



**Central Oregon District, John Day Unit – News Release
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**April 27, 2009
Immediate Release**

Ceremonial Ground Breaking Planned at EOFPA Meeting

On April 28, 2009, a ground-breaking ceremony for the new Oregon Department of Forestry – John Day Unit office is scheduled to take place at 11:30 a.m., next to Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative on Patterson Bridge Road. The ceremony is part of the agenda at the Eastern Oregon Forest Protection Association (EOFPA) Annual Spring Meeting. EOFPA is a body of forest landowners that provide guidance and oversight to Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) activities in central and northeastern Oregon.

The property for the new John Day facility was purchased in August of 2008 from Grant Western Lumber Company; construction for the new facility is scheduled to begin in August of this year. The project is being financed by a mix of tax payer-backed bonds, local landowner investments, and federal stimulus funds for shovel-ready projects.

The reasons for relocating the John Day office from Charlois Heights to Patterson Bridge Road include residential encroachment, deterioration of buildings, and existing traffic problems in the neighborhood. Securing the five-acre site on Patterson Bridge Road will allow for better public access to the services the John Day Unit provides. The commercial-industrial zone of the new site will allow for safer fire operations and will include much needed shop and crew facilities that are suitable for the amount of seasonal employment the John Day Unit offers.

An open house will be planned in the future for the official opening of the new John Day Unit Office and will be open to the community Oregon Department of Forestry serves in Grant County, as well as the cooperators they partner with.

For more information, please contact Angie Johnson, Unit Forester - John Day Unit, at (541) 575-1139.

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