



Oregon Forest  
Resources Institute



# ADAPTING TO CHANGE

## Finding a “new normal”

The past 12 months have been challenging for the Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI).

Along with undergoing a performance audit by the Oregon Secretary of State earlier this year, OFRI has continued to face the challenge of figuring out how to safely deliver our forest education programs in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Over the past year we’ve adapted to what’s become the “new normal” for the Institute, and fortunately it includes some silver linings.

By holding professional development trainings virtually, our K-12 education program was able to reach more educators from across the state. Tree School Online, a webinar series for forest landowners that OFRI’s landowner education program helped develop last year, continued to be popular. In public education, OFRI produced an informative video highlighting sustainable forestry practices to take the place of a forest tour, and it’s now available on our YouTube channel for anyone to watch.

These are just a few examples of how OFRI continues to evolve in the face of a changing world. In the coming months, OFRI will see more change as we respond to recommendations from the Secretary of State’s audit. I’m confident these changes will help ensure that OFRI’s programs best serve the interests of all Oregonians – while also following our statutory mandate to support and enhance Oregon’s forest products industry.

I encourage you to check out the full scope of OFRI’s involvement in forest education, including this annual report and on our website [OregonForests.org](https://OregonForests.org). You’ll find an organization that is fully engaged to provide quality information to the public about forestry and the forest products industry.

—Jerry Anderson, chair, OFRI board of directors



## OFRI by the numbers

### MAJOR REPORTS

- *Carbon in Oregon’s Managed Forests* – a science review report synthesizing the latest scientific findings on carbon sequestration in Oregon’s forests

### NEW OR UPDATED PUBLICATIONS

- *Establishing and Managing Forest Trees in Western Oregon* – a guide for western Oregon forest landowners on how to best plant and tend to trees
- “Managing Logging Slash Piles in Northwest Oregon” – an informational pamphlet for landowners offering best management practices for burning woody debris left after logging
- *More Than Trees* – a colorfully illustrated booklet for beginning readers that teaches students about Oregon’s forests and the wildlife that depend on them
- *Oregon Forest Facts 2020-21 Edition* – a detailed reference guide to Oregon’s forests and forest-based economy
- “Oregon Garden Natural Resources Education Program Lessons” – four lessons aimed at enhancing students’ understanding and appreciation of Oregon’s forests
- “Tree Carbon Tape” – a tree measuring tape that gives middle school students a tangible sense of how much carbon is stored by Oregon’s forests
- *Wildlife in Managed Forests: Forest Amphibians* – a publication for forest landowners summarizing the latest scientific findings regarding the impacts of forest management on forest amphibians
- *Wildlife in Managed Forests* fact sheets on wildlife-friendly seed mixes and the western pond turtle – designed to provide information and management considerations for forest landowners

### DIGITAL

- Blog (11,305 visits)
- Facebook (8,906 likes)
- Instagram (1,168 followers)
- Twitter (1,756 followers)
- YouTube (123,100 views)

### VIDEOS

- *Slash Piles: How to Safely Build and Burn* – a video offering tips for landowners to safely burn excess treetops, limbs and other debris generated by commercial logging
- *Carbon Bits* – an animated video series explaining the connections between trees, forests, carbon and climate change
- *Trees to Tap* – two videos examining how forestry professionals work to protect drinking water sources while using herbicides and building or maintaining forest roads
- *Sustainable Wood from Sustainable Forests* – a video discussing how wood products from sustainably managed forests are an important part of green building practices

### EVENTS

- Career-related presentations/ events for students: 27
- Landowner workshops and events: 64
- Oregon Envirothon 2021 high school natural resource knowledge competition (virtual): attended by more than 100 students, representing 12 schools from across the state
- Natural Resources Educators Virtual Conference: attended by 55 high school teachers

### MEDIA OUTREACH

- Number of contacts with news media: 33

# LANDOWNER EDUCATION

OFRI encourages sustainable forestry by helping educate landowners and forest professionals. For more information, visit [KnowYourForest.org](https://www.knowyourforest.org).

## Wildlife education program going strong

OFRI's *Wildlife in Managed Forests* education program reached landowners and forest professionals across the state through webinars, an updated webpage and a limited number of in-person events.

In addition to hosting educational events, the program, which promotes science-based actions that forest landowners and managers can take to conserve, create and enhance wildlife habitat on timber-producing

forests, produced several informational publications on forest wildlife. These included a new publication on forest amphibians, as well as fact sheets on the western pond turtle and planting wildlife-friendly seed mixes in areas affected by forest fires.

Program managers also updated the wildlife section on [KnowYourForest.org](https://www.knowyourforest.org), an educational website for Oregon forest landowners.



### ONLINE SCHOOL EXPANDS REACH



OFRI and other members of the Partnership for Forestry Education helped host 47 Tree School Online webinars for forest landowners, which were viewed nearly 15,500 times either live or as a recording.

The Partnership for Forestry Education, a group of organizations that provide educational resources to Oregon's forest landowners, started Tree School Online in 2020 after many in-person forest landowner education programs were canceled due to the pandemic.

### PAMPHLET DETAILS SLASH PILE MANAGEMENT

OFRI produced an educational pamphlet for forest landowners outlining best management practices for piling and burning the woody debris, commonly known as "slash," that is left after logging is completed.

The "Managing Logging Slash Piles in Northwest Oregon" pamphlet gives an overview of methods for burning slash that is not used for firewood or left in the forest to provide soil nutrients and wildlife habitat.

Below, from left:

Forest amphibians are the focus of the newest publication from OFRI's *Wildlife in Managed Forests* educational program for landowners.

OFRI and the Oregon State University Forestry & Natural Resources Extension program updated *Establishing and Managing Forest Trees in Western Oregon*, a guidebook for landowners on how to best plant and tend to trees in western Oregon.

OFRI produced an educational video that provides a step-by-step guide for landowners on how to properly prepare and safely burn slash.



# PUBLIC EDUCATION

OFRI works to advance public understanding of the social, environmental and economic importance of Oregon's forests. For more information, visit [OregonForests.org](https://OregonForests.org).



## Report examines carbon in Oregon's forests

OFRI published a science review report highlighting the major role Oregon's forests play in keeping carbon out of the atmosphere, underscoring the importance of using strategies that enhance these forests' carbon-sequestering superpowers to combat climate change.

The vast forests that cover nearly half the state capture and store significant amounts of atmospheric carbon, according to the *Carbon in Oregon's Managed Forests* report. Authored by experts in carbon and forestry and the life-cycle assessment of wood

products, the report synthesizes the latest scientific findings on carbon sequestration in Oregon's forests, including those managed for timber production.

In addition to the 120-page *Carbon in Oregon's Managed Forests* report and an accompanying 12-page summary report, OFRI produced a six-part video series called *Carbon Bits* featuring 30-second animations intended to help the public better understand how forests and wood products sequester and store carbon.

Below, from left:

OFRI's *Carbon Bits* animated videos explain concepts such as how trees capture carbon dioxide from the air and convert it into wood.

OFRI produced two educational videos highlighting the efforts of forestry professionals to protect forest drinking water sources.

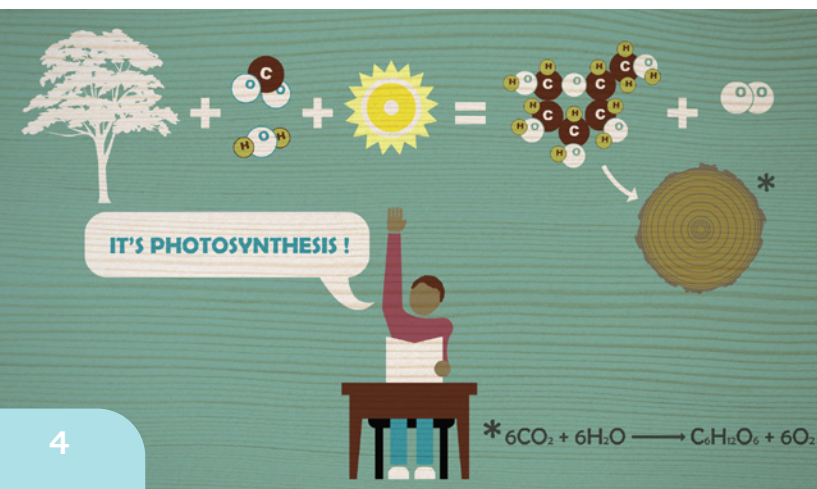
The Oregon State University Forestry & Natural Resources Extension Fire Program created an online story map documenting Oregon's 2020 fire season, with the support of OFRI and other partners.

In lieu of hosting a forest tour, OFRI produced a 15-minute video for the virtual 2021 Mass Timber Conference explaining sustainable forestry.

## SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY VIDEO DEBUTS

An OFRI-produced video highlighting sustainable forestry practices debuted at the 2021 International Mass Timber Conference, held virtually last spring.

Taking the place of an in-person forest tour, the 15-minute *Sustainable Wood from Sustainable Forests* video is presented by Mike Cloughesy, OFRI's former director of forestry who retired in June, discussing forest sustainability. The aim of the video is to help architects, engineers and builders better understand forest stewardship and forestry regulations.

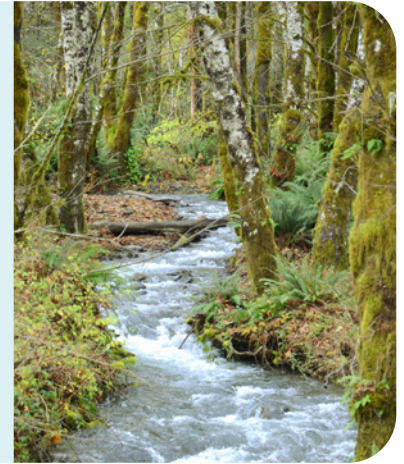


## CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS DRINKING WATER STUDY

A two-day virtual conference OFRI co-sponsored last March focused on the latest scientific findings regarding the impacts of forest management on drinking water quality in Oregon.

Hosted by the Oregon State University College of Forestry, the *Trees to Tap: Forest Management and Drinking Water* conference featured presentations by forest scientists, forestry and water professionals, regulators and conservationists.

The science presentations summarized the findings of the *Trees to Tap* study. Led by OSU's Institute for Natural Resources with the support of OFRI funding, it examined how forest management affects forested watersheds that supply drinking water to Oregonians.

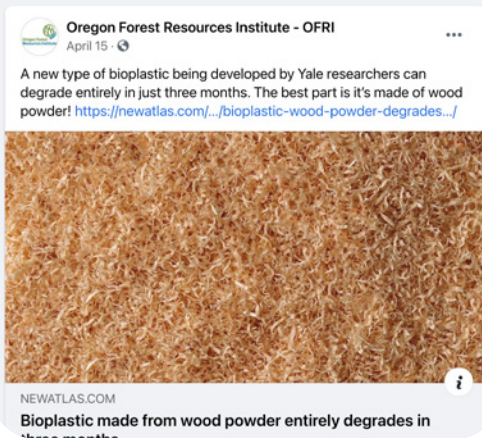


## DIGITAL REACH

Average monthly web visits	13,290
Total blog visits	11,305
Total YouTube views	123,100
Facebook "likes"	8,906
Twitter followers	1,756
Instagram followers	1,168

### FY 2020-21

OFRI's social and digital media presence includes five active websites, a blog, a YouTube channel and Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts.

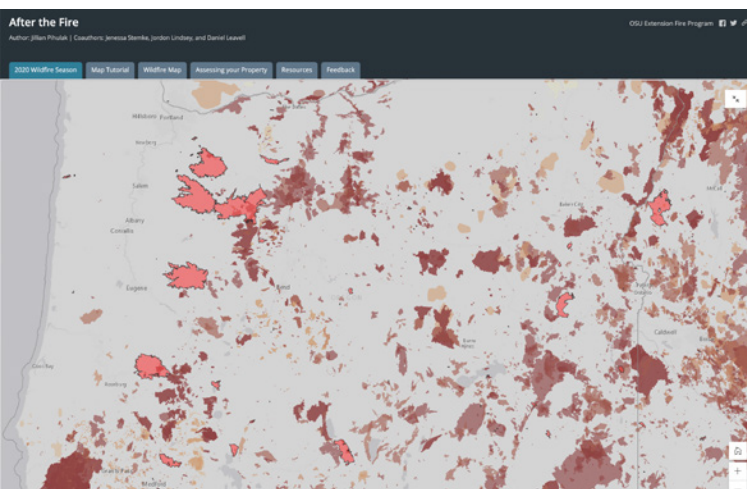
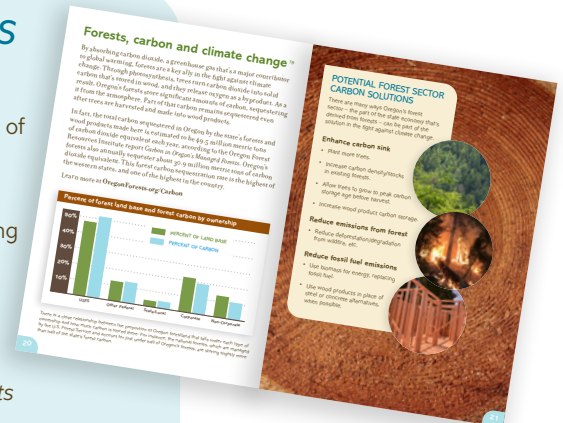


## OREGON FOREST FACTS UPDATED

OFRI released the 2021-22 edition of *Oregon Forest Facts*, conveying the latest data about Oregon's forests and forest-based economy, including newly compiled statistics and information on the impacts of the 2020 Labor Day wildfires.

The pocket-size *Oregon Forest Facts* booklet serves as a detailed reference guide to Oregon's forest sector, including information, maps, graphs and statistics about forestland ownership, timber harvest, forest-based employment and wood products production. The 2021-22 edition also includes a map of the major wildfires during Oregon's 2020 fire season, as well as information on forest carbon storage and the effects of forest management on drinking water.

Data from the *Oregon Forest Facts 2021-22 Edition* is also available online at [OregonForestFacts.org](http://OregonForestFacts.org).



# K-12 EDUCATION

OFRI provides curriculum, classroom materials, workshops and field-trip opportunities to increase forest literacy among K-12 teachers and students. For more information, visit [LearnForests.org](http://LearnForests.org).



## New forest education resources for students

OFRI's K-12 education program developed new educational resources designed to help students better understand Oregon's forests and natural resources, including a set of self-guided lessons, a tree measuring tape and a colorful illustrated booklet for beginning readers.

The four Oregon Garden Natural Resources Education Program lessons OFRI released last fall guide students

through an engaging investigation of forests that they can do on their own or with classmates, making direct observations outdoors in their backyard, schoolyard or nearby park.

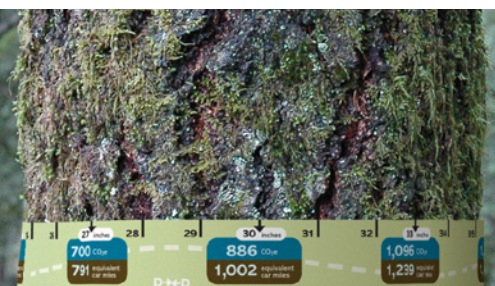
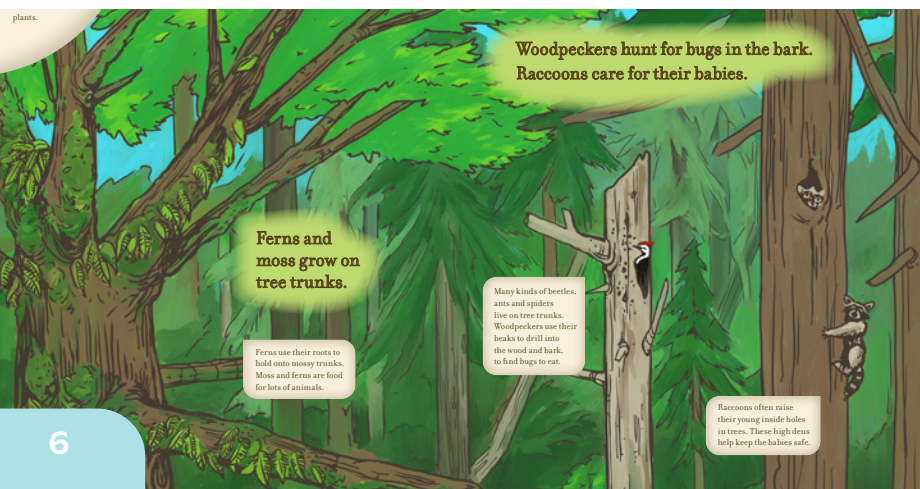
OFRI also developed the "Tree Carbon Tape," a measuring tape that can estimate the amount of carbon stored in a tree based on its diameter, as well as the approximate number of miles of driving in a car it would take to emit that amount of carbon. The aim of the educational tool is to help give middle school students a tangible sense of how much carbon is stored in Oregon's forests.

In early summer, OFRI published *More Than Trees*. The 16-page publication for early readers uses simple vocabulary and appealing illustrations to teach about forests and the wildlife that depend on them.

## CONFERENCE FOR NATURAL RESOURCES EDUCATORS

More than 55 high school teachers representing 26 schools from 16 counties across Oregon participated in the Natural Resources Educators Virtual Conference organized by OFRI last December.

Hosted by the Oregon State University Extension Service's Oregon Natural Resources Education Program, the annual conference provided professional development for career and technical education teachers specializing in the subjects of natural resources and forestry. It also served as a training for teachers whose students were planning to participate in Oregon Envirothon, and included a session on the competition's current issue, water resource management. Other topics covered during the conference included wildfire, soils and forest careers.



## OFRI HELPS HOST OUTDOOR SCHOOL

OFRI and three other members of the Salem-Keizer Outdoor School Coalition hosted an Outdoor School in May for 56 fifth-grade students from Englewood Elementary School in Salem.

Due to the school's pandemic travel restrictions, the coalition of organizations dedicated to environmental education brought Outdoor School to the students. All the educational activities took place in Englewood Park, located next to the school. OFRI offered lessons on trees and the forest food web.

Salem Environmental Education, the city of Salem and the Marion County Soil and Water Conservation District also participated in the Outdoor School.



## ENVIROTHON HAS STRONG TURNOUT

More than 100 high school students representing 12 schools from across the state competed in the 2021 Oregon Envirothon, an annual natural resources knowledge competition organized by OFRI, which was held virtually again this year.

Students worked together in teams to test their natural resources knowledge by completing a series of online tests covering five topics: aquatic ecology, forest ecology, soils and land use, wildlife ecology and a current issue. This year's current-issue topic was water resources management, and students learned about Oregon State University's *Trees to Tap* study on the effects of forest management on forested drinking water sources.

A team of students from Amity High School took first place, earning them a spot at the 2021 national Envirothon competition, held virtually July 25-28.



Below, from left:

*More Than Trees*, OFRI's newest student publication, is designed specifically for beginning readers.

OFRI developed the "Tree Carbon Tape" to help give students a sense of how much carbon is stored in Oregon's forests.

OFRI's Oregon Garden Natural Resources Education Program lessons teach students about wildlife habitats, adaptations, food webs and healthy forests.

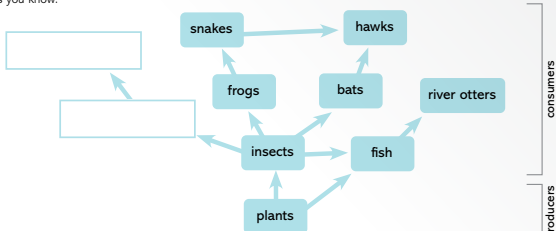
The winners of the 2021 Oregon Envirothon competition for high school students were congratulated in a virtual awards ceremony.

green plant → caterpillar → deer mouse → owl

Arrows in a food chain or food web show the flow of food energy from one living thing to the next. The arrows point to who is doing the eating.

### Engage

Complete a forest food web by filling in the missing parts. You may add animals from the above example or others you know.



### Explore

Go outside to look for different members of the food web in your backyard, schoolyard, neighborhood or nearby park. BE SURE TO CHECK WITH AN ADULT BEFORE HEADING OUT.

Find as many as you can of the following kinds of living things. Write the name or a description of each you find.





◀ **Jerry Anderson**  
Chair  
Hancock Forest  
Management



**Eric Schooler** ▶  
Vice Chair  
Collins



◀ **Audrey Barnes**  
Nickel Mountain LLC  
(small woodland owner)



**Dr. Thomas DeLuca** ▶  
Oregon State University  
College of Forestry  
(dean)



◀ **Kristopher Elliott**  
Outdoor School  
Program Leader,  
Oregon State University  
Extension  
(public representative)



**Tyler Freres** ▶  
Freres Lumber Co. Inc.



◀ **David Hampton**  
Hampton Lumber



**Matt Hegerberg** ▶  
Heron Timber



◀ **Jon Irvine**  
Oregon AFL-CIO  
(employee  
representative)



**Steve McNulty** ▶  
Weyerhaeuser Co.



◀ **Jennifer Phillippi**  
Perpetua Forests Co.



**Quincy Powers** ▶  
Powers Ranch Co.



◀ **Casey Roscoe**  
Seneca Family of  
Companies

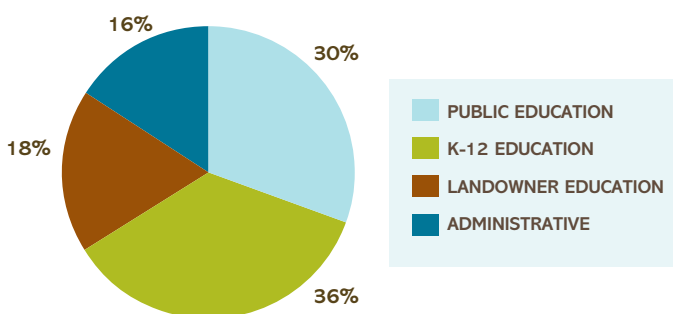


**Kyle Abraham** ▶  
Oregon Department  
of Forestry (liaison)

## OFRI board of directors

A 13-member board of directors governs OFRI. Board members represent timber producers, small woodland owners and industry professionals. *Ex officio* members include a public representative and the dean of the Oregon State University College of Forestry. An Oregon Department of Forestry liaison assists the board.

### ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS VS. PROGRAM COSTS



In each of the past 19 years, OFRI has received the state controller's "Gold Star" award for timely and accurate financial reporting.

## OFRI STAFF

**Inka Bajandas**, Public Outreach Manager

**Jordan Benner**, Senior Manager of Public Outreach

**Norie Dimeo-Ediger**, Director of K-12 Education Programs

**Rikki Heath**, Environmental Educator

**Kathy Storm**, Senior Manager of Business Operations

**Julie Woodward**, Senior Manager of Forestry Education

**OFRI MISSION STATEMENT** The Oregon Forest Resources Institute supports and enhances Oregon's forest products industry by advancing public understanding of forests, forest management and forest products.



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9755 SW Barnes Road, Suite 210  
Portland, OR 97225  
971-673-2944 • [OregonForests.org](http://OregonForests.org)

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