

Klamath-Lake District

2025 Annual Report



Township Fire

District Forester Message

To our partners, community members, and colleagues,

As we look back on the past year, I want to extend my sincere appreciation for the continued support, dedication, and hard work shown across the Klamath-Lake District. This has been one of the busiest and most demanding seasons in recent memory. Weather patterns brought extensive lightning across nearly every four to five miles of the district, resulting in an unusually high number of starts and sustained pressure on our wildland fire suppression resources and militia. Despite these challenges, our teams—alongside our partners—rose to the occasion time and again with professionalism, skill, and unwavering commitment to protecting the private lands and our natural resources.

Beyond fire response, we continued to make significant progress in reforestation and landscape restoration across the district. These long-term efforts remain fundamental to building healthy, resilient forests capable of withstanding future disturbances. I am proud of the strides made this year, from seedling establishment to collaborative restoration projects that strengthen ecological function and community protection alike.

This year also marked a meaningful step forward with the initiation of a district-level prescribed fire program. Reintroducing fire as a planned, purposeful tool is critical to reducing hazardous fuels, restoring fire-adapted ecosystems, and improving long-term resilience. Standing up this program has required extensive coordination, planning, and training, and I am grateful for the partners and staff who have helped lay this foundation. As we continue building capacity, prescribed fire will become an increasingly important component of our overall fire management and restoration strategy.

Equally important, we continued investing in the foundation of our district: our people. We have been steadily building and strengthening our team, bringing on new talent while developing the experience and leadership of those already here. This work directly supports and expands our 20-year strategy—grounded in strong partnerships, shared stewardship, and a unified vision for landscape-scale resilience. Our collaborations with federal, tribal, private, and local partners continue to grow and remain essential to our long-term success.

Another major undertaking this year has been the planning effort for the cache rebuild. This facility will not only modernize and expand our logistical capabilities but will also bring together critical space for both our Protection and State Forests programs. The planning work has been extensive, but the outcome will position the district with the infrastructure needed to better serve our staff, partners, and communities well into the future.

Looking ahead, I am confident in the direction we are moving. The challenges we face—whether fire, forest health, workforce capacity, or infrastructure—are significant, but so is the dedication of the people who do this work every day. Together, we will continue building a stronger, more resilient district through thoughtful planning, collaboration, and a shared commitment to stewardship.

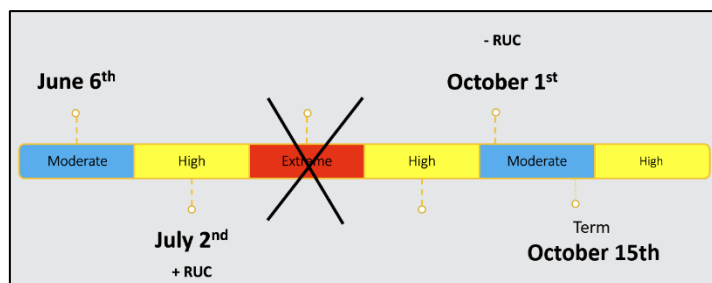
Thank you again for your continued support and partnership. I am proud of what we have accomplished together, and even more proud of the team that makes this work possible.

Teresa Williams
District Forester

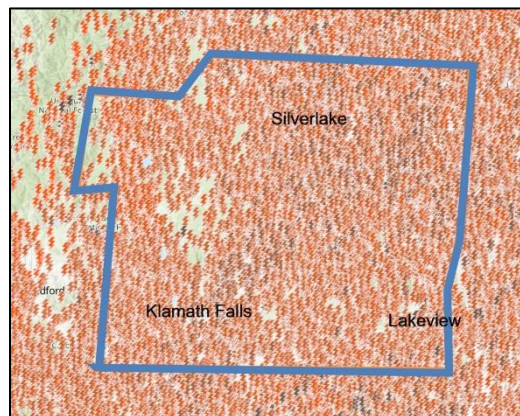
Protection

Regulated Use, and Lightning, Lightning, Lightning

The Klamath-Lake District went into fire season June 6. Regulated Use Closure was implemented July 2 when we moved to high. Fortunately, with all the lightning activity KLD never went into extreme, although we teetered on the edge several times throughout the season. We dropped to moderate and lifted Regulated Use on October 1 and finally ended fire season October 15.



Regulated use



Lightning dominated the Klamath-Lake District this year covering just about every 5 miles of the district at one point or another.

2025 Klamath and Lake Units - Protection

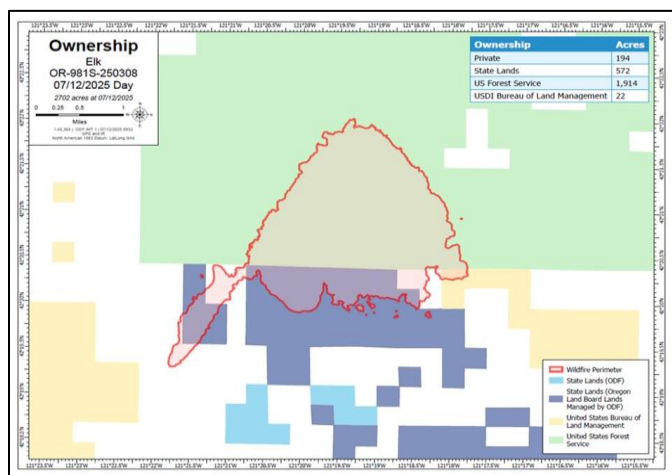
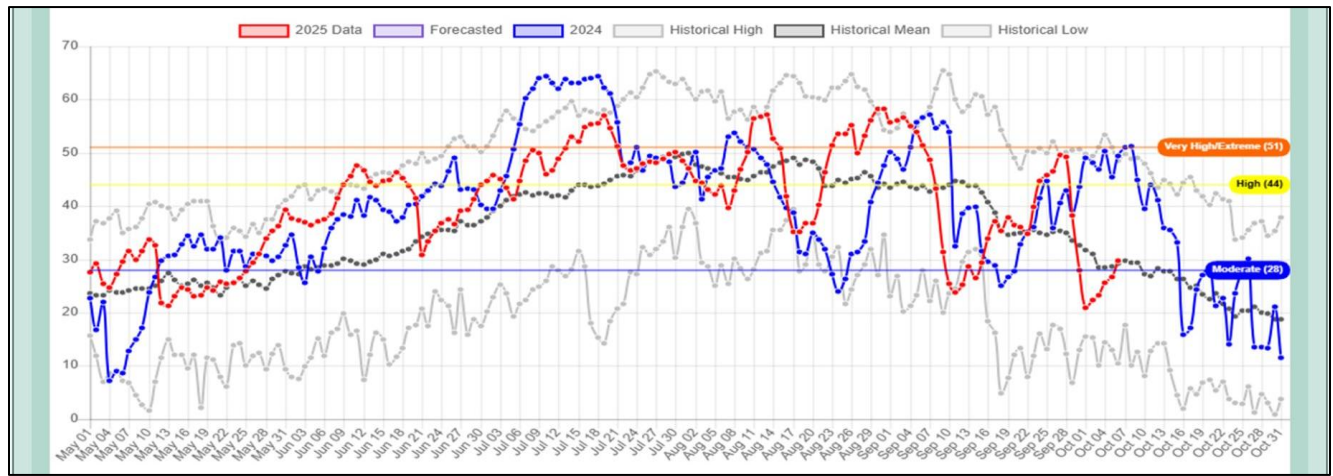
The 2025 fire season was a busy one. For the Klamath Unit, “running and gunning” is what comes to mind. Our unit had numerous lightning events as well as many human-caused fires, starting in June and lasting till late October. This equated to an increase of 112.5% above our 10-year average for lightning fires which added a substantial workload to our fire staff. The largest lightning fire was the Rock Bottom fire located northeast of the town of Bonanza, with a final size of 17.89 acres. Not only were we busy with the naturally caused fires but we also faced numerous human-caused fires which rose to a 30% increase in our 10-year average. The largest confirmed human-caused fire was the Township Fire which burned 301 acres in the Klamath Hills area south of Klamath Falls. This kept us on high alert and our fire investigators very busy.

The Lake Unit was also extremely busy this season with a total of 45 stat fires for 101 acres. We kept 96% of the fires under 10 acres or less. We assisted with 50 additional fires on our partner’s ground as well. We experienced many lightning events this season that kept us engaged all summer. The Unit also saw an increase in human caused fires this season at an increase of 155% of our 10-year average.

2025 Fires of Significance

The Elk fire started on 07/08/2025. The fire spread quickly burning through grass, brush and timber threatening many structures in the rural community of Bly Mt. The fire prompted multiple evacuations as containment efforts continued. The Elk fire presented challenges for firefighters due to the nature of the fuel loading and long-range spotting. ODF IMT 1 and OSFM Red team

establish unified command and took command of the Elk fire on 07/10/2026. On July 15, the team also assumed command of the Hagelstein Fire, which had started the day prior and went on to burn 672 acres.



Klamath-Lake Off-District Assignments

- Multiple deployments on the EOA Strike Team.
- Assignments in North Carolina
- Smitty Complex in the Yukon
- Upper Applegate Fire
- Kelsey Peak Fire
- Flat Fire
- Cram Fire
- Duff Fire
- Grizzly Flat Fire
- Box Car Fire
- Grizzly Complex

Aviation

The Klamath-Lake District integrated its 10-person hand crew (C-81) with KLD Helitack to strengthen operational capacity. Future objectives for KLD Helitack include establishing seven-day staffing for the helitack platform, supported by two or more Helicopter Managers and qualified crew members. We aim to create a robust aviation training environment and provide cross-district training opportunities.

In 2025, Helicopter 8HP (Bell 407, vendor: Guidance Air Services) logged **98.2 flight hours**, including approximately four hours of reconnaissance. The aircraft supported wilderness operations by transporting Blivits, supplies, and crews. HOBBS readings began at **2175.0** and ended at **2273.2**. Additionally, our Type 1 vendor, Croman, flew **149.4 hours**.



District helitack crew

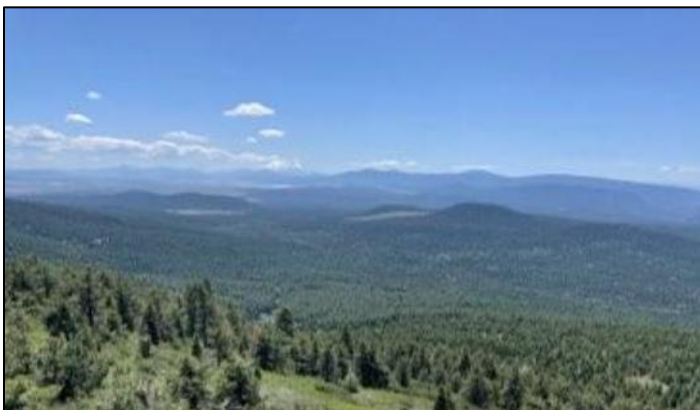


Type 1 Croman helicopter

Detection Camera Builds

Work Completed in Summer 2025:

- Parker and Soda (SWO site) - linked sites via microwave to allow for better remote access to troubleshoot and correct issues for both KLD and SWO.
- Hamilton Butte - Replaced and upgraded camera.
- Grizzly - Replaced and upgraded camera.
- Chase - Replaced and upgraded camera, wired relays for remote reset capability, removed obsolete microwave from lookout and installed lights in the lookout building.



View from Chase detection camera



Chicken Hills detection camera

Klamath-Lake District Fire Season Summary

District Totals

Cause	Number of Fires	Acres
Human	64	85.66
Lightning	81	1,265.2
Total	145	1,350.86

Lakeview Interagency Fire Center Incident Totals

LIFC Incident Types	Totals
Total Fires Responded	443
Medical	5
False Alarms	131
Prescribed Fire	17
Misc Incidents	25
Total Incidents Created	621

Lakeview Interagency Fire Center Logistics

LIFC Resource Orders	Requested	Filled
Aircraft	635	470
Overhead	10,635	10,532
Equipment	3,270	3,175
Crews	309	297
Totals	14,849	14,474



Lakeview Interagency Fire Center

Training, Task books, Certification

Instructed Operation Smokey Guard School

National Guardsmen Wildland Fire Training

SCOFMP Guard School and live fire training

39 Task Books issued

5 Task Books completed

Auto Shop



New additions to the fleet

During the year the district shop crew was kept busy, keeping the fleet rolling down the road. We also completed the build of a new Type 6 that went into service on the east side of the Klamath Unit as 8154. While the build was completed in the fall of last year for the new type 3, this summer was its first official season in service. 2025 also saw the purchase of two new Duty Officer trucks for the Lake Unit, with the builds scheduled to be completed by spring of 2026. On the equipment side the operators assisted not just with fire operation but with project work and RX support for all programs within the district and our federal partners district wide.

Prevention and Education

- ❖ Wings and Eagles Air Show
- ❖ Poster Contests
- ❖ Field Day
- ❖ Parade



Engine demonstration for elementary school



School visit/poster contest



Prevention/Outreach

Fuels Reduction and Prescribed Fire

Western States Fire Managers Grant - Klamath Central (GF3122-02)

In 2025, our fuels crew completed 112 acres of hazardous fuels reduction in high-priority areas around Chiloquin, Oregon. This brings the project total to 224 acres completed, which is 24 acres more than originally projected.

Rx Fire

The Klamath-Lake District prescribed fire program continues to expand with the goal of promoting the safe and effective use of fire as a land management tool available to our landowners. The prescribed fire program utilizes the authorities of the Department of Forestry such as the Permit for Power Driven Machinery (PDM), the Certified Burn Manager Program, as well as the Oregon Smoke Management Program to provide technical and operational support. Program goals include science-based technical support and outreach to landowners who seek to utilize fire as a land management option. To meet these goals, the KLD prescribed fire program acquires funding and support partnerships through inter-governmental agreements, non-governmental (NGO) agreements, and seeks available grant funding as dedicated department funds are currently limited for prescribed fire support. Funding provides outreach, education, and implementation capacity for the use of prescribed burns while promoting the beneficial uses of appropriately applied fire in Klamath and Lake Counties.

- Statewide Prescribed Fire Policy – Completed and released 2025
- RX fire manual – Completed and released January 2026
- EOA RX fire workgroup – meets monthly to coordinate and support prescribed fire use in Oregon
- District training plan development for personnel focused on prescribed fire – in development
- Certified Burn Manager Program (CBM) – in effect and utilized on all private land burns conducted by KLD

Planned and Accomplished Prescribed Burns (Pile & Broadcast)

- KLD State Forests ~ Gilchrist State Forest
 - Shipwreck TS; 855 acres with 22 flail piles completed
 - Moffitt Butte Tract: 1,950 acres with 180 piles completed
- *Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council* contractual support - 477 acres of hand constructed piles across five landowners
- Klamath County private landowner assist - approximately 600 acres of piles completed (numerous landowners with varying projects ex: 242 fire cleanup piles, hand constructed piles, and landing piles from logging operations)
- Forest Service (FS) / National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) / Klamath Watershed Partnership (KWP) / ODF grant support:
 - Pile burning – 4,225 acres with over 330 landing piles completed
 - Broadcast burning – 600 acres planned for fall 2026
- *Klamath Watershed Partnership* Project contractual support
 - Obenchain broadcast – 22 acres completed
 - Obenchain piles – 900 acres completed
 - High Country Ranch – 113 acres with 168 piles completed

Pile Burning



- Paddock Butte All-Lands Broadcast Rx – 170 acres completed
- Green Diamond contractual pile burning
 - Long Bell – 2,200 acres completed
 - Chewaucan – 1,600 acres completed
 - Mitchell – 600 acres completed
 - Quartz – 1,800 acres completed

Forest Resources

NOAPs/PDMs Total- 354

Activity Count- 879- Treatment of Slash- 192, Commercial Thinning/Selective Cutting-182, Use of Fire- 128, Fuels Reduction- 77, Juniper Eradication < 120 Acres- 58, Special or Other Activity (area)- 44, Herbicide Application (Unit)- 43, Biomass Removal- 38, Excavating- 19, Precommercial Thinning- 18, Salvage- 17, Felling Road Right-of-Way (Incl yarding/decking)- 12, Fire Trailing or Fire Breaks- 8, Utility Line Maintenance- 8, Clearcut/Overstory Removal- 6, Stream/Riparian Area Habitat Enhancement- 5, Juniper Harvest > 120 Acres- 4, Clearing for Homesites/Other development- 3, Road Reconstruction- 3, Selling/Hauling Chips- 3, Cutting/Welding/Grinding- 2, Changing Land Use to a non-forest use- 1, Commercial Firewood- 1, Loading/Hauling felled Right-of-Way Logs- 1, Pruning/tree trimming- 1, Reconstructing Type F stream crossing- 1, Road Construction- 1, Rock Pit Development/Management- 1, Special or Other Activity (line)- 1, Special or Other Activity (point)- 1
 Inspections: 120 NOAPs inspected at least once

Other

- **DRG accomplishments** – Bootleg, 242, Brattain, Patton Meadow, Cougar Peak Klamath County- 390,450 seedlings planted on 1771 acres, Lake County- 308,500 seedlings planted on 1,371 acres
- **Cone collection**
 158 Bushels of Douglas Fir cones, 40 bushels of Ponderosa Pinecones
- **Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)**
 Chiloquin CIS, Lost River CIS, Lakeview CIS (Juniper eradication, fuels reduction, thinning)
- **Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP)/(KWP-OWEB)** – Copperfield Project
 Herbicide Application (Site Preparation): 213 acres treated, Pile Burning: 134 piles completed: Total Area Impacted: 440 acres across 9 landowner properties
- **Assisted several landowners with reforestation (EFM)**



Klamath Forest Resources Crew



Mark Valen-Bootleg landowner watching over reforestation of his land



Seedling planted in Bootleg Fire scar

Fire Assignments

Forest Resources supported our fire program with 75 days' worth of assignments, assisting on the Rowena, Bowers Bridge, Yamsay, Kelsey Peak, Moon Complex, Grizzly Complex, as well as helping Canada.



Landowner with tree planters



Douglas-fir cone collection



Douglas-fir cone collection

Operators Breakfast

The Annual Operators Breakfast, sponsored by Associated Oregon Loggers Inc., Green Diamond, and Collins Timber Company, was held at Running Y on April 30th. 60 people attended. Topics discussed included statewide issues, basics of fire suppression, incident resource agreements, fire season requirements, self-inspections, weather and fire season outlook.



2025 Klamath-Lake District Operators Breakfast

Operator of the year

Staton Forestry was nominated as Operator of the Year, and they received a Merit Award for their excellent work on several fuels reduction projects within the Gilchrist State Forest. The projects they completed were designed to increase fire resiliency, forest sustainability, and reduce the risk of fire for the communities of Gilchrist, Crescent, and Jack Pine Village. This work was completed



Staton Forestry Owner/Operator Jason Kunkle

through the mastication of brush and small trees on the Gilchrist State Forest along the boundaries of both private and US Forest Service properties. Strategic mastication of mainline roads was also performed to enhance access and egress for fire personnel and citizens alike in the case of wildfire. Staton Forestry showed great care and ability in their work and took pride in doing their part to prevent and minimize future fires on the Gilchrist State Forest.

Staton Forestry fuels reduction projects



Before



After



Before



After

State Forests

AOP

- 26 AOP – 3 timber sales sold, 4 did not sell.
- Gilchrist – Promised Land Timber Sale Completed - 797 acres, 682mbf - \$47,739
- Scattered-track sale - Power Ham - 719 acres, 2,743mbf - \$1,038,910

Service Contracts

- Completed work on 3 fuels reduction projects on the Gilchrist SF for a total of 900 acres treated through mastication of small diameter trees and brush.
 - Jack Pine Village WSFM - 334 Acres
 - Gilchrist/Crescent CA - 446 Acres
 - Bear Wallow RAC - 120 Acres
- 11 miles of road brushing and 100+ old slash piles, restacked and prepared for burning.
- Removal of multiple abandoned vehicles with help from local tow company.
- Conducted Rx fire operations to complete 200+ plies burnt in Gilchrist.
- Conducted a woods-run collection for cones in Gilchrist SF. 58 bushels of Ponderosa Pinecones were collected, totaling 40lbs of seed.

Fire Season Support

- State forest staff assisted in firefighting efforts for a total of 101 days around the state.
- Provided local support on Elk/Hagelstein project fires.

Federal Forest Restoration Program

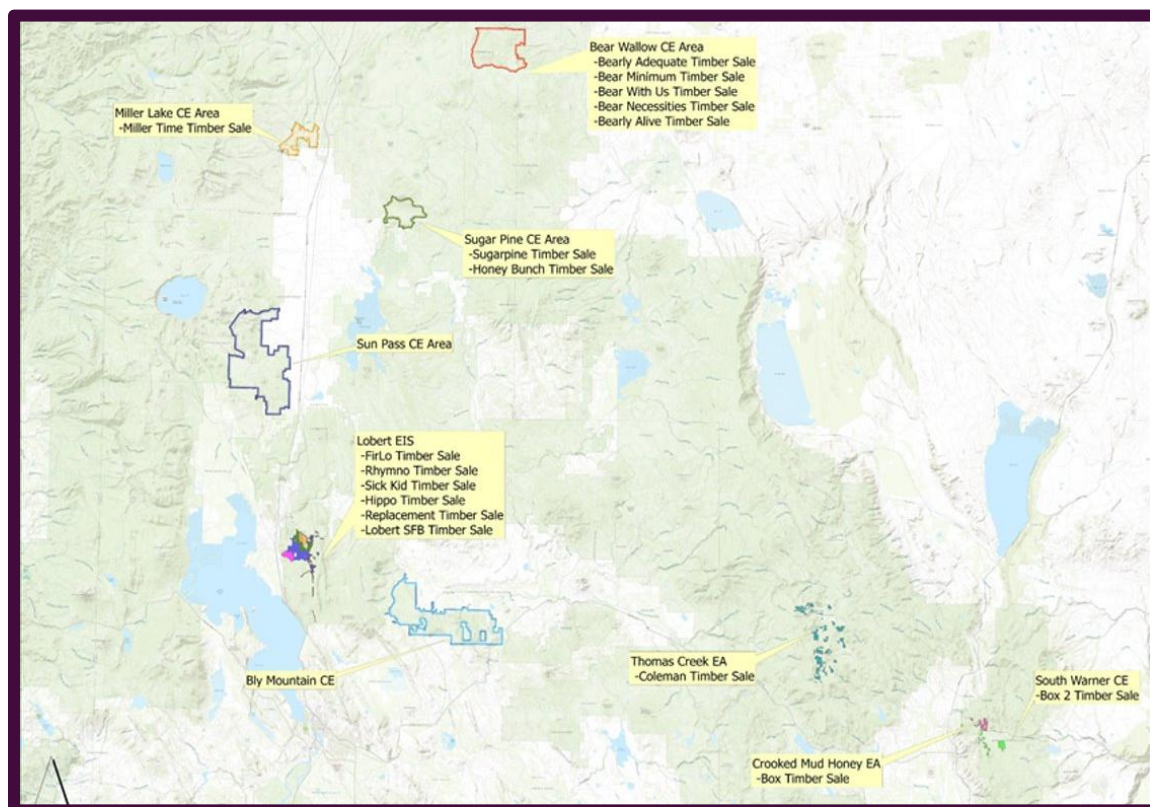
Timber sale accomplishments

- Sale Volume Generated – 3 active timber sales with a total of 14.3mmbf
- Sold Timber Sales – 2 sold totaling 5.2mmbf on 4,400 acres
- Service Work – 3 projects conducted with 559 acres treated
- Finalized Timber Sales – 4 sales closed out totaling 23.1mmbf on 5,500 acres. (These sales have been worked on over the course of 4 years.)
- Cone Collection -114 bushels of Douglas Fir collected on State Forest for our federal partners reforestation efforts

GNA/FFR 2025 Fiscal Accomplishments

<u>Sale Volume Generated</u>			
Honey Bunch	5,206 mmbf		
Sugar Pine	8,252 mmbf		
Robert SFB	840 mmbf		
Total	14,298 mmbf		
<u>Sold Timber Sales</u>			
Bear Minimum	3,164 mmbf	2,576 acres	
Bear With Us	2,131 mmbf	1,852 acres	
Total	5,295 mmbf	4,428 acres	
<u>Service Work</u>			
Box Grapple	229 acres	\$ 141,980.00	Completed
Box PCT	143 acres	\$ 92,950.00	Awarded
Bly Ridge WUI	187 acres	\$ 85,272.00	Awarded
Total	559 acres	\$ 320,202.00	
<u>Completed and Finalized Timber Sales</u>			
Hippo	10,030 mmbf	1,837 acres	
Miller Time	8,297 mmbf	2,078 acres	
Sick Kid	4,618 mmbf	1,120 acres	
Box	3,226 mmbf	500 acres	
Total	26,171 mmbf	5,535 acres	

***** Sales have been worked on over the course of 4 years



Map of FFR/GNA Projects in KLD



Jack Pine Village mastication project



High school students visit sun pass & learn forestry skills



Gilchrist Forest Products Mill tour



High school students visit sun pass & learn forestry skills



Gilchrist Forest Products Mill tour



High school students visit sun pass & learn forestry skills

KLD Admin Team

Trista Batten – District Business Manager
Nancy Sherin – Klamath Administrator

Paula Christensen – Lake Administrator
Codie Williams – District Office Specialist 2

2025 marked a significant year of learning, transition, and professional growth within the Administrative Unit. The year began with the onboarding of a new District Business Manager, which brought both opportunities and adjustments as we worked to align expectations, establish new workflows, and strengthen communication across the team. This leadership transition encouraged adaptability and collaboration while reinforcing our commitment to maintaining efficient administrative operations.

Throughout the year, the administration navigated substantial changes related to Large Fire Funding processes. These updates required careful review, coordination with PFU, and implementation to ensure compliance with evolving policies and procedures. In addition, modifications to payroll entry procedures introduced another layer of change, prompting the team to refine tracking systems, enhance accuracy, and provide additional support to field personnel.

The admin unit provided administrative support, compliance and understanding, while hosting multiple strike teams, supporting a district helicopter and managing documentation and financial oversight for several lightning fires and hosted ODF Team 1 for Elk and Hagelstein. This required flexibility, timely coordination, and sustained attention to detail under demanding conditions. Nancy and Paula also participated in Incident Management Team (IMT) and supported SCOFMP operations, gaining valuable incident-level experience and expanding their understanding of processes.

Overall, 2025 served as a foundational year of development for the Administrative Unit. Through leadership transitions, procedural updates, and high operational tempo, the team strengthened its resilience, deepened its expertise, and reinforced its role support and value for the Klamath Lake District.



KLD Admin Team

Safety and Wellness

The KLD Safety and Wellness Committee continued its strong emphasis on promoting accountability and a proactive safety culture throughout the district. Key accomplishments in 2025 included: A comprehensive update to the KLD Safety and Wellness Plan, with clearly defined roles and responsibilities for all committee members. Digitization of all applicable safety documentation and resources, now centralized within the KLD Safety Teams channel for easier access and collaboration. Refresh and update the wellness topics planned for the 2026 season. We welcomed a few new members to the committee, bringing fresh perspectives and energy. Looking ahead, the committee remains deeply committed to integrating mental health and personal wellness with traditional safety initiatives. We will continue increasing our engagement across the district by developing and hosting more events and activities that advance our shared mission of supporting the well-being and safety of everyone in KLD. Thank you for your ongoing support and participation.

2025 Safety and Wellness Committee Members

- Teresa Williams - District Forester
- Zach Hall-Chair
- Michael Derrickson - Co-Chair
- Zach Hutchins - Secretary/Dispatch
- Diego Montoya - State Forest
- Andrew Lauer - Forest Resources
- Bryson Williams - EOA State Rep-Wellness
- Paula Christensen - Wellness/Lake Unit

All Employee Safety BBQ



All Klamath-Lake District staff

June 25, 2025, was the first year we held the all-employee safety BBQ at our new Obenchain guard station. Special guests and building owners Darrel and Jennifer Jacobs, as well as Margaret Jacobs, were in attendance and honored for their contribution to the Klamath-Lake District for their partnership in the new guard station. KLD employee Jason Pettigrew gave a comprehensive overview of the Klamath Forest

Protective Association and the history of Klamath-Lake. Attendance was great, and we were excited to welcome additional guests: Justin Kostick (KFPA president), Jake Miller (Green Diamond), Kyle Williams (Protection), Eric Metzger (Peer Support), and Phillip Capurro (USFS-CAP/CISM Coord). This all-employee meeting is the one time a year where we can get the entire staff together! — Zach Hall KLD Safety Chair

The Klamath-Lake District advanced several major facilities projects this year, including establishing a design committee for the Cache rebuild that includes office space for State Forest and Protection staff. Committee members include KFPA President Justin Kostic, District Forester Teresa Williams, State Forest Manager Matt Flock, Klamath Unit Forester Jacob Barnett, District Business Manager Trista Batten, and ODF Facilities Project Manager Joe Pfau. With the design now complete, the district continues to work closely with SAJ Architects and Joe Pfau as the project moves forward.

Additional facility planning at the Klamath Falls headquarters included preparations for new siding and roof repairs. The installation of a new air conditioning unit was completed mid-summer. The district also finalized annexation of the headquarters property from Klamath County into the City of Klamath Falls, allowing future connection to the city sewer system to address the building's failing septic system.

The Lake Unit celebrated the occupation of its newly constructed Obenchain Guard Station near Bly, Oregon—a project made possible through a partnership among ODF, the Obenchain Ranch, and the Jacob’s family. Additionally, a new concrete pad and deck were completed at the Lake Unit protection building to enhance functionality and support day-to-day operations.



Service Awards and Personnel Changes

Service awards

- Mike Leach - 30 Years
- Josh Arnott - 5 Years
- Kevin Burdon - 30 Years
- Randy Barleen - 30 Years

Personnel changes



District Fire and Fuels Forester
Jason Pettigrew



District Business Manager
Trista Batten



Stewardship Forester
Cody Harkin



Small Forest Owner Forester
Andrew Lauer



State Forest Field Forester
Liam Loftis

Work Out of Class



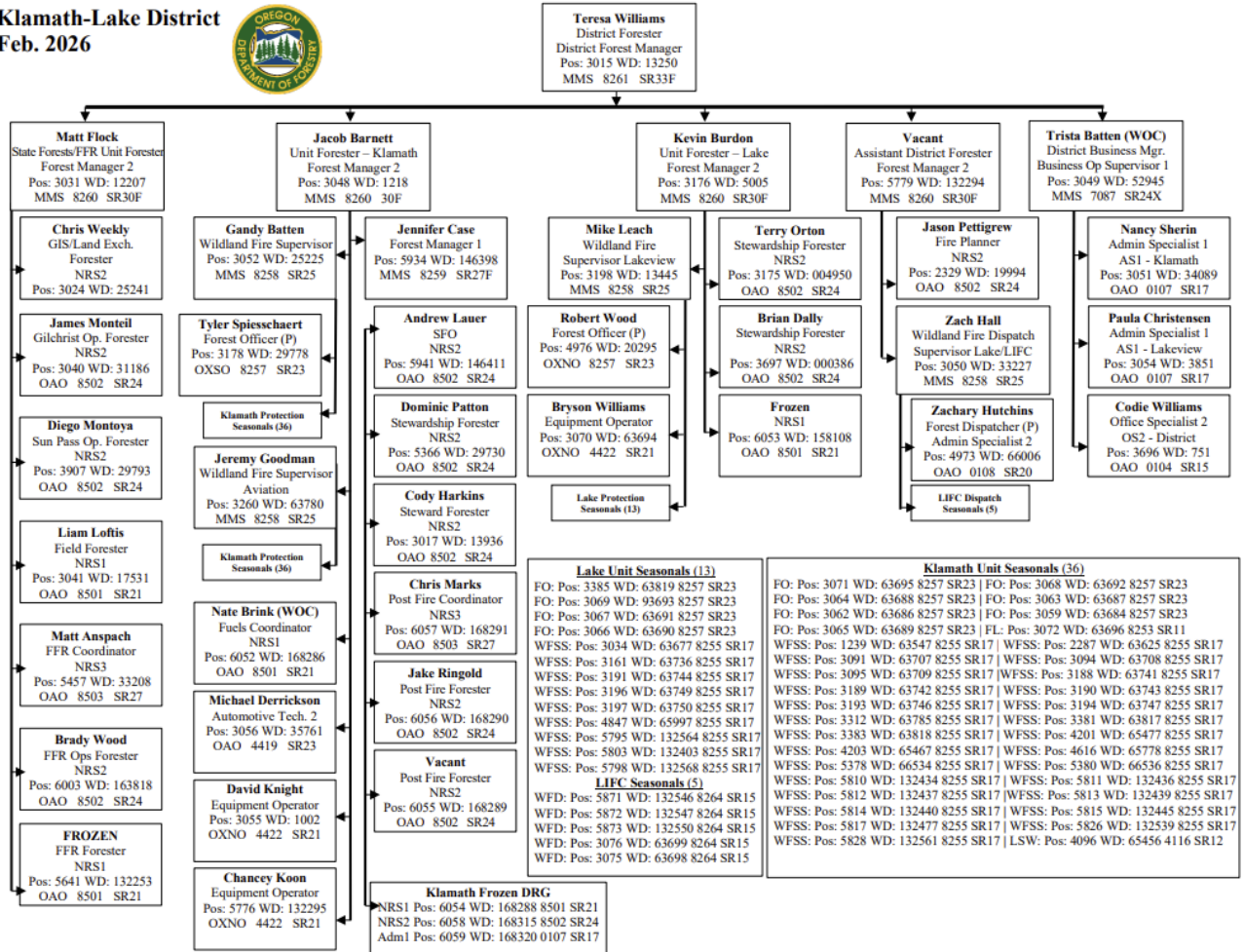
Aviation Protection Supervisor
Jeremy Goodman



Fuels Forester
Nate Brink

Organization Charts for KLD and KFPA

Klamath-Lake District Feb. 2026



Klamath Forest Protection Association Feb. 2026

