

GROUSE HOLLOW NOTES

Summer 2019



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OUT IN THE FOREST

After a week of some August-like weather things have returned back to normal for June. Road and trail clearing and brushing will be an ongoing project until things dry out and the vegetation's rapid growth slows down.

Those of you watching the wetland ponds develop or perhaps just recently visited may have noticed some work being done up slope in the forest. The Molalla Log House's new site is being prepared and efforts are underway to begin bringing the pieces of this historic log building (thought to be build c. 1800) to its new home at Hopkins. A photo taken in 2008 shows the structure being deconstructed for removal and restoration from its original home in Molalla.

Efforts are also continuing on the development of the Welcoming Center with dedicated entrance and parking for forest visitors. In preparation for this improved access point, a yurt was constructed adjacent to the restroom to serve small groups that have typically utilized the new entrance location and covered space attached to Hopkins Hall.



Last, with school groups taking a break for the summer, a cohort of 12 high school teachers and educators will be participating in this year's Teacher in the Woods program in the month of July. ***Gear Up, Get Out and Explore!***

Peter Matzka 
OSU Extension Forestry Educator/Hopkins Demonstration Forest



FNRL WRAPS UP ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR

The 3rd annual State Convention of the Future Natural Resource Leaders (FNRL) was held on April 26-27 at Hopkins. Over the 2-day event around 150 high school students from 12 Chapters competed in hands-on and technical skill events.



The State Convention is the culminating event of the year. For those schools that could not attend, they participated in other sponsored events which included Local Chapter Career Development Events, Oregon Logging Conference, Fire School, Leadership Camp, and the Oregon Envirothon.

Support for the FNRL is provided by the Oregon Department of Education in partnership with Forests Forever Inc. and Oregon State University Extension Service. While the FNRL is designed to prepare students for possible careers in natural resources, it's mission is to create a positive impact on the lives of high school students through leadership development and personal growth.



Upcoming Events (summer'19):

FOCUS ON EDUCATION

By: Kimberly Jacobsen Nelson

More than 400 home-school students and families gathered for a free day of outdoor learning and exploration at Hopkins Demonstration Forest, on May 16th.

"This is our first-ever Homeschool Day, where students from across the region get to come out to Hopkins and enjoy 140 acres of self-guided exploration and inquiry," said Peter Matzka, forestry educator with the Oregon State University Extension Service.

On May 16, volunteers manned 15 stations throughout the forest offering hands-on educational activities for grades 2-12, including map and compass reading, native plant identification, sawmill production, healthy snack-making, tree measurement, aquatic invertebrates, animal track identification, forest art and more.

"It feels like Outdoor School in a day, said Jennifer Lundblad, a home-school parent from Boring. "It's nice to be able to school outdoors and get them into the environment. It's a little different than a textbook."

Students were just as excited about the outdoor learning experience.

"My favorite part was identifying all the different plants and seeing the creatures in the water, said Natalie Best, a 14-year-old home-school student from Portland. "I had no idea there were so many creatures in a pond!"

Because it was a pilot program for Hopkins, the event was not advertised, but word spread quickly throughout the home-school community. Organizers were stunned when the registration numbers hit 400 and made a last-minute push to recruit enough volunteers to meet the demand. They were not disappointed. OSU Extension Service Master Gardeners, food and nutrition educators, foresters and many more rallied to help with the forest field day.

"It was a surprising success," according to Matzka, who coordinated the event. "I think we will do this every fall and spring, and I'm looking forward to engaging these groups again, because we found that this was definitely a needed day and activity in the woods."



July 13th
Community Forest Day
8:30am-2:30pm
'Trail and Road Brushing'

July 15-26th
Teacher in the Woods
'Summer High School Teacher Enrichment Program'

August 10th
Community Forest Day
8:30am-2:30pm
'Lumber Milling and Bridge Installation'

September 14th
Community Forest Day
8:30am-2:30pm
'Wetland Ponds Restoration and Native Planting Inventory'

October 12th
Community Forest Day & CCFFA
Hopkins Forest Volunteer Day
8:30am-2:30pm

For More information:
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VOLUNTEERS

Do you...

Enjoy relaxing in the forest?

Like meeting people who love being in the great outdoors too?

Want to share your passion and knowledge about Hopkins with new and returning visitors?

If YES, become a volunteer Forest Host and help share Hopkins' story.

Contact: peter.matzka@oregonstate.edu

www.demonstrationforest.org

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