

An illustration of a forest interior. The scene is dominated by the vertical trunks of several trees, rendered in shades of brown and tan with detailed wood grain patterns. The background is a vibrant green, representing the dense foliage and canopy. A small, yellowish-brown bird's nest is visible on the left side, perched on a branch. The overall style is a mix of sketchy lines and solid color washes.

More Than Trees

A Story of Oregon Forests



Oregon Forest
Resources Institute



Read with me!

Smaller text like this throughout the book provides more details about Oregon forests.

A forest is a place with lots of trees.

But it is more than trees...

A forest has different layers. The **canopy** is the top layer. It has the highest tree branches and leaves.

High up, birds call to each other from the treetops.

Tree leaves capture sunlight to make food for the tree. They also filter and clean the air.

Squirrels soar from tree to tree.

Chickadees eat insects living on leaves. Their name comes from their call, which sounds like "chick-a-dee-dee-dee."

These squirrels are called flying squirrels, but they don't really fly. Skin flaps between their front and back legs help them glide between trees.

Below the canopy layer are the **tree trunks**. These are home to many different animals and plants.

Woodpeckers hunt for bugs in the bark.
Raccoons care for their babies.

Ferns and moss grow on tree trunks.

Ferns use their roots to hold onto mossy trunks. Moss and ferns are food for lots of animals.

Many kinds of beetles, ants and spiders live on tree trunks. Woodpeckers use their beaks to drill into the wood and bark, to find bugs to eat.

Raccoons often raise their young inside holes in trees. These high dens help keep the babies safe.

The next layer of the forest is the **shrub layer**. It is made up of shrubs or bushes among the trees. This layer provides food and shelter for many animals.

Bears look for berries in the bushes.

Black bears are the only kind of bears that live in Oregon. They eat lots of different things, but they love huckleberries.

Small birds make their nests.

Winter wrens build nests out of moss, bark, twigs and other plant bits. These tiny birds hop all over the shrubs looking for insects to eat.

As bees sip nectar from flowers, they carry pollen from one flower to the next. This helps the plants make seeds.

Bees buzz from flower to flower.

The **forest floor** is the lowest layer of the forest. It is made up of fallen logs and dead leaves, branches, bark and sticks.

Frogs hide under logs.

Pacific tree frogs spend a lot of time hiding under rotting logs, rocks and dead leaves. They are hard to see unless they move.

Worms, mushrooms and ants break up dead leaves into small pieces, releasing nutrients into the soil. This helps the trees and other forest plants grow.

Worms eat dead leaves.

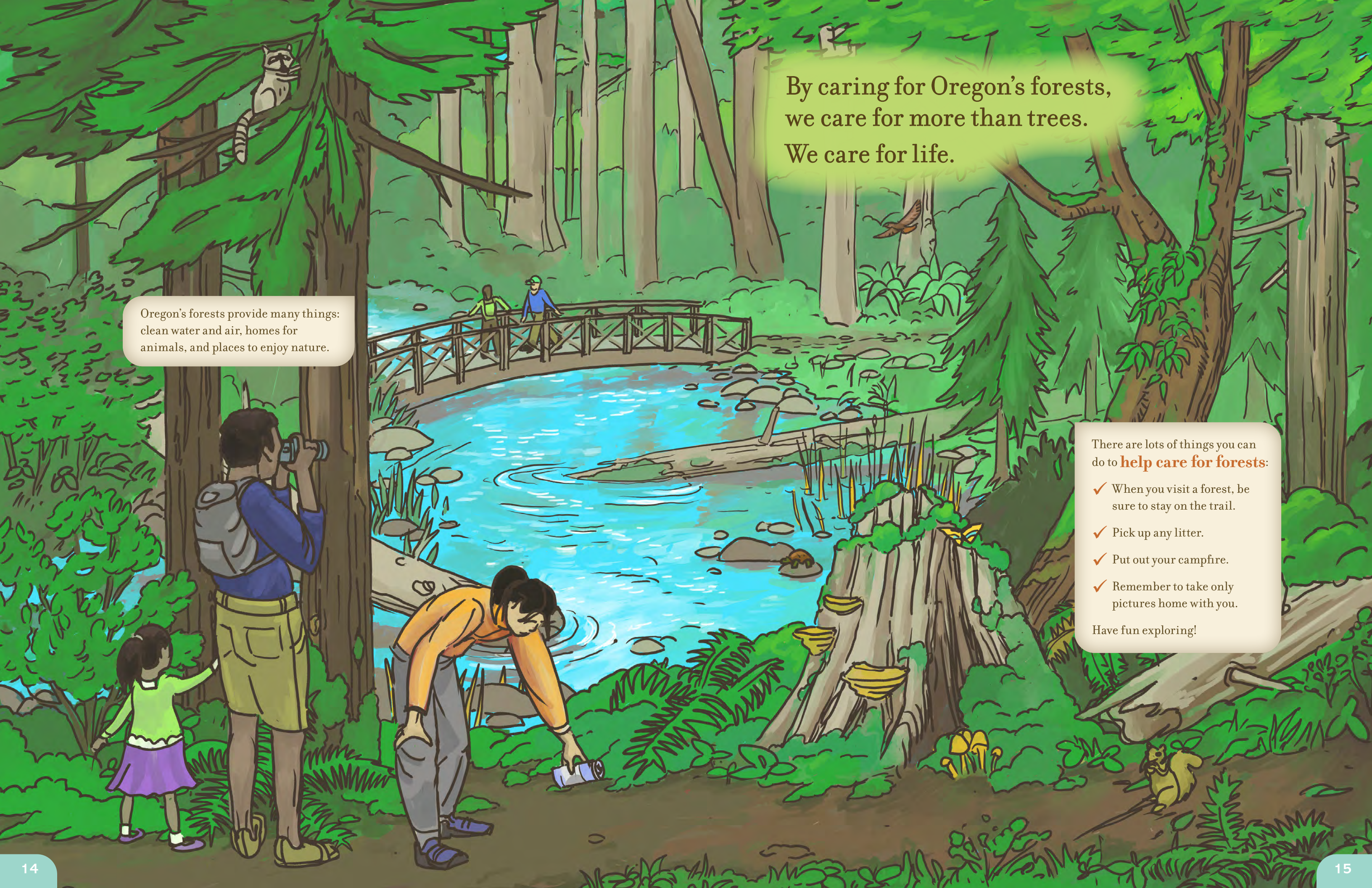
Streams are an important part of the forest — for people and wildlife. Drinking water for millions of Oregonians comes from forests.

Beavers build dams that block the flow of stream water and create ponds. Beaver ponds provide a home for turtles, wood ducks, baby salmon and other animals.

Trout swim in the stream.

Beavers build a dam.

Rainbow trout live in cool, clear forest streams. They get their name from their beautiful colors. They eat flies and other insects, plus small fish and fish eggs.



Oregon's forests provide many things: clean water and air, homes for animals, and places to enjoy nature.

By caring for Oregon's forests,
we care for more than trees.
We care for life.

There are lots of things you can do to **help care for forests**:

- ✓ When you visit a forest, be sure to stay on the trail.
- ✓ Pick up any litter.
- ✓ Put out your campfire.
- ✓ Remember to take only pictures home with you.

Have fun exploring!



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To learn more about
Oregon's forests, visit
[LearnForests.org](https://www.learnforests.org).

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