

GROUSE HOLLOW NOTES

Spring 2021

OUT IN THE FOREST



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HOPKINS
Demonstration Forest
Owned and Operated by
Forests Forever, Inc.

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Spring is well on its way out at Hopkins and across the region with some cool mornings and warm sunny afternoons. However, the kick-off to spring here at Hopkins is looking a little different thanks to a late winter gift from Mother Nature and a year of 'historic events'. Like many of you, Hopkins too was hit by the ice storm that brought over an inch of freezing rain to the region in mid-February. While most of the roads and trails are back open there is much clean-up that still needs to be done along right-of-ways and especially the 'in stand' damage



that still needs to be assessed. By just visual observation, the hardwood dominated riparian buffers and red alder demonstration areas were hit particularly hard as were a mix of suppressed tree species within the conifer dominated management units. While much of the damage to the conifer dominated areas appears to be the suppressed or younger plantations in the 10-20 age class, we will not know until we can get in the woods and do some inventory work later this spring and through the summer months. As clean-up efforts continue, we will begin assessing forest restoration and rehabilitation needs and make adjustments to our management plan and provide some additional demonstration areas in the process too. Thank you to all the volunteers who came out to help clear and open our forest back up so we could safely welcome back visitors quickly after the ice event.

In addition to the ice storm, restrictions put in place due to Covid-19 have also changed the usual buzz created with the uptick in youth and adult programs that were common place at Hopkins this time of year; however that is beginning to change. Now over a year later after closing in person education and going to a remote learning model, we are doing everything we can to work with areas schools, public groups, and landowners to begin the process of returning to 'normal'. While this will not happen overnight, expect to see groups returning over the coming weeks and months as restrictions are lifted.

However, even with all the unplanned setbacks over the last 12 months, Hopkins has made some amazing progress and improvements for our welcomed guests and invited educational programs. Finishing touches were just put on the Poppino Family Pavilion that is now furnished with picnic tables (thanks to a recent Eagle Scout Project) and remembrance/funders plaque (photos to the right).

To showcase our effort, public tours of the Molalla Log House, Fire Lookout Tower, onsite lumber milling projects and forest management demonstration areas will begin this summer for the general public (see back).

So excited and thank you so much for all the care and support our Hopkins' community gives us!

Peter Matzka
OSU Extension Forestry Educator/Hopkins Demonstration Forest

This pavilion built in remembrance of:
John Poppino – Milwaukie, Oregon
Marvin Everett – Meridian, Idaho
With funding provided by:
Poppino family
Kenneth & Glenda Everett
Charles & Elaine Wilcox
Friends of Paul Bunyan Foundation
Construction of the pavilion was donated by:
Bartel Contracting, Inc.
Stonework was done by:
Stan Raney Masonry

"Where Learning
and
Growing Go
Hand in Hand"



SPRING HOURS/GUIDANCE

1. Visitors welcome 7:00am—Sundown
2. Please limit your stay to 120 minutes if parking area has more than 10 vehicles
3. Please keep vehicles and visitors 6' apart or more
4. Do not congregate or linger in parking area
5. Pack out all trash
6. Please stay on cleared trails or roads only.
7. Restrooms are open but *not sanitized daily*



EDUCATION

New Facilities Diversifies FFI's Educational Offerings

While the educational programming out at Hopkins has been quiet over the last 12 months and replaced with distance/virtual learning videos and curriculum support, efforts to build and diversify our educational offerings to the youth and public have been moving forward at a rapid pace. Heading into the spring and summer month Hopkins has positioned itself with increased outdoor learning capacity as well as some new offerings to both the youth and public groups that schedule guided and directed educational tours and field study visits.



Over the last year out at Hopkins, we completed the Clatskanie Mountain Lookout Tower (left), Poppino Family Pavilion, Mill House Annex (above) and Woodshop addition, and (soon to be completed this summer) Molalla Log House. In addition, we are currently working on an updated Forest Trail and Management Guide and updating and adding to the educational kiosks around the forest to highlight the wetland ponds, recent harvest areas, wildland fire prevention and management at the Lookout Tower, and Molalla Log House history and restoration efforts.

Also, as many of you are aware, the Hopkins Demonstration Forest now has a younger sibling within a 20-minute drive to the south too. The Schick Demonstration Forest located a mile up river from Feyrer Park is ready for invited groups (not open to public) to explore and utilize the recent restoration efforts along the Molalla River frontage and 20-acre woodland (right).



Together between these two locations FFI now has the capacity to host multiple groups, accommodate more diverse learning/user groups, and provide a safe, comfortable learning environment outside.

Upcoming Events (Spring '21):

April 28th
Future Natural Resource Leaders
Virtual State Convention
Live from Everett Hall @ TBD

May 8th
Community Forest Day
8:30am-2:30pm
Regeneration Maintenance & Ice
Storm Clean-up/Chipping

June 12th
Community Forest Day
8:30am-2:30pm
Schink Right-o-way Entrance Lift
and Clean-up.

July 3rd
Public Forest Tour/Open House
Tour Lookout Tower, Molalla Log
House & Hopkins History
10:00am-2:00pm

July 10th
Community Forest Day
8:30am-2:30pm
Trail Maintenances, Forest Sign-
age & Interpretation Production

For More information:
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VOLUNTEER FOREST HOST PROGRAM READY TO GO & NEEDED!



Starting this summer (or as Covid-19 restriction allow), we will begin providing scheduled, public tours of the Molalla Log House (right), Clatskanie Mountain Lookout Tower, an overview of our other facilities, and introduction to Hopkins' mission, history and management objectives as a whole. In order to provide these opportunities to the public, we need weekend volunteer hosts to greet visitors, provide them access to facilities at posted tour times, and provide brief overview/answer questions. Based out of our Forest Host building (left), training and mentoring will be provided to provide scheduled tours on (tentatively) the 1st and 3rd weekends of each month (10am-2pm). **For more information email: peter.matzka@oregonstate.edu.**



LEARN BY DOING—IT'S THE HOPKINS WAY WE MANAGE OUR FOREST!

www.demonstrationforest.org