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BURNS INTERAGENCY FIRE ZONE'S KATIE McCONNELL RECEIVES REGIONAL AWARD FOR DISPATCHER OF THE YEAR

HINES, Oregon – Burns Interagency Fire Zone's (BIFZ) Katie McConnell was recently selected as the wildland fire Dispatcher of the Year for the Pacific Northwest. McConnell, who joined the BIFZ staff in 1995, was honored during the Pacific Northwest Dispatcher's Workshop in early March.

McConnell has served as the Assistant Center Manager for the Burns Interagency Communication Center for over a decade. Her hard work, superior effort, and dedication to adequate and thorough training are qualities consistently recognized by her peers and cited in the award nomination. BIFZ Fire Management Officer Steve Morefield said, "Katie is a huge asset to our dispatch center. She can do everything – radio communications, resource ordering, training, you name it."

With a record number of acres burned in 2007, McConnell was very busy this past summer. Morefield went on to say, "Her experience is invaluable to the success of our operations, especially during fire season. She is always conscious of the big picture and can multitask without fail. We really value her work and hope to keep her in our District for many more years."

With McConnell's help, the Burns Interagency Communication Center provides dispatching services across nearly 5 million acres of public lands in Harney County.

For more information, contact the Burns Interagency Communication Center at (541) 573-4545.



Burns District Office

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