

# CAREERS IN THE OREGON DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

The Oregon Department of Transportation employs 4500 people in a wide variety of careers.

Jobs include maintenance positions such as Park Rangers and Highway Maintenance Workers; professional positions such as Engineers, Planners, Programmers, Environmental Specialists, and Accountants; skilled craft positions such as Heavy Equipment Mechanics, Traffic Signal Technicians, and Heavy Equipment Operators; technical jobs such as Engineering and Electronic Technicians and Computer Operators; and clerical positions.

### Engineering

Karen Bell, Highway Engineer 1, and a Civil Engineering graduate from Oregon State exemplifies the positive attitudes that the Department looks for. Karen works for Bob Schalk, a Design Project Manager in Portland, well known for his ability to develop employees.



"I am looking for someone who has the self-confidence to learn on the job and who is motivated by the quality of their work," states Schalk. A well-rounded program of work and education is a plus.

Written and oral communication skills and an affinity for solving design and engineering problems with the computer are also important.

What does he like about Karen? "She is aggressively interested in learning, she is a good 'student' on the job, and she is diligent," says Schalk. "I can give her responsibility and know that she will manage it well and learn from it."

Highway Engineer 1's (\$18,900 - \$24,192) can promote to HE 2 or HE 3 (\$20,000 to \$29,400). HE 4 positions involve project management responsibilities in design, construction or planning work. Highway Engineer 5's need broader management skill and pay up to \$35,700.

"I could have started as an Engineering Technician and been happy, said Karen, "the opportunity is what I needed."

An employee can also move into Highway Engineering series by starting out as an Engineering Technician 1 (\$15,000 - \$18,600) which requires an Associate Degree in Engineering from a community college or beginning as an Engineering Aide (13,700 - 17,200) which requires high school level algebra, geometry and vocabulary skills.

### Motor Vehicles

Diane Blue has been with the Motor Vehicles Division as a Motor Vehicle Representative for over a year. She began as a temporary employee. "It was kind of risky getting started," said Diane. "I had two good part-time jobs, but they did not offer me a career." She noted that there is a lot of competition for the jobs, "so I took my exam twice to improve my score."



"Our work involves working with thousands of documents" said Blue, "and has a lot of legal and financial impact, and demands a good working relationship with your co-workers and the public, so accuracy, timeliness, and public relations are important."

Motor Vehicle Representative 1's (\$13,800 - \$17,200) can move on to MVR 2 (\$15,100 - \$18,900). Managers of MVD offices depending on their size, may earn from \$15,800 to \$25,300 per year.

MVR 1 jobs require two years of public contact experience that demonstrate the above skills.

### Parks and Recreation



Kevin Price is a Park Ranger 2 with Parks and Recreation Division. He works at Emigrant Springs State Park, between Pendleton and LaGrande, and is being promoted to a Parks Manager A position at Champoeg Park just south of Portland.

Kevin's assignment involves the supervision of a boy's crew. Not only does he have to possess the technical skills which may include skill in one or more areas such as carpentry, masonry, plumbing, woodworking, concrete work, or small engine mechanics but he also has to have people skills.

"I manage a group of 10 to 20 young men," states Price, "and I motivate them and get them to develop a sense of pride and self-worth." Kevin maintains good working relationships with the staff of the Boys Camp and with Children Services Division.

A Park Ranger 1 (\$15,800 - \$17,200) can progress to a Ranger 2 (\$16,400 - \$18,000) and into Park Management positions. Depending on the size of the Park or District, a Park Manager may earn from \$15,100 to \$26,700.

The Park Ranger 1 position requires six months of experience in the maintenance and upkeep of grounds or buildings.

Anyone desiring to know more about these positions and how to apply for them or other positions with the Department of Transportation or state government should contact

the  
**ODOT Civil Rights Section**  
at  
**378-8077**  
in Salem