

Mt. Hood National Forest

Troutdale Air Tanker Base . . .

. . . in your national forest!



The ten-acre Troutdale Air Tanker Base owned by Mt. Hood National Forest is now one of two secondary reload bases for aerial firefighting equipment in the Pacific Northwest.



Designed to provide critical fire suppression support to the Mt. Hood and Gifford Pinchot National Forests, the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area and surrounding State-protected lands, the base is big enough to handle up to five tankers at one time, with 20,000 gallons of retardant on hand. The most retardant the base has pumped in one season was 228,000 gallons in 1991, most of which was dropped on the Falls Fire in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. The least amount pumped in a season was 5,000 gallons in 1997.

The Change

However, with the termination in 2004 of a contract for most of the large World War II bomber aircraft converted into air tankers for wildland firefighting, the Base has changed roles. To compensate for the change, supplemental aerial resources have been put in place around the nation because of the loss of the air tankers.



Today

Since then, Troutdale Air Tanker Base has hosted one Type II helicopter, including a 4-person support module, during fire season. While at Troutdale, the helicopter received assignments assisting Lakeview Bureau of Land Management, the Gifford Pinchot National Forest, and Washington Department of Natural Resources.

Changing with the times.



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