



Oregon State Police

Southern Counties Report

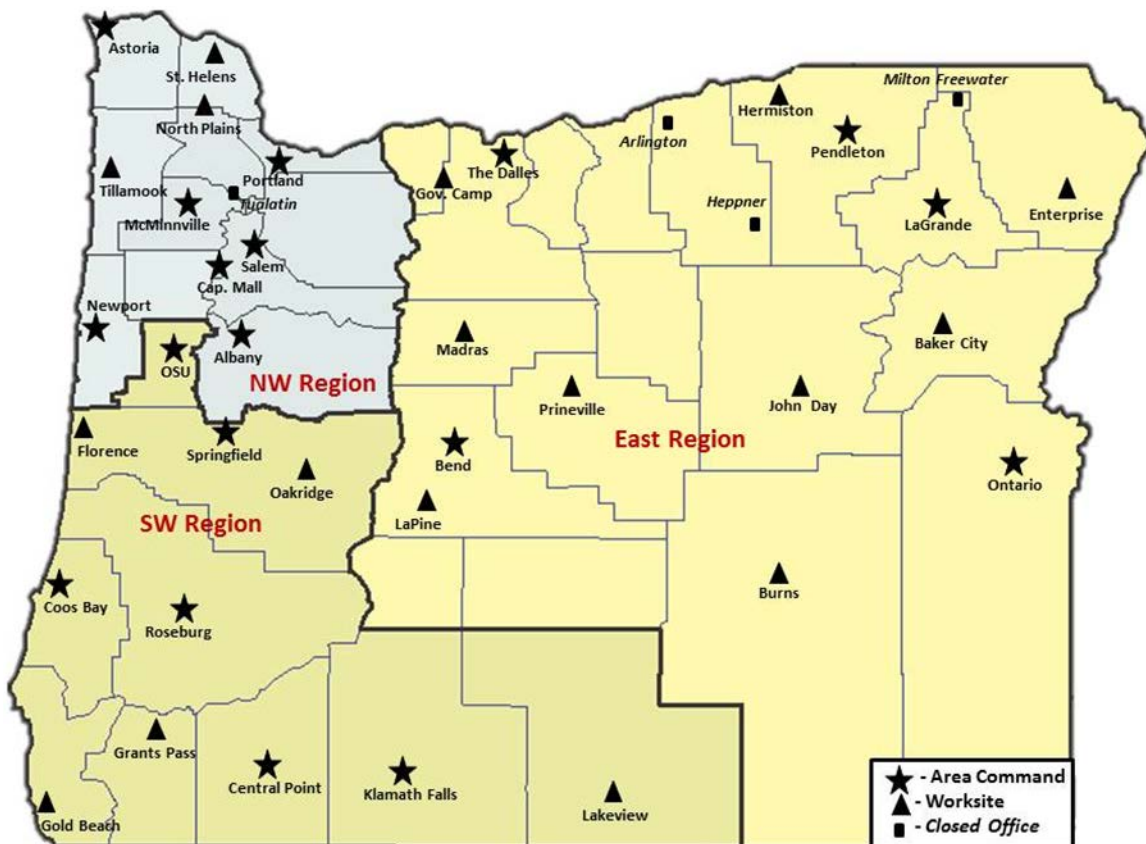
February 17, 2014

Introduction

This report will summarize some of the effects the Oregon State Police (OSP) has experienced in the southern counties of Oregon due to the reduction of *Federal Timber Payments*. Counties that have experienced substantial impacts in this area include Josephine, Klamath and Curry. The Southwest Region Command serves these counties. Direct OSP law enforcement services are provided by three primary Divisions, which include Patrol, Criminal and Fish and Wildlife.

Due to a changing workload, the OSP Patrol Division is tracking data on calls for service. Specifically, the Patrol Division tracks statistics for Josephine, Klamath and Curry Counties; additionally, the Criminal Division tracks statistics for Josephine and Klamath Counties. Due to infrequent criminal investigation requests in Curry County, this information was not previously tracked, but is now being tracked using the same methodology as Josephine and Klamath Counties. Two area commands and two worksites serve these counties. They include:

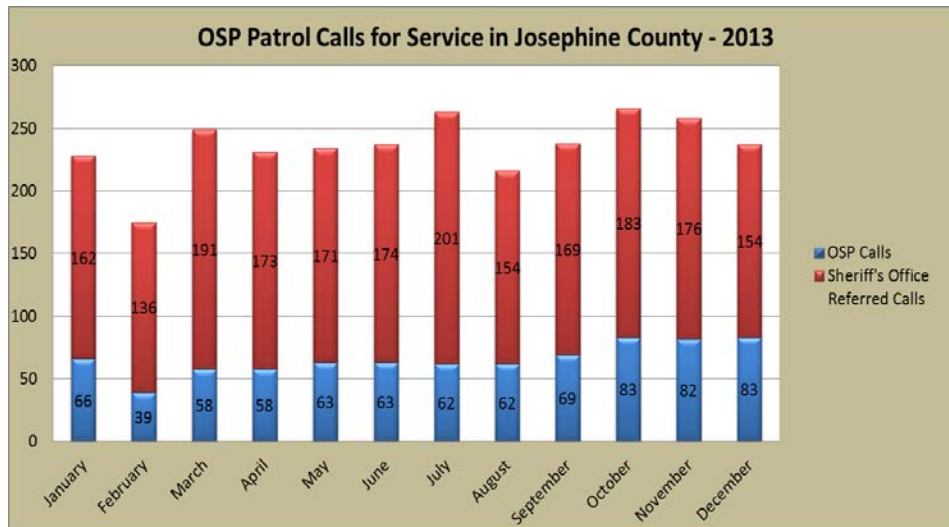
- Klamath Falls Area Command
- Central Point Area Command
- Grants Pass Worksite
- Gold Beach Worksite



Josephine County Summary

Patrol Division

Beginning in June 2012, when the Josephine County law enforcement levy failed, the OSP Patrol Division experienced a dramatic increase in calls for service. Because of the levy failure, the Josephine County Sheriff's Office reduced their staff. With the dramatic downsizing of the Sheriff's Office, OSP saw an increase in the number of calls being referred from the Sheriff's Office. In 2013, there were 2,832 calls handled by the Patrol Division and 72% of the calls were referred to OSP by the Sheriff's Office. These demands have required some reallocation of agency resources.



The geographical area patrolled by the Central Point Area Command, which includes the Grants Pass Worksite, falls within Jackson and Josephine Counties. As the command group's larger parent office, Central Point enjoyed 24 hour patrol coverage at the beginning of 2012, with their allocation of 21 Patrol troopers. The Grants Pass Worksite was staffed with eight Patrol troopers and one Patrol sergeant at the beginning of 2012.

In May of 2012, the Josephine County Sheriff's Office laid off deputies and calls for service were rising. It was readily apparent OSP would need to transfer resources to the Grants Pass Worksite to keep the troopers safe who were now responding to a greater variety of high-risk calls for service. The Department reallocated four Patrol trooper positions from Central Point to Grants Pass to address the safety issue. OSP routinely sends more than one trooper to certain types of calls which fall in line with best safety practices for law enforcement. The impact of the transfer of these four trooper positions, coupled with normal attrition (retirements), eliminated the ability of the Central Point Area Command to deliver 24-hour patrol coverage.

Due to the need to reallocate these four troopers to the Grants Pass Worksite, the agency is realizing the following challenges:

- Decreased proactive policing time, impacting OSP Patrol priorities, including DUII apprehension, narcotic intervention, and crash prevention.
- Increased community frustrations with lack of police resources.
- Diminished service delivery at the Central Point Area Command.

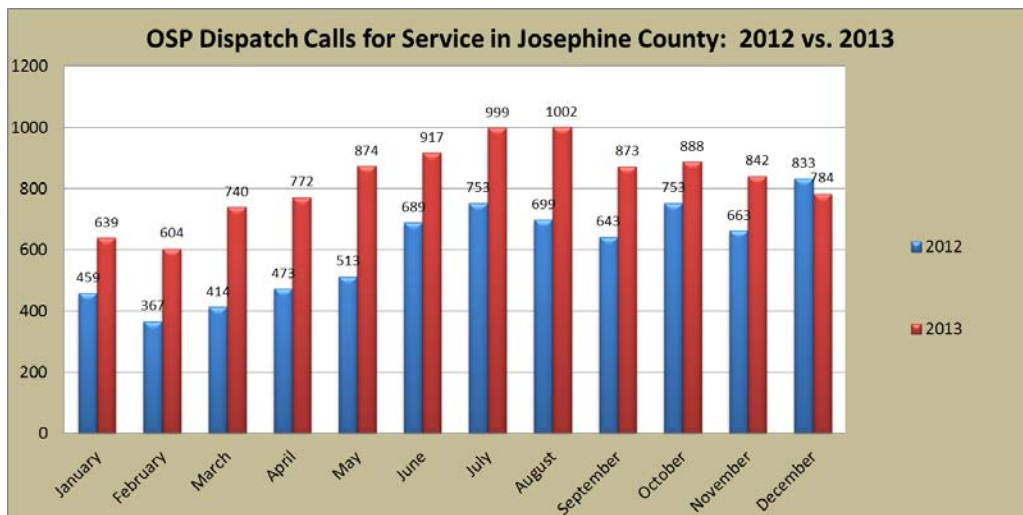
- Increased agency risk and liability, due to rising call load with strained resources.
- Increasing safety concerns for OSP employees responding to dynamic and violent events.

Dispatch Services

Troopers in Josephine County and other southern counties receive dispatch communications support from the Southern Command Center (SCC) in Central Point. The Josephine County impact on SCC is illustrated by the chart below that shows OSP Dispatch calls for service in Josephine County increased from 7,259 in 2012 to 9,934 in 2013, an increase of 37%. The upward trend in calls for service is a direct reflection of county level law enforcement services being shifted to OSP. While the number of calls have increased, it is the nature and duration of the calls that has dramatically changed and complicated the work of the SCC Dispatch staff. This change is the result of the 911 emergency calls being transferred to OSP from Josephine County and other agencies. The SCC is struggling to keep pace with the increasing demand for OSP services.

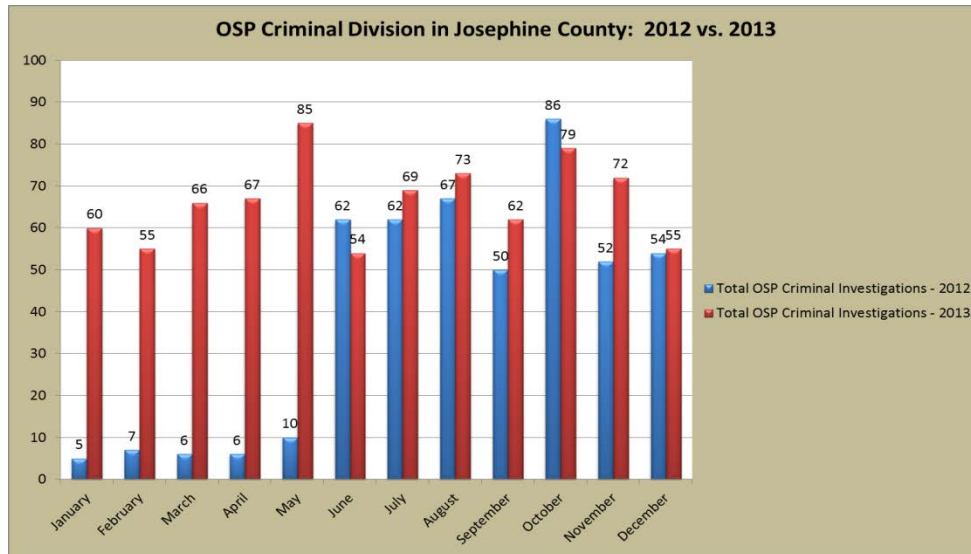
As the volume and severity of the calls have increased, Dispatch support of these calls has become complex and time intensive. In receiving these initial calls it is typical for a dispatcher to communicate for extended periods of time with callers and responders until the scene is safe for the investigation to begin. Dispatchers, who previously dispatched for three or four counties of OSP activity, now find themselves unable to dispatch for anyone, as they stay on the line with a crime victim, or witness reporting and describing a crime in progress while troopers scramble to respond, often from far away.

A proposal for added Dispatch staff is underway. Should the trend that created this situation in Josephine County continue in Klamath or Curry Counties, the need for more staffing must be considered.

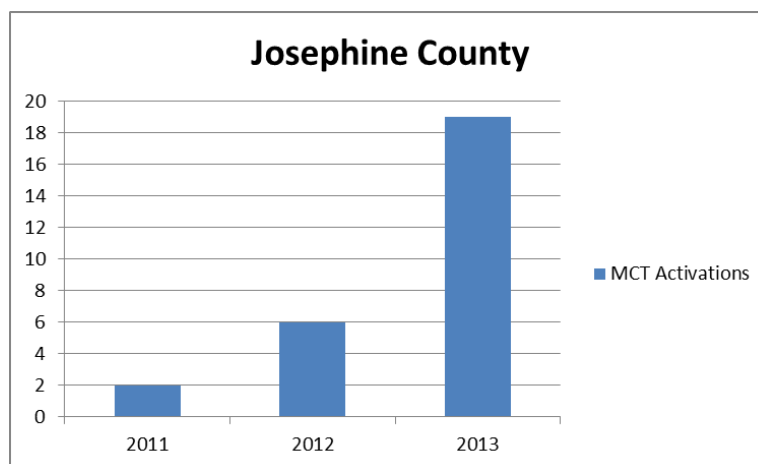


Criminal Division

The workload of the OSP Criminal Division detectives serving Josephine County has significantly increased, since assuming responsibility for the bulk of the service calls in June of 2012. Looking back to 2012, prior to assuming all child abuse and homicide investigations in Josephine County, agency detectives typically investigated five to 10 cases per month in Josephine County. That number jumped to 50 to 80 investigations per month in Josephine County since June 2012. The below chart shows a breakdown of the criminal investigations handled in Josephine County.



Major Crime Team (MCT) activations (homicides, violent assaults) within Josephine County for OSP detectives increased 850% between 2011 and 2013. There were 19 Major Crime Team activations in 2013 in Josephine County. The Oregon State Police was the lead law enforcement agency in all of these investigations, and with very few exceptions, was the sole provider of law enforcement officers assigned to the cases.



In 2013, the agency allocated one additional Major Crimes detective to the Central Point Area Command, in an effort to address the constant flow of incoming cases, bringing the total to four. While this was a great assistance, additional detectives are still needed. The Criminal Division resources are in high demand statewide, which would compel the reduction at another worksite if the choice was made to add detective positions to southern Oregon. In the 2013 Legislative Session, an additional four positions were allotted to the Criminal Division for detectives. These positions will be assigned to offices

in southern counties where the increased call load necessitates additional personnel. These additional positions will be funded in January 2015.

Similar to the trend realized in the area of Patrol Division efforts, the Criminal Division is also being forced into a reactive policing model, leaving little time dedicated to proactive and preventative work. The high volume of incoming cases and strained resources has contributed to increased agency liability. The challenging workload for the detectives results in longer shifts and being called back to work frequently when off-duty to assist with critical incidents.

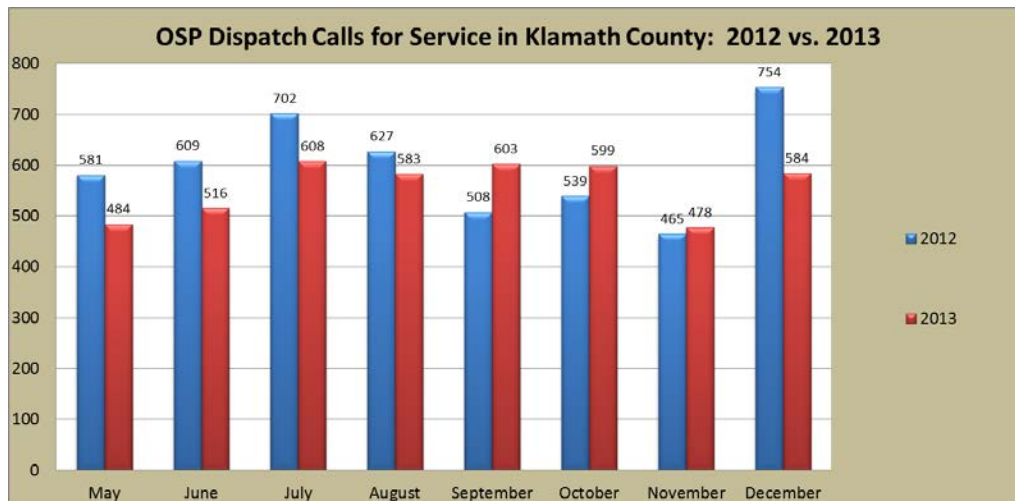
Klamath County Summary

Patrol Division

The Oregon State Police has retained a staffing level of 16 Patrol troopers and two sergeants at the Klamath Falls Area Command. The current challenge for the Klamath Falls Area Command has been turnover of employees through attrition. In addition, the Klamath Falls Area Command currently has three troopers who are in various stages of training and therefore not ready for solo patrol.

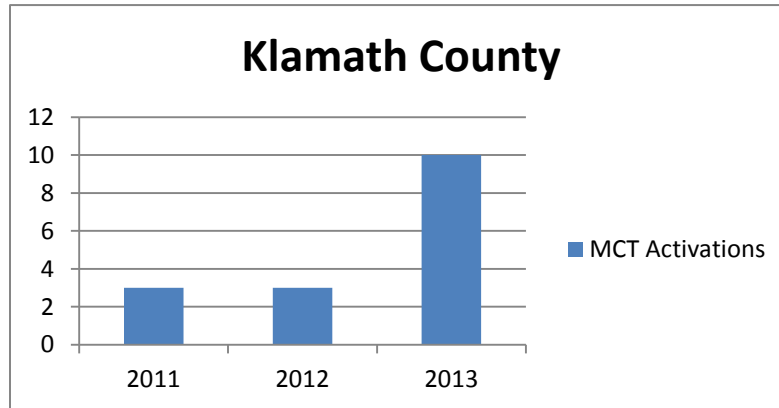
While the call load of the Klamath Falls Area Command has remained relatively static from 2012 to 2013, as the below chart depicts, they have fewer personnel to respond to these activities. Cuts to law enforcement partners and challenges relating to the drought in the Upper Klamath Basin have further exasperated the service impact. The Klamath Falls Area Command is experiencing a reduction in the opportunity for proactive policing. Of the calls for service handled by the Patrol Division, eight percent were calls that were referred to OSP by the Sheriff's Office.

The Klamath Falls Area Command remains an agency priority to staff with new hires.



Criminal Division

The workload for the Oregon State Police Criminal Division in Klamath Falls experienced a modest increase from 653 cases in 2012, to 689 cases in 2013. However, there has been a 233% increase in the number of Major Crime Team activations in Klamath County from 2011 to 2013. In order to handle the increased workload, one additional detective was added to the Major Crimes Section in the Klamath Falls Area Command.



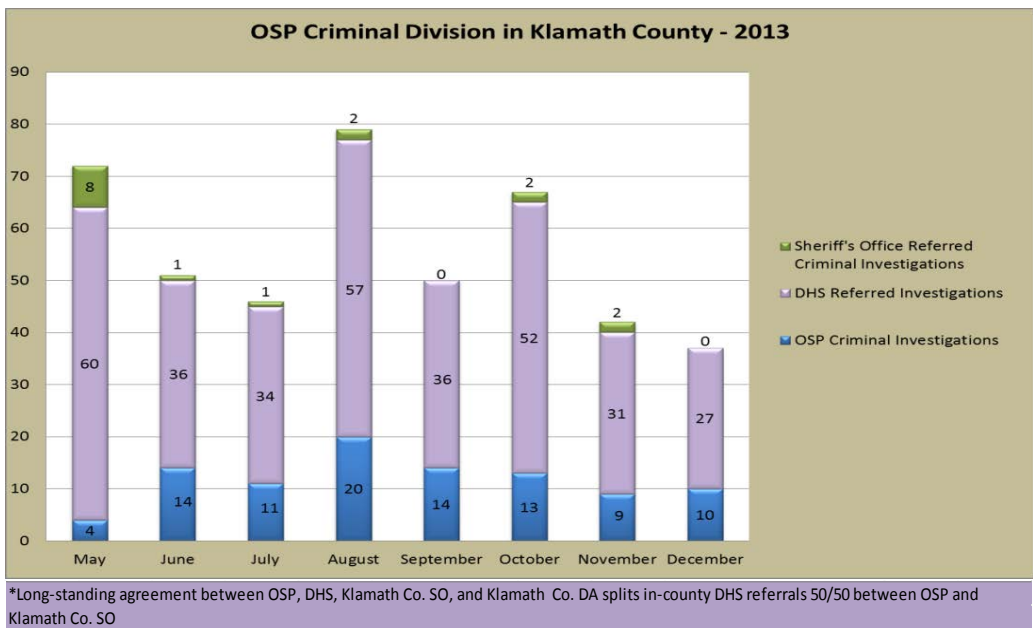
In addition to the Major Crime investigations (murder, violent assault, kidnap, officer involved shooting), the rate of Department of Human Services (DHS) referred child sexual and physical abuse cases to the Klamath Falls Area Command has increased steadily in the past three years:

- 2011: 415 cases
- 2012: 561 cases
- 2013: 637 cases

A contributing factor to the high volume of child abuse cases is the unique long-standing protocol in Klamath County. Cases that are not within a municipal jurisdiction are evenly split between the Sheriff's Office and OSP, rather than all cases being assumed by the Sheriff's Office, as in most parts of the State. The spike in child sexual and physical abuse cases between 2011 and 2012 can also be attributed to an aggressive public outreach campaign called "*Stop the Hurt*," initiated in 2012. This campaign used media and billboards to educate and encourage the public to report child abuse.

With the addition of one OSP detective in 2013, the detectives are still assigned an unrealistic volume of child abuse cases. On average, 53 new child abuse cases are received each month at the Klamath Falls Area Command, translating to approximately 17 cases per detective per month.

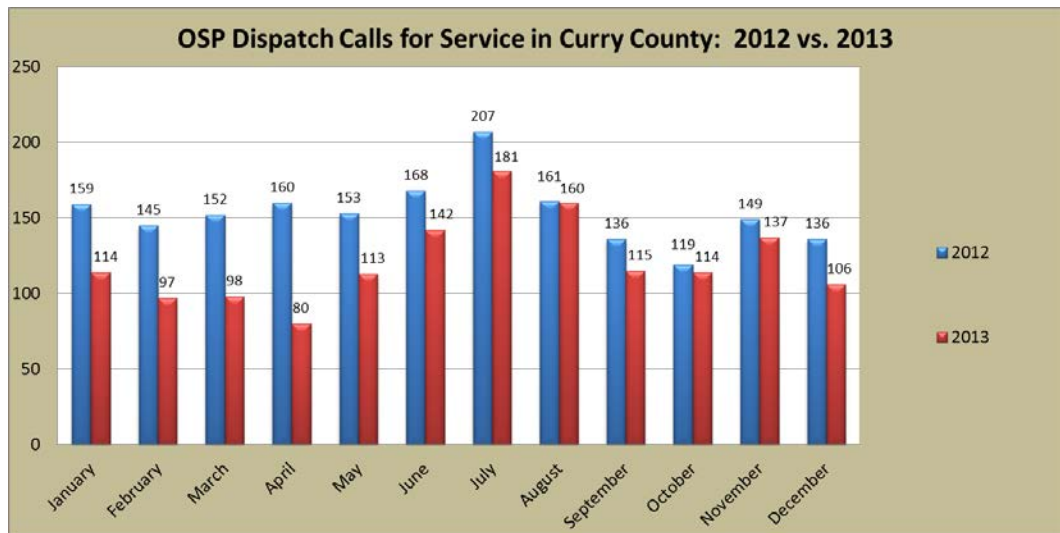
As mentioned in the prior Patrol and Criminal Division narratives for neighboring counties, this workload presents an increased exposure to liability.



Curry County Summary

Patrol Division

Of the calls for service handled by the OSP Patrol Division in Curry County, 17% were calls that were referred to OSP by the Sheriff's Office. The troopers working this area have had less time available for proactive law enforcement activities. Troopers are spending an increased amount of time handling priority calls for services that have been referred from the Sheriff's Office or responding to calls as a backup to Sheriff's deputies.



The 2012 staffing level of four Patrol troopers was increased to five in 2013, in order to supply enhanced law enforcement service on the south coast. Due to the loss of a recent recruit trooper hired in the pre-academy hiring process, the Gold Beach Worksite has one trooper vacancy. Of the four Patrol Division troopers, one is currently in training and not yet prepared for solo patrol. OSP has delayed and denied lateral transfer requests from troopers at the Gold Beach Worksite in order to maintain a minimum number of troopers at the worksite.

Criminal Division

As mentioned in the introduction, the Department recently began tracking Criminal Division calls for service in Curry County. The agency has a single Criminal Division detective on the south coast assigned to the Coos Bay Area Command. This detective has responsibility for criminal investigations in Coos and Curry Counties.

If the Sheriff's Office detective positions were eliminated, the caseload would be too great for OSP detectives to absorb. The Department would need to allocate another detective to the southern coast, at the expense of another location or the detectives would need to travel long distances from other offices to conduct the investigations.

Strategies Moving Forward

The Department of Oregon State Police takes a great deal of pride in providing services to the citizens and visitors of the state. As much as the agency values the ability to quickly mobilize and deliver statewide services, the agency equally cherishes the contributions and partnerships in local communities that the members individually call home.

While OSP has the ability to allocate and transfer resources to southern counties, the agency's position authority is finite and the transfer of troopers and detectives come at the expense to other Oregon communities that lose the transferred resource. The Oregon State Police is committed to a sustained law enforcement presence. However, the agency struggles with the competing demands of diminished County resources and providing the traditional policing obligations in the remaining command groups.

In the 2013 Legislative Session, an additional 14 positions were allotted to OSP. Of the 14 positions, 10 were designated as Patrol Division positions and four were designated as Criminal Division detectives. These positions will be assigned to offices in southern counties where the increased call load necessitates additional personnel. The funding for these positions is scheduled to be allocated in January 2015.

To mitigate response times to calls for service, the Oregon State Police has embraced the national policing efforts of the "mobile office." By outfitting OSP patrol vehicles with Mobile Data Terminals (MDTs); this affords the officers on patrol the ability to complete most enforcement and administrative work from their vehicles, without returning to a physical office. This not only increases the time officers are available, it allows the agency the ability to invest precious resources in people instead of rents and utilities.

Currently OSP supplies "take home cars" to supervisors, K-9 units, SWAT troopers, Crash Reconstruction Investigators and a limited number of Patrol Division personnel. Troopers who are not assigned an individual car, share "pooled" vehicles that they pick up from their respective patrol office. The agency is currently advocating for a 1:1 employee to car ratio, to fully realize the capabilities of the "mobile office" strategies. A policy option package to purchase an additional 93 patrol vehicles to achieve a 1:1 ratio over three biennia is in the process of submission. In addition to shorter response times, the agency has noted the following advantages to a 1:1 car ratio:

- Troopers are available for call out from their residences and have their equipment readily available. Less time spent on patrol prep and termination, moving equipment to/from their vehicles. This time reduction equates to an increase in patrol time.
- Reduced overlap in patrol schedules, eliminating the need to have a car returned by one trooper so another may assume the same vehicle.

- Ability to quickly mobilize troopers for large scale events, for example regional weather events or natural disasters.
- Greater care and maintenance of individually assigned vehicles, increasing safety of employees who are more familiar with a single vehicle (handling, equipment location, etc.).
- Increased life-span of a car driven by one trooper.

OSP intends to address public safety needs in financially fragile counties by implementing a balanced approach that considers all factors that are known or can be predicted. OSP's approach to these counties must continue to promote and encourage strong partnerships within the criminal justice system and with the citizens of the state. Until funding streams stabilize, OSP leadership will continue to vigilantly monitor the public safety system in the southern counties and strive to do everything possible to keep the public safe.