

Winter 2024

A YEAR IN FORESTRY EDUCATION



We concluded another year of forestry education reaching a variety of audiences in 2023—from elementary students all the way to high school classes and college students. In total, we reached 3,105 people with our programs designed to educate about forests and inspire an appreciation for the many benefits of working forests. Forest Field Days alone reached about 1,326 middle school students, with 158 teachers and chaperones learning alongside students in the field. We served 836 4th and 5th graders with tree farm field trips, a new program that brings younger students to the tree farm to experience a working forest while learning about trees, forest fire, protecting water, and more. High school programs collectively reached 526 students. The forest fire program was delivered to 12 classes and the forest careers program reached 11 classes. We engaged an additional 84 high school students from Eugene 4J's CTE program in Forestry and Natural Resources, offering them hands-on experiences in forestry and connecting them with professionals who work in the field. At the college level, we reached 31 University of Oregon History students with a tree farm tour to help explore the role of forestry in the broader history of the Pacific Northwest. We reached 20 additional college-age individuals with a training provided to the staff at Camp Lutherwood where we taught new summer staff about forestry to complement and help develop their outdoor education programming. We are proud of our accomplishments in 2023 and look forward to the year ahead with the intent of continuing and growing our important work in forestry education. Of course, we owe our success to the many supporters listed on the next page who provide generous financial support, to the hundreds of volunteers who donate their time and expertise to teach during our programs, and to landowners, Tom Bauman and Lindsay Reaves, who partner with us to provide field experiences to the public.



Top: Volunteer, Paul Catino, of Campbell Global teaching middle school students how to use a clinometer during Forest Field Days; Middle Top: Creslane 4th-grade students practice rolling out hoses as part of a forest fire lesson with Oregon Department of Forestry; Middle Bottom: Sheldon High School Students building model landscapes as part of the forest fire program; Bottom: Lindsay Reaves, Bauman Tree Farm owner and FTF Educator leads UO History students on a tree farm tour.

THANK YOU 2023 SUPPORTERS

We strive to make our donors proud with every dollar well-spent to educate youth and inform the public about forest management. We are grateful to our community of supporters!

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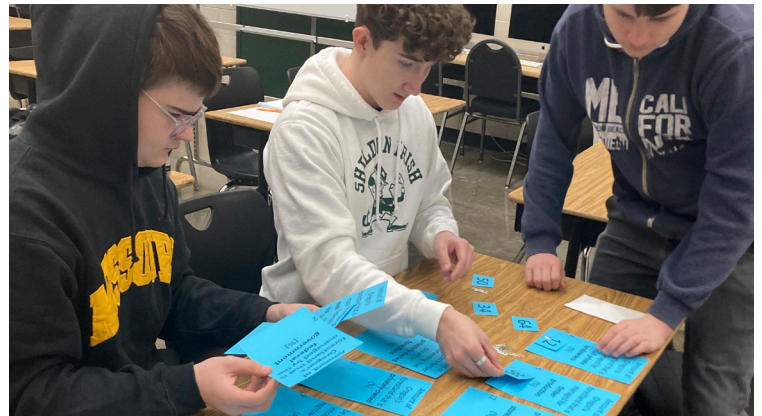
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This list is accurate through 1/5/2024. Additional funding designated for 2023 may have been received after this newsletter went to print and will be reflected in our annual report and on our website. Thank you for your understanding.

OFRI SUPPORTS FTF PROGRAMS

Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI) generously supports the work of Forests Today & Forever. Through their bussing program, OFRI funds transportation of students to and from Bauman Tree Farm for our forestry and outdoor education programs. This helps our Forest Field Days and other field-based programs remain free to schools and districts. Oregon Forest Resources Institute also provides funding towards our high school programs in career education and forest fire. Thank you, OFRI, for all you do to support forestry education in Lane County and beyond.



Students at Sheldon High school in Eugene playing a game to test their knowledge about Oregon forest facts.

NOTICES

Our annual **Soiree & Silent Auction** fundraiser event is cancelled for 2024 so that we can focus on program expansion and other types of fundraising activities. We hope to bring the event back in the future, so please stay tuned. We will look forward to celebrating with you in future years!

Forests Today & Forever is in the process of developing a **new website**. Updates to our current website have stopped, but the new website, which will launch soon, will have current information. Our web address will remain the same: foreststodayandforever.org.

THIRTY YEARS OF FOREST FIELD DAYS!



Top Left: Students at Forest Field Days in 1994 conducting a soil experiment with volunteer, Dick Powell; Top Right: Students at Forest Field Days in 2022 conducting a soil experiment with volunteer, Dick Powell. Bottom: a school bus that transports students to and from Forest Field Days is parked at Bauman Tree Farm.

2024 marks 30 years of Forest Field Days by Forests Today & Forever (FTF). The program was originally created by the Corvallis School District, Benton County, OSU Extension, and the Mary's Peak Chapter of the Society of American Foresters. When Forests Today & Forever observed the program, board members were impressed with its real-life introduction to forest management with its emphasis on choice, compromise, and responsibility. In 1994, FTF enthusiastically launched the program in Lane County as a mission-oriented initiative to promote forest stewardship through education. The first year was implemented in partnership with Springfield Public Schools and 876 students attended. Since then, the program has run continuously (except for two seasons during the COVID pandemic) and has served an estimated 58,000 students from over 30 schools and 12 school districts. Forest Field Days has withstood the test of time, as the curriculum framework is much the same today as it was in 1994. While there have been some updates to program content to align with educational standards, the original approach—as a thought-provoking and interactive introduction to forests and forest management—remains intact. With this strong foundation, we are excited to bring Forest Field Days into the future. Accordingly, we

are embarking on a thorough review and update to our curriculum in 2024 to ensure that we are teaching the most important and relevant topics while strengthening our ties to educational standards. We look forward to presenting a modernized Forest Field Day program that maintains the original framework while incorporating content that is current, relevant, and tailored to today's student audience.



For more information, see our website:

www.ForestsTodayAndForever.org

Contact Beth Krisko:

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2024 WINTER NEWSLETTER

- A Year in Forestry Education
- 2023 Supporter List
- Thirty Years of Forest Field Days!

THANK YOU

Thank you to International Paper Foundation and Weyerhaeuser Giving Fund for grant funding that supports our work in forestry education.



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Our mission is to promote forest stewardship through education.

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