

# Excerpts from 2008 Accomplishments

## Umpqua National Forest

### Our Work, Our Passions, Our Successes

We fought fire hard and met our targets. We worked safely. We rejoiced in our retirements. We doubled our outreach efforts and rejoiced in our new hires. We invited the public to celebrate our centennial in seven events.

It was a challenging fire year. A lightning complex in mid-August taxed our initial attack efforts with more than 70 starts. We demonstrated solid initial attack by keeping 65 fires at a quarter acre or less. Three fires accounted for 20,480 of the total 20,566 acres burned. Looking at the 120 fires on the Forest in 2008, bottom line is that 53 fires over a quarter-acre added up to 80 acres.



### 2008 Highlights

- Offered 50.5 mmbf
- Awarded 45.1 mmbf
- Logged 26 mmbf on 14 sales
- Awarded 2 stewardship contracts for 4.0 mmbf
- Sold 4,681 special forest products permits
- Signed 3 EAs with no appeals
- Maintained 760 miles of high-clearance roads
- Maintained 492 miles of passenger-car roads
- Completed 6 Emergency Relief Federally Owned projects
- 120 fires burned 20,322 acres
- Reduced fuels on 6,000 acres
- Leveraged additional \$2.3 million for restoration
- Spent \$2.3 million of Title II funding
- Increased diversity of temp workforce by 2.8 percent

Fish benefited when our watershed and fisheries program leveraged a half-million dollars into almost \$2 million of salmon and steelhead restoration and watershed improvements in our high-priority watersheds. Inspired by district employees, a local Tiller resident named Stan Petrowski donated 450 hours conducting stream-flow and rain gauge monitoring, fish rescue, spawning surveys, and educational tours of aquatic projects. Petrowski was later recognized with a national award.

We celebrated the good work of our employees when our aquatics group was awarded the "Fishery Team of the Year" from the American Fisheries Society and "Wildlife Biologist of the Year" by the regional office as well as national recognition of our elk program by the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

We rediscovered new passions. How much biomass on the forest could we tackle? Who would be our partners? We began exploring new angles on renewable energy with fast pyrolysis, a conversion of carbon-based materials such as logging slash into liquid fuel and fertilizer. Championed by a local county commissioner, the idea is to have a fast pyrolysis converter up and running by August 2009, creating new jobs and hope in the community.

### **Forest Service Mission**

*Sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations*

## Forest Facts

- 985,980 acres
- Umpqua NF is 25% of Douglas County
- 5% of the Forest is in Lane County and .6% is in Jackson County
- Boulder Creek Wilderness is 19,100 acres
- Rogue-Umpqua Divide Wilderness – 26,350 acres
- Mt. Thielsen Wilderness – 26,593 acres
- 99,488 acres in Roadless designation
- 359 miles of anadromous streams
- 18 fish species, 66 mammal species, 236 bird species, 27 reptiles and amphibian species
- 5,190 miles of stream
- 218,096 acres of riparian
- 3,429 acres of lakes and 623 acres of reservoirs
- 4 staffed lookouts
- 2 lookouts with detection cameras
- 735,000 annual visitors
- 57 developed campgrounds with 800 campsites
- 530 miles of trails
- 4 recreation resorts and 5 rental cabins & lookouts
- 102 summer homes
- 142 volunteers donated 35,476 hours
- 185,000 kilowatts produced through the North Umpqua Hydroelectric project

Younger employees showed their recycling fever by jumping in with the brand-new Green Team. They developed a short-term action plan for the forest and ordered the “green” non-monetary awards for our seventh annual forest-wide celebration.

## Landscape Resiliency

We meet multiple objectives with our on-the-ground projects. One project in a priority watershed involved \$233,000 of Title II, mitigation fund, wildlife funding, and challenge cost-share funds to leverage partnership dollars and finance accomplishment of 500 acres of pre-commercial thinning for wildlife habitat improvement, 100 acres of hazardous fuels treatments, 100 acres of meadow maintenance and big-game forage enhancement, 50 acres of noxious weed control, and one mile of in-stream fish habitat enhancement.

## Infrastructure and Public Service

Seventy-five percent of revenues from the Recreation Enhancement Act returned to the Forest were spent on operations and maintenance. Our recreation niche is “*Destination Waters . . . where friends and family meet*”. We opted to keep our recreation fee schedule the same in 2008 with plans to propose increases in fees in 2009 per the Recreation Facilities Analysis (completed in 2006).

Our travel management planning effort is underway with an anticipated 2009 completion date.

## Organizational Leadership

We offered more supervisory, leadership and diversity training than previous years. We deliberately added several multi-graded positions to build career ladders. We contributed Title II funds to a local alternative education school and mentored students for natural resource careers.

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