
OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY



"Stewardship in Forestry"

NORTH CASCADE

2025

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

DISTRICT FORESTER LETTER

CHELSEY PETERS

Looking back on 2025 in the North Cascade District, the word “change” barely captures what the year held. I am incredibly proud of the district staff and the way they navigated new challenges--with courage, openness, and a consistently positive attitude. Their adaptability was essential to our success throughout fire season, helping prevent large fires and ensuring the safety was at the forefront. On June 30, Steve Wilson retired after a remarkable 40-year career with the Oregon Department of Forestry, including 15 years as the North Cascade District Forester. Following his retirement, I stepped in as Interim District Forester until my permanent appointment on December 1. We also saw changes in our administrative leadership. District Business Manager Jamee Millard departed prior to fire season, and Dawn Sleight-with extensive experience in administration and dispatch-backfilled the role through the end of the year.

Staff transitions extended across the district. In Administration, Kristin Whitney served in a detail in Salem, with Kelli Devine stepping in as Administrative Specialist 1, and Michael Kylo was hired as a temporary Office Specialist 1 while Amanda Morgan detailed as the Wildland Fire Dispatcher.

Earlier in the year, John Shepherd retired, and Michael Morgan accepted a permanent position as a Permanent Forest Officer (Equipment Operator). His work has been integral in supporting our Heavy Equipment Mechanic, Matthew Petersen, in managing the Motorpool fleet and strengthening our dozer program for the future. We also saw other valuable growth opportunities, such as Ace Driver stepping out of FFR and into Forest Resources to serve as a Stewardship Forester in the Santiam Unit.

Fire Season began July 1st. While weather conditions were more moderate than in recent years, call volume remained high, and Protection staff excelled at keeping fires under 10 acres. Debris burning continues to be the leading cause of fires. The district experienced two lightning events-early detection and initial attack efforts kept these fires small. Overall, we spent 103 days in fire season, terminating on October 11th. For training, a total of 31 task-books were initiated and 23 were signed off, thanks to our ability to send staff off-district to support statewide fire efforts-which included six ODF team deployments and numerous move-up assignments.

December presented its own challenges as post-Labor Day Fire landscapes were hit by severe rain and wind events. These storms resulted in slides, road and infrastructure damage, and widespread impacts to many landowners across the district. State Forests and Forest Resources staff worked tirelessly on recovery efforts. When flooding threatened the Lyons property, the district took an “all hands -on desk” approach to protect the protection shop and our neighbors. The response was truly a team effort and strengthened camaraderie across units.

This year truly showcased the resiliency and dedication of great individuals who serve this district, and it remains a privilege to work alongside them.

The North Cascade annual report is a comprehensive report that documents the district's activities throughout the preceding year. Annual reports are intended to give shareholders and other interested people information about the agency's activities and performance. The following information was a collaborative effort by all divisions in the North Cascade District, providing all the statistics, personnel updates, written executive summaries, photos, and more. A big thanks to everyone in the district for executing this endeavor and capturing 2025 in a way that can be remembered.

PROTECTION FROM FIRE

*103 Days in Various Categorical Fire
Danger Levels*

66%

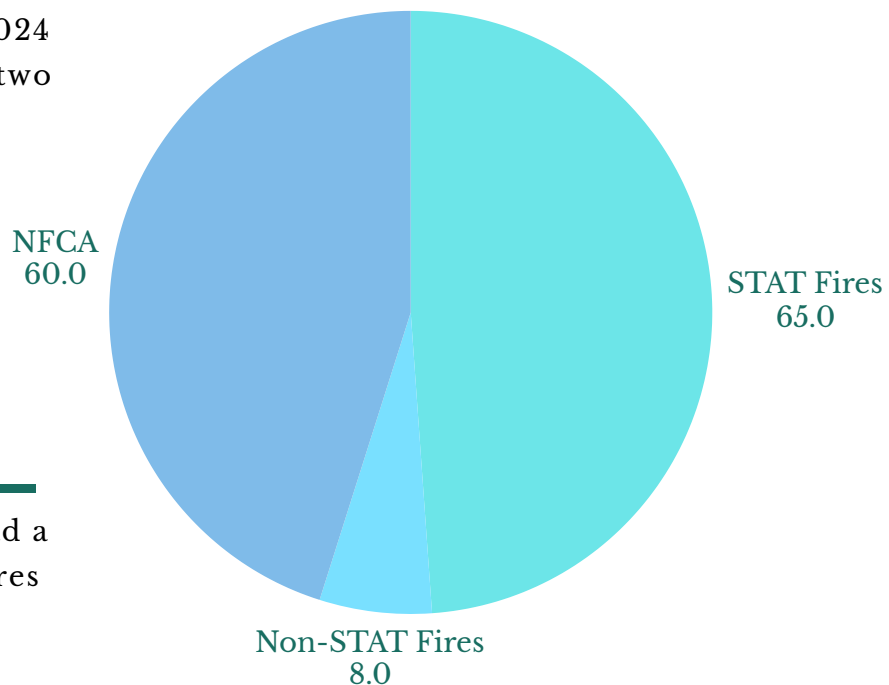
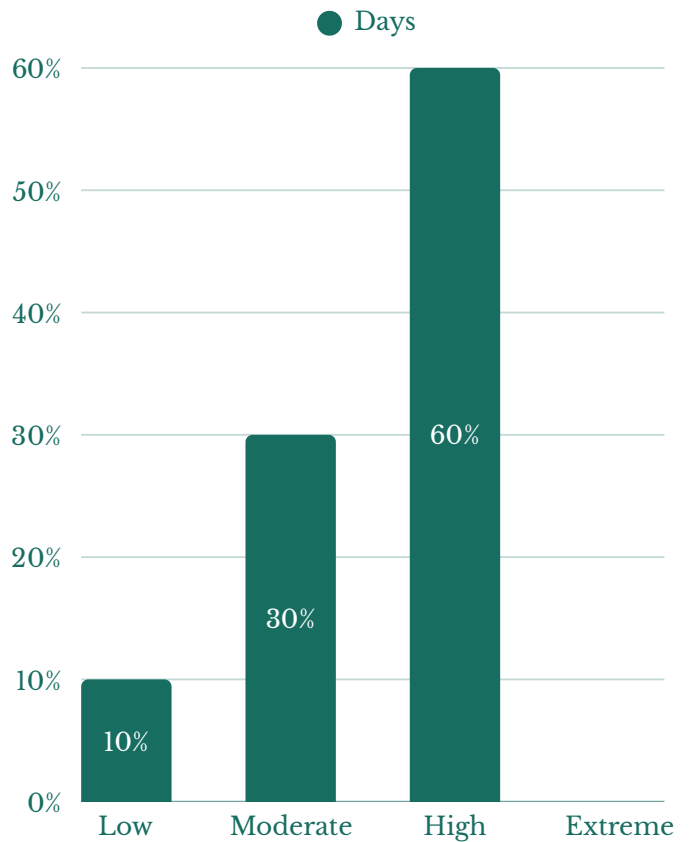
DECREASE OF TOTAL ACRES
BURNED COMPARED TO 2024

41.9 Acres Burned in NCAS 2025
compared to 126.82 Acres Burned in 2024
In 2025, 84% of Fires were kept under two
Acres
All Fires were below 10 acres

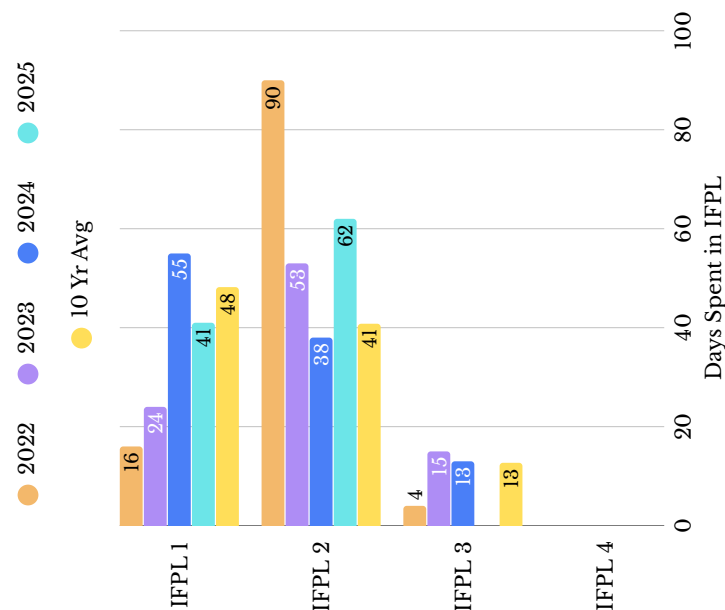
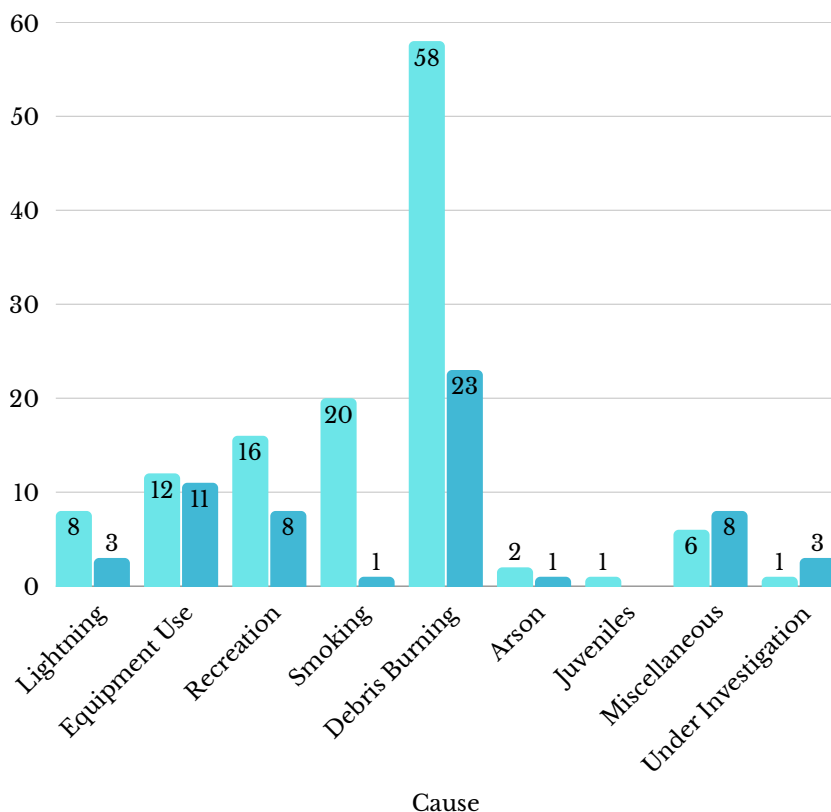
132

TOTAL FIRES

In 2025, North Cascade District had a
total of 90 fires in Molalla; & 41 fires
in Santiam



● 2025 Fires ● 10 Year Average



Statistics at a Glance

[illegible]

SANTIAM

PROTECTION

NORTH CASCADES SANTIAM UNIT FIRE SEASON AND REGULATED USE CLOSURE BEGAN ON JULY 1ST, 2025, AND ENDED ON OCTOBER 11TH, 2025. THE UNIT RESPONDED TO A TOTAL OF 42 FIRE RUNS FOR A TOTAL OF 12.02 ACRES BURNED. THIS IS THE TOTAL FOR STAT, NON-STAT, AND NFCA FIRES FOR THE ENTIRE CALENDAR YEAR. THE UNIT ALSO SUPPORTED THE STATEWIDE EFFORT IN OVERHEAD ASSIGNMENTS AND ENGINE ASSIGNMENTS, WHICH YOU CAN SEE FROM THE NUMBERS INCLUDED IN THIS SECTION.

SOME GOALS SET FOR THIS YEAR WHERE TO IMPROVE TRAINING, PREVENTION, AND BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS WITH AGENCY PARTNERS. THE UNIT DID AN OUTSTANDING JOB ACCOMPLISHING THESE GOALS AND THE NUMBER OF TRAININGS, PREVENTION EVENTS, AND TASK BOOKS OPENED/COMPLETED SHOW ALL THE HARD WORK ACCOMPLISHED. WE ALSO HAD SOME PERSONNEL CHANGES COME TO THE UNIT DUE TO RETIREMENT! CONGRATS JOHN, VERY MUCH DESERVED! LOOKING FORWARD TO ANOTHER YEAR OF GROWTH AND SUCCESSES!!



TASKBOOKS/CERTIFICATIONS

CONE, CODY

JOB -FAL2 - Intermediate Faller
TRN: INV F - Wildland Fire Investigator

DA PRA, EDOARDO

TRN: HECM - Helicopter Crew Member

JENSEN, RYAN

JOB: FFT2 - Firefighter Type 2
TRN: FFT1 - Firefighter Type 1
TRN: ICT5 - Incident Commander Type 5
TRN: ENGB - Engine Boss, Single Resource

KOONCE, KYLE

JOB: DIVS - Division Group Supervisor
TRN: FBAN - Fire Behavior Analyst

LOPEZ, MELANIE

TRN: FELB - Felling Boss Single Resource
JOB: ICT5 - Incident Commander Type 5

MORGAN, MICHAEL R

JOB: TFLD - Task Force Leader

ROSE, ZACHERY

JOB: ENGB - Engine Boss, Single Resource
JOB: HECM - Helicopter Crew Member
TRN: FAL2 - Intermediate Faller
TRN: INV F - Wildland Fire Investigator

TEGEN, TRENT

JOB: BCMG - Basecamp Manager

TUNNELL, MARCUS

JOB: HEQB - Heavy Equipment Boss, Single Resource
TRN: INV F - Wildland Fire Investigator
TRN: TFLD - TASK FORCE LEADER

SANTIAM

PROTECTION
BY UNIT

FIRE TRAINING

- S-131 JEFFERSON FIRE- LEAD INSTRUCTORS
- S-290 JEFFERSON FIRE- LEAD INSTRUCTORS
- S-230/231 JEFFERSON FIRE-LEAD INSTRUCTORS
- FIRE SHELTER TRAINING FOR ODOT- LEAD INSTRUCTORS
- NWOA FIRE SCHOOL- INSTRUCTORS/STUDENT ATTENDANCE
- PRESCRIBED FIRE TRAINING WITH LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENTS

PREVENTION EVENTS

- APRIL 5TH - BREITENBUSH HOT SPRINGS WILDLAND DAY
- APRIL 27TH - AG. FEST
- APRIL 30TH - NORTH FORK COMMUNITY MEETING
- MAY 14TH - STAYTON ELEMENTARY SMOKEY BEAR PROGRAM
- MAY 31ST - SANTIAM ACADEMY WILDLAND DAY
- JUNE 10TH - SAINT MARY'S SMOKEY BEAR PROGRAM
- JUNE 27TH - SANDBERG FIREWORK SHOW (LARWOOD)
- JUNE 28TH - JEFFERSON HERO'S DAY (PARADE)
- JULY 4TH - STAYTON PARADE
- JULY 18TH/19TH - SANTIAM STAMPEDE (SUBLIMITY RODEO)
- JULY 26TH - STAYTON SUMMERFEST
- JULY 26TH - BIG MACHINES AND EMERGENCY TEAMS (CELEBRATION OF LIFE AT SILVERTON FIRE)
- AUGUST 1ST-3RD - HOMER DAVENPORT DAYS
- SEP. 3RD - OREGON GARDENS HOME SCHOOL DAY

Overhead	Assignments	Days Out
Kyle Kaupp	1	16
Chelsey Peters	2	18
Cody Cone	3	44
Kristin Whitney	2	29
Zane Sandborg	2	29
Kyle Koonce	1	15
Michael Morgan	3	17
Trent Tegen	2	18
Melanie Lopez	1	15
Zachery Rose	3	45
Edoardo DaPra	1	15
Francis Loss	1	15
Marcus Tunnell	2	31



Wet lining Bird Haven Prescribed Burn; photo courtesy of T. Tegen

Protection by Unit Santiam *HIGHLIGHTS*



Permanent Forest Officer/Equipment Operator John Shepherd retired on March 31st, 2025, after 24 years of service.

John started his ODF career as a state forest employee filling many roles before advancing to the protection division. John has a strong leadership background that made him excel in the protection program. He also is a very skilled equipment operator who takes pride in his craft. Happy retirement John!



Photo courtesy of T. Tegen

Congratulations!

Michael Morgan has been hired as the Permanent Forest Officer/Equipment Operator on May 2nd, 2025

Michael has been a huge asset since coming on board as a permanent Forest Officer. Michael was a seasonal Forest Officer for the Molalla Unit prior to getting hired on as the Permanent Forest Officer/ Equipment Operator. His experience and knowledge of the district as a whole and his experiences as a firefighter are a huge benefit to the district moving forward.

Congratulations Michael!



Photo courtesy of A. Morgan

Protection by Unit Santiam

HIGHLIGHTS

STEVE
WILSON

Steve began his career in Astoria with the State Forests Division. From there, he went on to serve as Assistant to the Area Director before being promoted to District Forester for the North Cascade District.

Steve joined the district in 2010, and over the past 15 years as District Forester, he has provided exceptional leadership and mentorship to many employees early in their careers. He also served as a member of one of the agency's three Incident Management Teams, contributing his expertise during critical incidents.

He led the district through the devastating 2020 fires, during which the Lyons office was lost. Throughout that challenging time, Steve demonstrated remarkable care and empathy, supporting employees as they navigated multiple temporary locations before ultimately settling into the Stayton office.



Photo courtesy of K. Vickers

Congratulations!



Photo courtesy of K. Vickers



PROTECTION

TASKBOOKS/CERTIFICATIONS

CALHOUN, NICKOLAS

JOB - ENGB - Engine Boss, Single Resource
TRN: ICT4 - Incident Commander Type 4

DEVINE, KELLI

JOB: IADP - Initial Attack Dispatcher

FITZPATRICK, CHRIS

JOB: FFT2 - Firefighter Type 2
TRN: FFT1 - Firefighter Type 1
TRN: ICT5 - Incident Commander Type 5

HART, DAKOTA

JOB: FFT2 - Firefighter Type 2
TRN: FFT1 - Firefighter Type 1
TRN: ICT5 - Incident Commander Type 5

HUSERIK, BILL

JOB: DIVS - Division Group Supervisor

MORTON, MARQUE

JOB: FFT2 - Firefighter Type 2
JOB: FFT1 - Firefighter Type 1
JOB: ICT5 - Incident Commander Type 5

RUMPCA, JESSE

JOB: HEQB - Heavy Equipment Boss, Single Resource

SOSA, MERCEDES

JOB: ENGB - Engine Boss, Single Resource
JOB: HECM - Helicopter Crew Member

STEIG, ANDREA

JOB: FFT2 - Firefighter Type 2
TRN: FFT1 - Firefighter Type 1
TRN: ICT5 - Incident Commander Type 5

TEGEN, WYATT

TRN: COMT - Incident Communications Technician

WEST, SCOTT

TRN: RCDM - Receiving Distribution Manager

2026 proved to be another productive and successful season for the Molalla Unit North Cascade District. The unit ran a sum of 90 fire calls, and kept our overall acreage burned to only 31.54. Having a significant number of starts, while keeping the acreage burned significantly low is a testament to the unit's aggressive initial attack response, and having strong relationships with our agency partners. The Molalla unit partnerships were imperative to our success this last season, and going forward. The unit had a grand total of 244 days assigned to incidents out of district. Engine resources allocated to out of district deployments make up for 115 of these days, while overhead assignments account for 129 days. The Molalla unit sent eight personnel on overhead deployments throughout the State of Oregon, and across the country. The 2025 New Year kicked off with an engine responding to Southern California for the Palisades Fire. Protection Supervisor Bill Huserik, Permanent Forest Officer Dillon Neumann and FFR staff member Matt Luciani were off district for 18 days. In Southern California, they supported Cal Fire who experienced an unprecedented Santa Ana wind event that burned 23,000 acres and destroyed 6,833 homes. The Molalla unit saw many advancements in its training qualifications between the seasonal staff and permanent staff. These include: 1 DIVS, 2 Engine Bosses, 1 qualified and three trainee FFI's, and a Radio Tech. The Molalla unit utilized an agreement with Clackamas Fire to utilize the Dover station located out of Sandy, Oregon. This proved to be an invaluable resource for the Unit for dispatching engines to some of the most northern parts of the entire district as well as strengthening our relationship with Clackamas Fire.



2025 Molalla Fire Crew

With two new seasonal forest officers, Sam Jaeger and Jesse Rumpca, and one additional working out of class for the season, Nick Calhoun, all of the crew found their footing with their new leadership and did a great job rising to the challenges of fire season, while adapting to the changes within the crew. The crew did an amazing job prioritizing and completing tasks on a daily basis to stay current in all of their duties. After almost seven years with the crew, Greg Melhorn accepted a permanent position at the ODF COD Pendleton unit, & our district won't be the same without 'launching the horn'. Congratulations Greg!

Overhead	Assignments	Days Out
Bill Huserik	1	9
Dawn Sleight	2	18
Dillon Neumann	1	16
Scott West	2	27
Jesse Rumpca	1	10
Greg Melhorn	3	40
Mercedes Sosa	1	15
Wyatt Tegen	1	7

Personnel

CHANGES



Ace Driver

Accepted the four month developmental position as a Stewardship Forester.

Amanda Morgan

Accepted the developmental position as the District Wildland Dispatcher for the year 2025.

Chelsey Peters

Accepted position as the North Cascade District Forester in December 2025.

Dawn Sleight

Accepted position as the North Cascade District Business Manager - February 2026.

Elizabeth Hill

Accepted the temporary position as the Office Specialist for Stayton in September 2025.

Joe Goldsby

Accepted the position as the developmental Administrative Specialist in Molalla in April of 2025.

Kelli DeVine

Accepted the position as the developmental Administrative Specialist in Stayton for the year of 2025.

Kristin Whitney

Accepted the position as the developmental FEMA payment team in Salem for the year 2025.

Michael Kylo

Accepted the position as the temporary Office Specialist in Molalla in June of 2025-January 2026.

Michael Morgan

Accepted the position as the Permanent Forest Officer/Heavy Equipment Operator for the district in June of 2025.

Milda Kristupaitis

Accepted the position as a Forest Management Technician for FFR out of the Springfield unit in June 2025.



SANTIAM:

5866 1 ASSIGNMENT FOR A
TOTAL OF 18 DAYS

5868 2 ASSIGNMENTS FOR A
TOTAL OF 21 DAYS

MOLALLA:

5862 5 ASSIGNMENTS FOR A
TOTAL OF 52 DAYS

5864 3 ASSIGNMENTS FOR A
TOTAL OF 37 DAYS

5830 1 ASSIGNMENT FOR A
TOTAL OF 5 DAYS

**ENGINE
RESOURCES**

Out of District Assignments

2025 JANUARY OREGON STATE TO STATE MOBILIZATION:
BILL HUSERIK; TRENT TEGEN; CODY CONE; MATT LUCIANI;
DILLON NEUMANN; ZACH ROSE

ROWENA FIRE:

MATT KEMPER; MERCEDES SOSA; WYATT TEGEN; ANDREW
LIDSTROM

ODF KLD DISTRICT SEVERITY:

MERCEDES SOSA; CODY HART; EASTON HUGHES

GRIZZLY COMPLEX:

KINDRA GROSS; NICK CALHOUN; EASTON HUGHES

2025 ODF THE DALLES FIRE SUPPORT:

NICK CALHOUN; JOHNNY SYLVA

2025 JOHN DAY PREPOSITION:

KINDRA GROSS; MATT KEMPER; MELANIE LOPEZ; JOHNNY SYLVA;
SAM JAEGER; ANDREA STEIG

MARKS CREEK:

MATT KEMPER & RYAN JENSEN

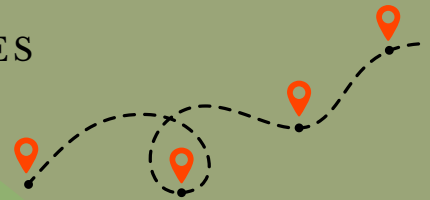
HIGHLAND FIRE - THE DALLES ODF:

GREG MELHORN; MARQUE CASSELLMAN; FRED GAST

ABC MISCELLANEOUS PRE-POSITION FOR THE DALLES ODF:

MATT KEMPER; FRED GAST

TOTAL: 133 DAYS



In 2025, North Cascade Dispatch was run by Amanda Morgan. In February, the District's permanent dispatcher, Kelli DeVine, took a job rotation as the AS1 for the Santiam Unit, giving her the opportunity to learn a new skillset.

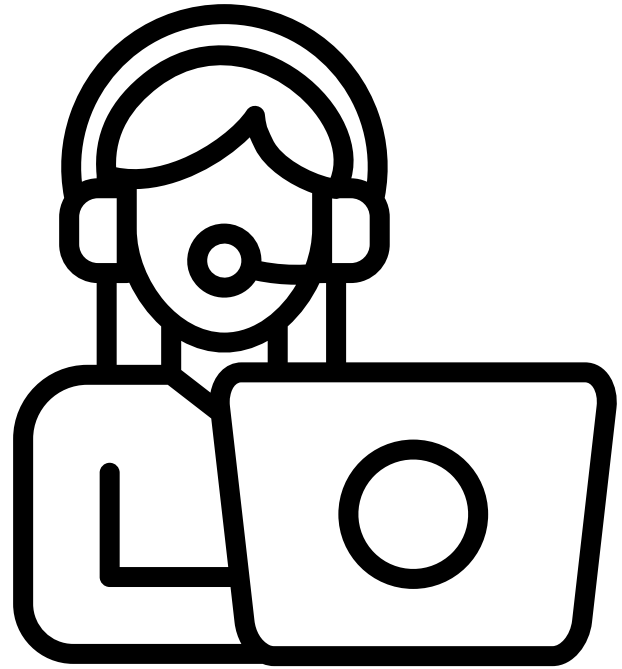
Amanda hit the tones for a total of 132 fire calls: 64 of those being Stat Fires, 8 non-stat fires and 60 NFCAs.

The largest fire was Fall Creek at 7.3 acres. We had help from Coffee Creek and an IWI (incident within an incident) on that fire.

Packers Gulch was our biggest challenge. Lightning struck a tree on BLM that was in steep terrain. It took days to find access to the tree and eventually used a drone from South Cascade to monitor it.

103 days in Fire season –
10 days in LOW; 31 days in
MODERATE; 62 days in
HIGH; 0 days in EXTREME.

District DISPATCH



Protection Citations/Warning by Type

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Burning in fire season	0	0	0	0	0
Burning without a permit	32	8	4	2	9
Burning prohibited material	0	1	3	1	0
Failure to attend an open fire	0	0	1	0	2
Failure to extinguish accidental fire	1	0	0	2	4
Failure to comply with permit	1	0	1	1	0
Failure to comply with closure	9	2	8	10	15
Failure to prevent fire from escaping	0	0	2	1	0
Failure to prevent fire spread	0	1	2	1	0
Failure to obtain permit	1	0	0	0	0
Permit closure	0	0	0	0	0
Unlawfully allowed a fire to start	6	3	3	1	0
Use of exploding targets, sky lanterns,	0	0	0	0	0
Failure to comply with restrictions -	1	0	0	0	0

District
CITATIONS

Citations/Warning Issued by Year

	Citation	Warning	Total
2021	4	47	51
2022	10	9	19
2023	6	16	22
2024	3	16	19
2025	11	20	31

State Forest **PROGRAM**

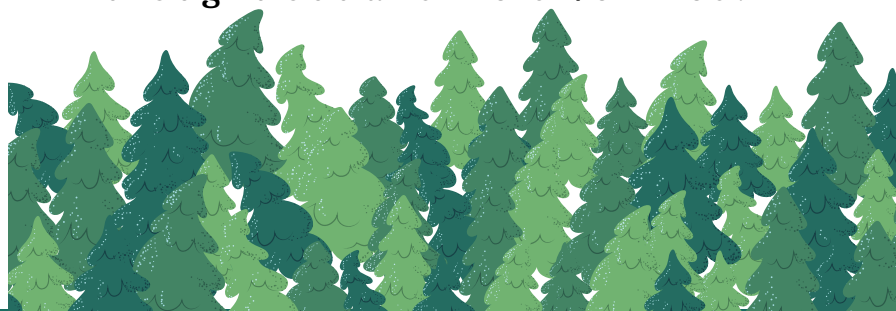
The State Forest Program advanced sustainable management across the Santiam State Forest in 2025—balancing harvest revenues, habitat conservation, recreation access, and continued restoration efforts from the effects of the 2020 Labor Day Fires.

Planning and operations continued under Annual Operations Plans (AOPs) and updated Implementation Plan revisions, aligning with the Greatest Permanent Value (GPV) mandate and preparing for the Western State Habitat Conservation Plan and Forest Management Plan updates.

The organization of the Santiam State Forest team had slight changes in 2025, but overall, the core of the team stuck together. In his 14th year with the Santiam State Forest team, Jim Stuart continued his legacy managing the 400 miles of forest roads within the Santiam State Forest. It was another successful year of constructing new roads to facilitate the meeting of the annual harvest objective as well as maintaining our current road inventory for public access, forest management and fire protection.

Young Stand Management Forester, Vince Ferguson and Reforestation Forester, Cody Cone continued their mark on the greening up of a recently blackened forest. Their professionalism and guidance were highlighted by mentoring seasonal Forest Management Technicians Marcus Tunnell and Zachery Rose who came on during the winter to help with planting season and storm debris clearing.

Operations Forester, Zane Sandborg showcased his multi-faceted forestry talent by preparing new timber sales to be auctioned, ensuring that all active field operations for timber sales were successful and that the planning for future timber sales was well thought out and field verified.



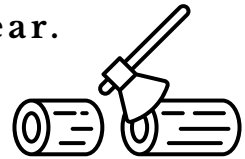
State Forest Program

Performance Metrics

When looking at calendar year 2025, the State Forest timber sales that were sold at auction were 3 out of the 4 timber sales that were approved as a part of the fiscal year 2025 annual operations plan. A special thanks goes out to our local timber sale purchasers as well as our local logger and contractors that assist us in sustainable forest management.

2025 Sold Timber Sales			
County	Timber Sale Name	Volume (MBF)	Sold Price (\$/MBF)
Clackamas	Butte 600	2,608	\$693.96
Linn	Last West	3,890	\$871.88
Linn	Kaupper Top	2,745	\$757.52
Totals/Averages		9,243	\$774.45

While these timber sales were auctioned off to be logged at a future date, Mad Merrill and Green Basin Split were some of the timber sales that were active during this calendar year.



Photos, courtesy of State Forest



REFORESTATION

2025 was the first year since 2020 where the number of acres treated and planted were near that of a long-term historical average within the Santiam State Forest. The memories of planting 1,000,000 trees per year post-fire are behind us and we have shifted more towards the tending of our newly established forests.



Photo provided by State Forest

2025 Reforestation Statistics

Activity	Acres
Initial Planting	95
Interplanting	50
Site Preparation	95
Slash Burning	94
Remote Sensing Surveys	579
Stocking Surveys – 2 year surveys	525
Tree Release - Mechanical (Hours) & Chemical (Acres)	528 Hours & 153 Acres

Recreation, Education, & Interpretation



In 2025, the Recreation unit in the North Cascade district focused heavily on maintenance, repairs and upgrades of existing infrastructure. In concert with South Fork, the Santiam Recreation staff completed several notable projects:

Relocation of the Shellberg Falls Mountain Bike Trailhead:



Addition of three new tent sites at the Santiam Horse Camp:



Recreation, Education, & Interpretation

Updates to Butte Creek
Campground include a new
kiosk, trail improvements
and the addition of two new
sites:



Numerous repairs to trails, bridges and
Recreation infrastructure:

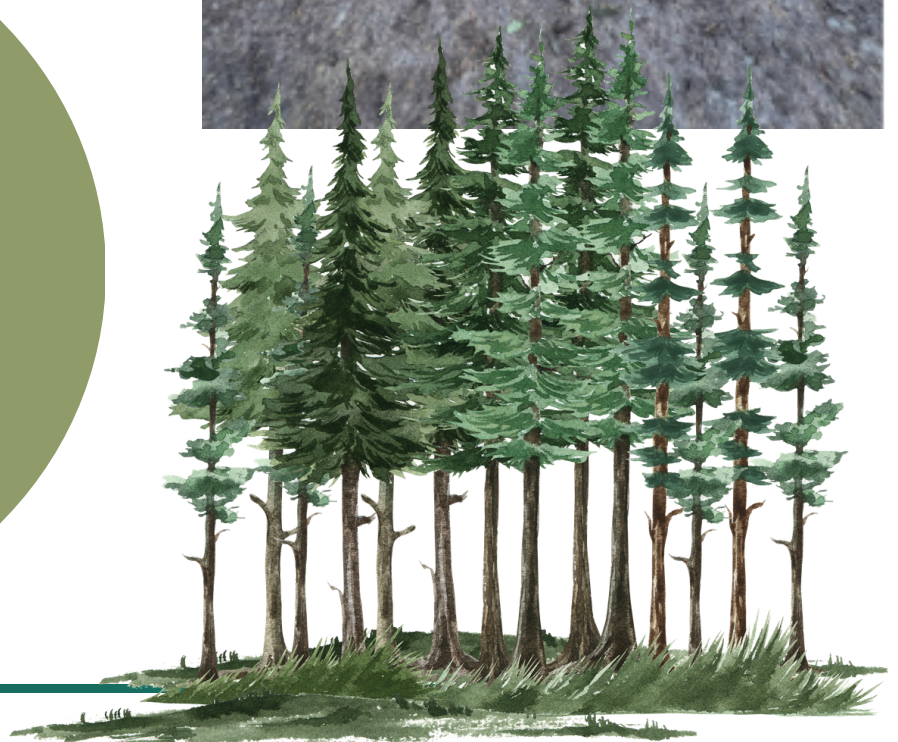


Recreation Education & Interpretation

THE INSTALLATION OF THE MARIO LARA MEMORIAL BENCH AT THE SANTIAM HORSE CAMP:



REI WORKED HEAVILY WITH TKO, OET, AND SF AIC'S TO COMPLETE PROJECTS AND MAINTENANCE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR WITH 776 VOLUNTEER HOURS LOGGED. THERE WERE OVER 3,500 VISITOR NIGHTS THROUGHOUT THE CAMPGROUNDS CONTRIBUTING TO MORE THAN \$12,000 IN REVENUE AND 22 MILES OF TRAIL WERE ASSESSED AND MAINTAINED.





Forest

ROADS MANAGEMENT

Timber sale project work credits, direct negotiated work with an outstanding local contractor pool, and work order contracts were the mechanisms used to invest in and protect our road network and infrastructure. 1.7 miles of new construction forest roads were built to facilitate the active timber sales throughout the year. 8.1 miles of road improvement was done on existing roads within the network that were not directly associated with an active haul route. This includes ditch cleaning, culvert maintenance, shaping/grading roads, patch re-surfacing or storm damage repair. 128 miles of roadside brushing was conducted to ensure roadways are clear and prepare them for vegetation control measures. 3 rock quarries (Tom Rock Pit, 1100 Pit, and Bridge Creek Pit) had projects within them to crush and stockpile rock in strategic locations for future forest management. A major milestone for the Santiam State Forest team was the completion of the hydrologic connectivity inventory across the Santiam State Forest. This will allow us to efficiently plan road improvement projects to ensure road runoff and ditchwater are not directly entering live streams.



Photo provided by J. Stuart

FEDERAL FOREST RESTORATION



Team Additions

In June, the program welcomed Milda Kristupaitis to the team as a Forest Management Technician, based in the Springfield office. This addition has strengthened our capacity to support forest management and restoration activities across the region.

Timber Sale Operations

During 2025, the team managed four active timber sales on the Mt. Hood and Willamette National Forests:

- Car
- Dry Beard
- Bits
- EFR – successfully completed and fully closed out.



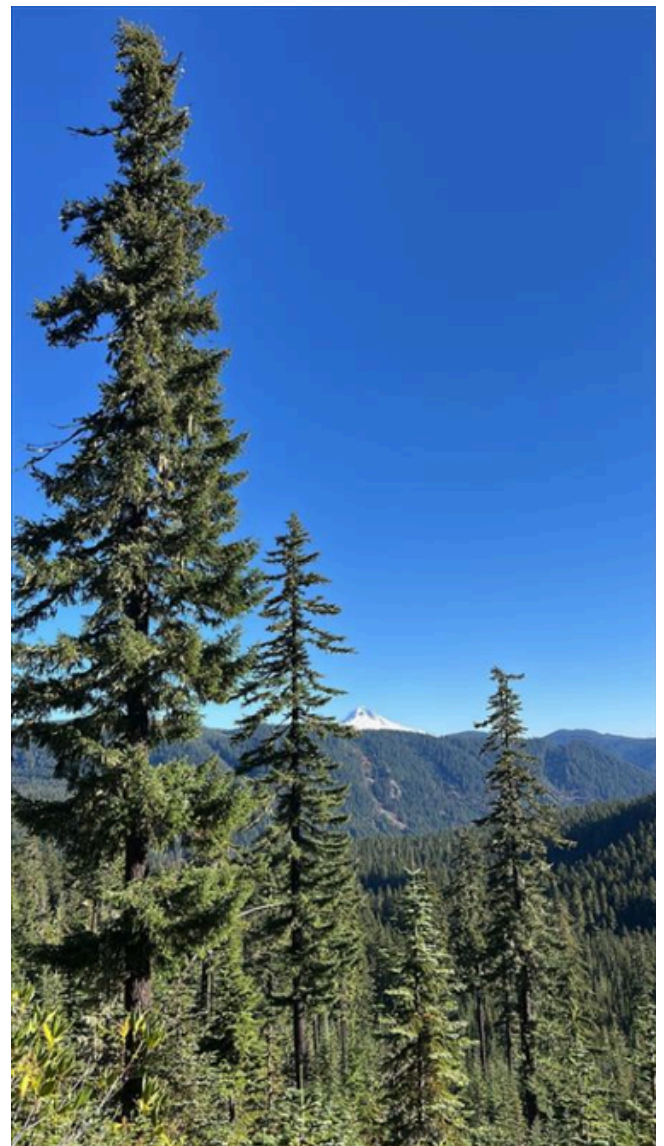
Photo provided by J. Erdmann



Car aerial photo post-harvest in unit 168

Post harvest photos of GM GNA timber sale

Dry Beard being active is a great success for the program. This sale was on hold for almost a year before operations began. Huge thanks to Kevin Boyd for taking lead on working through this process. Additionally, the team completed layout and cruising for the Thin Shady timber sale on the Sweet Home Ranger District, ensuring compliance with operational standards and contributing to sustainable forest management objectives.



View from stand exams on the Mt. Hood

SERVICE WORK AND COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

A primary focus this year was on service work projects in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. Key accomplishments include:

- Conducting reforestation inspections and stand exams to support forest regeneration efforts.
- Providing ongoing assistance with reforestation checks, stocking surveys, and wildlife tree marking, contributing to habitat enhancement and long-term forest health.

These efforts reflect our commitment to collaborative stewardship and the implementation of science-based practices that promote resilient forest ecosystems.

CROSS PROGRAM WORK

Ace Driver had the opportunity to complete a developmental for four months as a stewardship forester here in North Cascade.

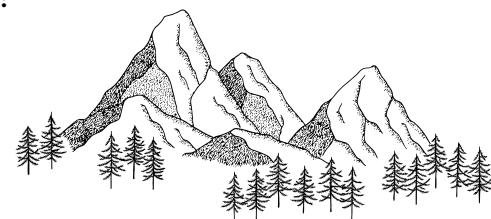
Connor Reardon has been an unofficial split-funded position with State Forests. This work has helped streamline our processes and create consistency between FFR layout protocol and state forests.

Congrats!



AWARDS

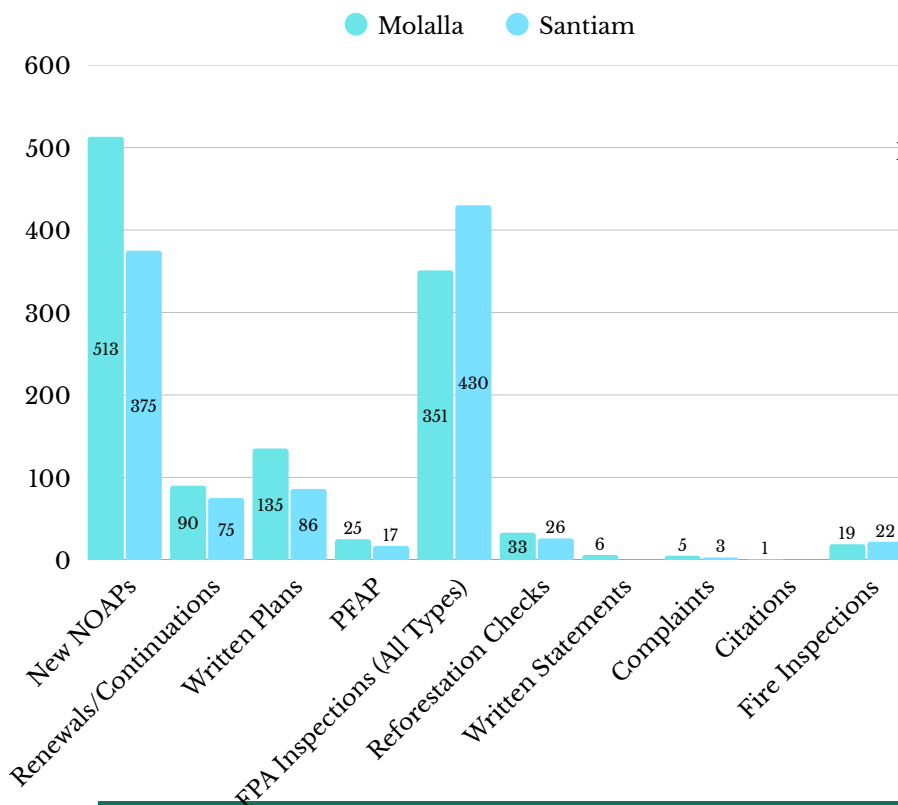
Kolton Vickers received the outstanding federal forests restoration program employee for the state. This was due to his incredible ability to build relationships with our partners, excellent communication skills, and his commitment to doing stand exams for the Mt. Hood. Congratulations, Kolton!



Forest Resources

The North Cascade District's Forest Resources program is comprised of a collaborative team of 5 Stewardship Foresters and a Small Forestland Owner Forester (SFO), who work with landowners and natural resource professionals across 4 counties. Each role is vital in building and strengthening relationships across agencies and communities to ensure natural resource protection and compliance with the Oregon Forest Practices Act (FPA). The team coordinates closely with agency specialist and natural resource partners, such as Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and OSU Extension Forestry and Natural Resource Program, to provide technical assistance and education on a vast array of forestry topics to help large and small landowners gain the tools they need to reach their forest management objectives while adhering to the FPA.

This year there were no personnel changes within the Molalla Unit, with Audrey Bell, Jesse Batson and Jessica Westcott working with landowners and operators across Clackamas County and East Multnomah County. In the Santiam Unit, Chelsey Peters moved from her position as a Stewardship Forester, covering Northern Marion County, to North Cascade District Forester, first in a developmental role, which she accepted as a permanent position in the fall. Ace Driver from the Federal Forest Restoration Program backfilled as a Stewardship Forester for 5 months, gaining invaluable experience in FPA administration. SFO Forester Spencer Mitchell and Stewardship Forester Wyatt Taylor are working together to cover the area until the position is filled permanently in the spring. Scott West continued to supervise the Forest Resources Program for the Molalla Unit and Santiam Unit, providing support and guidance to personnel and agency partners.



FOREST RESOURCES COLLABORATION

A notable collaborative effort in 2025 is the work done between the Oregon Department of Forestry North Cascade District assisting the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife with the Private Forest Accord Grant reviews. This effort was to fund restoration projects in the area, and the continued education for forest landowners & operators concerning stream protections and rules associated with the Private Forest Accord.

My name is Ben Sproul and I have been with ODF since 2008. I started on the fire crew out of the Molalla unit in the summer of 2008 and continued working seasonally on the North Cascade District for fourteen seasons. For the past four years, I have been in the role of Community Wildland Forester for the North Cascade District.



The primary function of the grants program is to coordinate grants that the district obtains, as well as provide prevention education to the communities we serve.

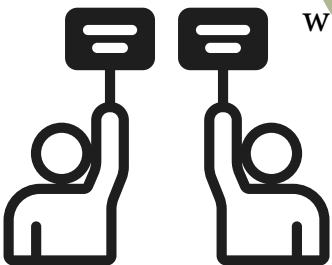
The typical style of grants that the district is most successful operating come from an organization called Western States Fire Managers and function in the form of a rebate. These grants are very competitive and only released to a select few organizations in the western states of the country with the goal of combating wildfires. This year the North Cascade District has explored other grant programs as well including the Small Forestland Grant Program and the Landscape Resiliency Program. All of these grant's function in a similar way being the use of fuels reduction to reduce the risk of wildfire being the common goal. When our district applies, a select area of communities at risk from wildfires are targeted for assistance. If approved, as a Community Wildland Forester for the district I would meet with a landowner in a community considered and predetermined at risk that and fill out a prescription targeting elements of risk reduction on a landowner's private property. This generally pertains to vegetation reduction and management that would lower a landowner's risk to wildfire. The landowner is then given a timeframe in which to complete the targeted goals. Once completed, I would meet again with the landowner to verify the improvements and process the project. The actual work is completed by a contractor of either the landowners' choice, or ODF can present a list of contractors that we are partnered with for fuels reduction work and fire suppression work during fire season. The contractor, or the landowner, if they pay a contractor up front, is then reimbursed by ODF upon project completion. The other aspect of this role focuses on community prevention education and outreach. This would include representing the agency at local community events, career fairs and multiagency functions. At these events I share information about our agency and fire prevention. At community events I share prevention materials such as prevention pamphlets, small gifts or toys and "Smokey swag". I enjoy greatly being able to interact with the public and represent the agency to the communities the North Cascade District serves.



Food Drive HERO



A absolute huge win this year is credited to Kelli DeVine,
 who won the State awarded Food Drive Hero for earning the most funds for the Governor's Food Drive.
 All proceeds go towards the wonderful cause of providing
 money to the Molalla Food Bank with the help of the Molalla Fire Volunteer Association and Molalla Service Center. Kelli works hard every year diligently to assure that each Food Drive is better than the last. Big congratulations Kelli! We can't wait to see what you have in store for 2026!





Administrative *Meet Our Unsung* **HEROES**



Behind the scenes of the district, our administrative and dispatch team are the true ninjas making sure everything runs smoothly. They catch nearly every issue before it becomes a problem and are already working on solutions before most people even notice. They keep the lights on, ensure bills are paid, make sure our resources are accounted for and cared for, and support everyone—from our employees to the public we serve. If you have a question, they're the people you go to. And if they don't know the answer, they'll make sure to find it.

This past year brought a lot of movement across the team, with many people stepping into new roles and learning new skills to better support the district.

Kristin Whitney, our Administrative Specialist in Stayton, took on a job rotation to learn the FEMA payment process. Kristin also serves on one of our Incident Management Teams during the fire season. She has a passion for helping people and animals, and in her free time she channels her creativity into designing her own sweatshirts and stickers.



Kelli Devine, our Wildland Dispatcher, stepped in to fill the Administrative Specialist role in Stayton, gaining experience and learning many new skills. When Kelli isn't helping guide firefighters and ensuring everything is turned in and tracked correctly, she's tending to her impressive garden. Her green thumb keeps her busy, and on her days off you'll often find her hiking or working in her happy place among her plants.

Meeting ADMIN

Amanda Morgan, Molalla's Office Specialist 2, also took the opportunity this year to expand her skills by learning dispatching. Amanda has worked in several different roles over time, making her a well-rounded and valuable member of the team. When she's not out supporting fire operations, she enjoys being at home taking care of her family, working on crafts, and making her new house truly feel like home.



Joe Goldsby came to the district to assist as the Administrative Specialist in Molalla. Joe keeps things organized and running smoothly, making sure the team stays on track. Outside of work, he's known as the district's hot sauce master. He grows his own peppers and makes his own hot sauce—and if you ever get the chance to try it, you won't be disappointed.



Michael Kylo joined the district as a temporary employee filling the Office Specialist 2 position. During his time here he learned a great deal about the Department and decided he'd like to join the fire crew next season. When he isn't working, Michael spends time helping run and care for his family's farm.



Admin

Liz Hill joined the team as a temporary employee filling the Office Specialist position in Stayton. She helps keep things running smoothly by ensuring vehicle documentation is completed and submitted correctly and by assisting members of the public with their questions each day. Outside of work, Liz is a game programmer who enjoys games of all kinds and spending time with her family.



Finally, Dawn Sleight stepped in this year to help fill the role of District Operations Manager. Dawn also serves on one of our Incident Management Teams during the fire season. When she's not ensuring the district is following policies and procedures and supporting operations, she enjoys spending time with her new grandbaby, Kinzlee.



Our admin and dispatch team may work mostly behind the scenes, but their dedication, adaptability, and teamwork are essential to keeping the district running every single day. We are incredibly grateful for the work they do and the support they provide to everyone across the district.

Service Awards

Amanda Morgan - 5 Years of
Service

Dillon Neumann - 10 Years of
Service

Greg Melhorn - 5 years of service

Kindra Gross - 5 years of service

Matt Luciani - 5 Years of Service

Scott West - 35 Years of Service

Spencer Mitchell - 10 Years of
Service

Steve Wilson - 40 years of service



Photo of NCAS District 2025 at Silverton Fire Hall for Summer AEM

CMFPA

Clackamas Marion Forest Protection Association

DIRECTORS

President - Roger Beyer - T & R Tree Farm, LLC
Vice President - Andrew Weathers - Weyerhaeuser
Treasurer - Andrew Dobmeier - Clackamas Co. Forestry Department
Ron Borisch - Freres Timber, Inc.
Jim Crawford - Fruit Growers Supply Co.
Zach Littlefield - Portland General Electric
Tyson Losli - Port Blakely
Russ Minten - Frank Lumber

ADVISORY DIRECTORS

Kristin Babbs - Keep Oregon Green
Lauri Brewster - Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife
Kevin Reece - Willamette National Forest
Michelle King - USDA Detroit Ranger District
Dan Mulick - Clackamas Co. Fire Defense Board
Eric Risdal - Bureau of Land Management - NW Oregon District
Dirk Shupe - USDA Mt. Hood National Forest
Jim Trierweller - Mation Co. Fire Defense Board
Chad Washington - Oregon Forest & Industries Council

CMFPA MEMBERS

Carol Belton - JCB Tree Farm
Richard Conklin - Conklin Tree Farm
Merrily Enquist - Heritage Tree Farm, LP.
Ken Everett - Forests Forever, Inc.
John Foster - Oregon Tree Farms, LTD.
Edie Knight - Avery Interests
Robin Poppino-Kuntz - Lazy RB Tree Farm, Inc.

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY

Don Everingham - Northwest Oregon Area Director
Chelsey Peters - NCAS District Forester
Kyle Kaupp - NCAS Santiam Unit Forester
Scott West - NCAS Molalla Unit Forester
Dawn Sleight - NCAS District Business Manager

KEY

IMT 1

IMT 2

IMT 3

CHELSEY PETERS
DISTRICT FORESTER
DFM WOC

MATTHEW PETERSEN
DISTRICT MECHANIC
HET2

SANTIAM UNIT
KYLE KAUPP
UNIT FORESTER
FM2

DISTRICT
DAWN SLEIGHT
BUSINESS OPS MGR.
WOC DEV

MOLALLA UNIT
SCOTT WEST
UNIT FORESTER
FM2

VINCE FERGUSON
YOUNG STAND MANAGEMENT
UNIT FORESTER - NRS2

ZANE SANDBORG
NRS2
OPERATIONS FORESTER

JIM STUART
NRS1
ROAD SPECIALIST

CODY CONE
NRS1
REFORESTATION
FORESTER

VACANT
MARKETING/LAYOUT
FORESTER NRS1

ZACH ROSE
FOREST MANAGEMENT
TECHNICIAN-FMT SEASONAL

KELLI DEVINE
OFFICE COORDINATOR
ASI DEVELOPMENTAL

JOE GOLDSBY
OFFICE COORDINATOR
ASI DEVELOPMENTAL

MICHAEL KYLLO
OS2 TEMP.
PROGRAM SUPPORT

AMANDA MORGAN
DISTRICT DISPATCHER
WFD DEVELOPMENTAL

LIZ HILL
OS1 TEMP. PROGRAM
SUPPORT

JODI BLACKBURN
PROGRAM SUPPORT OS1

JESSICA WESTCOTT
STEWARDSHIP
FORESTER NRS2

JESSE BATSON
STEWARDSHIP
FORESTER NRS2

AUDREY BELL
STEWARDSHIP
FORESTER NRS2

VACANT
STEWARDSHIP
FORESTER NRS2

SPENCER MITCHELL
SFO FORESTER NRS2

WYATT TAYLOR
STEWARDSHIP
FORESTER NRS2

TRENT TEGEN
WILDLAND FIRE
SUPERVISOR WFS

KYLE KOONCE
PERMANENT FOREST
OFFICER PFO

MICHAEL MORGAN
PERMANENT FOREST
OFFICER/EQ OPERATOR

KINDRA GROSS
FOREST OFFICER
SEASONAL FO

MARCUS TUNNELL
FOREST OFFICER
SEASONAL FO

WILDLAND FIRE SUPPRESSION SPECIALIST
WFSS SEASONAL SR17
ZACHERY ROSE
JONATHAN SYLVA
EASTON HUGHES
EDOARDO DA PRA
FRANCIS LOSS
CALEB REECE
RYAN JENSEN
MELANIE LOPEZ

DILLON NEUMANN
PERMANENT FOREST
OFFICER PFO

SAM JAEGER
FOREST OFFICER
SEASONAL FO

JESSE RUMPCA
FOREST OFFICER
SEASONAL FO

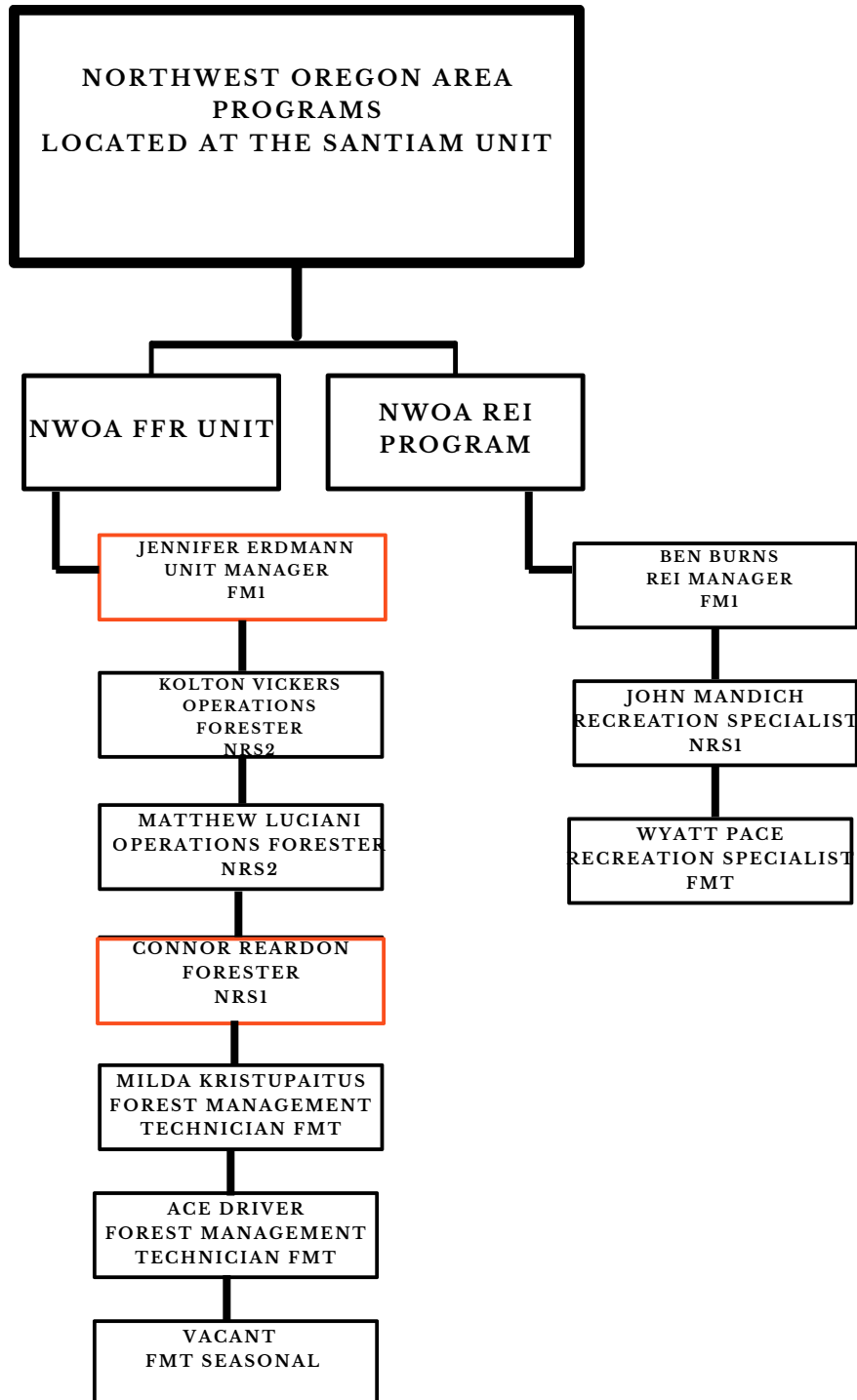
NICKOLAS CALHOUN
FOREST OFFICER
SEASONAL FO DEV

GREG MELHORN
FOREST OFFICER
SEASONAL FO

WILDLAND FIRE SUPPRESSION SPECIALIST
WFSS SEASONAL SR17
FRED GAST
MERCEDES SOSA
MATHEW KEMPER
MARQUE MORTON
ANDREW LIDSTROM
DAKOTA HART
DAVID WALLBERG
WYATT TEGEN

BILL HUSERIK
WILDLAND FIRE
SUPERVISOR
WFS

BEN SPROUL
COMMUNITY
WILDFIRE
FORESTER NRS2



*The
End*