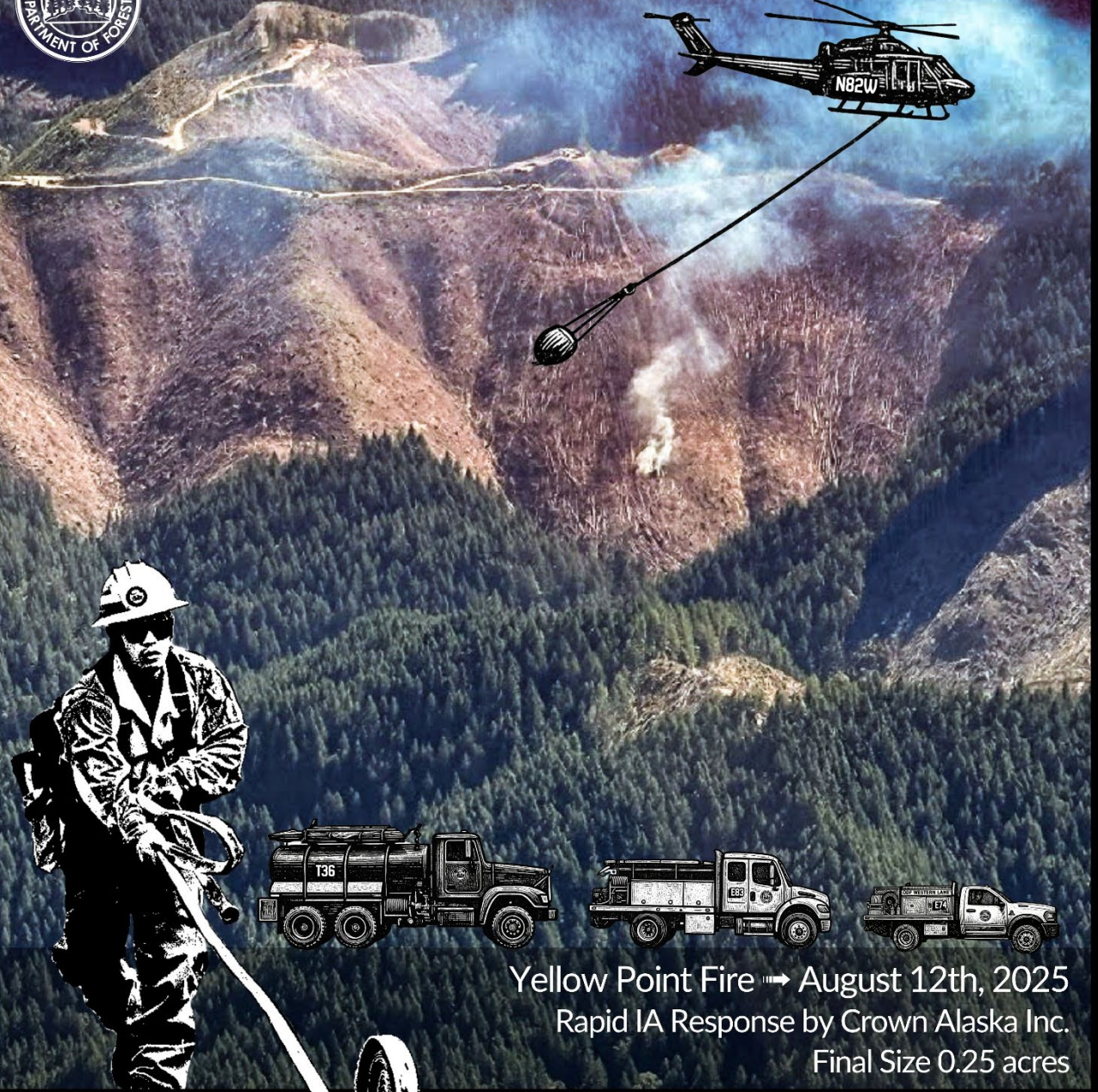


ODF Western Lane

2025 DISTRICT ANNUAL REPORT



Yellow Point Fire → August 12th, 2025
Rapid IA Response by Crown Alaska Inc.
Final Size 0.25 acres

DISTRICT FORESTER - OLE BUCH

Welcome to the Western Lane District 2025 Annual Report. It's hard for me to believe this is the 5th annual report I've written for the district. The saying, "time flies when you're having fun" carries significant meaning here.

There were a few milestones in 2025 that I want to specifically call out.

First, and this is a big one, we received authority from the 2025 Legislative Session to sell approximately \$10.7 million worth of bonds to fund a compound improvement project. The improvement project is much needed, and will include replacing 6 dilapidated buildings, adding square footage to the main office, and other compound modernization projects such as paving and improved access, etc. The project isn't anticipated to break ground until 2028, but we are doing what we can to be prepared for that exciting time, and future annual reports will definitely include updates on this project. Of course, the improvement project would not have made it this far without the support from the Western Lane Protective Association Board of Directors and ODF leadership. The district owes those folks a huge THANK YOU for their continued support of our staff and providing us with what we need to serve Oregonians.

Secondly, I'd like to call out is the success of our fire suppression efforts. You'll see later in this report that we had a record number of fires during the 2025 fire season. However, total acres burned were well below our 10-year average. Yes, there was some luck associated with catching all those fires, but they would not have been caught at a small size without the planning, training, preparation, and readiness from district staff. The Seasonal staff, Dispatch staff, Admin staff, State Forests staff, Forests Resources staff, and Protection staff all collaborated as a team to suppress those fires. Nice work all!!!

During 2025, our staff continued to stay busy working on numerous "core business" items. Examples include business services, fuels mitigation, fire prevention, fire suppression, State Forests land management, Forest Practice Act administration, Sudden Oak Death treatments, and supporting large fire suppression across the state. As you can imagine, each one of those activities is worth mentioning and I hope you enjoy reading about them later in this report.

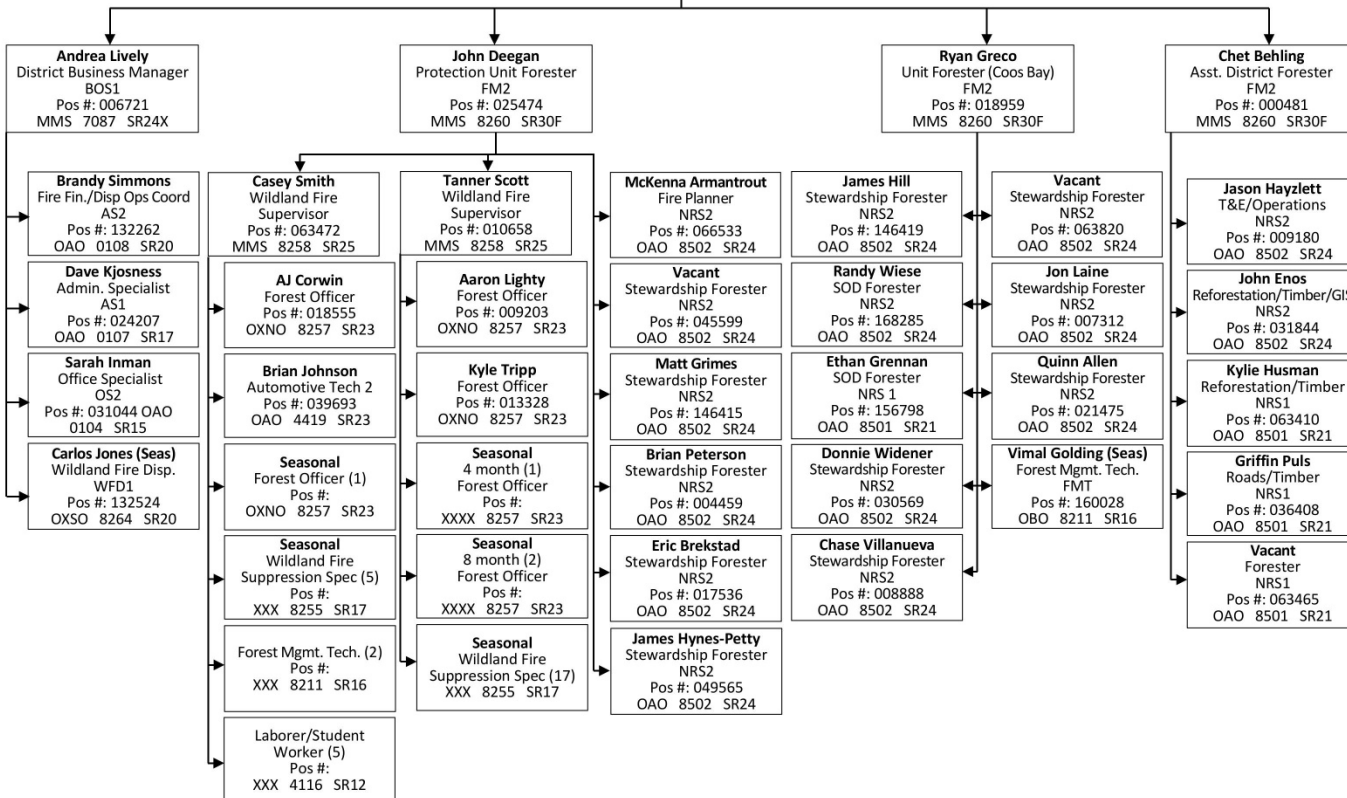
And finally, thanks again to all the coworkers, partners, and stakeholders here at Western Lane. It's the people I get to work with that truly make this a great district to call home.



Western Lane District December 2025



Ole Buch
District Forester
District Forest Manager
Pos #: 000676
MMS 8261 SR33F



2025 Western Lane Fire Crew

PROTECTION PROGRAM

It's been several years since both Wildland Fire Supervisor positions were permanently filled in the district, however in 2025 both were filled. Tanner Scott transitioned from his Stewardship Forester position in late February to his new role as the Veneta WFS, bringing a strong background in fire suppression, skills and experience managing fire crews, and a strong commitment to training that is aligned with district objectives.

'25 Fire Cause

Category	Count	Acres
Lightning	6	2.07
Equipment Use	49	24.62
Recreation	5	.10
Smoking	1	.13
Debris Burning	23	4.49
Arson	4	.08
Juveniles	1	.42
Railroad	6	.10
Misc.	16	5.26
Under Invest.	1	4.60
Total:	112	41.87

The 2025 fire season can be summarized by the higher-than-average number of fires and lower than average number of acres burned. In total the district suppressed 112 stat fires accounting for 10% of the total fires across the state on private ground, which was a 62% increase from the previous year's total. In contrast, **only 41.87 acres were burned**, accounting for only 26% of the 20-year average for acres burned (160). The district was able to keep 99.1% of the fires under 10 acres. **The above average fire load coupled with reduced acres burned is a testament to the hard work from all district staff, and commitment to their roles for a successful protection program.**

Spring weather also continued its trend over the last few years with minimal rain in April and May, allowing for a quick escalation of fuels readiness to burn. This trend has prompted many large industrial landowners to require operators to have fire suppression equipment on landings prior to state-initiated fire season in an effort to combat the increased early season risk. Prior to the official declaration of fire season, the district ran on 10 fires that burned 3.6 acres. All fires were a result of escaped debris burns. Two members of the grant program also had a welcomed transition from fuels to fire in late March for a deployment to North Carolina.





Rice Road Fire → T18S R10W Sec 2

Fire risk on the landscape was further exacerbated in early June as temperatures quickly rose. **New record high temps were set for Eugene on the 8th and 9th with temps reaching 96 degrees, prompting the initiation of fire season and regulated use restrictions.** Just before 2:00 pm on June 19th, the district responded to the Rice Road Fire, burning adjacent to Hwy 126 West of Mapleton. The fire quickly ran up a steep embankment and progressed towards numerous homes and city infrastructure.

The location of this fire prompted the town of Mapleton to be put on level 3 evacuation and numerous closures were put in place, including the closure of Hwy 126, the rail line, and the city power and water supply. Aggressive firefighting and support from equipment and a type 2 helicopter ultimately stopped the fire at 5 acres with no structures lost.



Yukon Deployment

June continued to be busy with seasonal crew training and fire runs. Closing out the month we were able to send two seasonal fire staff to join the 10-person crew for a Yukon deployment.

Level		# of Days	
LOW		22	
MODERATE		50	
HIGH		56	
EXTREME		0	
Total Days		124	
IFPL	SL-2	WT-1	
1	124	36	
2	0	88	
3	0	0	
4	0	0	

2025 Fire Season

As June turned to July, the district suppressed numerous fires that would become the Vaughn complex. Twenty five roadside fires were suppressed in a 3-day period along the same stretch of road just a few miles south of the office. Early in the investigation, it was determined that the fires were vehicle related, prompting communication with the sheriff's office, homeowners, and local mill workers in the area to gather further evidence that eventually led to the vehicle in question, subsequently stopping any further fires. In keeping with recent trends, early July brought a tough weather window. With a good number of hot, dry, and windy days kicking off the month, the district quickly transitioned to an IFPL 2 and High fire danger by the 11th. Between the 11th and the 16th, the sig map showed record low 1,000-hour fuels and temps fluctuated between the low and high 90's. During this time, staff deployed to other state fires in SWO (Grizzly) and Klamath Lake (Elk) to support in multiple functions. Fortunately, the district was able to suppress fires quickly, keeping them at small throughout the challenging weather window and the remainder of the month.

On August 2nd the district responded to the Dunn Ridge fire, burning in large second growth BLM timber. Aggressive initial attack with fallers, crews, engines and our contracted type 2 helicopter contained the fire at 2 acres.



Yellow Point Fire → T20S R7W Sec 20

On August 12th, the Yellow Point Fire broke out in the bottom 1/3 of an active 113 acre felled and partially yarded unit. At the time, a hot and dry system was over the district. Weather taken from the unit during an inspection the day prior showed a temp of 102 degrees and an relative humidity of 25%, and the forecast on the day of the fire was no different. At 10:20 am, the rigging crew reported the fire to the shovel operator, who jumped into action to suppress the fire. The operators were able to get water to the fire 1,000 feet below the landing very quickly and stop forward progress at approximately ¼ acre. This was a tremendous effort by the operator and a testament to what adequate fire readiness can achieve. If not for the operators' actions, this fire would certainly have grown to significant size.

On August 28th, the 15-acre Pickens Fire started as a result of mowing past closure hours. The fire burned near numerous homes, prompting a level 3 evacuation and resulting in multiple buildings, including a large barn, burning. A house immediately adjacent to the barn was spared in large part due to district resources. Two lightning events fell over the district at the end of the month with two confirmed fires. Fortunately, enough moisture came with the systems to quell more fire starts.



Pickens Fire → T18S R5W Sec 3



Spencer Butte Park Fire → T18S R3W Sec 19

Early September was highlighted by continued thunderstorms passing over the district. We were again fortunate to have moisture associated with the cells, which prevented fire starts in troublesome areas such as the Devil's Staircase Wilderness. In total, 6 lightning caused fires were suppressed, 5 of which occurred in September. The most challenging of those fires was the Spencer Butte Park Fire.

On September 8th, district staff detected the fire burning on the most popular hiking destination in the Eugene area, Spencer Butte Park, with an estimated total of between 300-1,000 visitors daily. The district worked with the sheriff's department and Eugene/Springfield Fire to close the park and ensure the safety of the public as suppression efforts ramped up. The fire was cooled down from the air by type 1 and 2 helicopters as ground crews tried to find access on foot. Once on the fire, our crews were able to stop forward progress and contain the fire by that evening. Moisture from the thunderstorms and a couple other small shots of rain throughout the month pushed the district into the glide down path towards the conclusion of fire season, ultimately **terminating fire season on October 11th**.

In all, the protection program had a very successful season. Robust training and ample number of district fires provided our staff with the opportunity to learn and grow. We were able to provide significant support to our counterparts around the state, helping us to build on experience and network with our neighbors.

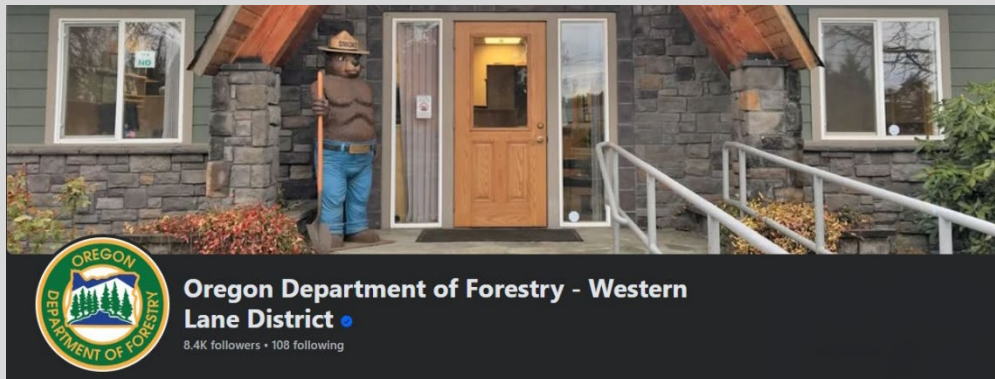
PREVENTION PROGRAM



Prevention Sign - Western Lane District Office

The Western Lane prevention program was involved in a variety of prevention projects and outreach events throughout 2025. Ranging from preschoolers to adults, the prevention committee spread the wildfire prevention message across a wide range of individuals in the public. Additionally, the committee completed two large projects, including designing a debris burning sign (see picture above) as well as an escaped debris burning prevention video that was posted on ODF's main YouTube page and on the Western Lane Facebook page.

Overall, the Prevention Program attended twelve events during the year, delivered thousands of prevention coffee sleeves to local coffee shops, and had a total of 8,400 followers on the district Facebook page gaining 1,118 followers for 2025.



2025 FIRE PREVENTION EVENTS FOR WESTERN LANE:

Western Lane's Prevention Program attends local outreach events throughout the year to provide the public with wildfire prevention messages, share ways they can reduce fire risk in neighborhoods, and engage with communities in a more meaningful way. Smokey Bear also made a regular appearance this summer to connect with youth on the importance of fire safety. In 2025, the Prevention Program attended the following events:

1. 87th Annual OR Logging Conference
2. Lane County Spring Home and Garden Show
3. City of Creswell Arbor Day event
4. Partnered with ODF Eastern Lane for team teaching in local grade schools
5. Lane Community College High School Career Day/Fire School
6. Lane County Farmer's Market table w/ Eugene-Springfield Fire
7. Firewise Community Night at Spencer Creek Grange
8. Smokey Bear at Siuslaw Preschool
9. Veneta National Night Out
10. Jerry's Safety Day w/ Lane Fire Authority
11. Forest Field Days & Outdoor Schools
12. High School Immersion Program at the Bauman Tree Farm



87th Logging Conference - "Timber Builds Dreams"



Veneta National Night Out - Firefighters vs. Law Enforcement Tug-of-War

LANE FIRE PREVENTION COOPERATIVE:

Members of Western Lane's Prevention Committee also serve as members on the Lane Fire Prevention Cooperative. The Cooperative has representatives from ODF, Lane Fire Authority, Oregon State Fire Marshal, Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, Eugene-Springfield Fire, Keep Oregon Green, and several rural fire protection districts. In 2025, the Cooperative participated in several public outreach events including the Lane County Fall and Spring Home Shows. Members are also working together to have a more unified approach to spreading prevention messages on wildfire throughout Lane County.

PREVENTION SPECIAL PROJECTS:



One of Western Lane's most notable prevention projects this year was completing a debris burning safety video. Western Lane's very own AJ Corwin created the video with Aaron Lighty as the main star. Because escaped debris piles are one of the leading causes of wildfire in Lane County, the video's key message was to provide safety tips on how to safely burn debris piles. Aaron explains how to prepare the area for burning, the tools a landowner needs to safely burn, checking the weather before burning, and making sure the pile is completely out once complete. The video was posted on Facebook in May for Wildfire Prevention Month with 7,416 views and 63 shares. The video can be viewed on ODF's YouTube or Facebook:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmtOZSxH53Q>

<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1CsuUpc6BQ/>



Permanent Forest Officers → Aaron Lighty, AJ Corwin, & Kyle Tripp

FUELS REDUCTION PROGRAM



*Fuels Crew → Back Left to Right: Dylan Coughran, Seth Griffith, James Macklin, Dayton Ricks, Troy Anderson
Front Left to Right: Sam Lammie, Kate Johns, McKenna Armantrout*

The Western Lane Fuels Reduction Program had a successful season providing fuel reduction treatments for private landowners, attending local outreach events, and offering support to Firewise Communities in the district. During the 2025 season, the fuels program treated about 290 acres, brushed 3 miles of roads, and cleared 2 RAWS stations. Additionally, the program assisted in certifying 3 new Firewise Communities for a total of 14 active communities across the district. The fuels program also attended 11 outreach events, including the Oregon Logging Conference and Veneta National Night Out.

Four grant applications were submitted for 2025 including the Landscape Scale Restoration, Western States Fire Managers, Community Wildfire Defense and BLM Community Assistance grants. The program has been awarded three out of the four grants applied for so far, with the Western States grant application pending.

The program gained three new members for a total of 7 fuels crew members during the 2025 season. A total of 9 personnel were involved in supporting the program this year and hold a range of fire qualifications including Engine Boss, Task Force Leader, ICT5, FF1, FF2, and GISS.

Fuels Crew Supervisor:

- Casey Smith

Community Wildfire Forester:

- McKenna Armantrout

Fuels Crew Members:

- Kate Johns
- Seth Griffith
- Dayton Ricks
- James Macklin
- Troy Anderson
- Sam Lammie
- Dylan Coughran



Crew Brushing Landowner's Driveway

HAZARDOUS FUEL MITIGATION PROJECTS:

In the Wildland Urban Interface, the crew masticates invasive species, limbs trees, thins timber stands, and chips woody debris to decrease the risk of home ignitions in the event of a wildfire. Over the last year, the district's hard-working and dedicated crew treated 133 acres, while 155 acres were treated via rebates and partner agreements.

Federal Hazardous Fuel Reduction Grant Projects worked on in 2025 include:

In-Progress Fox Hollow:

- 14.2 acres (8% of goal)
- 9 active Firewise Communities
- 8 outreach events

In-Progress Lynx Hollow:

- 69.5 acres (33% of goal)
- 1 active Firewise Community
- 1 outreach event

In-Progress Florence Communities:

- 39.5 acres (20% of goal)
- 3 active Firewise Communities
- 1 outreach event

In-Progress Fern Ridge:

- 1 acre (1% of goal)
- 1 active Firewise Community
- 1 outreach event



Before Treatment



After Treatment

Alternate Funding Sources in 2025 Included:

Closed-Out BLM Community Assistance Agreement:

- 3 miles of road brushed
- 2 RAWS Stations cleared

In-Progress Willamette Valley Oak Landscape Scale Restoration:

- 3 landowner site visits
- 1 Oak Habitat Management Plan

In-Progress Small Forestland Grant:

- 136 acres (91% of goal)

In-Progress EWEB Agreement:

- 28.5 acres (89% of goal)



Future Leaders at Western Lane

NEW VEHICLE HIGHLIGHT:

During the 2025 season, the fuels crew was fortunate in acquiring a new vehicle thanks to the Western Lane Forest Protective Association Board, Western Lane's District Forester, and Western Lane's Protection Unit Forester. The new vehicle arrived in May, and the crew is excited to utilize the truck for the 2026 fuels crew season.

After receiving the truck, Western Lane's mechanic, Brian Johnson, went to work on building a metal rack to hold the crew's equipment on the canopy. The configuration will add to the efficiency and organization of crew equipment and supplies, making them even more successful in years to come!



New Fuels Crew Truck on the Job

OUTREACH EVENTS:

Beyond offering fuels reduction to landowners, a major focus of the Fuels Program is attending outreach events and hosting community meetings to educate the public on the importance of fire risk mitigation. During 2025, the program attended 11 outreach events and 2 community presentations. Outreach events included the Oregon Logging Conference, Jerry's Safety Day, Lane County Spring Home and Garden Show, and the Veneta Light Parade.



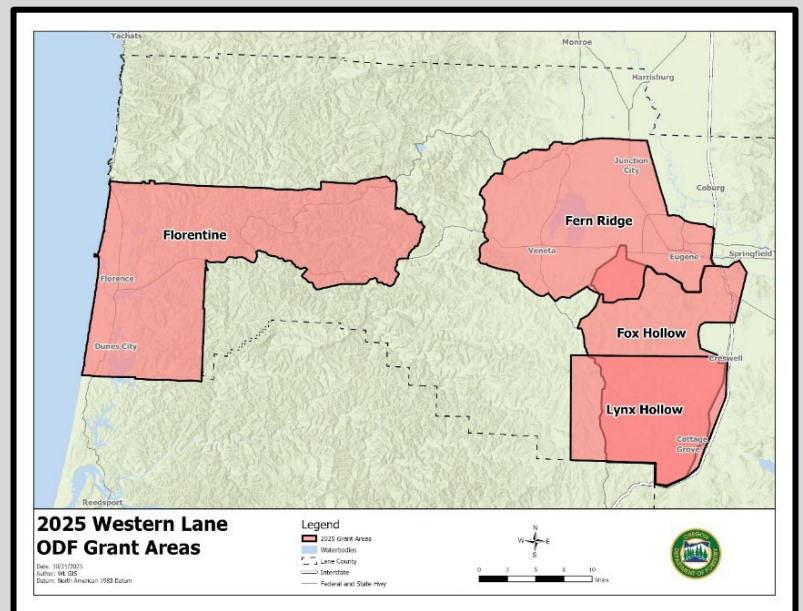
McKenna & Connor Devore (South Cascade District Employee) at Oregon Logging Conference

GRANT APPLICATIONS:

In 2025, the Fuels Program applied for the Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG), Western States Fire Managers (WSFM) Grant, Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR) Grant, and BLM Community Assistance Grant. So far, the program has been awarded the CWDG, LSR, and BLM Community Assistance grants. Receiving this funding will sustain the program for another 4 years.

CHALLENGES AND LOOKING FORWARD:

From the beginning, the Western Lane Fuels Program has been presented with several challenges including increasing costs, high employee turnover, and extended fire seasons. Despite these challenges, the program continues to provide excellent service to private landowners, fire prevention education to the public, and fuel reduction work in preparation for fire season across the district. Additionally, having the Fuels Crew all year adds the benefit of increased capacity for fire protection during shoulder seasons. As 2025 ends and 2026 begins, the Fuels Program looks forward to achieving new goals and preparing for upcoming projects.



FOREST RESOURCES

The purpose of the Forest Practices Act (FPA) is to promote forest practices that are consistent with sound management and protection of trees, soil, air, water, fish and wildlife resources while assuring the continuous growing and harvesting of forest tree species. Stewardship Foresters place priorities on environmentally sensitive forest harvest operations, conducting pre-operation, active, and post-operation visits, ensuring written plans address all protected resources, and assisting forest landowners and operators. Two years into substantive rule changes driven by the Private Forests Accord, landowners and operators that frequently work within the FPA have learned and implemented many of the rule changes. Forest operators with an infrequent nexus with the FPA continue to need a significant amount of Stewardship Foresters time in order to understand and comply with the FPA. Of note, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) protocol for surveying streams for perennial flow education and associated documentation goes through Stewardship Foresters for approval by ODFW. Changes to fish presence survey protocol and a new perenniality model are anticipated in 2026.

District notifications received dipped in 2025 when compared to 2024 numbers, although when combined with continuations from the previous year the total is higher. Inspected activities, written plans reviewed, stream surveys processed, and enforcement actions taken were all higher in 2025. Citations issued especially in the Coos unit were focused primarily on two operations with numerous violations and citations issued to both landowners and operators. These two operations accumulated 23 of the 24 Coos citations in 2025.

2024 District Notification Totals				2025 District Notification Totals			
	Veneta Unit	Coos Unit	Total		Veneta Unit	Coos Unit	Total
Notifications Received	1215	1193	2408	Notifications Received	998	1191	2189
Continuations from 2023	0	0	0	Continuations from 2024	369	387	756
Inspected forestry activities	607	582	1189	Inspected forestry activities	1075	1064	2139
Written Plans reviewed	387	539	926	Written Plans reviewed	460	598	1058
Stream surveys processed	93	132	225	Stream surveys processed	110	207	317
Citations issued	0	1	1	Citations issued	7	24	31
Written Statement of Unsatisfactory Condition issued	4	6	10	Written Statement of Unsatisfactory Condition issued	3	12	15

The following pages are a breakdown of the Veneta/Florence unit, and the Coos/Brookings unit.

FOREST RESOURCES - Veneta/Florence

2025 was a good year for the Forest Resources program in the Veneta unit with a strong group of dedicated Stewardship Foresters helping to facilitate success and positive working relationships with the local landowner



Pipe Installation on M3 Property

and operator community. The group continues to interpret new rules and digest the multitude of changes that have come with the passing of the Private Forest Accord.

A decrease in the log market in the later part of the year brought a reduced overall number of notifications but productivity in the program was robust. Stewardship Foresters were able to complete a greater number of inspections, worked through an above average number of citations, concluded work on EFRP projects from the 2024 ice storm, and attended to landowner completion reporting; all of which made up for any reduction in notification review. The program was also down one forester throughout all of 2025 after Tanner Scott vacated

his position to take a Wildland Fire Supervisor position in the district. A recruitment to fill the vacancy was flown late in the year with the hopes of having it backfilled in early 2026.



James Being Interviewed – Recommending Emerald Valley Thinning for Merit Award

Staff was also busy supporting the Protection Program in the district and around the state. James Hynes-Petty did a two-week detail on the helitack platform in SWO where he was signed off on his HECM qualification. James also took part in the FI-210 class in the spring and was the lead investigator on multiple fires in the district, many of which led to successful cost collections.

The district has seen a significant increase in prescribed fire in the valley fringe in the past two years and Matt Grimes has been instrumental in helping to build a foundation around the emerging business needs, largely done by building lines of communication and facilitating on the ground implementation of the various burn groups.

Brian Peterson and Eric Brekstad also provided support to fire on the district and around the state by filling operational leadership positions and plugging in wherever needed. Eric also took an assignment to Canada as an ICT-3 in early June. Pictures of those fires are below:



FOREST RESOURCES - Coos Bay/Brookings

The Coos unit (Coos Bay unit office and Brookings sub-unit office) administers the Forest Resources Program on 1.38 million acres in Coos, Curry and western Douglas counties, including administration of Oregon's FPA, providing assistance to family forest landowners, and treatment of the pathogen *phytophthora ramorum* which causes Sudden Oak Death (SOD).



Stewardship Forester Donnie Widener teaching 5th grade students how to use a dichotomous key to identify a Western Hemlock during a field exercise as part of Field Measurement

Stewardship Foresters Quinn Allen and Donnie Widener led a field lab for Southwestern Oregon Community College's Field Measurement class, focused on distance and height measurements, tree diameter, and navigation using the Avenza app. The same two foresters participated in the Natural Resource Days at the South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, showing nearly 175 fifth grade students from Coos Bay and North Bend schools about forestry careers and natural resources.

Coos Unit employees dedicated 94 days to fire suppression roles across Oregon supporting the complete and coordinated system. Participating staff were dispatched in such roles as Base Camp Manager, Service Branch Director, Public Information Officer, and Resources Unit Leader.

Personnel

Sean Alexander resigned as a Stewardship Forester in April.

Good Neighbor Authority (GNA):

The Coos unit operates GNA agreements with timber sales every few years. In 2019, the Long Ridge sale salvaged 2,868 thousand board feet (MBF) of dead or dying roadside timber after the Chetco Bar fire, and in 2024 the Gobbler timber sale thinned a dense Douglas-fir plantation that was beginning to succumb to mortality due to thin soils, dry site, and overstocking. This collaboration with the USFS has brought additional capacity to the federal system, additional wood into the local region, and additional thinning treatments to a dense federal landscape.

This year saw the layout completion of the Pine Grove GNA sale which sold in September to South Coast Lumber. GNA program staff from Grants Pass provided substantial field layout labor completing stream surveys, boundary posting and cruising. Pine Grove consists of 442 acres of 50 to 60-year-old dense plantations and 89 acres of 100-year-old pine and Douglas-fir ingrowth. The prescription in the latter stand type is to release the pines by harvesting Douglas-fir. The project area contains a recreational trail that will be used to haul logs, requiring special road closures to maintain the trail infrastructure. Fuels treatments are a component of the timber sale to reduce fine fuel loading near road systems that can be used as fuel breaks in future wildfire suppression.

Project	Planned Year	Acres	Planned Volume (MBF)	Harvested Volume (MBF)	Purchase price \$/MBF	Notes
Long Ridge	2019	200	1,901	2,868	\$27.80	Chetco Bar roadside salvage
Eagle Salvage	2019	300	1,800	n/a	n/a	Canceled due to deteriorated wood quality
Gobbler	2021	159	1,619	2,292	\$303.50	Completed plantation thinning
Pine Grove	2025	530	5,044		\$70.97	Sold 9/17/25
North Lobster	2026	269	2,422			Auction mid-2026. No-bid 2022 due to large road project now completed by USFS.
Chetco Fuels	2026	532	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$483,000 fuels reduction project
Wake Up	2028	200	1,600			



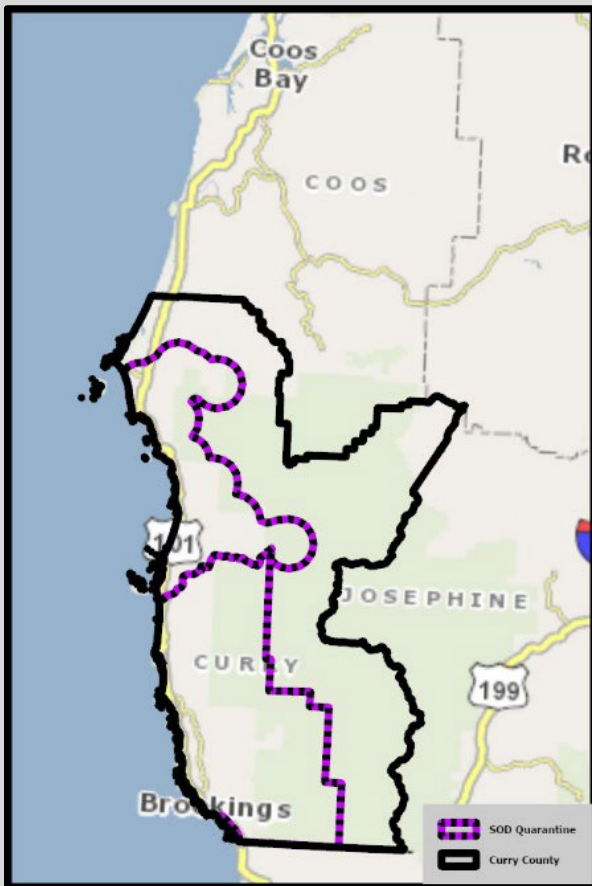
Pics Above Showing Pine Grove GNA

SUDDEN OAK DEATH PROGRAM

Sudden Oak Death (SOD), caused by the non-native pathogen *phytophthora ramorum* kills highly susceptible tree species such as tanoak and California Black Oak. The pathogen was first discovered in Oregon in 2001 and has been spreading ever since. Multiple strains of the disease are now in Oregon's forest and infected areas stretch from the California border up past the town of Port Orford and is mainly along the coast. Potential effects on Oregon's forest health, forest industry, and interstate or international trade are large concerns and as such the goal of the SOD program is to slow the spread. The only treatment option has been to remove tanoak, the key host species for the disease in Oregon. Treatments consist of cutting and burning tanoak that is infected and any tanoak that is within a minimum of 300 feet.



Dead Tree on Humbug Mountain



Quarantine Area in Curry County

The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) established a quarantine when the disease was discovered in 2001, extending from the California border up to the Rogue River at Gold Beach. In addition, outside of this area when a new infected tree is found it receives an emergency quarantine with a three-mile buffer. As of 2025 the combined normal and emergency quarantine areas encompass 803 square miles with the main consequence being unable to move tanoak from inside to outside the quarantine area.

Trends for disease spread have been primarily northward and to a lesser extent to the east. Mostly this last year the concern was continuing spread in the Sixes and Elk Rivers just north of the town of Port Orford. Current sites are continually getting closer to the southern edge of Coos County with one of the main goals being to slow the spread into Coos County. Last year there were 54 new infected sites detected north of the Rogue River. The new sites amounted to approximately 640 acres of area that would require treatment. The Federal Agencies (BLM, USFS) conduct their own treatments, but the bulk of the acreage (511 acres) was on private properties.

The treatments in 2025 amounted to 202 acres that were completed with a few other units that were partially completed and have carried over into 2026.

A primary goal of the program is to detect Sudden Oak Death, and this is done through a variety of means. Helicopter flights were conducted again this year along with high resolution aerial imagery that was acquired in summer. Ground surveys are required for shipping tanoak out of the quarantine area and a number of units were surveyed this last year. The various detection methods resulted in 495 samples being taken, of which 170 were positive for the disease.



Treatment on Grassy Knob - North Side of Elk River



View of Grassy Knob Treatment Area

Research on the disease continues, with the most notable concern being how long the disease will persist in cut logs. The project started in June of 2025 with 50 trees that were cut. The goal is to resample them every three months to see if viable disease can be recovered. Since starting the project in June there have been an additional 50 trees added, bringing the project up to a total of 100 trees. The project has four main areas where sites are located and stretches from just north of Brookings up to Humbug Mountain near Port Orford.



Burning Slash Piles (Left) & Replanting (Right) – Both Part of SOD Treatment

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

Western Lane's administrative staff all work out of the Veneta HQ office, supporting the work of employees in Veneta, Florence, Coos Bay and Brookings. Our Admin Unit consists of both administrative employees (Administrative Specialist 2, Administrative Specialist 1 and Office Specialist 2) and dispatchers (Wildland Fire Dispatcher 1), each supervised by the District Business Manager. Our administrative employees also work as dispatchers.



Carlos Jones, Dave Kjosness, Lauren Fischer, Andrea Lively



Sarah Inman, Office Specialist 2

In October, Lauren Fischer, our Office Specialist, resigned to take a job closer to where she grew up and where much of her family still lives. That vacancy was filled in December by Sarah Inman. In Sarah's previous position at Lane County Assessment & Taxation, she worked closely with many of our Veneta Stewardship Foresters and came to us with experience in both our FERNs system and some of the policies and laws we work with.

Following the completion of a class study on the Wildland Fire Dispatcher classification, our seasonal dispatcher position was changed from a Wildland Fire Dispatcher to a Wildland Fire Dispatcher 1, which falls into a different salary range. As the expectations and demands of our dispatchers have increased over the years, we look forward to seeing how this change will help with the Agency's recruitment and retention of quality candidates for these seasonal positions.



On the right, District Business Manager Andrea Lively and Wildland Fire Dispatcher Carlos Jones. To the left is South Cascade's District Business Manager Renae Meyer and Administrative Specialist Tyler Church.



Dispatch Operations Coordinator Brandy Simmons

The Agency made a transition in how the cost collection process is handled on fires with costs less than \$10k. Salem used to handle all the demands for these incidents, but now the local districts are responsible for sending out the demands for incidents under \$10k. 2025 was the first full year that our district sent out the demands. Our administrative staff was able to certify and send out 17 demand letters for incidents under \$10k. Eight of the 17 were for 2025 fires and nine were for incidents prior to 2025.

Our Admin team continued to support the agency through active involvement on various committees, training cadres and large fire incidents. We also continue to cross-train and have become very efficient filling in behind one another as needed. Our team is appreciated for their willingness and ability to support each other in this way.

STATE FORESTS

Western Lane District manages 53,555 acres of State Forest land in Lane, Douglas, Coos, Curry, Jackson, and Josephine counties; and is broken into the Veneta, Coos (since 2017), and Southwest (since 2018) units.

Despite heavy involvement in the fire program, and a vacant NRS1 position, State Forest staff remained on track with timber sale timelines and other AOP commitments throughout the year. This is largely attributed to knowledgeable and hardworking staff being proficient in their work. In addition, for several years now, the State Forests unit has experienced little turnover, which has increased operational efficiency, and has allowed Western Lane staff to assist other districts at times.

PERSONNEL:

Western Lane State Forests Team (plus Randy): from left to right, **Kylie Husman** (NRS1 Reforestation, Timber Sale Layout & Contract Preparation), Randy Smith (State Forest Biologist), **Griffin Puls** (NRS1 Roads Specialist, Timber Sale Layout & Contract Preparation), **John Enos** (NRS2 Reforestation, YSM, Timber Sale Layout & Contract Preparation), **Jason Hayzlett** (NRS2 Contract Administration, T&E, Timber Sale Planning), **Chet Behling** (Assistant District Forester, oversees Unit).



Field Tour – Palouse Creek – Coos Unit



Morgan Kawakami (pic to left): starting her ODF career as a NRS1 Roads Specialist at Western Lane, Morgan has been promoted several times, first to a division-wide Roads Contracts Specialist position, and now serving as the division's State Forests Engineer. Fortunate for the district, Morgan chooses to keep her original NRS1 workspace, and works alongside other district State Forests staff.

Service Awards: Chet presenting Jason Hayzlett (lower left pic) with a 25-year service award, and John Enos (lower right pic) with a 5-year service award – both Jason and John are large contributors to the success of Western Lane's State Forest program.



TIMBER SALES:

Eight timber sales were auctioned in fiscal year 2025 (FY25), totaling 9.8 million board feet (MMBF), for a net value of \$4.6 million, (2025 Annual Operations Plan target was 9.2 MMBF and \$4.1 million). Seven of the eight were salvage units, resulting from the January 12-17th 2024 ice storm.

Bald Hill Salvage: 3-unit sale consisting of 42 to 54-year-old mixed conifer and hardwoods. Unit 1 was a 29-acre clearcut, unit 2 was a 6-acre partial cut, and unit 3 was a 1-acre road right-of-way.

Salvage Deed: 34-acre clearcut sale consisting of 93-year-old mixed conifer and hardwoods. The stands within this sale were previously thinned in 2011.

Tilden 26 Salvage: 46-acre clearcut sale consisting of 49-year-old mixed conifer and hardwoods.

Tilden Switchback Salvage: 3-acre partial cut sale consisting of 85-year-old mixed conifer trees.

Waite Loss Salvage: 39-acre clearcut sale, 41-year-old mixed conifer.

Bow Tie Salvage: 79-acre clearcut sale, 45-year-old mixed conifer.

Pitter Patter Salvage: 79-acre clearcut, 45-year-old mixed conifer and hardwood.

Sitka Stratus (not salvage): 85-acre clearcut, 85-year-old mixed conifer.



Waite Loss Salvage

REFORESTATION:

In FY25, 318 acres were planted (initial plant) with 126,614 seedlings, and 47 acres were interplanted with 7,050 seedlings. Totals for the season were 133,664 seedlings and 365 acres (AOP estimate was 157,000 seedlings and 369 acres).



Overseeing Planting - John Enos



Western Lane Staff & Planting Crew



John Enos, Kylie Husman, Griffin Puls

UNIQUE SPECIAL USE PERMITS:

Since the Western Lane District oversees the former Coos Bay and SWO District parcels (2017 & 2018 respectively), we've made it a priority to become more familiar with the land base, its history, and any Special Use Permits (SUP's) established by previous land managers. In the spring of 2025, we chose to look at a few SUP's in the Coos unit. These permits have been in place for some time, and were established on Board of Forestry (BOF) land when the ODF Coos District managed the former Elliott State Forest. We visited the Boy Scouts of America/Camp Chinook, ODFW's Millicoma Fish Hatchery, and the one and only grazing permit managed by the Western Lane District.

Camp Chinook: located on the West Fork of the Millicom River, about 9 miles north of Allegany, the SUP grants the Boy Scouts of America "for use of State land to maintain, improve construct and operate a scout camp consisting of a main lodge, host site, covered shelter, amphitheater, bath house, and Adirondack shelters." This had formerly been used as a girl scout camp between 1954 – 1986, when the Millicoma Parks and Recreation District took it over. The Parks District operated the camp until 2008 when they allowed the permit to be turned back to ODF. ODFW approached the Boy Scouts with the idea of them taking over Camp Millicoma property and in 2015, Boy Scouts of America invested a significant amount of money to upgrade the main lodge, surrounding outbuildings, and the 7 acres associated with the permit. The permit is valid through the end of 2035, and there is no associated fee.



Lodge Before 2015 Boy Scouts Renovation



Lodge After Boy Scouts 2015 Renovation



2015 Site Plan – Provided by Boy Scouts of America

Millicoma Interpretive Center/Fish Hatchery:

directly adjacent to Camp Chinook, and also located on the West Fork of the Millicoma River, is the Millicoma Hatchery, which was established in 1991 by ODFW and the Salmon Trout Enhancement Program (STEP). This SUP includes 4.3 acres “for use of State land to maintain and operate certain improvements consisting of a fish hatchery, earthen pond, classroom building, host site, storage facilities, access roads and enclosed cyclone fence which are currently located on the Permit Area for the purpose of rearing salmon and steelhead, as well as educating the public.” There is no associated fee with this permit.



Millicoma Fish Hatchery



Millicoma Fish Hatchery

Grazing Lease: since the district only has one grazing lease (1-acre), we wanted to visit the property (T24S R12W Sec. 10) and landowner (James Jordan) to assure condition of the land and provisions of the permit were being managed as agreed. The permit describes “the property covered by this lease is for the sole purpose of grazing livestock, and harvesting natural grass hay; however, the livestock shall not include goats or swine.” The parcel was found to be in good condition, and appeared to be grazed only occasionally. Original permit initiated in 2000, with an annual fee of \$100.



Jason Hayzlett, John Enos, James Jordan, Kylie Husman, Griffin Puls



1 Acre Grazing Lease

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION:

Logging Conference: this years' conference theme was "Timber Builds Dreams", and State Forest staff provided organization and logistical oversight to the district's involvement in the conference. The 19'x35' yurt provided ample room for multiple ODF programs including State Forests, Tillamook Forest Center, Protection, Forest Resources, Fuels Reduction/Fire Planning, and Western Lane's Administrative Team – with the intent of reaching a variety of public that has interest in forestry or fire. We also staffed a "greeter table" in the yurt to aid in helping public navigate the various programs and information offered, which proved helpful. In total, an estimated 1,500 members of the public came through the yurt over a 3-day period. Thank you to the Tillamook Forest Center, West Oregon, North Cascade, South Cascade, and Salem Headquarters for sending staff and providing assistance – having a diversity of staff and programs certainly adds value to our education and outreach efforts.



*Cody Valencia (West Oregon District Unit Forester),
Griffin Puls (Western Lane District Roads Specialist)*



Managing Oregon's State Forests



- 755,891 acres (Board of Forestry & Common School Land - ask about the difference)
- How did the State acquire this forest land - interesting history! Let's start back in 1859 when...
- State Forestland provides economic, environmental, and social benefits to Oregonians.
- 2025 Board of Forestry Lands sold 50 timber sales, harvested 182 Million Board Feet, and distributed \$56.4 million to counties. Some economists estimate 11 jobs per Million Board Feet harvested (182 x 11 = 2,002 jobs).
- Did you know 63.75% of revenue generated from Board of Forestry timber sales goes back to the county! The remaining 36.25% goes to ODF to help cover costs.
- In 2025 Common School Lands sold 10 timber sales, harvested 6 Million Board Feet, and distributed \$1.5 million to the Common School Fund (K-12 statewide).

*Poster Above and to the Left - Examples of
Information Shared at State Forests Table*

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