

GROUSE HOLLOW NOTES

Fall 2022

OUT IN THE FOREST



Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 1320
Oregon City, OR 97045

Business Office:
503-655-5524



Physical Address:
16750 S. Brockway Rd.
Oregon City, OR 97045

Education Office:
503-632-2150



Peter Matzka
Forestry Educator

Mailing Address:
OSU Extension Service
Clackamas County
200 Warner Milne Rd.
Oregon City, OR 97045

Extension Office:
503-655-8631
peter.matzka@oregonstate.edu

This late fall addition of the GH Notes is fitting given the record-breaking October that made it feel like summer was never going to end (no complaints here but I do enjoy the rain, too). Now a couple of weeks after cool wet weather has set in, the rapid shift from summer to an outlook of low-level snow is looking likely anytime. While the dry conditions were creating concerns about wildfire and plant stress, those extra few weeks allowed us to make some great progress on projects and also have some of the best fall weather for outdoor education in years. The biggest project that many of you have been following (maybe in person or online at <https://demonstrationforest.org/what-we-do/outreach-center/>) is the Outreach Center. As you can see in the photo, the Center has a nearly finished exterior clad in western red cedar that was harvested/milled onsite and installed by our team of volunteers. In addition, the interior is coming along rapidly with the utilities plumbed and electrified, sheetrock and interior paint is complete, and this week (early November) the flooring and HVAC is being installed. By the end of November, the Center will be ready for cabinet installation, trim and finishing work, and all the fine details that will make the Outreach Center an amazing resource, enhancing the educational capacity and outreach efforts (plus house a fulltime care-taker). We are 2/3rd the way to our fundraising goal to complete the Center so please consider a contribution (by going to the link above) or inquire about how you could help by volunteering out at Hopkins.



Another project that was completed in early August was the fourth thinning of the Pole Stand on the slope lying below Everett Hall. A total of six loads of sawlogs and five loads of transmission poles were thinned from the hillside stand. The thinning project removed 50,000 board feet of timber and generated a net revenue of \$25,000 after paying harvest costs and the 20% commitment to the Hopkins' family. The area will be 'under' planted where openings are large or conditions allow enough light for the seedlings. The slash will be hand piled and burned to improve planting and reduce fire hazard as well.

In addition, before the soils got too wet, there was just enough time to masticate a portion of the Red Alder Stand that was decimated by the 2021 Ice Storm. This area will be replanted after some vegetation and slash management.

While there are many more things to report, the last one to highlight is an effort to increase public engagement and greet new visitors. Over the summer (May-September), we were able to have a volunteer host at the Lookout Tower every Saturday from 9am-1pm. This effort engaged hundreds of visitors, and also allowed us to acquire some numbers and demographics (of note, there were a fair number of first time visitors). New or returning they all got a chance to head up the tower for a peek inside and enjoy the view. In addition, an interpretation panel was installed next to the Tower that provides information for those who have an adversity to heights or while the Tower is closed.



Come on out and take a look at the amazing progress and new additions!

Peter Matzka
Peter Matzka
OSU Extension Forestry Educator/Hopkins Demonstration Forest



EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

The summer was a bit quieter compared to 2021 when schools were doing extra summer enrichment after Covid, and programming returned to 'normal' in 2022. In July, the Teacher in the Woods program engaged six high school natural resource teachers on the topics of timber harvesting, forest machinery, and unit layout. A portion of the program took us down to Corvallis for a tour of active timber sales on the OSU College Forest,



plus a day at the College to work in their Mechanized Harvest Simulator Lab. With summer winding down and the new school year approaching high school and middle school science classes, upper elementary groups, and college programs began making requests for educational programming. While the numbers were close to pre-pandemic level the biggest change was how many new schools made requests versus returning ones. Many factors are at play (i.e. bus driver shortage, students prepared for outdoor ed,

focus on educational core catch-up), but this change is more an indication of teacher retirement, class/course changes, and turnover due to the pandemic. Hopkins has never had the need to advertise our programming, but with the recent turnover, efforts will be made to reach out to the new teachers and look for new audiences and program opportunities.

Speaking of new teachers, Hopkins hosted the Oregon Natural Resources Educators' Association (ONREA) for their statewide in-service day in October, and over half of the teachers were new to their program within the last 3 years. The thirty high school natural resource teachers gathered to learn from seven speakers and experienced some hands on learning in the forest. This increased focus on natural resources education in our high schools and the wave of new programs and teachers is, in part, the result of efforts by FFI to develop, support, and promote the Future Natural Resource Leaders (FNRL is a High School Student Leadership Organization which is now its own non-profit) and ONREA. The FNRL has gone from six programs in 2016 to now 35 statewide programs serving over 3,500 students. Amazing!



Upcoming Events (2022-23):

December 10th

Community Forest Day
8:30am-2:30pm
Red Alder and Pole Stand Slash Reduction and Rehabilitation

January 14th

Community Forest Day
8:30am-2:30pm
Reforestation Activities

February 11th

Community Forest Day
8:30am-2:30pm
Invasive Weed Removal and Molalla Log House Native Planting

February TBD

Basic Woodland Management Course
This will be the start of a five part series running through March

March 11th

Community Forest Day
8:30am-2:30pm
Invasive Weed Removal and Molalla Log House Native Planting

March 25th

Tree School
It will be LIVE!
@ Clackamas Community College

April 8th

Community Forest Day
8:30am-2:30pm
TBD

For More information:

Jean.Bremer@oregonstate.edu
503-655-8631

NEW INTERPRETATION PANELS ARRIVE AT HOPKINS

Over the summer and into this fall, eight interpretation panels were installed at four, new locations around the forest that compliment the existing four kiosks and uneven-age stations. First, the Molalla Log House received four panels that present the history and restoration process. Next, the Lookout Tower received one that discusses its history and fire detection as well as one for Everett Hall that illustrates defensible space from wildfire. Lastly, two panels were placed next to the 2020, seven acre clear-cut along the upper portion of Grouse Hollow Road that educates about reforestation and young stand management. Working with a graphic designer who specializes in interpretation signage, FFI Board Members, with expertise in each topic, provided oversight to the development as well as grant acquisitions. There are two more locations in the works, but come on out, take a hike, and look at the four new stations!



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

www.demonstrationforest.org