, and Will Bennett.



Administration

Suzanne Como

The Administration Unit provides comprehensive clerical, administrative, and business management support to the District, ensuring exceptional internal and external customer service. Led by Suzanne Como, the team currently includes Melissa Payne, Jiang Fei Koch, and Katie Burgher, who joined in September.

In April, Micah Sanguinetti returned to Fisheries, creating an opportunity for Jiang Fei to assume the dispatcher role while Melissa moved into State Forests administration. This restructuring resulted in a front office vacancy, which Katie successfully filled in September.

The team manages a wide range of responsibilities, including Miscellaneous Forest Product and woodcutting permits, State Forests and Protection administration, procurement, payroll, and other essential functions.

Throughout the year, the unit demonstrated outstanding teamwork, adaptability, and a commitment to continuous improvement. We refined business practices to better serve customers, requiring creativity and quick decision making. Additionally, the team enhanced its Incident Finance expertise through remote fire finance assignments.



Above: Katie Burgher stands at the top of the Astoria District lookout tower.

Below: Katie & Jiang Fei Koch assist Reforestation with burn.



Astoria District 2025

