

FISCAL YEAR 2021-22



Oregon Forest
Resources Institute

REDISCOVERY FOREST

ANNUAL REPORT



Leadership changes

As we move from summer into fall, the Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI) is also in a time of transition with the recent hiring of a new executive director, Jim Paul. At the same time, we're saying a grateful goodbye to our acting executive director, Mike Cloughesy, as he returns to retirement after a 40-year career in forestry and education.



As the former director of the Oregon Department of State Lands and a longtime Oregon Department of Forestry employee, Jim Paul is also no stranger to forestry in Oregon. We're excited to have him on board to lead our efforts as a state agency tasked with supporting Oregon's forest products industry through educational programs that advance public understanding of forests, forest management and forest products.

Producing this annual report gives the OFRI board and staff a chance to reflect on the Institute's accomplishments over the past year across our landowner, public and K-12 forest education programs. I'm confident that Jim is joining an agency that's fully committed to informing Oregonians of all ages about the social, environmental and economic importance of the forests that cover nearly half of our state.

In the past year, we've continued to work with our partners in forestry education to offer high quality educational resources and programs to Oregon forestland owners and forest professionals.

We published an in-depth report examining the economic impacts of the 2020 Labor Day fires on Oregon's forest-related industries, and a special report focused on wildfire.

We also supported K-12 forest education across the state. This included providing educational resources for outdoor schools, and professional development workshops to teachers, to help them incorporate forestry and natural resources lessons into their curriculum.

Read on to learn more about OFRI's efforts to educate Oregonians about forests and the many ways they touch our lives.

—Jerry Anderson, chair, OFRI board of directors

OFRI by the numbers

MAJOR REPORTS

- *Living with Fire* – a special report about fire awareness, prevention and mitigation
- *2020 Labor Day Fires* – a study examining the economic impacts to Oregon's forest sector from the Labor Day fires

NEW OR UPDATED PUBLICATIONS

- *Investigate the Forest* – journal pages with activities that guide students in learning about Oregon's forests while they explore the outdoors
- *K-12 Forest Education Opportunities* – an updated guide to forestry education programs and materials
- *Managing Wildlife Leave Trees in the Pacific Northwest* – an informational pamphlet for landowners on how to maximize the benefits to wildlife from leaving some trees standing once logging is completed
- *Oregon Forest Literacy Plan* – an updated conceptual guide for K-12 educators to teaching and learning about Oregon's forests
- *Resources for Family Forestland Owners* – an updated guide to technical, financial and educational resources for Oregon's family forestland owners

DIGITAL

- Blog (12,546 visits)
- Facebook (10,940 "likes")
- Instagram (1,318 followers)
- Twitter (1,836 followers)
- LinkedIn (207 followers)
- YouTube (666,476 views)

VIDEOS

- 2022 Educational Media: "Big Things, Little Things" and "Oregon is Trees"

EVENTS

- Career-related presentations/events for students: 20
- Community outreach presentations: 10 (with 536 total participants)
- Conference booth displays: 9
- Conferences or forums: 7 (with 5,097 total participants)
- Field forestry programs: 4,469 student attendees statewide
- Forest education professional development workshops: 722 teacher attendees
- Forest tours: 1
- 2020 Labor Day Fires webinar: 100 attendees
- Landowner workshops and webinars: 78 (with 4,529 total participants)
- Managing Wildlife Leave Trees in the Pacific Northwest webinar: 183 attendees and views
- Oregon Envirothon 2022 statewide high school natural resource knowledge competition: 140 student attendees representing 13 schools
- OFRI-supported student forest field trips: 121

On the cover: The Rediscovery Forest, a 15-acre demonstration forest OFRI manages for educational purposes at The Oregon Garden in Silverton, gained a new entryway to replace one that was damaged by a falling tree during an ice storm. The new entry sign uses Douglas-fir beams donated by Monroe-based Hull-Oakes Lumber Co.

LANDOWNER EDUCATION

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

Partnership connects landowners to resources

As a founding member of a collaborative partnership between state, federal and private organizations called the Partnership for Forestry Education, OFRI helped connect landowners with educational programming and other resources to help them manage their forestland.

This included publishing an updated version of the partnership's resource guide, *Resources for Family Forestland Owners*. The

2022-24 edition of the guidebook offers information about technical, financial and educational resources for Oregon's family forestland owners.

OFRI also worked with the Oregon State University Extension Service and other members of the Partnership for Forestry Education to offer Tree School Online webinars for landowners on various forest-related topics.



PAMPHLET FOCUSES ON "LEAVE TREES"

OFRI's *Wildlife in Managed Forests* program produced an informational pamphlet called *Managing Wildlife Leave Trees in the Pacific Northwest* aimed to help forestland owners and managers understand how many trees they should leave standing on the landscape, and in which locations, to maximize the benefit they provide to wildlife once logging is complete. OFRI also hosted a webinar exploring the latest scientific research on the topic.

FACT SHEETS DETAIL NEW FOREST REGULATIONS

To help landowners understand upcoming changes to Oregon's forest practices regulations as a result of the Private Forest Accord agreement between the timber industry and conservation groups, OFRI created a new set of fact sheets.

The three fact sheets explain the significance of the Accord, related changes to the Oregon Forest Practices Act, and plans for the state to seek a Habitat Conservation Plan for private forests.

Below, from left:

OFRI sponsors Oregon State University Extension's Master Woodland Manager training program. This year, 27 new graduates from six counties completed the training, qualifying them to offer volunteer assistance to other forest landowners.

The 2022 Starker Lecture Series, co-sponsored by OFRI and hosted by the OSU College of Forestry, focused on the theme "Women of Forestry: Inspiring Leadership."

OFRI co-sponsored the 2022 Family Forest Convention, which brought together landowners for educational sessions, forest tours and demonstrations.



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.



Report profiles Oregonians “Living with Fire”

OFRI published a new special report profiling Oregonians across the state who are stepping up to mitigate the risk of fire to their homes, neighborhoods or forests, and forging partnerships to improve fire resiliency across the landscape.

The 24-page report, titled *Living with Fire*, was produced in partnership with Keep Oregon Green, the Oregon Department of Forestry and the Oregon State University Extension Service. It focuses on solutions to address the growing threat of wildfire

in Oregon due to factors such as climate change, overgrown forests and an increasing number of Oregonians living close to forests and other wildlands.

Through a series of profiles, *Living with Fire* tells the stories of Oregonians impacted by wildfire, including those who are working together with their neighbors to reduce the fire risk to their communities and managing their forestland to improve its resilience to fire.

Below, from left:

The OFRI special report, *Living with Fire*, profiled Oregonians affected by wildfire, including the 2020 Labor Day fires.

The OFRI-commissioned report, *2020 Labor Day Fires*, detailed the economic impacts of the 2020 fire season on Oregon's forest-related businesses.

OFRI updated OregonForestLaws.org, an informational website for Oregonians to learn about the state's forest protection laws.

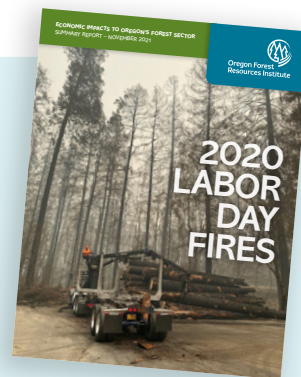
OFRI produced and aired two new educational media spots focused on reforestation.

STUDY DETAILS LABOR DAY FIRE IMPACTS

In light of 2020's historic fire season, OFRI commissioned a study examining the economic impacts of that year's Labor Day wildfires on Oregon's forest-related businesses and industries.

The study, *2020 Labor Day Fires – Economic Impacts to Oregon's Forest Sector*, prepared by Mason, Bruce & Girard and Forest Economic Advisors, relies on extensive research, surveys and interviews to create a comprehensive tally of the economic impacts of the megafire event, which burned more than one million acres across western Oregon.

OFRI also published a report summarizing the study findings and hosted a webinar on the study.

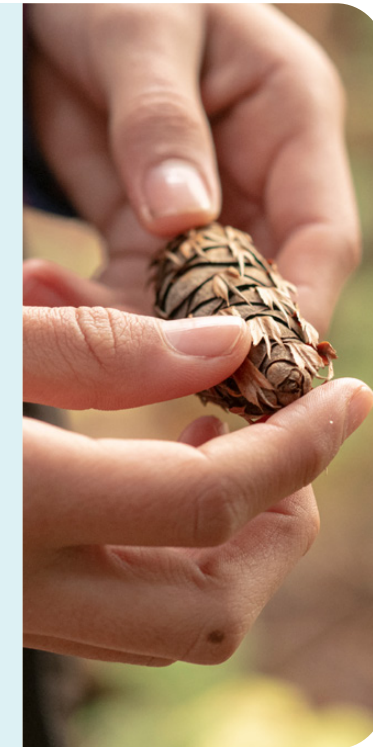


MEDIA SPOTS HIGHLIGHT TREE-PLANTING

Two new OFRI-produced educational media spots highlighted the importance of replanting trees after timber harvest. The spots appeared on television, digital streaming services and social media.

Part of a campaign aimed to inform Oregonians about reforestation practices in Oregon's forests, the spots explained that forestland owners plant millions of new trees every year to replace those harvested, ensuring future generations will enjoy the same forest resources we do today, including wood products, healthy watersheds, recreational opportunities, and thriving fish and wildlife habitat.

Both spots directed viewers to OFRI's main website, OregonForests.org, which contains more information about reforestation, forest laws and sustainable forest management, among other topics related to Oregon's forests.



DIGITAL REACH

Average monthly web visits	16,420
Total blog visits	12,546
Total YouTube views	666,476
Facebook “likes”	10,940
Twitter followers	1,836
Instagram followers	1,318
LinkedIn followers	207

FY 2021-22

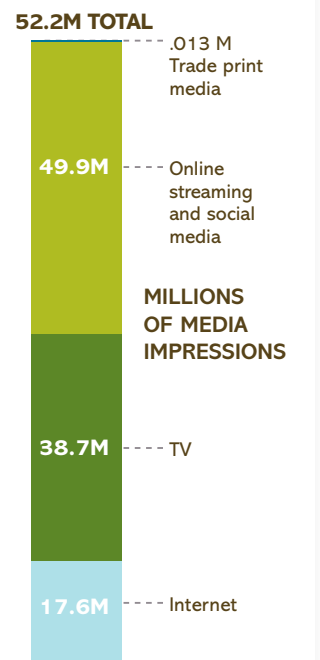
OFRI continues to expand its social and digital media presence with five active websites, a blog, a YouTube channel, and a growing number of followers on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn.

FOREST LAWS WEBSITE UPDATED

Oregon's forest protection laws are changing. To help inform Oregonians about recent changes to the Oregon Forest Practices Act, OFRI updated its OregonForestLaws.org website, which provides an overview of state laws and regulations aimed to protect clean water, fish and wildlife habitat, and other forest resources.

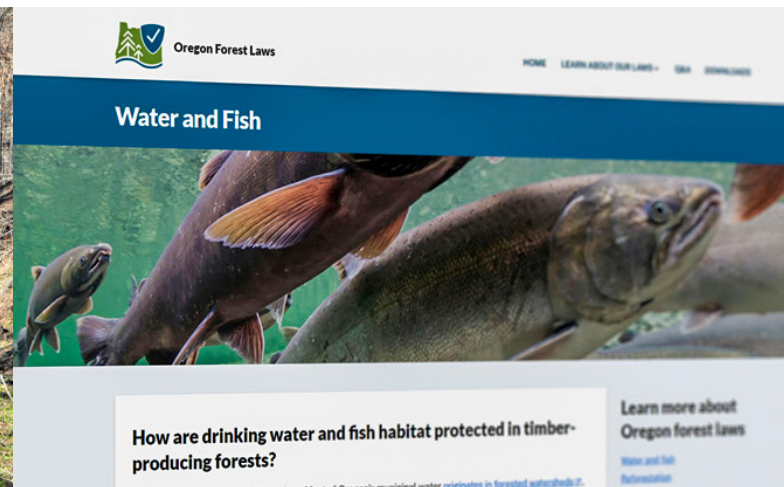
The updated website includes information about new laws expanding protections for fish and amphibian habitat as a result of the Private Forest Accord agreement between the timber industry and conservation groups.

EDUCATIONAL MEDIA IMPRESSIONS



FY 2021-22

OFRI's annual educational media campaign includes trade print media, TV and online placements, as well as spots on digital streaming services and social media.



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.

Supporting outdoor learning



In Oregon, forests are the setting and backdrop for many outdoor school programs. With that in mind, OFRI's K-12 education program supported these field science education programs for fifth- and sixth-grade students across the state.

This included developing a new educational

publication designed to help students learn about Oregon's forests while immersed in them. The journal pages of *Investigate the Forest* offer a series of hands-on, student-centered ways to study the forest and other natural environments. The journal may be used before, during or after attending an outdoor school program, to enhance students' understanding of Oregon's forests and how they're a vital resource. Topics covered in the journal pages include tree identification, wildlife habitat, food chains, forest management, wildfire prevention, and climate change and forests.

OFRI is also a partner in the non-residential outdoor school program called PAWS (Plants Animals Water Soil), which provides a multi-day outdoor school experience at various sites throughout Marion County.

To further support outdoor learning, OFRI created a new outdoor school resources page for Oregon K-12 educators on its LearnForests.org website.

FOREST LITERACY PLAN UPDATED

OFRI updated its *Oregon Forest Literacy Plan*, a framework for what every Oregon student should know about the state's forests by the end of high school.

A diverse group of educators and natural resource professionals reviewed the concepts presented in the plan and suggested ways to revise them to ensure that they appropriately address current approaches, issues and challenges related to Oregon's forests. OFRI asked the group to identify and consider important recent changes in the fields of forestry and education, such as the intensity and impact of wildfire, and increased awareness of the role of indigenous people in forestry.

The plan also went through a public review process, where the draft educational concepts were made available to members of the public, who could offer input.



OREGON ENVIROTHON RETURNS TO IN-PERSON EVENT

For the first time since 2019, OFRI hosted the Oregon Envirothon at The Oregon Garden in Silverton.

More than 140 students from 13 high schools across the state participated in the annual natural resources knowledge competition, which was conducted virtually the previous two years. They completed a series of tests to demonstrate their skills in various natural resource disciplines, including aquatic, forest and wildlife ecology, and soils and land use. Students also gave oral presentations and were tested on their knowledge of this year's current issue, "Waste to Resources."

A team of students from Logos Public Charter School in Medford won the 2022 Oregon Envirothon, advancing to the national Envirothon competition in Oxford, Ohio.



TEACHER WORKSHOP FOCUSES ON WILDFIRE

OFRI hosted a workshop for high school teachers in southern Oregon that focused on ways to teach their students about wildfire.

OFRI organized the workshop in partnership with the Oregon Natural Resources Education Program, Oregon State University Extension Service, the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) and the Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative (SOFRC). It centered on introducing participants to FireBright, a high school curriculum about wildfire developed by OSU Extension, ODF and SOFRC, aimed to help teachers incorporate lessons about wildfire into their science curriculum.

Below, from left:

In May 2022, high school students from across Oregon gathered in person for the first time since 2019 for the annual Oregon Envirothon competition.

OFRI is part of a coalition of organizations dedicated to environmental education that offers an outdoor school for Marion County students.

Participants in OFRI's teacher workshop on wildfire learned about fire ecology and tools of the firefighting trade. Workshop activities included learning how to dig a fire line (left) and building a model forest out of matches to see how it burns depending on different variables (middle).

An OFRI grant helped fund new interpretive signage to educate children and families visiting the Oregon Coast Aquarium in Newport about coastal forests (right).





◀ **Jerry Anderson**
Chair
Manulife Investment
Management



Eric Schooler ▶
Vice Chair
Collins



◀ **Jennifer Beathe**
Starker Forests Inc.



Paul Betts ▶
Miami Alternatives LLC



◀ **Gordon Culbertson**
Whitewater Forests LLC
(small woodland owner)



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



◀ **Dr. Kristopher Elliott**
Oregon State
University Extension
(public representative)



David Hampton ▶
Hampton Lumber



◀ **Matt Hegerberg**
Heron Timber



Mike Hicks ▶
IAM-AW District W24
(employee
representative)



◀ **Garren Hitner**
Century Forest
Management



Dan Newton ▶
Newton Timber



◀ **Brian Trenholm**
Weyerhaeuser Co.

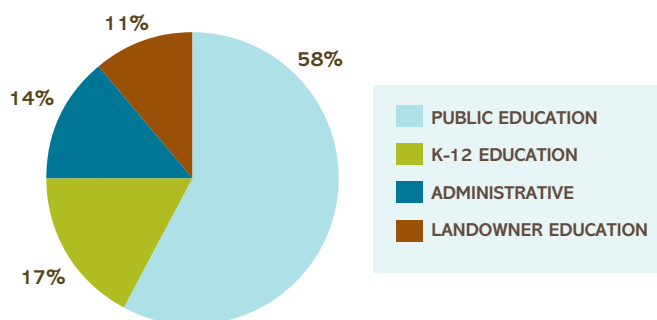


Kyle Abraham ▶
Oregon Department
of Forestry (liaison)

OFRI board of directors

A 13-member board of directors governs OFRI. Board members represent timber producers, small woodland owners, and timber and wood products industry employees. Non-voting 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, Public Outreach

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

Rikki Heath, Environmental Educator

Jim Paul, Executive Director

Kathy Storm, Senior Manager, Business Operations

Julie Woodward, Acting Director of Forestry

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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Resources Institute**

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