

FOREST GROVE DISTRICT 2025 ANNUAL REPORT



Our Mission: To protect and promote resilient forests that benefit all Oregonians.



**"Our workforce is our greatest asset"
Oregon Department of Forestry**

District Foresters' Report

2025 was a year of accomplishment and change for the Forest Grove District. In January, staff bid farewell to District Forester Mike Cafferata, wishing him well on his new endeavor as Executive Director of Oregon's Small Woodland Association. Stepping into the District Forester role in an interim capacity, Stephanie Beall and Eric Perkins shared the leadership of the District for the remainder of 2025. (We're writing this together.)

The accomplishments of the Protection, State Forests (Roads, Marketing and Re-forestation), Forest Resources and Administrative staff are detailed in the following pages. We appreciate and are proud of the work completed by the permanent and seasonal employees of the Forest Grove District in 2025 and of our local partners. Here are a few highlights not captured elsewhere in the report.



Protection

While the fire season of 2025 had significant impacts statewide, closer to home it was a quieter year allowing staff from both the Forest Grove and Columbia City offices to participate in fire suppression activities nationwide. These out-of-district dispatches provided a valuable opportunity for staff to gain experience and to expand or maintain critical fire qualifications. We appreciate the willingness of employees to accept those fire assignments, and we also appreciate those who remained on the district ready to step up in the event of local fires.

The Protection staff also worked on significant fire prevention efforts. Knowing that educating kids is a great way to raise awareness about fire danger, staff accompanied by Smokey Bear made visits to local elementary schools. Planning and responding to local requests for assistance in reducing the potential of wildfires is another means of educating and spreading the word on practical means to help prevent or mitigate fire damage. The fuel's mitigation crew reached 64 residences and treated 163 acres, through the administration of two Western States grants acquired by the Community Wildfire Forester.

Northwest Oregon Forest Protective Association (NWOFP)

In addition to the spring and fall Association meetings, ODF staff, local cooperators, and members of the Association toured the site of the 2024 Lee Falls Road Fire. This May field day provided an onsite opportunity for all involved to provide a synopsis of the first day of the Lee Falls Road Fire and included interactive discussion of general fire operations that was both educational and informative.

District Foresters' Report - Continued

Forest Resources

Columbia City hired for their vacant Stewardship Forester position in August. Shamus Smith was the successful candidate, with this hire, the Forest Resources Division is now fully staffed. At full capacity, both units put the final touches on the geographic boundary changes for the five, stewardship and two Small Forestland Owner Forester areas.

State Forest

Along with timber sales, roads and reforestation projects, the State Forest staff facilitated two stream enhancement projects in 2025. For both projects, woody debris in the form of trees, some with root wads were placed in locations designed to promote the creation of pools and cover for aquatic species such as Coho and Chinook salmon, steelhead and Pacific lamprey. The Rock Music project created five wood placement sites in Rock Creek, an important tributary to the Nehalem River. Rock Creek is one of the streams identified in the project priority list by the Upper Nehalem Basin Watershed Council. The Double Parked project installed wood in eleven sites in the North Fork of Gales Creek and three sites in an un-named tributary to Gales Creek. The Gales Creek work dovetailed into work being done by the Tualatin River Watershed Council which has identified Gales Creek as one of their priorities in their Master Plan.

State Forest staff also worked to build connections with Forest Grove's Pacific University. In February, the District was invited to participate in a job fair hosted by Pacific University and the local National Guard post. Over one hundred students from the university and local high schools participated in the event. State Forest staff also supported cultural activities hosted by the Pacific University Indigenous Student Alliance by providing an opportunity to harvest firewood with traditional tools for use in the opening of the group's sweat lodge.

In 2025 the State Forest Units also implemented a guest lecture series. Open to all District employees, partner groups provided presentations on natural resource topics such as invasive species management and the application of e-DNA in determining the types of aquatic species present in local waterways. This lecture series is set to continue in 2026.

Administration

In 2025, several members of our Administrative Team stepped outside of their regular job duties to build new skills through developmental assignments. These efforts will benefit the district for years to come, particularly when it comes to reconciling and auditing fire finances.

Thanks

In closing, we would like to thank the district employees, association members and partners for their support through the changing landscape that marked the year 2025 for both the Forest Grove District and for the Oregon Department of Forestry.

Stephanie Beall
Acting District Forester
February – July 2025

Eric Perkins
Acting District Forester
July – December 2025

Northwest Oregon Protective Association

The NWOFFPA works with the Forest Grove, Tillamook, and Astoria Districts to maintain an effective fire prevention and suppression system. The association has a Board of Directors consisting of landowner representatives that review the level of protection and accompanying budget. Its primary objectives are to protect forest resources and to communicate with others to ensure wise policy decisions for forest protection and fire suppression.

NWOFFPA	Group	Name
Board of Directors	Roman V Ranch	Kathryn VanNatta, President
	Stimson Lumber Company	Rodney Jacobs, Vice President
	Giustina Land & Timber	Rebecca Windle, Secretary & Treasurer
	Weyerhaeuser	Steve Keniston
	Oregon Department of Forestry	Kevin Boyd
	VanNatta Bros. & Tie Cabin Tree Farm	Jeff VanNatta
	Schroeder & O'Neil	Neil Schroeder
	Oregon State University	Finn Leary
	NuVeen	Fridtjof Fremstad
	Hampton Lumber	Sam Saddler
Advisory Directors	Oregon Department of Forestry	Don Everingham
	BLM	Eric Risdal
	OFIC	Chad Washington
	Keep Oregon Green	Kristin Babbs
	Oregon Dept. Fish and Wildlife	Paul Atwood
Members	Evenson Timberland Agency	Simon Brown
	Landowner	Mike Cafferata
	Rayonier	Jeff Curless
	Manulife Investment Management	Jeff Deross
	Landowner	Michael Jamieson
	Nichols Logging	Dan Kloppman
	Landowner	KC VanNatta
	OSU Extension Fire Specialist	Aaron Groth
Cooperative Members	Forest Grove	Eric Perkins
	Astoria	Dan Goody
	Tillamook (Acting)	Kevin Hill
District Foresters		

Protection—Forest Grove District

Forest Grove Unit & Columbia City Unit

The Forest Grove District Protection program oversees fire prevention, protection, and smoke management across approximately 865,000 acres of private and public forest land. This program is overseen by staff from the Forest Grove and Columbia City unit offices. The 2025 fire season started on the Forest Grove District on June 23, lasting 109 days and surpassing the 10-year average (96.7 days) before coming to an end on October 10.

Although fire season started in the District in June, staff from the District remained ready and willing to lend aid to others in need. The District was able to provide seven staff members to support the unprecedented events in California during the Palisades and Eaton Fires in January. Staff were also able to support the complete and coordinated efforts across the US and Canada, including deployments to North Carolina, Oregon, and Alberta throughout the rest of the year. The District is grateful to be able to represent the agency in these roles and is humbled and honored to provide aid to our national and international partners in their time of need.

Locally in the District, fire activity was moderate this year. This allowed our crews to accomplish additional training days while supporting local controlled burns and expanding on annual training designed to strengthen skills and knowledge - such as pump and roll operations, radio communications, and more.

Our fire crews were quick to respond to 93 fire calls this year with 24 of those being confirmed fires within the District. Thanks to early detection, great initial attack efforts, and aid from our landowners and cooperators, there were only 16.62 acres burned within the district. The most notable fires to occur this year were the Hwy 47 MP 30 fire (human cause 4 acres) located in the Forest Grove Unit and the Lemont St #2 fire (equipment cause 1.4 acres) located in the Columbia City Unit. Both came with their own unique challenges such as having to work near, and manage traffic along, a significant roadway (Hwy 47) and working within a residential neighborhood close to many houses (Lemont St). All fire suppression responses within the district this year succeeded in meeting the agency goal of being kept to 10 acres or less. We recognize that achieving this level would not be near as successful without our many cooperators. Thank you for all that you do!

Outside of fire season protection staff oversee the Smoke Management Program which is designed to reduce slash buildup and hazardous fuels across the landscape while protecting air quality. In just over 2 months the District was able to help private and public landowners plan and accomplish 7,191 acres for 37,775 tons of slash burned. This takes place shortly on the heels of fire season and is always a large undertaking for the protection staff to help landowners accomplish their goals before weather conditions begin to limit these opportunities.

Eric Jacobs, Acting Protection Unit Forester
Kelly Niles, Columbia City Protection Supervisor
Collin Neys, Forest Grove Protection Supervisor



Fire Season 2025 Stats

Forest Grove Unit & Columbia City Unit

Forest Grove District Fire Season Stats 2025

(June 23,2025 - October 10,2025)

	Stat	Nonstat	NFCA	Total Fire Calls	Stat Acres Burned	
2025 Fire Calls	24	12	57	93	21.83	
	Lightning	Equipment	Recreation	Debris	Arson	Misc
Fire Causes	2	8	11	5	2	2
	Tons Registered	Tons Burned	Acres Registered	Acres Burned	Units Registered	Units Burned
Smoke Management	66,294	37,775	11,962	7,191	213	122



Columbia City Gensman Field Fire



Columbia City Fire Crew



Forest Grove Fire Crew

Grants

Forest Grove District uses a 4 person fuels crew with a Community Wildfire Forester to oversee its grant program. This is a great opportunity for some of our fire crew to work during the off-season while helping our local communities. The West Yamhill grant finished out strong in 2025 completing defensible space around another 53 homes. This work was concentrated in the Eagle Point Way and Meadowlake neighborhoods. The second grant was recently awarded and began work spring of 2025, focusing on the rural communities around Panther Creek.

2025 Fuels Reduction Grants			
	Acres	Homes (Defensible Space)	Outreach (Residents)
West Yamhill Grant	139.75	53	104
Panther Creek Grant	23	11	162



Out-of-District Opportunities



In addition to all of the work during fire season that happens on our district lands, our personnel gets the opportunity to make a difference across the state. Pictured on the left are Taylor Johnson & Rachel Mauch alongside contractors during an out-of-district fire in Central Oregon District Rowena, in June 2025.

Community Outreach

Seasonals in the Columbia City Pittsburg guard station engines at national night out event in Vernonia. This is meant for all first responders to come out and set up booths to talk with the public in another manner than our typical fairs or outreach programs.



Forest Resources

The Forest Resources (FR) Program helps forest landowners to maintain and enhance the diverse values of Oregon's private forest lands and to assure their continuous and sustainable contribution to the economic, social and environmental well-being of the State and its citizens. The area of responsibility for the FR Program in the Forest Grove District encompasses approximately 865,000 acres across portions of Columbia, Multnomah, Tillamook, Washington, and Yamhill counties.

Forest Resources staff is comprised of five Stewardship Foresters (Brent O'Nion, Eric Jacobs, Nick Maslen, Kevin Nelson and Shamus Smith) and two Small Forestland Owner (SFO) Foresters (Taylor Johnson and Nicole Howard). This group works closely with landowners and operators across 7 geographic regions within the District to promote healthy and sustainable forest management while protecting sensitive wildlife species and resources. This work is largely accomplished through information sharing, technical advice, incentive programs, and regulation, primarily through administration of the Forest Practices Act and the Industrial Fire Protection Laws.

The Stewardship Foresters also work closely with other state/local agencies that share the same goals, and with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) by assisting with contracts, plans and field work related to forest management. This year, Nick Maslen played a key part in creating the agencies first countywide Climate Smart Forestry Guidance alongside many landowner constituents and consultants and staff from the Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District (TSWCD).



2025 Forest Resources

NOAPS: 1262

RCA: 446

Stream Surveys (reviewed): 209

Statutory Written Plans: 311

PFAP: 57

SFISH project identified: 2

SFO Minimum Option Used: 309

Fiscal Year 2025

Product Sales

Advertised Timber Sales: 11
MBF Advertised Volume: 47,897 MBF
Bid Value Revenue: \$31,096,284.84
Modified Clear Cut Acres: 1,080
Partial Cut Acres: 235
Misc. Forest Product Permits: 303 for \$30,300.00
Commercial Firewood Permits: 0
Woodcutting Permits: 443 for \$8,860.00

Reforestation Stats

Initial Tree Planting: 1,260 Acres
Inter-Planting: 418 Acres
Herbicide Release: 267 Acres
Mechanical Release: 565 Acres
Aerial Site Prep: 921 Acres
Herbicide Site-Prep: 217 Acres
Noxious Weed Mgmt.: 308 Acres
Tree Protection: 1,201 Acres
Surveys: 3,331 Acres
Trees Planted: 639,044 Seedlings

Roads Unit Accomplishments

Roads Maintained: 36.5 miles
Roads Improved: 55.57 miles
Roads Constructed: 5.36 miles
Roads Vacated: 4.08 miles
Fish Barriers Replaced: 0
Rock Volume Crushed: 79,515 cubic yards
Installs/bridges replaced: 1 Temp Log Stringer Bridge
Fire Gates Installed: 0
Total Project Work: \$3,029,340.00

State Forest



The Forest Grove District manages 116,790 acres State Forest lands across Yamhill, Washington, Columbia, Tillamook and Clatsop counties. This acreage is split between 116,180 acres of Board of Forestry (BOF) land and 610 acres of Common School Land (CSL, owned by Department of State Lands).

Approximately two-thirds of the revenue from Board of Forestry Lands are distributed to the counties in which the lands are situated for distribution to local taxing districts. The state retains about one-third of the revenue to cover land management costs. Revenue from CSL land goes into the State Common School Fund.

These forested acres are managed to provide a full range of social, environmental and economic benefits including: sustainable and predictable forest products, native wildlife habitat and natural resource based recreation opportunities as well as providing revenue to the counties.

These goals are accomplished through the combined efforts of the district's State Forests staff in the Marketing, Forest Roads, Reforestation units in partnership with the Salem Planning unit and the Area program.



Administration



L-R Kevin McLaughlin, Tricia Parrott, Cleo Vredenburg, Rebecca Edmison, Jessie Garcia



Temp OS2,
Brandy McLain

The Forest Grove District Administrative Team is actively engaged in many aspects of the district business including serving Protection, State Lands, REI (Recreation), and Forest Resources.

While District Business processes changed to adhere to the new implementation of the Large Wildland Fire Fund (LWFF) replacing the Emergency Fire Cost Committee Fund (EFCC), the administrative staff worked to train and support district staff implementing those fire finance changes in the district for a smooth transition.

Cleo Vredenburg, stepped into a Work-Out-of-Class (WOC) as an AS1 to cover Tricia Parrott's position while Tricia served on the Salem Protection FEMA Team. Brandy McLain stepped in as a temp OS2 to cover the front desk and support the clerical needs of the unit. Kevin McLaughlin continued to train and lead in accounts payable, implementing the new fire accounting practices. Jessie Garcia stepped into the AS1 role in Columbia City while Elisa Morgan gained valuable knowledge in a rotation as an Account Tech in Salem.

District Photos



Left, Taylor Johnson stands against an impressive tree during a landowner assistance outing. Right, Jesse Gilbert is pictured digging while planting tree seedlings.



Left, Sam Waibel and Nicole Howard place a protective cover on a Cedar Tree Seedling. Right, Wayne Brown gives directions to Chris Trapp while preparing seedlings for planting.

Forest Grove District 2025

Permanent Personnel Changes

- Natalie Lubischer FG – NRS1 in Roads Unit to NRS 2 in Roads Unit
- Shamus Smith FG – NRS 1 Marketing Unit to NRS 2 as Stewardship Forester in CC

Rotation Opportunities

- Stephanie Beall FG – District Forester Rotation February –June 2025
- Eric Perkins FG – District Forester Rotation July – December 2025
- Eric Jacobs FG – Protection Unit Forester Rotation July – December 2025
- Elisa Morgan CC – Salem Accounting Technician Rotation March – December 2025
- Jessie Garcia CC – Office Coordinator Rotation March – December 2025
- Cleo Vredenburg FG – Administrative Specialist 1 Rotation February – December 2025
- Tricia Parrott FG – Salem FEMA Specialist Rotation February – December 2025

New Permanent Employee Hires

- Sam Schoch— NRS 1 in Roads Unit

Service Awards



**Stephanie Beall - 25 Years
in November 2025**

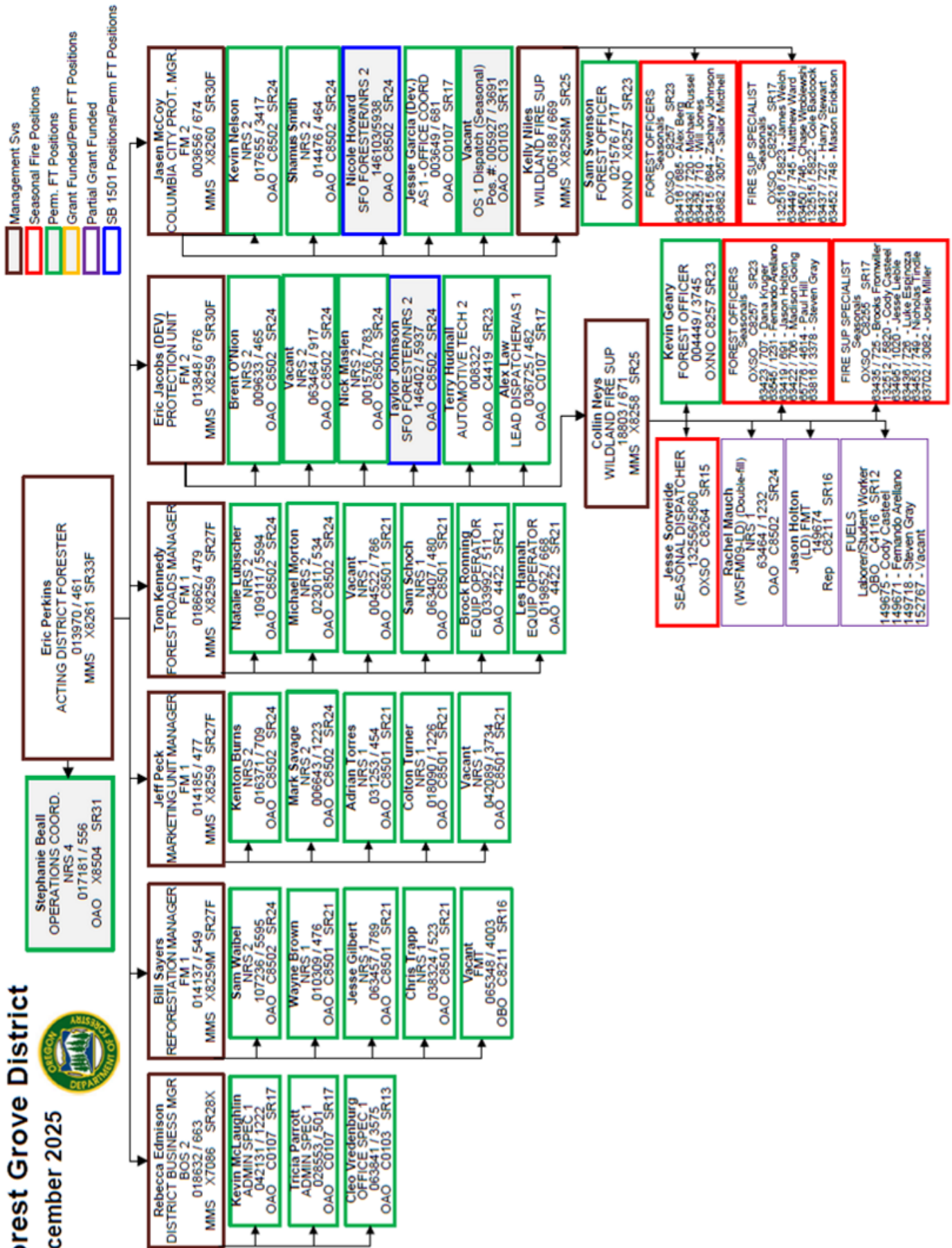


**Sam Waibel - 10 years in
May 2025**



**Mike Cafferata — Forest
Grove District Forester
retired June 2025 standing
with Area Director, Don
Everingham**

Forest Grove District
December 2025



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