

ABOUT THE OREGON FOREST RESOURCES INSTITUTE



Learn more at OregonForests.org



OFRI MISSION

The Oregon Forest Resources Institute is dedicated to advancing public understanding of forests, forest management and forest products, and encouraging sound forestry through landowner education.

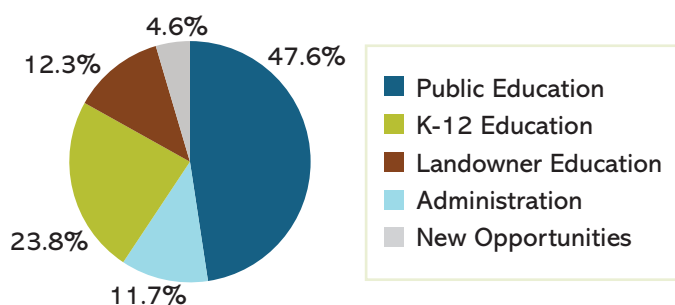
OFRI BACKGROUND

- The Oregon Legislature created the Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI) in 1991.
- A 13-member board of directors governs OFRI. Board members represent timber producers, small woodland owners and industry employees. Ex-officio 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 timber harvest levels.
- 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.
- Professional staff members include two foresters and two natural resource educators.

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



PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAM

OFRI's public education program consists of forest tours, publications, research, websites, videos, advertising and social 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 tours for policymakers, highlighting current forest practices
- publishing one special report per year on a topic 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



PUBLIC EDUCATION (cont.)

- running an annual statewide advertising campaign to educate Oregonians about three core forest protections (reforestation, protection of water, and protection of fish and wildlife habitat) that airs on broadcast television, streaming services, and digital and social media platforms
- commissioning public opinion research on Oregonians' values and beliefs regarding the state's forests
- operating social media accounts on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube that share content on forestry-related events, news and information



Public awareness of forest practice laws:



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, this program provides free professional development for natural resources education to teachers across Oregon.

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). These programs are closely affiliated with National FFA Organization and Future Natural Resources Leaders.

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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 forest landowners and managers.

Key programs and partnerships:

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

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

Resources for Family Forests guide: 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 Oregon State University Extension Service.

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

Oregon's Forest Protection Laws – An Illustrated Manual: This OFRI-produced manual serves as a go-to reference for forest landowners, managers and operators to understand and follow the Oregon Forest Practices Act.

