

Siuslaw Middle School students learn about growing healthy forests

Once again, the coastal forestry community gathered at the beautiful North Siuslaw property of Noland and Maureen Huntington on a late May day to share their expertise with more than 115 students from Siuslaw Middle School.

It was the eighth year running for the school's Forest Field Day (FFD), which is organized annually by retired coastal educators Dave and Diann Rankin.

As the main program of Forests Today and Forever, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting forest stewardship through education in Lane and Linn counties for more than 20 years, the math- and science-based curricula is built on the real-life scenario of a family inheriting a tree farm.

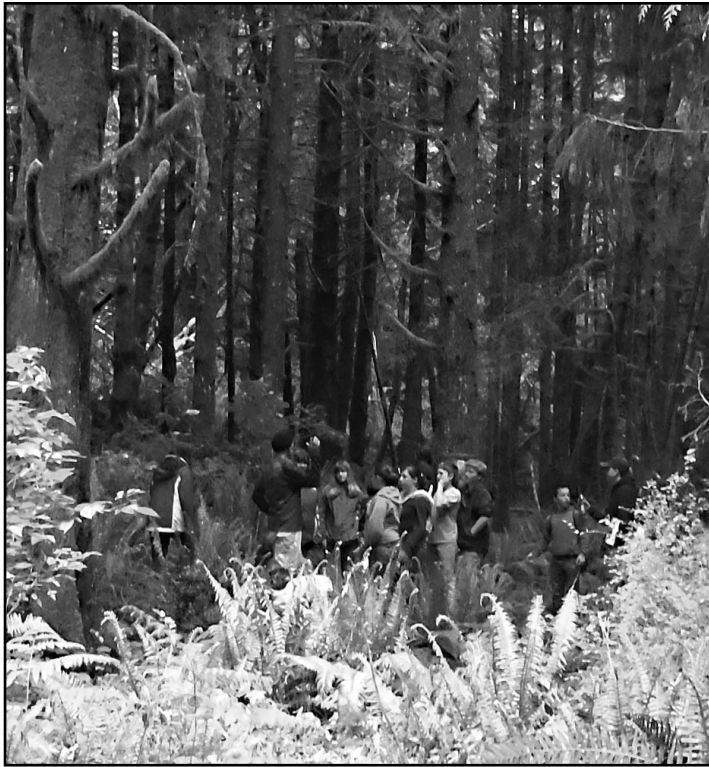
As a tree farming family must by law, students create a

five-year land management plan for "their" property that meets all regulations protecting soil, water and wildlife according to the Forest Practice Act, while paying taxes and providing for public recreation.

After in-class study, students rotate through four learning stations at a field day staffed by area professionals who teach about healthy forests and timber management; riparian zones and soil compaction, erosion and identification; wildlife identification and about the issues relating to recreating in the forest.

As citizens of a timbered state with nearly 30 million acres designated as forest, it is information that should serve them well in the future.

— Submitted by *LaRae Ash, Forests Today and Forever*



Siuslaw Middle School students studied the forest from the ground up last month during a field trip hosted by Forests Today and Forever, educators Dave and Diann Rankin and Noland and Maureen Huntington. (courtesy photos)



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