

# Northeast Oregon District 2010 Statistical Report



LA GRANDE UNIT

PENDLETON UNIT

BAKER SUB UNIT

WALLOWA UNIT



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State Forester

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District Forester

## District Forester Comments

For Northeast Oregon District, 2010 will be remembered as a year marked by the implementation of significant revisions to the District's forestland classification and assessment program, a successful year in fire protection, the acquisition and administration of sizeable forest improvement cost-share grants and the retirement of three long-term employees on the District.

- The implementation of the Umatilla, Union and Wallowa County Forestland Classification Committees findings pertaining to Class 2 and Class 3 forestlands was completed in 2010. This level of revision for the District had not been completed in over 40 years. It was difficult, and at times, contentious work as this activity ultimately identified landowners ownership that are assessed for fire patrol. This updated classification and assessment work will assist the District in assuring and implementing a fair and equitable forestland classification and fire patrol assessment program. In total, about 65,000 new acres of class 2 forestland (timber) and 156,000 acres of Class 3 forestland (grazing) were added to the assessment rolls in Northeast Oregon District. Baker County continues to work through the classification process with the hopes to implement in 2012.
- Fire Season 2010 ended up with below average fire starts and significantly below average acres burned. These outcomes were the result of capable and competent fire suppression that was provided by firefighters and fire managers along with assistance from landowners, cooperators and mother nature as she delivered rainfall with most thunderstorm events. An additional challenge that needed to be addressed in fire season 2010 was the results of State's General Fund shortfall. This funding shortfall resulted in a 9% funding reduction at the onset of the fire season. The District dealt with this situation by delaying hiring, cancelling training and generally making difficult choices to meet mandated saving targets.
- The District applied for and was awarded two large American Recovery and Reinvestment Act grants totaling approximately \$4 million dollars. This money is being passed through to landowners and operators to complete forest health thinning and ecosystem improvement work on their lands. Administration of these grants, along with other National Fire Plan grants, has resulted in significant and meaningful forest improvement work on lands in northeast Oregon. Additional benefits of these grants included providing employment for forest operators and agency personnel during very challenges times in forestry and with State budgets.
- Personnel changes, as the result of retirements, continue to impact the District. Three long-term District employees, Keith Shollenberger — Protection Supervisor in Baker City, Mackie Stewart-District Mechanic and Diane Partridge — La Grande Stewardship Forester, all retired in 2010. While the District has developed or is in the process of developing plans to cover for these employees, their retirements amount to the loss of over 85 years of combined service to the District.

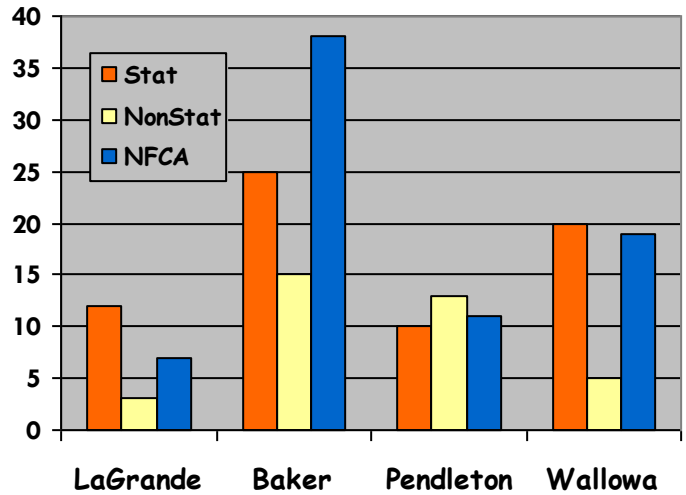
2010 was a very successful year for Northeast Oregon District. These results are a direct reflection on the staff in Northeast Oregon District. District employees tend to be resourceful, dedicated, determined, and have a great deal of pride in serving landowners in the District with high quality service, whether it is in fire protection, grant or forest practices administration or agency administration.

Sincerely,  
*John Buckman*  
Northeast Oregon District Forester

## Protection From Fire

The 2010 Fire Season started on July 1st and ended on October 24th, for a total of 115 days, which is 2 days longer than the 10-year average. A Regulated Use Closure was implemented on July 27th and suspended on September 1st and was not reinstated. 2010 was the first season for the consolidation of PICC and NOIDC to Blue Mountain Interagency Dispatch Center. The coverage area increased to cover the WWF, UMF, WDNR and NEO ODF.

Year	# Of Fires	Acreage
2010	67	145
2009	82	672
2008	69	588
2007	113	9,936
2006	86	3,311
2005	68	2,057
2004	80	39
2003	90	1,548
2002	89	1,407
2001	110	10,852
<b>Average</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>3,056</b>



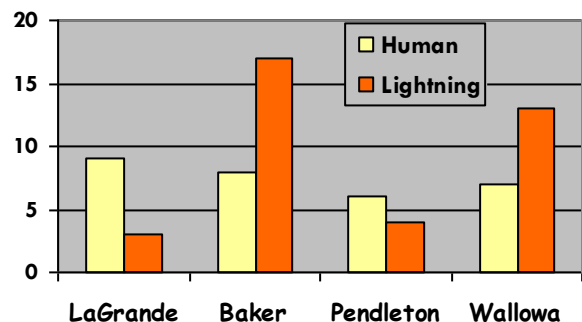
67 statistical fires on 145 acres.  
 36 non-stat (mutual aid) fires on 8209 acres.  
 75 non-fire crew actions.

The number of fires was the lowest in the decade.  
 The number of acres burned was the second lowest.

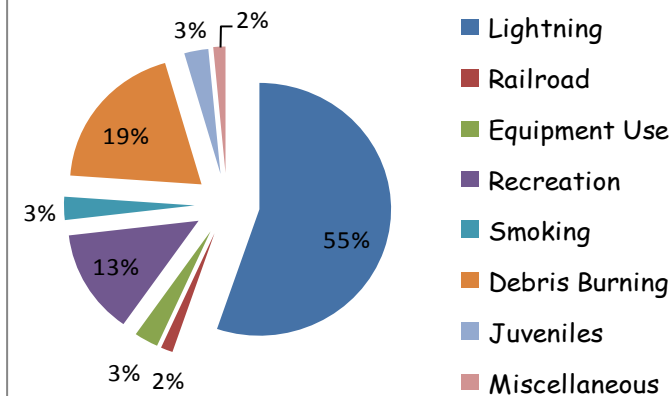
### Significant Fires

Fire	Date	Acres
King Ranch	7/26	33
Rabbit	7/30	12
Bear Claw Canyon	7/30	28
Cabin Creek	8/5	6
Teriyaki	8/6	12

### Fires by Cause

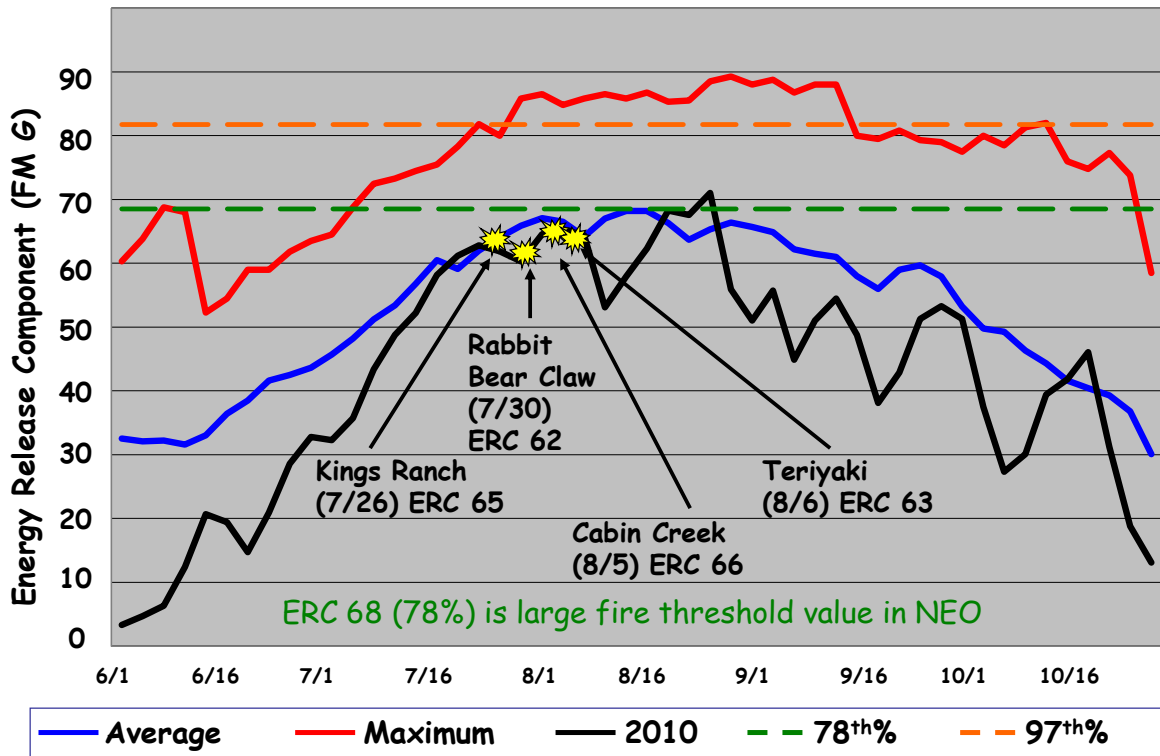


### General Cause



37 lightning caused fires on 109 acres.  
 30 human caused fires on 36 acres.  
 Lightning accounted for 55% of the fires &  
 75% of the acres burned.

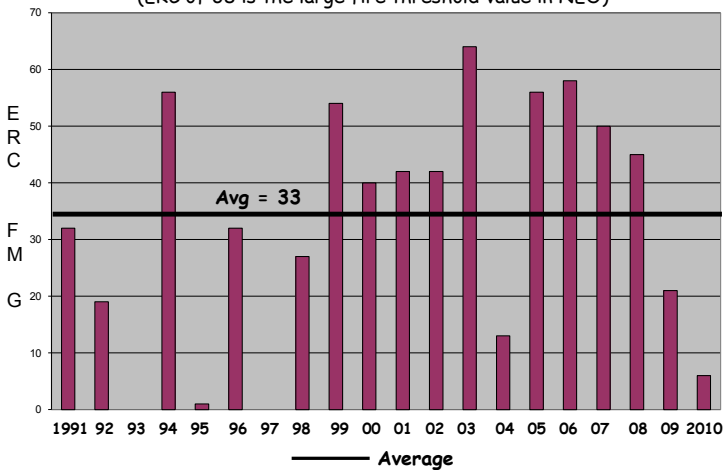
# NEO - ERC (1991 - 2010)



Energy Release Component (ERC) is used as a gauge of large fire potential and fire season severity. No maximum ERCs were reached and few days had above average values for the last 20-year period.

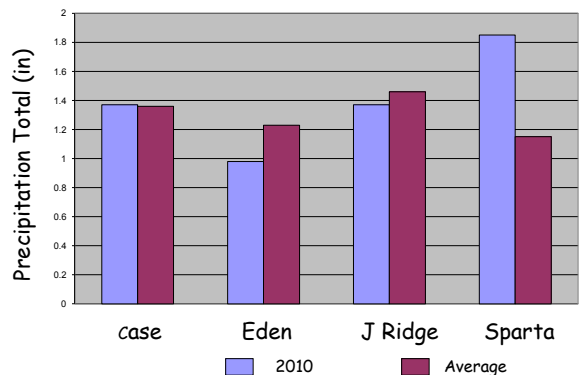
## NEO District Days with ERC above 68 (1991-2010)

(ERC of 68 is the large fire threshold value in NEO)



There were only 6 days when the ERC was above the large fire threshold value of 68, well below the average of 33.

## Total Precipitation July 16 - Sept 15 (1991-2010)

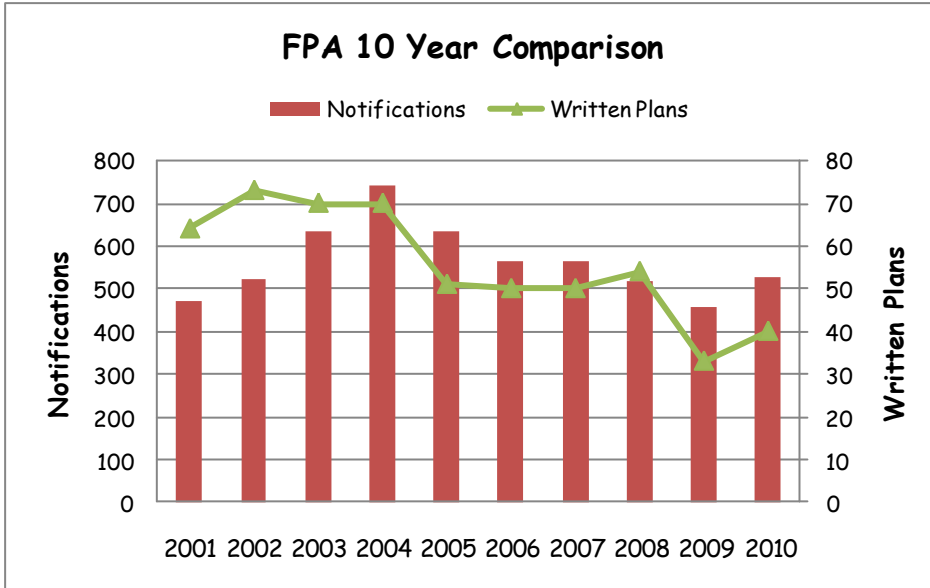


Although there were several lightning events, typically there was moisture with the storms.

# PRIVATE FOREST PROGRAMS

## Forest Practices Act Administration

Below are the FPA administration numbers for 2010.  
No citations were issued.



### Letter of Commendation for Outstanding Forest Practices

- Dusty Witherrite with MR Timber
- Tom Kelsay with Forestry Contracting Operations
- Don and Frances Barnett with Pine Creek Logging

## National Fire Plan Implementation

ODF Unit	Acres Treated (2010)	Acres Treated (2002 To 2010)
Baker Sub-Unit (Baker County)	700	6,374
La Grande Unit (Union County)	486	3,184
Pendleton Unit (Umatilla County)	148	3,746
Wallowa Unit (Wallowa County)	273	1,954
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,607</b>	<b>15,258</b>

### 2010 Oregon Tree Farmer of the Year

Congratulations to Harry Merlo for being the 2010 Oregon Tree Farmer of the Year. Harry was nominated by the Oregon Department of Forestry for managing the 12,500 acre MC Ranch, located west of La Grande. Harry and his crew at the MC Ranch are managing their property in accordance with the American Forest Foundation Tree Farm System values of Water, Wood, Wildlife and Recreation. A tour of the ranch is planned for June 2011 to showcase the work that has been conducted on the ranch. Once again, congratulations to Harry Merlo and the crew at the MC Ranch for all their efforts and hard work!

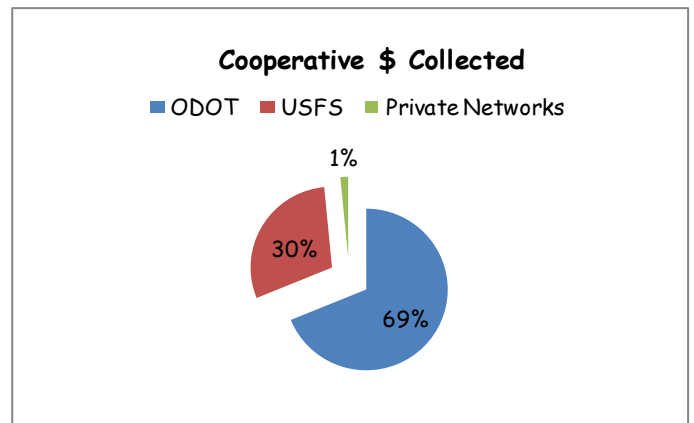
## Forestry Assistance

Non-Commercial Thinning	2,005 Acres
Fuel Reduction/Slash Treatment	3,352 Acres
Reforestation Tax Credit	22 Acres
Stewardship Plans	12,126 Acres
Wildlife/Fish Habitat Enhancement	25 Acres
Riparian Enhancement	100 Acres
Bark Beetle Treatment	38 Acres

ODF's Northeast Oregon District continues to pursue landowner cost-share projects to reduce hazardous fuels and improve forest health through non-commercial thinning and slash treatment. During 2010 \$904,000 of NFP money was spent in the district, combined with \$1,017,700 of ARRA Forest Health Stimulus Funds. We greatly appreciate and value our partnerships with local operators, consultants, landowners and other agencies which helps in continuing to garner funding. A variety of sources were used, including ARRA Stimulus, Bark Beetle, Stewardship, OWEB, CREP and EQIP.

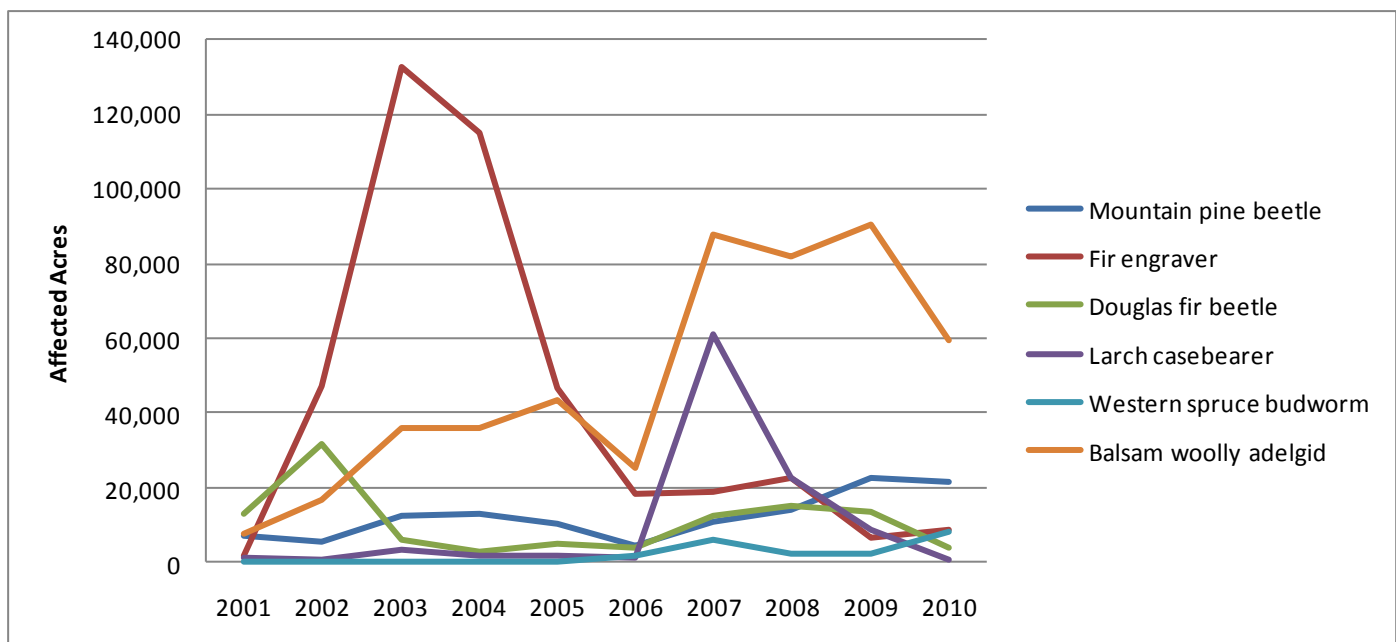
## Cooperative Work Program

The cooperative work program in Northeast Oregon continues to employ and provide training opportunities for both permanent and seasonal employees. In 2010, employees worked for Oregon Department of Transportation, United State Forest Service, Beaver Creek Ranch, and Private Lands Forest Network. Through this program, North East Oregon District is able to offset personnel costs, retain long term employees, provide well qualified employees to other agencies, and assist landowners with land management projects. These projects included snowplowing, pile burning, prescribed burning, and pre-commercial thinning, along with fire fighting.



## 2010 Forest Health Condition

Ten-year damage trend of the major insect pests affecting NEO



## Northeast Oregon Ecosystem American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Grant

The Oregon Department of Forestry received a 2009 ARRA Stimulus Grant for ecosystem restoration. The grant targeted in-woods transportation systems, fish passage and riparian restoration on private lands in Northeast Oregon. Funding for this grant from the USFS also included improved access for fuels management and wild land fire prevention and control in concert with improvement and restoration of watersheds. Applications were selected after review by a panel of stewardship foresters looking at proximity to fish streams and riparian areas, and improving fire access.

Grant administration details delayed projects from starting until late summer of 2010. Several projects from 2010 will be completed in 2011, along with new projects for the 2011 field season. These projects infused money into local economies and kept forest contractors employed while improving the ecosystem.

Total Dollars Expended 2010	\$539,347 out of \$1,257,500 total
Road Consultation	323,900 feet
Road Obliteration/Rehab	16,600 feet
New Construction	15,250 feet
Road Reconstruction	34,600 feet
Drainage/Sedimentation Issues	109,580 feet
Drainage Structures Installed	69
Bridges/Fish Passage Structures	7



Phillips Bridge over Beaver Creek in Umatilla County. The bridge is designed to improve fish passage.



Road reconstruction project to divert road drainage away from riparian areas.

## Budget Committee Members

The Northeast Oregon District continues to have a strong Budget Committee that is supportive of District activities and provides valued input to manage and improve District operations.

**Chris Heffernan**, Union County, Budget Committee Chair, non-industrial private landowner and rancher.

**John Warness**, Union County, EOFPA President, Region Manager, Northeast Oregon Operations for Forest Capital Partners.

**Bob Messinger**, Union County, small non-industrial forest owner.

**Lyle Defrees**, Baker County, EOFPA Director, non-industrial private landowner and rancher.

**Bill Shumway**, Baker County, EOFPA Director, non-industrial private landowner and rancher.

**Pat Sullivan**, Baker County, non-industrial private landowner and rancher.

**Elwayne Henderson**, Wallowa County, non-industrial private landowner and forest operator.

**Mack Birkmaier**, Wallowa County, non-industrial private landowner and rancher.

**Hank Howard**, Umatilla County, forest and rangeland manager for Pacific Northwest Tree Farm.

**Bob Holowecky**, Umatilla County, private forester representing Pendleton Ranches and Cunningham Sheep.

## Personnel Changes

**Diane Partridge** - Stewardship Forester in La Grande since 1984 retired on 10/31/10. Diane had over 32 years of service with ODF.

**Mack Stewart** - Automotive Mechanic in La Grande since 1989 retired on 12/31/10. Prior to coming to ODF Mack had worked for ODOT.

**Keith Shollenberger** - Wildland Fire Supervisor in Baker City since 1995 retired on July 1, 2010. Keith retired with 34 years of service with ODF; all of it in Baker County.

**Logan McCrae** - Was promoted to a Limited Duration Stewardship Forester in Baker City on 6/1/2010. Logan graduated from OSU with a Forest Management degree in 2007. He worked in various firefighting capacities at La Grande ODF from 2003 to 2007 before promoting to a permanent Forest Officer position in Monument in 2008. Logan brings a solid background in both firefighting and forestry to his new position.

**Joe Hessel** - Stewardship Forester in Baker City for the past 16 years promoted to the Wildland Fire Suppression Supervisor in Baker City on August 23, 2010. Joe brings a wealth of experience and knowledge in wildland firefighting; having been on fire crews and is currently an Operation Section Chief on one of ODF's State Incident Management Teams.

**Matt Hoehna** - Natural Resource Specialist 2 was hired by the Pendleton Unit in a Limited Duration position on April 5, 2010. Matt has grant implementation duties as well as fire coordination and suppression responsibilities and works out of the Ukiah Guard Station during the summer. Matt was previously the Assistant Unit Forester in The Dalles from March, 2005 to October, 2008. Prior to that Matt held seasonal firefighter positions with ODF since 1998.

**Hans Rudolf** - Natural Resource Specialist 2 (Stewardship Forester) was hired by the Pendleton Unit in a Limited Duration position on May 17, 2010. Hans has a degree in Business Administration from Southern Oregon University and a Forest Management degree from Oregon State University. Hans was employed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources as a forester and ranger for the previous 4 years. Hans has 9 years of experience working as a forester for Boise Cascade and also has previous seasonal firefighting experience with ODF.

**Julia Lauch** - Although maintaining her position as the Pendleton Unit Wildland Fire Supervisor, Julia had the opportunity to participate in 2 developmental opportunities in 2010. For 3 months in the spring, Julia took on the Stewardship Forester duties within the Pendleton Unit and for the last 2 months of the year and continuing through April, 2011, Julia has served as the Acting Assistant to the Area Director in Northwest Oregon.

