

Central Oregon District 2025 Annual Report



Long Point Fire, Monument Subunit

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District Forester Message 2025

It is my pleasure to present the 2025 Central Oregon District Annual Report. As the District Forester, I am fortunate to work with dedicated and talented staff who are intentional in serving landowners across the district. As in years past, “unprecedented” has become the new normal with changes in our fuels—from perennial grasses to annual grasses—and the increasing number of homes in the wildland-urban interface. The fire environment is changing, and as a district we remain committed to providing the best emergency response through fire prevention, landscape resiliency, shared stewardship, planning, and fuel mitigation projects.

In recent years, our fire seasons have started earlier and ended later; we now refer to it as a “fire year” rather than a fire season. As a district, we were still engaged with incident management teams into November 2024, only to order our first CIMT in June 2025. The Rowena Fire in The Dalles Unit burned 56 homes during the initial attack period. This was followed by the Juniper Flats, Alder Springs, Cram, and Flat fires—each highly complex and requiring multiple agencies to bring order to chaos. Overall, we had success providing initial and extended attack for Type 3 incidents such as the Stone and Long Point fires, where leadership and crews performed exceptionally well, catching fires in difficult terrain and limiting impacts to communities still recovering from the previous fire season.

In October 2025, the Oregon Department of Forestry received an executive order to conduct landscape resiliency work across the state. As a district, we have been doing this for over 20 years, utilizing state and federal grants—including National Fire Plan dollars, NRCS programs, and Good Neighbor Authority agreements—to implement cohesive wildfire strategies across our landscape. Our Forest Resources program continues to deliver services that protect and promote fire resiliency for landowners. In addition, our personnel have been heavily involved in post-fire recovery following several years of large fires, further contributing to restoration efforts. This work is vital to proactive prevention, mitigation, and restoration efforts that help maintain Oregon’s forests for future generations.

Our administrative staff also continue to serve as the glue that keeps the district operational, enabling our field staff to accomplish their mission and support landowners. They lead the agency in business services by incorporating technology across many facets of field operations. Whether managing budgets, paying fire bills, completing audits, or tracking grants for landowners, our administrative team remains dedicated to the mission. Their process improvement efforts provide additional cost savings for the district and for landowners.

Overall, 2025 was a highly successful year for the district. We kept fires small and assisted landowners in achieving their landscape goals. Most importantly, there were zero critical safety accidents, for which I am most grateful. Within this report, I hope you see the commitment and efforts our employees demonstrated while serving the landowners of the Central Oregon District in 2025.

District Forester,

Rob Pentzer



Safety and Wellness

The COD Safety Committee is comprised of both seasonal and permanent staff and meets monthly to discuss safety concerns, review near miss and Incident Analysis reports, and implement strategies for continuous safety improvement. As we work to strengthen our safety culture, the committee continues to evolve, welcoming new members who bring fresh perspectives and a renewed commitment to our mission.

In 2025 some key projects the Safety Committee worked on were: Implementing new ATV/UTV Training and guidance aligned with new agency policy, updating reporting to meet new agency practices, and investing in supplemental safety equipment. In addition to our structured safety initiatives, we actively promote and utilize Peer to Peer resources, ensuring employees have access to the support they need.

This year the district had 4 reportable injuries, 1 First Aid administered locally, 11 vehicle related incidents (most of which were minor), and 4 Near Misses reported. The robust reporting of incidents and near misses is a culture that we plan to continue to foster to aid in targeted safety campaigns district wide.

By investing in our people and fostering a culture of preparedness, we ensure that safety remains a priority in everything we do.

Committee Members

- Rick Fletcher
- Phil Raffaely
- Kevin Mitchell
- Ian Bulen
- David Capasso
- Kimberly Johnson
- Lane Osborn
- Rebecca Schmitz



Southern Blues PBA briefing

Protection from Fire



Stone Fire

To begin the 2025 fire season in COD, the district reformed the Monument Sub-unit from portions of Fossil and John Day. Monument Sub-unit hadn't existed since 1993.

On June 2, 2025, fire season was declared on the Central Oregon District.

- June 11, The Dalles had the first notable fire of the season with the Rowena fire burning 3,700 acres. This fire burned 56 structures that included primary residents. This fire was managed by ODF IMT 2.
- July 2, after a lightning event the next large fire for the Dalles Unit was the Larch Creek burning 92 acres. This fire was managed by the Unit as type 3 incident. July 2, the Prineville Unit had its first notable fire, the Grizzly flat 624 acres, also caused by lightning. July 9, the Long Point Fire started on the Monument Sub-Unit this fire was managed by the High Desert type 3 team, it would burn 349 acres before being contained. July 11, John Day Unit had a lightning event starting several small fires, all the fires were caught during Initial attack, the largest being the Graveyard fire burning 45 acres. July 13, the Cram Fire started outside of the district protection, on the Ashwood Antelope RFP. This fire would burn 95,736 acres and threaten the town of Ashwood before being contained. Of those acres approximately 7,420 were burned on the Prineville Unit's protection.
- August 21, the Flat Fire started on the Sisters-Sub Unit and would burn 23,346 acres. This fire quickly spread south due to steady winds and dry, receptive fuels. The COFMS type 3 team was assigned early in the incident as resources aggressively tried to corral the fire during the first 24 hours. On the second day, the fire made a run south, burning into Deschutes County and entering subdivisions on the north end of Sisters. ODF and OSFM teams were deployed to assist. 827 homes were within the fire perimeter, but with aggressive firefighting efforts, only 4 homes were lost. August 31, after another lightning event the Monument Sub-Unit would have the Stone Creek fire that would burn 121 acres. This fire was managed by the High Desert type 3 team for four operational shifts before being turned back to the Unit.
- September 2, the Marks creek fire started on the Ochoco national Forest and was deemed a threat to private. This fire would burn approximately 1,513 acres, all outside of the district. ODF team 2 would later take management of the incident.
- The Fossil Sub-Unit was on par for an average season but ended with only five stat fires and no human caused fires.
- District wide the season was average. There were 125 stat fires, 116 non-stat and 147 NFCA fires. The 10-year average is 127 stat fires, 94 non-stat and 140 NFCA. In 2025, 17,987.28 protected acres burned. The 10-year average is 30,628.52.

Special note that the numbers were gathered using the new fire reporting data in fire web.



COD Interagency Dispatch Centers

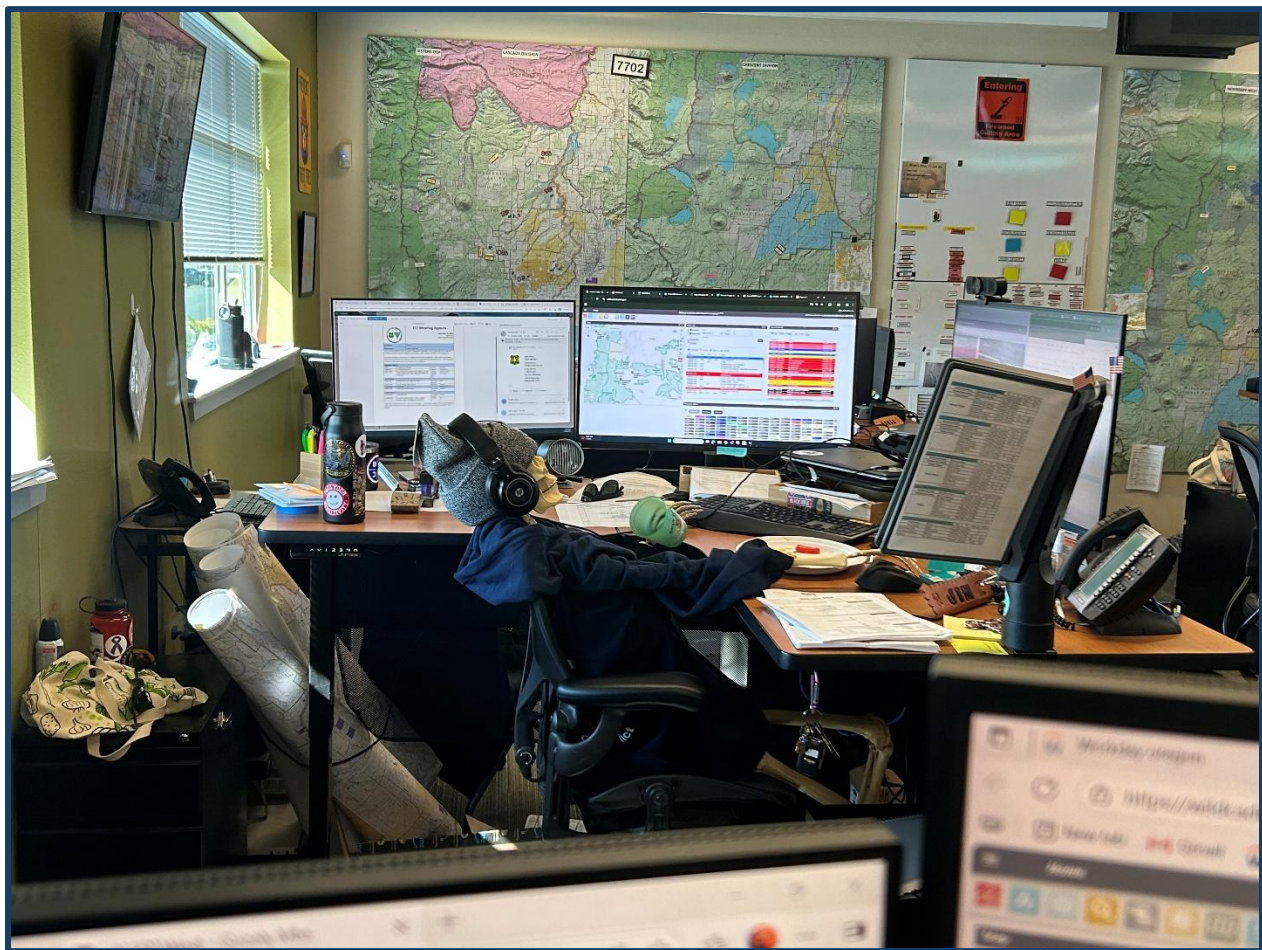
The 2025 fire season marked a year of significant operational and administrative transitions across the John Day Interagency Dispatch Center (JDIDC) area and the Central Oregon Interagency Dispatch Center (COIDC) area. At the start of the season, the Monument Sub-Unit was established. Concurrently, dispatching for the Fossil Sub-Unit was transferred to COIDC, and required boundary adjustments between JDIDC and COIDC. The initial attack, logistics and aviation workloads and statistics for the 2025 fire season are captured in the table below.

Even though the 2025 fire season was nothing like the record breaking 2024 fire season, COIDC still had 4 fires of significant size that had ODF and Federal Incident Management Teams assigned to them. They include Cram (95,736 acres, started on 7/13/25 and multiple IMT's assigned over its duration), Flat (23,346 acres, started on 8/21/25, ODF team), Black Rock (43,842 acres, started 9/4/25, Central Oregon's Type 3 team) and Marks Creek (1718 acres, started on 9/2/25, ODF team). Alder Springs (3278 acres), Highland (719 acres) and Grizzly Flat (624 acres) were other large fires handled out of COIDC that provided significant workloads in IA, logistics and aircraft. Overall, COIDC had 459 fires totaling 188,891.59 acres.

The JDIDC's fire season was a mild year, compared to the 2024 season. There were significantly more fire starts than in 2024, but favorable weather helped limit large scale fires. The largest fire for JDIDC was Willow (4416.58 acres) that started on July 8. Overall, JDIDC had 125 fires totaling 890.66 acres.

Columbia Cascade Interagency Communication Center (WACCC) had a lighter load of incidents and acreage than in 2024. The most significant fire started on June 11, the Rowena Fire, and was the largest fire of the year at 3,700 acres. Overall, WACCC had 184 fires totaling 4,151.54 acres.

COIDC						
Unit Name	STAT	STAT ACRES	NON STAT	NON STAT ACRES	NFCA	TOTAL COIDC ACREAGE
PRINEVILLE UNIT	24	98,144.64	28	1407.46	14	188,891.59
FOSSIL SUB-UNIT	5	68.18	16	4,665.02	14	
SISTERS SUB-UNIT	28	23,385.35	24	3,322.68	73	
COIDC	OVERHEAD	CREW	EQUIPMENT	AIRCRAFT	SUPPLY	TOTAL # OF INCIDENTS
TOTAL PROCESSED ORDERS	12,946	326	3,448	1,555	3,316	1130
JDIDC						
UNIT NAME	STAT	STAT ACRES	NON STAT	NON STAT ACRES	NFCA	TOTAL JDIDC ACREAGE
JOHN DAY UNIT	30	4,500.03	26	499.88	15	890.66
MONUMENT SUB-UNIT	15	498.34	11	10.9	4	
JDIDC	OVERHEAD	CREW	EQUIPMENT	AIRCRAFT	SUPPLY	TOTAL # OF INCIDENTS
TOTAL PROCESSED ORDERS	5,174	139	1,342	265	557	308
WACCC						
UNIT NAME	STAT	STAT ACRES	NON STAT	NON STAT ACRES	NFCA	TOTAL JDIDC ACREAGE
THE DALLES UNIT	24	4064.18	11	499.32	27	4,151.54
WACCC	OVERHEAD	CREW	EQUIPMENT	AIRCRAFT	SUPPLY	TOTAL # OF INCIDENTS
TOTAL PROCESSED ORDERS	2,874	1,002	152	59	952	1505



Dispatchers never leave!

Aviation



Top: Scooper training TD
Bottom: Stone Fire JD

In COD, the severity aviation resources began their 2025 fire season contracts on June 6 the last aircraft was off contract on September 26. The Dalles Unit hosted two Single Engine Scoopers, S- 431 & S- 432. John Day hosted severity helicopter resources mobilized in a staggered approach for the 2025 fire season. The Type 3 Helitack helicopter, 7AB, began severity coverage in Klamath on June 11, followed by Type 2 Helicopter 9KB on June 23 at the Morrow County OHV Park, 8CC on July 1. Helicopter 8CC remained on contract until mid-September, while 7AB stayed on through late September to support continued elevated fire danger. Prineville Unit hosted a detection fixed wing and two Single Engine Airtankers, T801 & T851.

The SEATs and Fire Bosses from COD combined for 598 flight hours while the 3 helicopters combined for 191 flight hours and the detection fixed wing flew 216 hours. The two SEATs delivered 200,116 gallons of retardant and the two Scoopers delivered 855,300 gallons of water and 169,700 gallons of water enhancer.

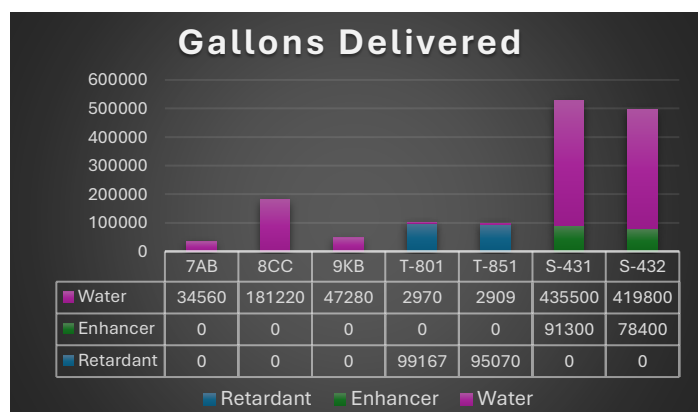
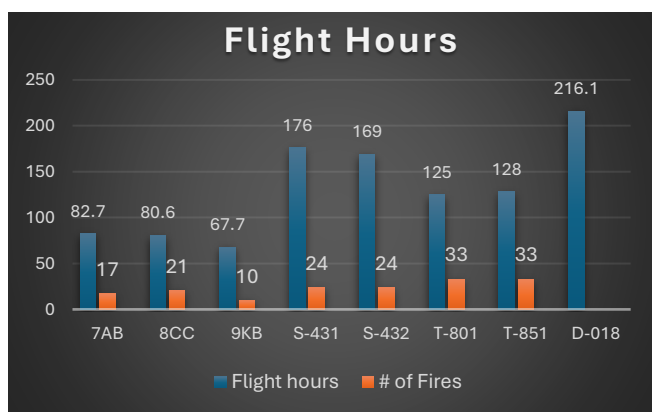
Helicopter 7AB responded to 17 total incidents and flew 82.7 fire HOBBS hours.

During the season, 7AB delivered 182 buckets totaling 32,760 gallons of water. In addition to water delivery, the aircraft inserted 38 firefighters, transported 4,160 pounds of internal cargo, carried 30 reconnaissance passengers, and logged 20 reconnaissance HOBBS hours. Of the total flight time, 43 hours were on ODF incidents where 83 buckets delivered 14,940 gallons, and 39.7 hours were on federal incidents where 99 buckets delivered 17,820 gallons.

Helicopter 8CC responded to 21 incidents and flew 80.6 fire HOBBS hours. Throughout the season, 8CC delivered 533 buckets for a total of 170,560 gallons of water, with 50.6 hours and 118,080 gallons attributed to ODF incidents and 30.0 hours and 52,480 gallons attributed to federal incidents.

The Type 2 helicopters assigned to the Morrow County OHV area responded to 10 incidents and flew 67.7 fire HOBBS hours. These aircraft delivered 444 buckets totaling 133,200 gallons, including 50.5 hours and 103,200 gallons on ODF incidents and 17.2 hours and 30,000 gallons on federal incidents.

ODF contracted two Fixed-wing air attack platforms to support statewide fire aviation operations. One aircraft was based in SOA (AA-208) and the other in EOA (AA-2DZ). Both platforms were deployed across the state as needed, accumulating a combined total of 261 flight hours. Of those total hours, 28% were flown in EOA.



Prevention



Top Rd Rx Fire

Coops

COD continues to place importance on the teamwork, community, and synergy that is gained by participating in fire prevention cooperatives east of the Cascade Divide: Grant and Harney County Fire Prevention Coop, Central Oregon Fire Prevention Coop, and Mid-Columbia Fire Prevention Coop. These groups have achieved incredible things, benefit from the support of diverse ODF staff participation, and are able to leverage the strengths that the various agencies bring to the table. The creativity and hard work produced by the coops, with their multiple sub-groups, is unmatched.

Firewise

This year, COD added 27 new Firewise communities to the list, bringing the grand total to a whopping 129 Firewise communities in good standing. That is nearly 40% of the Firewise communities in the entire state! COCC became the first college campus in Oregon to attain Firewise status. All units reported carrying out multiple informational meetings, assisting and supporting communities as they requested assessments and status renewals, answering questions, and helping with the annual educational events.

Special Mentions for 2025

In addition to the aforementioned activities that are the foundation for the longstanding prevention efforts across COD, 2025 saw a few unique events on the district.

- Southern Blues Prescribed Burn Association—Successfully launched the association and implemented the largest PBA-led prescribed burn in Oregon to date for 120 acres, which was also the first Rx Burn by a PBA in EOA. This demonstrated landowner-led capacity for cross-boundary fuels reduction.
- Participation in an event hosted by Mid-Columbia Fire and Rescue called the Wildfire Awareness and Safety Community Movie Night, forming part of a panel of experts on wildfire mitigation, safety, and response. After the panel, there was a showing of the movie “The West is Burning,” and the event was well attended.

COD Prevention Events

- **County Fairs** attended: Grant, Wasco, Wheeler, Gilliam, Crook, Hood River, Deschutes, Jefferson
- **Wildfire Home Protection Strategy Workshops** held in Crook, Jefferson, and Deschutes Counties: 10
- **Parades** attended: Prairie City, Grant County, Timber Truckers Light Parade, Wheeler County, Painted Hills Festival
- **Team Teaching:** 40+ schools
- **Wildfire Preparedness Fairs** contacts: 700 in 5 fairs
- **Expo Shows** with a COD presence: The Home and Garden Show, The Sportsmen’s Show, Overland Expo, and Hunter’s Safety booths

- Coordinated a visit with Oregon House Representative Vikki Breese-Iverson to the Cram Fire showcasing how fuels reduction efforts on private land had minimized acres burned during the largest fire of the 2025 season.
- Powell Butte Charter School was the grand prize assembly winner for the Central Oregon Firebusters elementary school fire and life safety program this year. The celebration included a school assembly and award ceremony with Smokey, Buster, fire engines, emergency response equipment and personnel from Crook Co, USFS, BLM, ODF, local law enforcement, Crook Co SAR, Redmond Smokejumpers, Life-Flight, and a UAS demonstration.



Jefferson County Wildfire Preparedness



Firebusters in Powell Butte



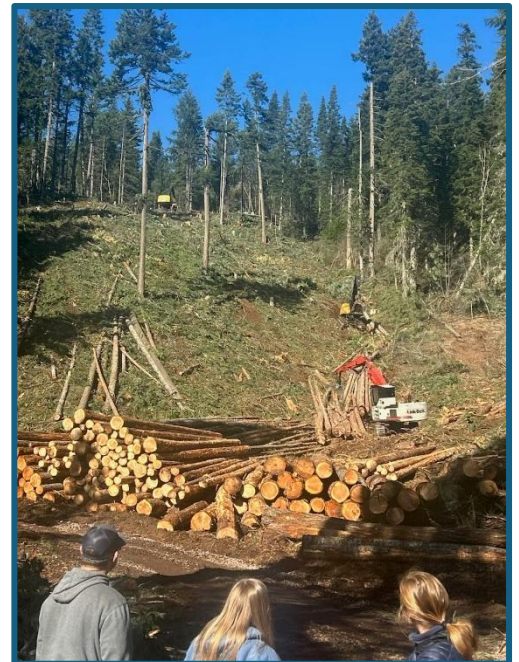
Mid-Columbia Panel

Forest Practices

In 2025, Central Oregon District (COD) Stewardship Foresters transitioned from the initial implementation phase of the Private Forest Accord (PFA) to a period of operational refinement and standard-setting. Building on the groundwork laid in previous years, the District successfully fulfilled key deliverables identified during the early 2025 COD Foresters meeting in The Dalles. These accomplishments include the establishment of a standardized inspection policy, the implementation of formal comment template language to improve administrative consistency, and the creation of clear standards for fuel reduction notification requirements. These tools have proven essential in streamlining workflows and ensuring that foresters across the District remain aligned in their application of the Forest Practices Act (FPA).

A primary focus for the John Day/Monument/Fossil Unit in 2025 has been post-fire reforestation and recovery. Following the historic and intense fire season of 2024, staff have been heavily engaged in reforestation efforts. Much of this work has been made possible through EOA's Post Fire Recovery Team and funding from the Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP), allowing the Unit to partner with landowners in restoring forest health and productivity in the wake of the 2024 fires.

The District is also pleased to celebrate excellence in forest operations through the annual Operator of the Year Awards. For 2025, Boulder Ridge LLC was selected as the Operator of the Year for the Eastern Oregon area for their exemplary performance on an operation within the Prineville-Sisters Unit. Additionally, Jeff Maben was recognized with a Merit Award for his outstanding work and commitment to forest stewardship in the John Day Unit. These recognitions highlight the high standards of professionalism maintained by our local operators, even under challenging conditions.



Foresters attending the FR conference in TD

As we move into the next year, the COD forestry staff faces a landscape of new challenges, from regulatory shifts to the ongoing demands of post-fire landscape management. However, the team maintains a resilient perspective, viewing these challenges as opportunities to innovate, strengthen our partnerships with landowners, and improve the long-term stewardship of Central Oregon's forest resources.

Forest Practices			
	The Dalles	John Day / Fossil/ Monument	Prineville / Sisters
2025 NOAPS	118	146	126
NOAP Activities	535	263	211
FPA Inspections	138	51	78
Industrial Fire Inspections	61	23	13
Written Plans	18	5	23
Written Statements/Civil Penalties	0/0	0/0	0/0
2024 Continuations	122	127	55
NOAP Activities	409	456	103
FPA Inspections	79	34	58
Industrial Fire Inspections	4	8	13
Written Plans	13	2	8
Written Statements/Civil Penalties		0/0	1/0

Report Numbers			
	The Dalles	John Day / Fossil/ Monument	Prineville / Sisters
2025 NOAPS	240	273	181
NOAP Activities	944	719	314
FPA Inspections	217	85	136
Industrial Fire Inspections	65	31	26
Written Plans	31	7	31
Written Statements/Civil Penalties	3/0	0/0	1/0

Grant Administration

Central Oregon District assisted landowners with a variety of grant-funded forest management activities in 2025 under our Forest Resources Division. Assistance comes in the form of cost incentives and technical assistance to complete fuels reduction projects to reduce fire hazard, strengthen forest health, and increase defensible space, primarily on private non-industrial lands. Grant work is being completed in all three units of the Central Oregon District. Most 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 administered five grant programs in 2025 in support of hazardous fuels reduction, defensible space, and landscape-scale forest health. Implementation of the Grant County Defensible Space CWDG continued to gain momentum, with staff focusing on landowner outreach, agreement development, contractor coordination, and treatment completion in priority areas. Initial outreach for the Upper John Day Valley CAG was completed, identifying priority landowners and preparing the program for future on-the-ground work. Three of the five active programs were closed out this year, each exceeding the planned acreage. The Morrow-Wheeler Community Assistance Grant and Bear Creek Hazardous Fuels SFG were successfully completed, with final inspections, certifications, reporting, and administrative closeout finalized. The John Day Partnership for Forest Health LSR was also completed, with contracted treatments finished and ODF staff supporting on-the-ground implementation and coordination to achieve landscape-level objectives.

The Prineville-Sisters Unit administered planning and implementation of 5 ODF grants in 2025. Stewardship Foresters and Community Wildfire Foresters have worked together to get these funds on the ground across the Unit. The La Pine Basin grant has not treated any acres yet, but 29 acres have been signed up to complete work soon. The Three Creeks grant is in its final year of implementation and has been a great asset to Central Oregon. The Buttes to Basins Cohesive Strategy Project is still moving right along and stays on track to hit its goals for reducing hazardous fuels in the Bend and Sisters WUI. For the 2025 stretch, landowners wrapped up 107.5 acres of fuel reduction on private lands.

The Dalles Unit currently has 4 active grant programs in Hood River and Wasco Counties. Three of which were new in 2025 (Hood River WUI, N. Wasco 7 Mile, and Wasco CDWG). The Central Wasco and Wasco CWDG are both focused at removing hazard trees around structures in S Wasco County. These programs have been extremely successful and have removed a total of 310 hazard trees. The Hood River WUI grant is new in 2025. This program focuses on defensible space and ingress/egress clearing for homeowners in the Hood River area. Foresters signed up 60 homes for treatment in 2025 and our ODF The Dalles Fuels Crew 94 completed the work at 12 of those homesites. The North Wasco 7 Mile grant was awarded to The Dalles unit this year and has not started work on the ground yet. The table below displays grant projects on The Dalles Unit as well as the rest of the District.

The table below displays grant accomplishments by Unit within the District

2025 COD Administered Grants				
Grant Name	Signed Apps.	Signed Acres	Total Acres Treated	Grant Status
The Dalles Unit				
WSFM Central Wasco	29	190	169	Active
WSFM Hood River WUI	49	60	12	Active/New
WSFM North Wasco 7 Mile	0	0	0	Active/New
Wasco CWDG	26	197	141	Active/New
Prineville/Sisters Unit				
Southern Prineville	61	200.5	99.5	Active
Western Crook	1	10	10	Active/New
WSFM Three Creeks	38	330	220	Active
WSFM La Pine Basin	5	29	0	Active
Buttes to Basins	31	348	201	Active
John Day/ Fossil/ Monument Unit				
Grant County Defensible Space CWDG	33	344	260	Active
Upper John Day Valley CAG	0	0	0	Active
Morrow-Wheeler CAG	39	278	278	Complete
Bear Creek Hazardous Fuels SFG	4	200	200	Complete
John Day Partnership for Forest Health LSR	N/A	300	300	Complete

Natural Resources Conservation Service

This year, COD maintained strong partnerships with local NRCS staff and landowners despite significant changes at the federal level. ODF staff continued implementing forest management projects focused on fuel reduction and forest health improvement.

Following the large wildfires that affected much of the John Day and Fossil Subunits in 2024, foresters shifted efforts toward post-fire recovery, including debris removal and reforestation planning. All counties in the unit maintained active CIS funding, and the South Fork John Day RCPP was successfully renewed. The John Day Unit continues to respond to a high level of landowner interest in projects aimed at improving forest health and reducing wildfire risk. During 2025, the program received numerous new landowner sign-ups, along with requests for additional projects on properties where previous treatments were implemented, allowing project areas to be expanded and treatment effectiveness to be increased across larger, contiguous landscapes.

John Day/Fossil Accomplishments	Inventory	Implementation Requirements	Certification
	4068.5 acres	2888.8 acres	4203.4 acres

Plans	Plan Acres
12	3966

NRCS work in Deschutes and Jefferson Counties steadily shifted from individual project delivery toward building landscape-scale efforts. Mild winter conditions and added seasonal capacity allowed contractors and landowners to keep working through early 2025, completing certifications while advancing several plans and applications, including cross-boundary burn planning with the USFS and increased outreach that brought in new landowners. As the year progressed, more projects reached the “shelf-stock” stage—inventories and BFMPs ready to go when funding and landowner timing aligned—and many landowners began self-funding additional treatments and showing growing interest in integrating prescribed fire. A key highlight was solidifying a working relationship with the new acting NRCS District Conservationist and the Basin Forester, which led to several new EQIP applications and more coordinated private landowner engagement. Local wildfires also brought a pivot toward post-fire assessments and restoration guidance on affected properties, while contractors continued making major progress on large-acreage projects with several hundred acres of treatments completed and queued for future reporting in 2026.

In Crook County, unit staff continued building upon years of work with Crook County NRCS to support landowners in achieving their forest management objectives. For the first few months of 2025, Ryan Vogt filled the role of the Community Wildfire Forester (CWF) in a developmental capacity. In April, Makenna Lawson stepped into the CWF role permanently. Forestry assistance programs in Crook County remains a top priority for the Unit and staff recognize the value that the partnership with the NRCS program brings to maintaining healthy and resilient forests.

Prineville/Sisters Accomplishments	Inventory	Implementation Requirements	Certification
Sisters	515	700	582
Prineville	942	942	530.6

Plans	Plan Acres
3	200+
5	

ODF and NRCS continued their collaboration in Hood River and Wasco counties. In the Hood River area, district conservationist Carly Heron reached her retirement. In her place, Emily Huth of Wasco County is now the district conservationist for both Hood River and Wasco County. In several areas, landowners were able to connect treatments completed through EQIP on adjoining parcels. At least one of these communities will be working towards their Firewise certification in the coming year.

Additional hazard tree removal, defensible space work, roadside thinning, and fuel reduction work on the White River Wildlife Area were completed under the most recent Community Wildfire Defense Grant. Within the hazard tree program, a total of 183 hazard trees were removed with an average cost of \$2,000 per tree. On the White River Wildlife Area, 185.4 acres were treated, with a focus on removing dead and dying pine. In Hood River County, 12 acres of defensible space work was conducted by Crew 94. A total of 36 acres of fuel reduction treatment have been signed up for the North Wasco Seven Mile grant, with implementation set to begin this year.

The Dalles Accomplishments	Inventory	Implementation Requirements	Certification
Wasco	494.8	4.8	416.9
Hood River	31	501	128

Plans	Plan Acres
15	2496.7
11	549

Federal Forests Restoration Program

The Federal Forests Restoration (FFR) Program had another successful year in COD, with widespread project implementation across the Deschutes, Ochoco, Malheur, and East Zone of Mt. Hood National Forests. The hard work of the dedicated staff allowed the FFR Team to increase the pace, scale, and quality of forest restoration on federal lands through Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) agreements, partnership, collaborative engagement, and FFR grants. The commitment of the staff in the FFR Program to accomplish this mission remains fundamental to the Programs success in COD.

The FFR staff in COD had an outstanding year of project implementation across the District, branching out beyond recent years' line of work, expanding sustainable forest management for Oregon's forests. Below is a breakdown highlighting the great work completed by FFR staff in 2025.

FFR Crew Accomplishments

2025 Central Oregon District FFR Crew Accomplishments			
Project Type	Location	Activity Description	Total Activity Footprint Across the District (Acres)
Fuels Reduction	Deschutes NF, Malheur NF, and Mt Hood NF	Hand Thinning, Piling, Pile Covering, Pile Burning Lop & Scatter, Chipping, and Pruning	1856.28
Data Collection	Crooked River National Grasslands, Ochoco NF, Mt Hood NF	Stand Exams, Veg Surveys, Heritage Surveys, Planting Inspections, Fuels Reduction Property Assessment	4188
Timber Marking	Ochoco NF, Mt Hood NF	Timber Cruising/Marking: Green Sales and Post Fire Salvage Sales	1334
Unit Layout	Ochoco NF, Malheur NF, and Mt Hood NF	Planting Unit Layout, Timber Sale Layout, Thinning Unit Layout	4868
Total Acreage Accomplished Across all Projects			12246.28

Our program staffs three 5-person crews across the District. This year the crews were able to implement a variety of new and continued forest management tasks including planting inspections, planting unit layout, fuels reduction, property assessments, timber cruising/marketing, stand exams, harvest layout, fuels reduction, harvest unit layout, stand exam surveys, and heritage surveys. In total the three crews were able to safely implement forest management practices and create a lasting impact on 12,246.28 acres across four National Forests. Additionally, the crews were a vital asset to the

Protection Program District-wide, responding to 19 wildfires in various roles to help protect Oregon's public and private lands.

District FFR Operations and Agreements Update

FFR staff continue to develop and administer service contracts to implement future NEPA planning areas and forest restoration projects. In 2025, staff developed and administered contracts for the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests, totaling 942 plots surveying thousands of acres and heritage surveys on an additional 4,500 acres. These surveys help inform future planning areas and help expedite restoration on federal lands in Central Oregon. FFR's federal partners were impressed with the pace and quality with which this work was completed and have begun planning more stand exam and heritage contracts for the near future.



Handline Larch Creek



Piling SFG



Skull TS boundary tagging

In addition to service contracts, the FFR program continues to write and administer Timber Sale Contracts across Central Oregon. Early in 2025 the Abbey GNA Timber sale was completed and closed out on the Deschutes NF. This sale was able to remove and ship 6,536.68 MBF to the mill and bring the Programs timber sale revenue total on the Deschutes NF to over \$1,000,000. These funds will be used to implement future forest management actions on the Deschutes NF and further accomplish the mission of the FFR program. On the Ochoco NF the program happily entered into agreement and began laying out, cruising, and preparing the contract for the first GNA timber sale on the Ochoco, Pint GNA, which will be auctioned and implemented starting in 2026.

Furthermore, the Program has successfully bid 547 acres of thinning and piling work under contract on the Malheur NF; due to lower than anticipated costs, excess funds from this contract will extend the footprint of this work in the Magone planning area. As a new line of work, the FFR program began developing a GNA planting contract on the Ochoco NF to increase the pace of reforestation following the devastating fires of 2024. Once this project is implemented, it will be the first ever GNA reforestation contract in Oregon's history on federal lands.

Administration

Central Oregon District – 2025 Fire Finance Report Overview

The Central Oregon District (COD) administrative team experienced another heavy and impactful fire season in 2025. The team supported four CIMTs and three Type 3 IMTs assigned within the district, along with additional localized incidents and other financial-related business needs. Despite the pace and complexity of the season, the team continued to strengthen operations, improve processes, and work as a cohesive unit. The COD admin team demonstrated resilience, strong work ethic, and a growing depth of fire finance knowledge, all while maintaining a supportive, family-oriented culture.

District Administrative Team

The COD administrative team consists of six administrative staff members and a District Business Manager who collectively support the financial and administrative needs of the district. Notably, the 2025 fire season was the first in which the district had a fully staffed administrative team.

Personnel Summaries

District Business Manager – John Day

Hailey Hughes

Hailey has served with ODF for nearly five years, previously holding roles as the ACM and later the AS2 in John Day before stepping into the District Business Manager position. She also has brought in more than 20 years of administrative leadership experience from prior work outside the agency.

Administrative Specialist 2 – The Dalles

Katie Kisiel

Katie has been with ODF and the district for two years and brings over 12 years of administrative experience. She provides both incident-related and non-incident-related financial support to The Dalles Unit and assists with district-wide financial objectives. Katie also serves as backfill for the District Business Manager when needed.

Administrative Specialist 1 – The Dalles

Sam Counts

Sam has been with ODF for a little over a year and brings more than 30 years of administrative experience to the district. Sam primarily supports administrative needs for Forest Resources and provides general support to The Dalles Unit as needed.

Administrative Specialist 2 – Prineville

Dauna Rictor

Dauna has been with ODF for nearly four years and contributes five years of administrative and dispatch experience. She has supported various units across the district but primarily supports the Prineville Unit and Fossil Sub-Unit.

Administrative Specialist 2 (WOC) – Prineville

Rebecca Schmitz

2025 was Becky's first year with ODF. She has over 25 years of administrative experience and supports the Sisters Sub-Unit for incident-related work, as well as district non-incident business needs.

Office Specialist 2 – John Day

Shelly Speakman

Shelly has been with ODF for thirteen years and provides administrative support primarily to the John Day Unit, while also assisting with district-wide needs. She plays a key role in organizing EOFPA meetings and other district business meetings.

Administrative Specialist 2 – John Day

Marnie Woodbury

Marnie served with ODF for three years, beginning as a seasonal WFSS in John Day before working with the NRCS program. She also completed a WOC as the John Day AS2 prior to joining the admin team for the 2025 fire season. Marnie supported the John Day/Fossil/Monument Unit throughout the season. She departed the team in December 2025.



Finance - Rowena Fire



Finance - Rowena Fire



Rowena fire huckleberry shakes

Personnel Changes/Service Awards

John Day

- Robby Bullock – 5 years of service
- Josh Mitchell – 5 years of service
- Todd Smith – 20 years of service
- Chris Cook – 25 years of service
- David Capasso – 5 years of service
- Adele Underwood – Hired as NRS2 - Community Wildfire Forester John Day, January 2025
- Ian Bulen – Hired as NRS2 – Conservation Forester, July 2025
- David Capasso – Developmental (WOC) NRS2 - Conservation Forester, February 2025 (Fossil)
- Ethan Gazin – Promoted to WFS (Fossil)
- Tyler Moodenbaugh – Promoted to WFS (Monument)
- Casey Wagner – Transfer to Equipment Operator (Fossil)

Prineville

- Makenna Lawson – Hired as Community Wildfire Forester, April 2025

The Dalles

- Charlie Redheffer – Promoted to WACCC, Assistant Center Manager, July 2025
- Kristin Dodd – Retirement (see next page)

District

- Rick Fletcher – 15 years of service
- Rebecca Schmitz – Hired as OS2, July 2025 (Prineville)
- Ben Duda – After dedicating just over 25 years with the agency in the fire protection program, Ben was offered an opportunity to continue to serve in central Oregon as the Deschutes County Emergency Manager. As a district we couldn't be more appreciative of the time he gave and look forward to continued work alongside him. Ben's ability to foster interagency relationships, engage non-traditional partners, and nearly two decades of emergency management in Deschutes, Jefferson, and Crook counties will serve him well.



Chris Cook and Robby Bullock service awards

Kristin Dodd

Work History provided by Kristin - includes nearly 28 years of state service

- In 1997 -Graduated from OSU in Corvallis with a Bachelor's degree in Wildlife Science
- In the spring of 1998, I was hired by the Oregon Department of Forestry as a seasonal employee (Laborer 2) conducting fish presence surveys along streams in the Molalla area
- In the Summer/Fall of 1998, I worked for ODFW for 6 months, conducting stream surveys on the Warm Springs Reservation & Salmon spawning surveys in Coos Bay.
- In the Spring of 1999, I was hired again by ODF as a seasonal Monitoring Technician in the Forest Practices Monitoring program out of our Salem headquarters
 - I spent 3 seasons working on data collection around the state
 - During that time, I worked out of Philomath office for a while
- In the Fall of 2002, I was selected to fill a 1-year Developmental assignment as Forest Practices Forester in Sweet Home.



- October 2003, I was permanently hired as Stewardship Forester in Sweet Home. I worked in Sweet Home through mid-2005.
- Then in mid-2005 I did a lateral transfer to the Molalla Unit as Stewardship Forester and worked there through December 2008
- During the Summer of 2008, I was selected for a 6-month Developmental assignment as the Central Oregon District Assistant District Forester in Prineville
- In January of 2009 I was hired permanently into the ADF job in Prineville
- In the Summer of 2013, I did a Developmental Assistant District Forester assignment in Astoria for 6 months helping to oversee the State Forests Program
- In January of 2015, I applied for and was subsequently hired into the Prineville-Sisters Unit Forester position
- December of 2016, I did a lateral transfer to The Dalles as Unit Forester, which is the position that I just retired from as of December 31, 2025

To sum it up: Throughout my career, I worked in all 3 ODF Geographic Areas (NWOA, SOA, EOA); I worked in the 3 primary ODF programs (Forest Resources, Protection from Fire, and State Forests); I physically worked out of the Salem Headquarters, Philomath, Sweet Home, Molalla, Prineville, Astoria, and The Dalles offices. And, you probably noticed in my descriptions that I was given several growth, development, and promotional opportunities throughout my career, which I am grateful for.

IMT History

- 2002 was the year of my first fire deployment. I mobilized as a Procurement Unit Leader trainee in Finance.
- I was subsequently recruited into Logistics and joined an ODF Incident Management Team in 2003.
- 2003-2006 – I served as the Team 1 Logistics Assistant, obtaining several taskbook qualifications during those 4 years.
- 2007-2008 – I served as the Team 3 Support Branch Director
- 2009 – 2026 – In 2009, I promoted to the Team 3 Logistics Section Chief and have served in that capacity ever since. I will remain in this position for the 2026 fire season which will be a total of 18 years as the LSC for Team 3
- **Served 24 consecutive years on ODF IMT's – 2003 through 2026; 20 years on Team 3**
- **Deployed on 34 ODF IMT & 20+ Deputy Agency Administrator/Agency Rep. Assignments**



Photo Compilation



Prineville Unit 2025



Alder Springs Fire, Sisters



Flat Fire, Sisters