

New Facilities and Fleet Manager Position

by Derrick Reeves

The Facilities and Fleet Manager position is a new one for our agency. We have a number of facilities in need of significant upgrades and expansion to accommodate programs that have grown since the facilities were constructed. Director Miller has talked a lot about “Future Proofing IDL.” This position was created to help accomplish that goal by identifying current and future needs and putting us in a position to become proactive with facilities projects and upgrades.

Since I started in this role on March 31, the most common question I am asked is: “What do you do anyway?”

Facilities:

- My primary role with facilities includes doing facilities assessments, prioritizing needs, and using that information to assist with allocating agency resources and funding requests for larger projects.
- There are needs across the state, and construction costs have increased significantly the last few years. As a result, one of the things I am currently working on is researching and development of alternative funding sources for large scale projects.
- Other assignments include developing long-term facilities plans and acting as a liaison between the agency and the other organizations involved in current projects.

Fleet:

- The fleet manager component of the position is primarily focused on acquisition and disposal of vehicles.
- We recently formed a “Fleet Policy Working Group” that is working on updating the Fleet Policy Manual and associated forms. Our goal is to provide clear procedures for end users to order, transfer, and dispose of vehicles with links to updated forms, streamline processes to reduce workloads on fiscal personnel, and establish standard vehicle configurations for field and administrative vehicles.
- Several of you have contacted me about X-vehicles that are in good shape and are eligible for transfer to other Areas. If you have a need for an X-vehicle, please contact me and I will facilitate the transfer.

Previously, I worked in the timber industry for 30 years, including 13 years on the Ponderosa Area, so this has been like starting a new career. It is interesting work with lots to do. The thing I enjoy most so far is getting out to the Areas and other admin sites, meeting with folks and getting your perspective on what we are going to need for infrastructure to support the programs of the future.

There are 16 administrative sites I am tasked with evaluating, and I have made it to seven so far. I am looking forward to seeing the rest of them this summer. I will be reaching out to folks to schedule site visits in the next month. In the meantime, if you have questions or need help with a project, give me a call.