

# ABOUT THE OREGON FOREST RESOURCES INSTITUTE



Learn more at [OregonForests.org](https://OregonForests.org)



## OFRI MISSION

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

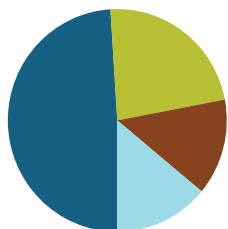
## OFRI BACKGROUND

- The Oregon Legislature created the Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI) in 1991.
- OFRI is governed by a board of directors made up of 11 voting members appointed by the state forester, plus two non-voting members. Board members represent timber producers, small woodland owners and 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.
- OFRI is funded by a portion of the forest products harvest tax, at a rate set annually by the board.
- The Institute's annual budget is between \$3.5 and \$4 million, depending on harvest tax receipts.
- OFRI has eight full-time staff based out of two offices, in Portland and at The Oregon Garden in Silverton, where the Institute manages the 15-acre Rediscovery Forest for educational purposes.
- Staff includes professional foresters, environmental educators and public outreach professionals.

## CORE PROGRAMS

OFRI fulfills its mission through three core programs that educate the general public, K-12 teachers and students, and landowners.

## PROGRAMS AS PERCENTAGE OF BUDGET



49%	■ Public Education
23%	■ K-12 Education
14%	■ Landowner Education
14%	■ Administration

## PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAM

OFRI's public education program consists of forest tours, publications, research, websites, videos and other educational media content covering a wide range of forest-related topics, including:

- forest sector economic impact
- Oregon forest facts
- water quality
- wildfire
- carbon
- Oregon Forest Practices Act
- reforestation
- fish and wildlife protections

Key elements of the public education program include:

- annual forest tours highlighting current forest practices
- publishing one special report per year on a topic of public interest such as wildfire, water quality or carbon
- commissioning scientific research with leading institutions including Oregon State University, University of Washington and University of Idaho
- publishing the bi-annual Oregon Forest Facts booklet with information about Oregon's forests and forest industry
- maintaining three core websites intended for the general public, educators and landowners
- running an annual statewide educational



## PUBLIC EDUCATION (cont.)

media campaign to educate Oregonians about the state's forest sector

- commissioning research to gauge public awareness of Oregon's forest laws and practices
- operating social media accounts on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube that share content on forestry-related events, news and information

Public awareness, replanting laws



Public awareness, protections for water resources



Overall approval, forest management activities



## K-12 EDUCATION PROGRAM

OFRI's K-12 education program focuses on professional development for teachers, in-class educational programs for students, field trip transportation reimbursement, and grade-level publications for teachers and students that meet or exceed state science standards. All materials are provided free of charge.



Key programs:

### Oregon Natural Resources Education Program:

Housed at Oregon State University (OSU), this program provides free professional development for natural resources education to more than 700 teachers across Oregon annually.

**Talk About Trees:** This in-class forestry education program for pre-K through eighth grades reaches more than 100,000 students annually.

**Career technical education:** Working with the Oregon Department of Education, OFRI supports forestry and natural resources education programs at more than 30 Oregon high schools. The Institute also offers a professional development conference annually for high school teachers, and provides the sole financial support for the Oregon Envirothon, a skills-based natural resources knowledge competition engaging up to 200 students annually. These programs are closely affiliated with National FFA Organization and Future Natural Resource Leaders.

## LANDOWNER EDUCATION PROGRAM

OFRI's landowner education program is designed to extend the reach of key forestry education programs throughout Oregon, and to meet the evolving needs of the state's forestland owners and managers.

Key programs and partnerships:

**Partnership for Forestry Education:** Brings together 17 forestry education programs from around the state and centralizes and maintains information for landowners on one website, KnowYourForest.org.

**Wildlife in Managed Forests:** OFRI summarizes scientific information about forest wildlife and habitat and disseminates it through publications, workshops and tours.

**Resources for Family Forestland Owners:** OFRI provides a complete listing of local and regional resources for family forest landowners.

**Master Woodland Manager program:** OFRI provides the sole funding for this program, which is delivered through the OSU Extension Service.

**Women Owning Woodlands/Tree School:** OFRI provides supplemental funding to support these two OSU Extension Service programs.

**Oregon's Forest Protection Laws –**

### An Illustrated Manual:

This OFRI-produced manual serves as a go-to reference for forestland owners, managers and operators to understand and follow the Oregon Forest Practices Act.

