



Education Program Report

October 1, 2005 – September 30, 2006

Hopkins Demonstration Forest

Programs described in this report are made possible by the Forests Forever Education Consortium—partners in forestry education. Consortium donors for 2006 include:

Clackamas County Board of Commissioners (Title III); Clackamas County Farm Forestry Association; Frank Lumber Company; Freres Lumber Company; Clement and Phyllis Hunter; Oregon Forest Resources Institute; RSG Forest Products; Starker Forests; Walker Family Foundation; Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation.

The life of each tree is finite...it's the forest that is forever.

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INTRODUCTION

At Hopkins Demonstration Forest, *where learning and growing go hand in hand*, it's sometimes hard to separate education programs, from forest management, from community events. In the past year, for example, these not-so-separate activities intersected when:

- Students, Scouts and other youth volunteers planted trees, maintained trails, and reduced erosion in our woodland.
- Natural resource professionals mentored students in vocational skills and ecological studies during spring and fall.
- A teacher on summer assignment (TOSA) mapped the stream that crosses Hopkins, and marked leave-trees in our riparian management demonstration area.
- Woodland owners shared their skills and knowledge with hundreds of volunteers who participated in workdays throughout the year.

This report describes on-site education programs and off-site community outreach for the period October 1, 2005 – September 30, 2006. During this year, staff focused on sustaining a community forestry program at Hopkins Demonstration Forest that engages citizens in opportunities to learn new skills and knowledge, and to apply these in a realistic setting on a “family” tree farm.

GOALS

1 Volunteer Opportunities

- Organize monthly Community Volunteer Workdays at Hopkins Demonstration Forest, to engage the public in “learning by doing” forest management activities.
- Recruit, train and support a volunteer network to participate in forest management activities and support community education programs at Hopkins Demonstration Forest.

2 Community Programs and Outreach

- Offer public tours, and host community events at Hopkins Demonstration Forest.
- Participate in community events and market Demonstration Forest opportunities at a variety of venues and media.

3 Youth Education

- Develop a variety of forestry education programs for youth: both in- and out-of-school programming.

OVERVIEW OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

September 30, 2006 completes the second year for Forests Forever's Education Consortium—a partnership in forestry education. Forests Forever's 2005 - 2006 plan of work was completed. This report describes community outreach and education program outcomes supported by the Education Consortium partners, beginning with these highlights:

- 500 volunteers gave more than 5,000 hours of their time and talent to help with education programs, resource management and facility maintenance
- 3 Community Events brought more than 250 guests to Hopkins
- 28 Tours served a total of 177 woodland visitors
- 1,000 students spent 5,300 hours learning forestry skills and conducting scientific studies in the forest at Hopkins
- 8 Workshops helped 80 adults learn new skills and information
- 2,800 people were exposed to information about Hopkins Demonstration Forest at a variety of events in the community



Ackerman Middle School 6th-graders enriched their outdoor school experience with several after-school visits to Hopkins Demonstration Forest.

HOW WE MET OUR GOALS

GOAL 1 Volunteer Opportunities

- Organize monthly Community Volunteer Workdays at Hopkins Demonstration Forest, to engage the public in “learning by doing” forest management activities.



Several dozen Boy and Girl Scouts planted over 1,000 seedlings at Hopkins Demonstration Forest last winter. Marketing our tree planting opportunities through the Guy Miller Tree Plant Program proved very successful in directing local Scout troops to Hopkins Demonstration Forest.

Scouts and other volunteers planted conifers in reforestation units, and helped establish two new “demonstrations”: our Bough Orchard and Red Alder Plantation demonstrations, about 3,000 trees total.

Community Volunteer Workdays at Hopkins Demonstration Forest

Outcomes:

- 10 of 11 scheduled workdays occurred: 1 cancelled due to cold and windy weather conditions.
- 280 volunteers worked 1170 hours on scheduled workdays, their accomplishments include:
 - Installed portions of 2 new demonstration projects: a Bough Orchard and Red Alder Plantation—about 2,000 trees total.
 - Reforested approximately 2-acres with close to 1,000 conifer seedlings, including installation of protective tubing.
 - Pruned 1-acre of Douglas-fir trees.
 - Maintained 1 1/2 miles of trail, and constructed an additional 3/4 mile new trail.
 - Stacked and burned slash, and sprayed weeds on 4-acres.
 - Volunteers helped FFI board members host over 130 guests during our 3rd annual *Take Mom for a Walk in the Woods*.
 - Cleaned and maintained facilities, including Hopkins Hall, our shop, restrooms and Cedar Grove Picnic Shelter.

Many workday volunteers are now returning multiple times to assist with a variety of projects. Some return annually like the mother-daughter team who hosted the BBQ lunch for volunteers at the September workday; while others return a few times in one season such as one Boy Scout (cover photo) who helped organize and oversee the many younger Scouts who came to plant trees with us last winter. We hope this trend continues in future as individual volunteers find a niche for themselves at Hopkins Demonstration Forest.

Volunteer Opportunities

- Recruit, train and support a volunteer network to participate in forest management activities and support community education programs at Hopkins Demonstration Forest.



Forests Forever founding-board member John Poppino installs a solar-powered fan to improve the venting in one of our restrooms. FFI board members serve the organization beyond the board room by participating in all aspects of operations, including education programs, resource management and facilities maintenance. Board members provided more than 2,500 hours of service since October 2005.

Volunteerism at Hopkins Demonstration Forest

Outcomes:

- 2 High School interns worked 25 hours each to complete slash disposal, erosion control and tree planting tasks.
- 1 college work study completed pruning, slash disposal, erosion control and trail maintenance projects with several juvenile offenders who performed community service at Hopkins.
- 2 Eagle Scout projects were completed at Hopkins this year: 4 new geocaches now attract many new visitors; and 20 signposts were installed for plant identification markers along the Watershed Interpretive Trail.
- Facility maintenance and upgrades were completed, including: a new water & phone line installed to the shop building, and a roof addition to cover the water supply at Hopkins Hall.
- 180 resource professionals supported education programs at Hopkins Demonstration Forest, giving over 1,000 hours to mentor youth in our woods.
- Our second Teacher on Summer Assignment completed a stream mapping and riparian tree-marking project in conjunction with the Extension Forester.
- Board of Directors activities exceeded 2,500 hours of service to guide the organization, support and provide public programs, raise funds and outreach to the community.

GOAL 2 Community Programs and Outreach

- Offer public tours, and host community events at Hopkins Demonstration Forest.



A perfect mix of pleasant weather, abundant blooms, community partnerships and targeted marketing combined to make our 2006 *Take Mom for a Walk in the Woods* event a huge success. More than 130 people—mostly families with children came to Hopkins Demonstration Forest on the Saturday before Mother’s Day to celebrate their mothers and enjoy the beauty of our woodland.

One month later, a similar event held on the Saturday prior to Father’s Day drew another 80 guests to the forest at Hopkins to enjoy displays and presentations featuring Native American and early settler uses of the forest.

In July, FFI Board and staff hosted 50 local business and civic leaders for a Business After Hours event in cooperation with the Oregon City and North Clackamas County Chambers of Commerce. All three events are planned again for 2007.

On-site programming at Hopkins Demonstration Forest

Outcomes:

- 28 Sustainable Forestry Tours were attended by a total of 177 people.
- More than 250 guests participated in three community events: Walk in the Woods, Festival in the Forest, and Business After Hours, held in May, June and July respectively.
- 80 people participated in 8 topical workshops including tree planting, mountain beaver control, science education mentoring techniques, and 3 field sessions offered as part of Clackamas County Tree School, 2005.
- Participate in community events and market Demonstration Forest opportunities at a variety of venues and media.

Outreach and marketing to promote Hopkins Demonstration Forest

Outcomes:

- 3 editions of Grouse Hollow News were published and distributed to over 2,000 readers.
- 2,800 people learned about Hopkins Demonstration Forest at dozens of community events.
- Marketing materials were created monthly to promote activities at Hopkins Demonstration Forest, including posters, bill-inserts, flyers, and press releases distributed and ads placed in local print media.

Event marketing and newly planted geocaches are attracting many new users to Hopkins Demonstration Forest. Currently, there is no mechanism in place to accurately count this casual, self-directed use. What is obvious and observed in the past year is that rarely does a day go by when someone is not walking in our woods on their own time, at their own pace. Exhibits and trail guides developed in previous years provide information for these guests.

GOAL 3 Youth Education

- Develop a variety of forestry education programs for youth: both in- and out-of-school programming.



Forestry students from Sabin-Schellenberg Center experience the seasonal-round of work in the woods at Hopkins Demonstration Forest. Students practice new skills they learn from forestry professionals who share their expertise with this next generation of foresters.

Youth Education at Hopkins Demonstration Forest

Outcomes:

- 90 school-related programs served 1,000 individual students, who spent a combined total of more than 5,300 hours “learning by doing” at Hopkins Demonstration Forest.
- 14 tours introduced nearly 400 middle and high school students to the trees, ecology and careers found in the forest.
- Field labs for 66 high school and college students allowed application of new knowledge and practice of new skills.
- Science in the Forest engaged 250 students in 1,800 hours of ecologic studies at Hopkins.
- Almost 300 youth visited Hopkins as part of organized educational programs outside of school.

In 2005-06, the depth and breadth of student participation in forestry education at Hopkins Demonstration Forest pushed the limits of staff ability to keep pace. This demand for youth programming includes both long-established programs like SSC Forestry and tree farm tours, and newer offerings such as Science in the Forest and service-learning projects.

Our program partners include Wolftree, OSU-Clackamas County Extension Service, and scores of professionals and college students who volunteered to mentor youth at Hopkins in the past year. The financial investments of Education Consortium partners complement these gifts of time and talent. Together, with active cooperators and generous supporters Forests Forever is able to provide a range of educational and volunteer opportunities at Hopkins Demonstration Forest.

PROGRAM ANALYSIS

Forests Forever measures success by the number of people we serve; the amount of volunteer hours, and contributions that support the programs we offer. We can accurately measure what we can count: the table below shows the trends in program participation and volunteerism since March 2003. The total number of people served by all our programs in this reporting period is nearly 5,000—more than 10-times the number of customers in FY 2002-2003.

PROGRAM PARTICIPATION COMPARISON

MARCH 1, 2003- SEPTEMBER 30, 2006

	FY 2006	FY 2005	FY 2004	FY 2003
Activity	#People	#People	#People	#People
<u>Workdays</u>	280	117	137	60
<u>Volunteers</u>	220	367	300	54
<u>Tours</u>	177	479	194	185
<u>Events</u>	250	147	54	45
<u>Workshops</u>	80	149	194	75
<u>Youth Education</u>	1,000	470	247	N/A
<u>Off-site</u>	2,800	4638	2300	N/A

Title III funds awarded by Clackamas County Commissioners to Forests Forever, Inc. since FY 2002-2003 catalyzed the growth of this community-based, previously all-volunteer organization. We are pleased with the progress made during the past four years as our reach into the community and the community's involvement with us at Hopkins Demonstration Forest has grown tremendously. We have come a long way in less than a half-decade. However, reauthorization of Title III funding beyond 2007 is uncertain, thus FFI will continue to rely more on support from our Education Consortium partners to sustain what we have developed so far.

Eyes on the Future

Community and youth education programs, and volunteer opportunities at Hopkins Demonstration Forest have exposed more people to the economic, social and environmental benefits resulting from sustainable forestry practices on small acreages. We directly engage the community in managing and enjoying the resources and facilities in our woodland—for many, this is a profound experience that causes them to think differently about managed woodlands, and their relationship to resources they consume.

In 2003, Title III funding helped Forests Forever launch programs that had been dreamed about for more than a decade. These funds helped attract significant additional financial contributions from Oregon Forest Resources Institute and the Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation; followed by several additional program sponsors who joined our Education Consortium during the past two years. This combination of funds allows Forests Forever to do more than with one single source of revenue.

Our eyes are on the future, we are in this for the long-term. The Forests Forever board of directors completed a strategic plan in 2006 that outlines our future. Our mission is reaffirmed and charges us to manage a community forest in perpetuity: diversity remains our key to resource sustainability, which is reflected in the many different programs we offer, and the diverse financial support we seek. We are grateful for all the gifts we receive of time, treasure and talent, and look to our future together.



We lost a good friend this summer when Lynn Butts suddenly passed away. Lynn eagerly shared his forestry skills and knowledge with anyone who wanted to learn. The last two winter seasons, Lynn helped teach pruning workshops for forestry students and woodland owners at Hopkins Demonstration Forest. He showed us how to climb special ladders into the canopy of Douglas-fir trees and cut limbs to improve the quality of the wood we grow. Lynn eagerly shared his love of forestry with several dozen visitors who came to Hopkins to learn from him. Today, we can walk among acres of trees that Lynn and his students pruned—in this way; Lynn Butts' legacy lives on.

Thank you, Lynn.