

# Outreach Highlights

OSU forestry and natural resources outreach and engagement programs deliver research-based, objective information about forests to help people solve problems, develop leadership and manage resources wisely. Our world-class faculty and partners share their knowledge through various recurring and one-time programs, including workshops, conferences and short courses designed for academics, working professionals and the general public.

## **SAMPLING OF OUTREACH ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND IMPACTS**

- The Forestry and Natural Resources Extension Program conducted over 400 educational events and delivered over 350 presentations across Oregon and the United States. These events provided over 4,000 hours of instruction and reached more than 40,000, resulting in 400,000 client contact hours of instruction.

- Each year, the college hosts numerous scholars from overseas universities who collaborate as researchers, educators and interns. These visitors contribute to the intellectual and cultural growth of our college and university community. In the last biennium, the college hosted over 80 international visitors who contributed to the community.

- OSU's "Ask an Expert" program, since its debut on the OSU Extension website in March 2011, has fielded approximately 38,960 questions from across the state and country and even from overseas. In FY 2019 and FY 2020, the team answered about 650 questions submitted to the website.

- The Forestry and Natural Resources Extension Fire Program was funded in 2019 by the Oregon legislature to facilitate cross-boundary partnerships and landscape-scale management opportunities and provide fire outreach and education to all Oregonians. At the cross-boundary, landscape-scale, the Fire Program and the Klamath Lake Forest Health Partnership have facilitated the improvement of the overall health of ecosystems across south-central landscapes – and reduced fire risk with on-going work over the past four years.

- The Master Woodland Manager training program is a master's level course for landowners interested in intensive forest management training and sharing the knowledge gained through this training with people in their local communities. Graduates of the program have been serving Oregon for 35 years. In the last two years, over 90 woodland owners have graduated from the program.

- Women Owning Woodlands Network continues to provide relevant peer-learning opportunities for women in forestry roles. Over 360 members of the WOWNet program come together to learn about forest management, share their forestry and natural resources experiences, and exchange personal knowledge in a unique peer-to-peer learning environment.

- The Oregon Wood Innovation Center (OWIC) fosters Oregon's wood-products industry innovation and competitiveness through testing, technical assistance, and market assessment projects for small Oregon businesses. Key accomplishments in the biennium include developing value-added composite panel products from western juniper residues and assisting numerous companies with new product development, focusing on moisture performance.

- The Northwest Fire Science Consortium worked with the State of Oregon to assist in developing wildfire mitigation and adaptation strategies on a statewide level. The NWFSC was asked to present on fire science delivery approaches to the Oregon Governor's Wildfire Response Council and continues to work to accelerate the awareness, understanding, and adoption of wildland fire science.

- The Oregon Master Naturalist program enables Oregonians to learn more about natural history and the management of Oregon's natural resources and volunteer their time in service for Oregon's natural places. Over 100 people completed the statewide online course and one of three Ecoregion field courses to prepare for the field seasons in the last biennium.

- COF International Programs hosted 16 forestry professionals from government, NGO's, academia and private industry from Sabah, Malaysia. The 10-day tour of Oregon's diverse land and resource management was coordinated in partnership with World Forestry Center and Oregon Zoo.

- The Oregon Natural Resources Education Program (ONREP) has over 40 years of experience supporting formal and non-formal educators in integrating learner-centered natural resources education in indoor and outdoor classrooms. In the last biennium, ONREP reached over 1,200 educators from 24 Oregon counties. Approximately 75,000 students were reached as a result of the ONREP's professional development events.



College of Forestry student ambassadors visit students at Adams Elementary School in Corvallis.





- The Continuing and Professional Education office continues to support education and outreach activities within the college. In the last biennium, CPE office assisted with over 20 events that reached over 700 participants.
- Assistant professor and extension specialist **Francisca Belart** and assistant professor, forest watershed extension specialist **Jon Souder** offered the “Effective Forest Roads” to small woodland owners and government agency employees. The workshop focuses on linking forest roads, their function and management to water quality and how it affects aquatic life. The workshop was presented in several counties around the state and attended by over 150 people.
- Forest Health in Oregon 2020: State of the State was held in Corvallis with over 150 people attending. The conference focuses on updating foresters and forest scientists with current insect, disease and abiotic damage to Oregon forests documented by aerial surveys and plot-based measurements, including rates and mortality patterns. A special segment of the conference on social forestry focused on collaboratives’ role in working toward forest health objectives.
- Assistant professor and extension specialist **Emily Jane Davis** was named the Vice-Chair of the Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition. In this capacity, she organized a workshop with NGOs focused on equity and safety for forest workers.
- Distinguished Professor of Ecology and Richardson Chair **Bill Ripple** continues to lead international scholars in a series of “Scientists’ warnings.” Over 14,000 scientists from 156 countries signed the “World Scientists’ Warning of a Climate Emergency.” Altmetrics rated it this spring as the fourth-highest impact of more than 14 million articles in the database in 2019.
- Tree School Oregon, under the leadership of assistant professor **Glenn Ahrens**, had its 30th successful year. More than 800 people enrolled in classes. The program received the National Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals’ Outstanding Team Award in 2019. He also co-sponsored an event with the Aveda Institute in Portland, ‘Evening for the Earth,’ with 300 participants.
- Distinguished Professor of Forest Biotechnology and Leopold Fellow **Steve Strauss** led the publication of an open letter in *Science* about the GMO research ban associated with forest certification. This was an extensive, international effort that progressed conversations among various entities.
- WISC is building partnerships with the forest industry, focusing on research collaborations and wood identification services that could strengthen due diligence systems required under the U.S. Lacey Act for wood imports. For example, Freres Lumber in Oregon, an industry leader in plywood and engineered wood products, is a collaborator on an NSF grant submitted by WISC that aims to develop wood identification technologies for wood composites.
- Associate professor of wood design and architecture **Mariapaola Riggio** has designed a short-term study abroad in Italy to strengthen collaboration with the mass timber industry and academic partners in Alpine Europe/Northern Italy. She is developing plans for international research experiences for undergraduate and graduate students (NSF proposal) on data science, sensing technologies and engineering for sustainable and resilient built environments.
- A team led by professor of novel composite materials **Lech Muszyński** carries on a long-term project aimed at tracking the development of the global mass-timber panel (MTP) industry. The team communicates trends and new developments to regional and national industries in reports, seminars and publications. ●