



The Lookout

News of the Tillamook Forest Center

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Tillamook Forest Center

Inspiring people to connect with the Tillamook State Forest



Staff

Director

Denise Berkshire

Statewide Interpretation Coordinator

Natalie Sanman

Interpretive Media & Operations Specialist

Alejandra Arellano

Interpretive Specialist

Robin Walker

Facilities Coordinator

Mac Erickson

Facilities Maintenance Specialist

Teresa Anderson

Joint effort towards a healthy forest



The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) is committed to managing state forests to provide the Greatest Permanent Value including economic, environmental, and social benefits. This social component includes recreational opportunities, which provide personal health benefits, such as relaxation, rejuvenation, and connection. To preserve this ability to improve your health and wellness, the landscape must remain healthy and adapt to changes. Trees surrounding the Tillamook Forest Center (TFC) are adversely impacted due to offsite seed sources planted after the Tillamook Burn, and we must take necessary steps to maintain a healthy, hardy landscape for the benefit of current and future generations of visitors.

A 2024 TFC forest health review by Gabi Ritokova (ODF Pathologist) and Christine Buhl (ODF Entomologist), revealed evidence of root disease, drought stress, and some evidence of opportunistic native Douglas-fir and fir engraver beetles finishing off these damaged trees. Efforts to remove affected trees and replace them with more disease and drought-tolerant options can prevent he further spread of both diseases and insect pests to surrounding trees.

Following the scientific evidence provided by these experts in their field, the TFC is working with several districts and associates to mitigate the danger, provide training opportunities, and showcase the diverse work of the agency. Those involved include the ODF Forest Grove fuels reduction crew, ODF South Fork Forest Camp,

**Visitor Services
Coordinator**
Toni Calogianes

Visitor Services Specialist
Katherine Hill



ODF Tillamook reforestation and recreation teams, and ODF retirees Bob Teran and Joe Travers, who are providing initial remediation of hazardous trees, a future reforestation effort, and a localized Forest Management Plan.

Completed at the end of February, 60 diseased trees were felled by crews led by Collin Neys (ODF Forest Management Technician) and Peter Kaiser (Wildland Fire Supervisor) while ODF biologists Micheal Davis and Matt Aberle of Salem, were in attendance to ensure integrity of possible wildlife habitat. South Fork adults in custody have been working with crew boss Scott Jewel to remove logs which will be utilized for firewood at nearby Jones Creek Campground. Next, we'll be working with Trever Madison (Tillamook Reforestation Unit), who'll be providing native trees, not typically bothered by the fir engraver beetle, for the Arbor Month Tree Planting event in April. This project highlights the incredible talent and diverse work of the agency, and we are grateful for the collaboration.

To learn more about these beetles visit:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sLG7O499UGo>

<https://www.oregon.gov/odf/Documents/forestbenefits/Douglas-fir-beetle.pdf>

To celebrate Arbor Month, join the tree planting event, and to learn more about this project and other opportunities check out the [Center's program calendar](#).

From the Director



Working in the middle of the Tillamook State Forest provides rejuvenation and promotes wellness. Whether it's a quick walk on the trails to clear the mind and spark creativity, smelling the fresh scent of rain, or admiring the towering renewable resources (trees), the forest supports health and wellness, as well as supplies clean water, and products we use every day. The complex legacy of this forest continues to challenge foresters and the health of its trees, especially those adjacent to the Center. To mitigate disease and insect attacks, we removed stressed trees this winter. We invite you to contribute to rebuilding the health of the Center site by planting trees with us in April in celebration of Arbor Month.

Additionally, throughout the season programs will focus on forest health and all our personal connections to forests. We hope you will find yourself in the forest this spring and embrace the wellness benefits that accompany taking a deep breath of fresh state forest air.

Denise

Starting the year with health in mind



Did you make a new year's resolution to go outside more? Come join us in the forest! A walk in the forest has a positive influence on the body as it helps heart rate and blood pressure decrease.

Whether you are coming for a hike on the Wilson River Trail or joining us on an interpretive walk, coming to visit the forest can improve your health.

Volunteers help visitors connect with the forest



We are seeking day volunteers for the 2025 season. Day volunteers are valued members of the TFC team who help improve the services we offer visitors. Volunteering is a great way to learn more about Oregon State Forests, connect with visitors, and meet people with similar interests. We are currently accepting volunteer applications for Field Trip Assistants, Information Desk Greeters, and Trails & Grounds Assistants. Interested? Learn more about positions and how to apply here: <https://www.tillamookforestcenter.org/about/jobsvolunteer>

Rejuvenation in action: Give back to the forest



Nature renews itself in powerful ways, but a little help goes a long way. At the State Forests Trust of Oregon, we celebrate this cycle of rejuvenation by creating opportunities to give back.

[Spring Cleaning for the Trails](#)

Join fellow volunteers this spring for a hands-on stewardship day on the Wilson River Trail. Together, we'll clear brush, and prep the trails for a bustling 2025 season. After a day of rewarding work, enjoy a well-earned post-dig meal at scenic Smith Homestead.

[Plant Your Legacy at Tillamook Forest Center](#)

Honor someone special by “planting a tree” on the forest landscape sculpture at Tillamook Forest Center’s plaza. Like the forest, this meaningful installation grows over time. Supporters can look forward to a new commemorative wall to be installed in fall 2025, offering even more space to celebrate loved ones and memories.

Every act of stewardship—big or small—helps keep our forests thriving. [Get involved today!](#)

State Forests Trust of Oregon (SFTO) is a non-profit that serves as a catalyst for public/private partnerships to support the Recreation, Education & Interpretation (REI) Program at the Oregon Department of Forestry. SFTO also develops tools and experiences that help Oregonians better understand and appreciate Oregon's State-owned forests.

Upcoming programs and events



This spring, set aside some time to visit the forest and recharge at one of our special programs! Join us on April 5th and 6th to help replant tree saplings for Arbor Month! | On May 3rd join us to learn how to stay safe and healthy with our annual Wildfire Community Preparedness Day. Then, on May 10th and 11th help release steelhead salmon fry into the Wilson River! Check out our [website](#) for more information, dates, and other forest programs that are sure to rejuvenate you.

mark your calendar

Spring Reopening
Wednesday, March 5th

Check out our website for
upcoming programs and events



Attention Teachers:
Spring field trip dates
still available
Register your class today!

For more information contact:
TFC.InterpretationandEducation@odf.oregon.gov

Upcoming Events

**Arbor Month Celebration ~
Plant a tree with us**

Sat, April 5th - Sun, April 6th

Wildfire Community Preparedness Day

Sat, May 3rd

Steelhead Release Walk

Sat, May 10th - Sun, May 11th
(estimated dates)



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