Welcome to Oregon’s family forest community. Managing your private family forestland can be very rewarding, but can also have challenges, especially if you are shouldering this responsibility for the first time. Fortunately, in Oregon there are many sources of assistance for landowners like you. Expert technical advice, classes, grants, online resources and forest field tours can help families as they develop long-term plans for their forestland.

This guide organizes these resources geographically and in other logical ways for easy reference to landowner assistance programs provided by state, federal, private and educational institutions. You’ll also find brief descriptions of these resources, along with contact information and websites where you can learn more.

Many family forest landowners are managing forested landscapes near Oregon cities and towns.

In addition to being the most visible to the public, these forests have major ecological significance. They provide benefits that Oregonians value most from forests, including quality wildlife habitat, clean water, carbon storage, and wood and other forest products.

Family ownership offers diverse management styles — and there’s no single right outcome. As these lands are passed from one generation to the next, they provide much to the family that owns the land, as well as to all Oregonians.

We encourage you to make use of this guide. Together, we’re caring for an important resource that’s crucial to the future of Oregon for generations to come.

From the woods,
Contributions of family forests

In Oregon, more than 60,000 family forest landowners care for 4.3 million acres of prime, low-elevation forest. These private family forests of less than 5,000 acres make up about one-third of Oregon’s private forestland. A recent survey found that the owners of these parcels identify themselves primarily as something other than forest landowners. They include retirees, librarians, clergy, attorneys and florists. Ownerships of 10 to 5,000 acres are included here as small private forestland, but most family forests are less than 50 acres.

**OREGON FORESTLAND ACREAGE BY OWNER (2015)**

- Federal: 60%
- Large private: 20%
- Small private: 14%
- State and other public: 4%
- Tribal: 2%

**TIMBER HARVEST BY OWNER (2015)**

- Federal: 63%
- Large private: 15%
- Small private: 12%
- State and other public: 9%
- Tribal: 1%

**REASONS FOR OWNING FORESTS**

The percentage of family forest landowners who cited each of these reasons for owning forestland as important or very important to them:

- Beauty: 60%
- Privacy: 20%
- Nature: 14%
- Wildlife: 4%
- Water: 2%
- Legacy: 2%
- Recreation: 12%
- Investment: 12%
- Family: 9%
- Timber: 1%
- Firewood: 1%
- Hunting: 1%

**OREGON FORESTLAND OWNERSHIP (acres)**

- Federal: 17.9 million
- Large private: 5.9 million
- Small private: 4.3 million
- State and other public: 1.2 million
- Tribal: 475,000

**TOTAL**

Nearly half of Oregon’s 63 million acres are forestland.

**SIZE OF HOLDINGS FOR OREGON FAMILY FOREST OWNERS**

The top line shows the percentage of small private forest landowners who own land parcels with sizes that fall within specific acreage ranges. The second line is percentage of forested acres in each parcel size.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size of Holding</th>
<th>10-49 acres</th>
<th>50-99 acres</th>
<th>100-499 acres</th>
<th>500-5000 acres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% Ownerships</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Area (acres)</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>39%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Source: National Woodland Owner Survey (2013)
Learning and Assistance Opportunities

Whether you manage your forest for income, long-term investment, wildlife, beauty and/or recreation, here’s where to turn for help. This table lists the groups that provide assistance to forest landowners, and a summary of the assistance they provide. For specific information, full program descriptions are provided later in this guide.

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<th>Family Forest Landowner Associations (pages 6–7)</th>
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<th>PERSON-TO-PERSON ADVICE FROM PEERS</th>
<th>GRANTS AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE</th>
<th>CLASSES</th>
<th>ONLINE RESOURCES</th>
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<td>American Tree Farm System/Oregon Tree Farm System</td>
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<td>• Tree farm tours</td>
<td>• Workshops</td>
<td>• Website</td>
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<td>Forest Landowners Association</td>
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<td>• Annual meeting</td>
<td>• Videos</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>• Inspector trainings</td>
<td>• Newsletters</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Woodland Owners Association</td>
<td>• Visit from a professional forester</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Regional meetings</td>
<td>• Website</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• National conference</td>
<td>• Action alerts</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Industry news</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oregon Small Woodlands Association</td>
<td>• Chapter field tours</td>
<td>• “Neighbor to Neighbor” tours</td>
<td>• Workshops</td>
<td>• Website</td>
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<td>• Annual meeting</td>
<td>• Newsletters/magazine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oregon Woodland Cooperative</td>
<td>• Assists members in product sales</td>
<td>• Assists members in securing supplier discounts</td>
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<tr>
<th>Natural Resources Agencies – Federal (page 7)</th>
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<tr>
<td>U.S. Forest Service – Pacific Northwest Research Station</td>
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<td>• Conferences</td>
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<td>• Workshops</td>
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<td>• News releases</td>
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<td>• RSS feeds</td>
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<td>• Newsletters</td>
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<td>• Online library</td>
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<td>U.S. Forest Service – State and Private Forestry</td>
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<td>• Financial assistance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Natural Resources Conservation Service</td>
<td>• Technical assistance</td>
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<td>Network of Oregon Watershed Councils and Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board</td>
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<td>• Small grants</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>• Restoration grants</td>
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<td>• Technical guides</td>
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<td>• Web seminars</td>
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<td>• Services marketplace</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oregon Association of Conservation Districts</td>
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<td>• Grants funded through local districts</td>
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<td>Oregon Department of Forestry – Private Forests Division</td>
<td>• Stewardship foresters</td>
<td>• Field tours</td>
<td>• Cost-share programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oregon Forest Resources Institute</td>
<td>• Demonstration area</td>
<td>• Field tours</td>
<td>• Conferences</td>
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<td>• Workshops</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Newsletters</td>
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### University Forestry Extension Programs (pages 10–11)

| Oregon State University Forestry & Natural Resources Extension | • Extension foresters  
• Demonstration areas | • Master Woodland Manager program  
• Women Owning Woodlands Network  
• Ties to the Land  
• Field tours  
• Pest scene investigators | • Conferences  
• Workshops  
• Online learning  
• Tree Schools  
• Continuing education  
• For-credit courses | • Website  
• Videos  
• Publications  
• Oregon Forest Industry Directory  
• Newsletters |

### Policy Advisory Organizations (page 12)

| Committee for Family Forestlands | | • Family forest symposia  
| Website |

### Professional Forestry Services and Organizations (pages 12–14)

| American Forest Foundation | • Technical assistance  
• American Tree Farm System | • Financial assistance  
• Workshops  
| Webinars  
| Website  
• My Land Plan  
• Videos  
• Publications/reports  
• Newsletter  
| Woodland Magazine |

| Associated Oregon Loggers | • Oregon Professional Loggers program (OPL) | • Workshops  
| Annual meeting  
| Website  
| Online directory of OPL-certified logging professionals |

| Association of Consulting Foresters | • Professional consulting foresters located throughout Oregon  
• Initial on-site or office meetings | • Annual meeting  
| Conferences  
| Workshops  
| Website  
| Directory of consulting foresters |

| Ecotrust | • Professional forestry assistance | • Workshops  
• Online learning  
• Publications  
| Website  
| Mapping program |

| Keep Oregon Green Association | | • Website |

| Northwest Natural Resource Group | • Professional forestry assistance  
• Membership-based program | • Assistance with state and federal funding programs  
• Regular classes  
| Workshops  
| Website  
| Newsletter |

| Oregon Society of American Foresters | • List of Certified Foresters | • Conferences  
• Continuing education  
| Annual meeting  
| Website  
| Publications |

| Pinchot Institute | • Technical assistance | • Workshops  
• Publications  
| Website  
| Publications |

| Western Forestry & Conservation Association | | • Conferences  
• Annual meeting  
| Workshops  
| Website  
| Publications |
American Tree Farm System (ATFS) / Oregon Tree Farm System (OTFS)

www.treefarmsystem.org

Contact: Jim James, OTFS administrator
jimjamesoswa@yahoo.com
503-588-1813

Many people traveling Oregon’s country roads have seen green-and-white, diamond-shaped signs reading, “Certified Tree Farm, American Tree Farm System: Wood, Water, Wildlife, Recreation.” As a national organization, the American Tree Farm System has been around since 1941. The sign verifies that the family-owned forest behind the sign is being managed to internationally recognized standards of sustainability. The Tree Farm System also conducts the Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year recognition program at the county, state, regional and national levels.

Forest Landowners Association (FLA)

www.forestlandowners.com

Contact: Scott Jones, chief executive officer
info@forestlandowners.com
800-325-2954

Since 1941, FLA has provided its members, who own and manage more than 40 million acres of forestland in 48 states, with education, information and national grassroots advocacy. FLA advises policymakers on how proposed legislation could affect private forest management.

National Woodland Owners Association (NWOA)

www.woodlandowners.org

Contact: Keith Argow, president
argow@nwoa.net
703-255-2700

NWOA is a nationwide organization based
in Washington, D.C., providing educational programs and services exclusively for family forest landowners. It is affiliated with state landowner associations in 42 states, publishes National Woodlands magazine, and advocates for better state and national programs and laws. NWOA offers a free weekly email newsletter called Wednesday Woodland Word. Subscribe at www.nwoa.net.

OREGON SMALL WOODLANDS ASSOCIATION (OSWA)

www.oswa.org

Contact: Jim James, executive director
jimjamesoswa@yahoo.com
503-588-1813

OSWA is the largest organization in the state representing the interests of family forest landowners. It serves as their collective voice in legislative and policy matters, as well as communications with the general public. There are currently 15 Oregon chapters representing 19 counties, with 1,500 members who collectively own more than 500,000 acres. OSWA’s vision is to see privately owned family woodlands remain a thriving part of Oregon’s landscape. OSWA provides a forum for the exchange of ideas among the forest community.

OREGON WOODLAND COOPERATIVE (OWC)

www.oregonwoodlandcooperative.com

Contact: Neil Schroeder, president
info@owco.com
888-800-1192

The Oregon Woodland Cooperative is a group of more than 70 private family forest landowners in Oregon. Since 1980, OWC has helped its members realize a profit from the sale of both timber and non-timber products that are sustainably produced on their land, including decorative hardwoods, flooring, firewood, conifer boughs and essential oils. The co-op also helps members secure forestry technical assistance and supplier discounts. Membership is open to anyone owning family forestland in Oregon.

U.S. FOREST SERVICE – PACIFIC NORTHWEST RESEARCH STATION

www.fs.fed.us/pnw

The Pacific Northwest Research Station provides scientific information about natural resources to land managers, policymakers and citizens. The station publishes its research in a variety of printed and electronic formats. To order or download publications of interest, visit www.fs.fed.us/pnw.

U.S. FOREST SERVICE – STATE AND PRIVATE FORESTRY (S&PF)

www.fs.fed.us/spf

Contact: Bradley Siemens, landowner assistance manager
btsiemens@fs.fed.us
503-310-8736

State and Private Forestry, a division of the Pacific Northwest Region of the U.S. Forest Service, provides financial and technical assistance for family forest landowners through state forest agencies and other partners. This includes assistance with resource management activities and project implementation, education, assistance, conferences, workshops and online learning.

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS)

www.nrcs.usda.gov

Contact: Misty Seaboldt, state forester
misty.seaboldt@or.usda.gov
503-414-3204

NRCS is the branch of the U.S. Department of Agriculture that handles all financial assistance and a great deal of the technical assistance and specifications for projects. Its natural resources conservation programs help landowners reduce soil erosion, enhance water supplies, improve water quality, increase wildlife habitat, and reduce damage caused by floods and other natural disasters. NRCS works closely with county-based soil and water conservation districts. Its mission also includes education related to these programs.
Oregon’s watershed councils are voluntary local organizations that work to sustain natural resource and watershed protection. The NOWC provides a way for landowners to locate and contact their local watershed councils.

A map showing locations and areas of watershed councils is available at: www.oregonwatersheds.org/councils

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) is a source of funding through the watershed councils.

Oregon’s 46 soil and water conservation districts provide technical assistance, grants, educational outreach and other conservation services to landowners, managers and citizens.

A map showing locations and areas of conservation districts is available at: www.oacd.org/map.shtml

OACD represents, supports and strengthens Oregon’s member conservation districts through member services, program development, training, leadership development, public education and government relations.
To find your local stewardship forester, visit: www.oregon.gov/ODF/working

The Oregon Department of Forestry Private Forests Division helps landowners develop healthy, productive forestlands and watersheds, and prevent wildfires. Regional stewardship foresters are the primary contact for private forest owners. Stewardship foresters collaborate with forestry and natural resource experts to help landowners effectively manage their forests. While stewardship foresters can enforce forestry laws, they prefer working with landowners to develop and implement forest management plans that are effective and balanced.

Landowners and stewardship foresters work together, from planting to harvesting and everything in between. Stewardship foresters work with landowners on more than 18,000 private forestland sites every year to protect forest and water resources. Landowners often rely on them to help plan for:

- Planting, harvesting or thinning forests
- Managing brush, weeds, and insects and other pests
- Completing controlled burns and slash disposal
- Constructing and maintaining roads
- Improving streams and wildlife habitat

These and other activities may require landowners to file a Notification of Operations, obtain a permit to operate power-driven machinery, or use fire. Permits can be completed online or at ODF field offices across the state.

Before submitting the notification or permit, landowners typically consult with their stewardship forester to obtain guidance on technical needs and available local, state and federal forestry financial assistance programs. Landowners also often consult their local stewardship forester to develop solutions for forest operations near streams, sensitive terrain or wildlife protection areas.

www.OregonForests.org
www.KnowYourForest.org

Contact: Mike Cloughesy, director of forestry
cloughesy@ofri.org
503-329-1014

Julie Woodward, senior manager of forestry education
woodward@ofri.org
503-807-1614

The Oregon Forest Resources Institute is dedicated to advancing public understanding of how forest stewardship meets the social, environmental and economic needs of both present and future generations. OFRI’s primary audiences are the general public, K-12 teachers and students, architects, engineers and contractors, and forest landowners. In the case of landowners, OFRI teams with other organizations, including many members of Oregon’s Partnership for Forestry Education (PFE). OFRI’s forest landowner website, KnowYourForest.org, provides a wealth of information on topics such as controlling weeds and invasive plants, protecting wildlife habitat and reducing fire hazards.

OFRI’s library contains many useful publications, including Oregon’s Protection Laws — An Illustrated Manual, which is a visual reference to Oregon’s laws and rules governing forest practices.

OFRI also operates the Rediscovery Forest, located at The Oregon Garden in Silverton. The 15-acre demonstration working forest serves as a venue for landowner training.
Forestry education is the mission of the Oregon State University Forestry & Natural Resources Extension Program, which aids all landowners, from the newest to the most knowledgeable long-time practitioners. Complex issues of forest ownership are covered through workshops, volunteers, demonstration areas and publications. Subject areas include everything from regeneration and harvest to valuing timber and addressing market issues. Educational subjects tackle broader management objectives such as enhancing fish and wildlife habitat, reducing fire risk, increasing biodiversity and achieving sustainability goals.
For more advanced practitioners, the Oregon State University Forestry & Natural Resources Extension Program provides this intensive, eight-module program to train volunteers to help other landowners. After completing the program, volunteers provide service in a wide array of capacities such as helping lead forest tours, meeting with neighbors, answering questions and working with youth. Master Woodland Manager workshops for woodland owners and managers cover topics that include ecology, silviculture (tree thinning and other practices to manage for a desired forest condition), wildlife habitat enhancement, logging and business management.

Women are increasingly taking active roles in the management of family forest property. This Oregon State University Forestry & Natural Resources Extension program is designed to raise basic forestry and decision-making skill levels among women woodland managers through hands-on educational opportunities. WOW-net supports and increases women’s access to forestry-related resources while encouraging communication. The statewide and local network includes 460 members in 17 counties who participate in local and regional field-based sessions each year.

This program’s essence is to help family forest landowners find ways to pass down their property to future generations of their family while avoiding common pitfalls. Landowners are guided through three key areas that contribute to success: communication, planning and legal tools. Landowners gain a clear understanding of the steps involved in passing on their land, and practical tools to help them take those steps.

Ties to the Land is a partnership between Forestry & Natural Resources Extension and Oregon State University’s Austin Family Business Program, which prepares family businesses to address the challenges and opportunities that inevitably arise during succession. More information is available at www.familybusinessonline.org.

OWIC’s mission is to improve the competitiveness of Oregon’s wood products industry by fostering innovation in products, processes and business systems. A key function is to serve as the primary link between university research and needs and opportunities in the forest industry, which has undergone dramatic changes in recent years. A key OWIC tool that helps connect forest landowners and mill owners is the Oregon Forest Industry Directory, www.orforestdirectory.com, which connects buyers and sellers of forest products and services.
The Oregon Board of Forestry established CFF in 2000 to provide information and counsel to the board and state forester in matters relating to family forestlands, including protecting resources, maintaining a viable family forestland base and making a positive contribution to Oregon’s vitality. The 13-member committee monitors forest policy development and its potential effect on small landowners. It also helps the board determine the types and levels of assistance measures needed for family forest landowners. As globalization, access to timber markets and shifting ownership make family forest land ownership more difficult, the committee’s role in keeping the Board of Forestry informed is increasingly important.

In the West, AFF works on the ground with families, teachers and elected officials to promote stewardship and protect the values provided by our nation’s forest heritage. AFF works nationwide and in partnership with local, state and national groups to address ecological and economic challenges that require the engagement of family forest landowners.

Most of America’s forests are owned by families, not the federal government and not industry. That’s why AFF focuses on family forest landowners. AFF works with partners in key forested communities to help build a robust understanding of how to inspire and engage woodland owners to take actions on their land that will ultimately protect forest values.

AFF’s primary goal is to foster proactive and engaged communities to reduce wildfire risks and protect water supplies across the West by providing its forest landowners with information, educational workshops and technical assistance that will help them make sound, sustainable multi-resource management decisions for their land.

AOL is a statewide trade organization that provides business and government affairs services to its member companies. The AOL website includes a directory of Oregon’s qualified logging professionals, which is useful for family forest landowners seeking a local logging contractor. While most member companies are forest harvest and road-related contractors,
membership categories also welcome landowners, manufacturers, forestry contractors and vendors serving the harvest sector. Membership includes benefits such as lobbying, industry relations, community service, technical assistance with regulation compliance, and group insurance programs in health, liability and workers’ compensation.

**ASSOCIATION OF CONSULTING FORESTERS (ACF)**

www.acf-foresters.org

Contact: Cliff Barnhart, western region director
cliffbarnhart@stuntzner.com
503-623-9000

ACF is a national organization of professional foresters who consider forestry-related activities an essential private enterprise. Membership in the association is limited to professional foresters who subscribe to a code of ethics and serve the general public independently in all woodland-related interests. Members are generalists and specialists with skills that include timber cruising and appraising, timber sales, marketing and management, reforestation supervision, taxation, estate planning, growth modeling, management plans, geographic information system (GIS) mapping, real estate brokerage, and expert witness, arbitration and general management services. They offer a full range of professional and unbiased services to family forest landowners. The association requires continuing education for its members. ACF’s interactive website connects landowners to its complete scope of service providers.

**ECOTRUST**

www.ecotrust.org

Contact: David Diaz, forestry program manager
ddiaz@ecotrust.org
503-227-6225

Ecotrust’s mission is to inspire fresh thinking that creates economic opportunity, social equity and environmental well-being. Ecotrust offers public, private and tribal land managers a suite of forest planning and conservation tools to support forest management. It also evaluates the potential economic and job benefits of ecological forestry and habitat restoration for clients and partners.

**KEEP OREGON GREEN ASSOCIATION**

www.keeporegongreen.org

Contact: Kris Babbs, president
kristin.a.babbs@oregon.gov
503-945-7499

The Keep Oregon Green Association is a nonprofit organization with a mission to raise awareness of human-caused wildfires in Oregon and to educate Oregonians to change their behaviors to prevent wildfires. A kid-friendly, activity-based website is also available at www.kogranger.org.

**NORTHWEST NATURAL RESOURCE GROUP**

www.nnrg.org/

Contact: Kirk Hanson, director of Northwest Certified Forestry
kirk@nnrg.org
360-316-9317

The Northwest Natural Resource Group is dedicated to promoting a sustainable, environmentally sound economy in the forestlands of the Pacific Northwest. It focuses on the smaller woodlands owned and managed by private landowners, smaller forest product companies, governmental agencies and nonprofit organizations. The group’s primary tool to accomplish its mission is Northwest Certified Forestry, a membership program for public, nonprofit and family forest landowners that provides access to Forest Stewardship Council certification, as well as forest management assistance, landowner incentives programs, marketing, and educational workshops. Northwest Natural Resource Group has more than 160 members across more than 160,000 acres in Oregon and Washington.
OREGON SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS

www.forestry.org (Oregon)
www.eforester.org (national)

Contacts: Werner Krueger, chairman (2017)
wkrueger@blm.gov
541-464-3277
Fran Cafferata Coe, chairwoman (2018)
fran@cafferataconsulting.com
503-680-7939

The Oregon Society of American Foresters is a professional organization with 15 local chapters throughout Oregon. It’s affiliated with the national Society of American Foresters (SAF). The Society of American Foresters produces general, technical and scholarly publications in both printed and electronic form, as well as position statements and educational materials. National SAF and Oregon SAF and its chapters regularly sponsor educational conferences, workshops and tours. SAF has voluntary certification for foresters meeting education and experience requirements, as well as ongoing continuing education. A list of these Certified Foresters® is available online to landowners seeking forest management advice.

Online resources available at www.eforester.org include the Dictionary of Forestry, the Forestry Encyclopedia and a list of ways a Certified Forester® can assist a forest landowner.

PINCHOT INSTITUTE

www.pinchot.org

Contact: Brian Kittler, director, Western Regional Office
bkittler@pinchot.org
503-836-7880

The mission of the Pinchot Institute is to strengthen forest conservation thought, policy and action by developing innovative, practical and broadly supported solutions to conservation challenges and opportunities. This is accomplished through nonpartisan research, education and technical assistance on key issues influencing the future of conservation and sustainable natural resource management.

WESTERN FORESTRY AND CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION (WFCA)

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WFCA is a regional membership organization of primarily industrial forestry companies and consultants in Oregon, Washington, California, Idaho, Montana, British Columbia and Alberta. Its primary mission is to promote the science and practices of forestry for the sustainable production of goods, services and uses of forest resources. A variety of professional continuing education opportunities are offered for natural resource managers through workshops, conferences and field trips. WFCA also provides financial and administrative management of regional research and scientific cooperatives.
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About OFRI

The Oregon Legislature created the Oregon Forest Resources Institute in 1991 to advance public understanding of forests, forest management and forest products, and to encourage sound forestry through landowner education. A 13-member board of directors governs OFRI. It is funded by a portion of the forest products harvest tax.

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