

SOA Stewardship Forester Conference

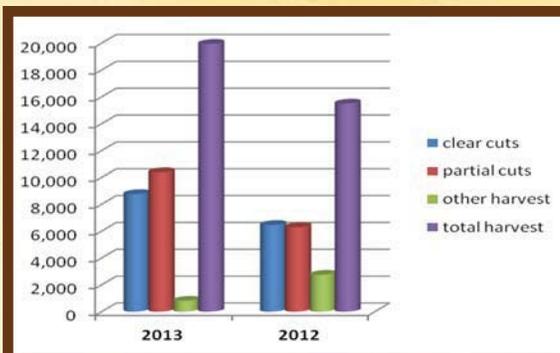
In May 2013 Western Lane District hosted the Southern Oregon Area Stewardship Forester Conference. The indoor activities were held at the now razed Red Lion Inn in Eugene. Conference topics included identification and protection of wetlands and fish passage issues using a variety of stream crossing structures. The field trip on the second day started out in typical Veneta fog but ended in warm sunshine.

2013 Notifications

Overall harvest activity on private forests - as illustrated in the adjoining chart - increased during 2013. Including renewals, a total of 1238 Notifications of Operation were received on the district – up from a total of 983 in 2012. This included 779 units of timber harvest and over 118 miles of road construction and reconstruction. Other activities included 638 units of herbicide application on 86,743 acres and 602 units of slash treatment on 19,568 acres.

Merit Award given to Western Lane Operator by Regional Forest Practices Committee

Dale Claassen, of Sperry Ridge Inc., was hired by a local land owner to manage the harvest of timber off their 20 acre property. The unique parcel had the following resources that required protection: Large Lake, Large Type F, Medium Type F, Small type F streams, and a significant wetland. The many resources overlapped and Dale spent several days sorting through what required priority and protection. He flagged the unit leaving approximately 10+ acres to harvest. Dale chose to hire Tim Gurton of Timothy K Gurton Logging to take on the difficult task of logging. Tim showed extreme care for the long list of resources from the beginning of the job. Tim chose to use his smaller D-3 cat over a larger piece of equipment. Although the D-3 was barely able to move the size of timber, it had many positive attributes for protecting resources. The D-3 had a drum which allowed pulling all “leaners” into the unit and thereby protecting the vegetation within the many RMA’s. The lighter weight did not rut the ground as deeply. Lastly, it was more maneuverable to get into tight areas. The finished unit showed the conscientious approach to logging that Tim has, leading to his nomination for Operator of the Year. Tim’s hard work and care for the land was recognized by The Northwest Regional Forest Practices Committee by awarding him a Merit Award. The overall project could be viewed as a relay race, Dale doing the layout and handing the logging off to Tim. The outcome would probably not have been as positive if either one had stumbled during their portion. The District commends both Tim and Dale for their hard work.



**HARVEST LEVELS
INCREASE FOR
2013**