

Report of Accomplishments

Hopkins Demonstration Forest, 2007

Forests Forever, Inc.



Thanks to our Education Consortium partners—their investments make community outreach and educational programming possible at Hopkins Demonstration Forest.

Clackamas County Board of Commissioners, Title III

Clackamas County Farm Forestry Association

Frank Lumber Company

Freres Lumber Company

Giustina Resources

Clement and Phyllis Hunter

Oregon Forest Resources Institute

RSG Forest Products

Safeway

Starker Forests

Walker Family Foundation

Weyerhaeuser Family Foundation



...together, we plant the future one tree at a time.

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INTRODUCTION

December 31, 2007 completes the third year since Forests Forever initiated our Education Consortium in support of education programs conducted at Hopkins Demonstration Forest. This report describes activities, program outcomes, and products made possible by the Education Consortium, beginning with these highlights:

- Hundreds of students, Scouts and other young volunteers planted trees, maintained trails, and helped reduce erosion in our woodland.
- Dozens of natural resource professionals shared their skills and knowledge with students and woodland owners.
- Several woodland owners shared their skills and knowledge with hundreds of volunteers who participated in workdays throughout the year.
- Expanded and deepened partnerships brought new funding, materials, and volunteers to support education programs and resource management at Hopkins Demonstration Forest.

During 2007, staff built upon existing relationships in the community: with our customers and supporting partners, volunteers and donors. Our experience tells us that the quality and benefit of programs are increased the more deeply we engage our community.

2007 PROGRAM AND OUTREACH GOALS

1 Volunteer Opportunities

- Organize monthly Volunteer Workdays to engage the community in “learning by doing” forest management activities at Hopkins Demonstration Forest.
- 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 a variety of community events, and make use of various media to promote education and community engagement opportunities that occur at Hopkins Demonstration Forest.

3 Youth Education

- Provide a variety of forestry education programming for youth at Hopkins Demonstration Forest.
- Coordinate with Scouts, clubs, other education providers and youth development organizations in the region to use Hopkins Demonstration Forest as a field site.

PROGRAM AND OUTREACH SUMMARY

Hopkins Demonstration Forest is no longer the well-kept secret of five years ago, before we hired our first full time staff in March 2003.

Hopkins forest is now recognized by many in the community as a valuable asset. During this year, the community came to Hopkins in numbers never seen before:

- 770 volunteers worked nearly 3,800 hours to maintain facilities and manage resources at Hopkins Demonstration Forest
- 600 guests were introduced to forestry through tours, day camps, and community events held at Hopkins
- Over 1300 youth—students, Scouts and club members participated in a variety of education and service activities at the demonstration forest
- 3,300 people were exposed to information about Hopkins Demonstration Forest at a variety of events in the community



HOW WE MET OUR GOALS

GOAL 1 Volunteer Opportunities

- Organize monthly Volunteer Workdays that engage the community in “learning by doing” forest management activities at Hopkins Demonstration Forest.



Roasting a hot dog over the fire at our amphitheater was a highlight for many of the young Scouts who planted trees with us last winter. After being frozen out of planting in January, our community of volunteers came through the next three months to plant 600 Douglas fir, 450 western redcedar, 300 ponderosa pine and 100 noble fir seedlings. The planting season at Hopkins concluded in April with a record day for both the number of trees planted in one day—900 red alder, and the greatest number of volunteers in one day—90, many of them first-time tree planters!

Volunteer Workdays at Hopkins Demonstration Forest

Outcomes:

11 scheduled workdays included almost 300 people in more than 1600 hours of essential facility maintenance, and resource work described below:

- Volunteers planted 2,250 trees total in several small units: ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, western redcedar, noble fir and red alder.
- In conjunction with tree planting, volunteers stacked and burned slash, set and retrieved mountain beaver traps, and sprayed weeds on 4-acres.
- Youth crews helped prune about 2-acres of Douglas-fir trees.
- Volunteers cut brush and spread wood chips or gravel and cleaned drainage structures on 2 miles of trail.
- Hopkins Hall, our shop, restrooms and Cedar Grove Picnic Shelter were all maintained by community volunteers.
- Volunteers helped prepare and serve lunch to other volunteers as part of workdays.

Several volunteers participated multiple times in workdays this year, assisting with a variety of projects. Some volunteers returned seasonally, other volunteers are regulars who show up almost every month to lend a hand with anything on our list. We hope this trend continues in future as more groups and individual volunteers find a niche 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.



There would not be such an extensive youth science education program at Hopkins Demonstration Forest if not for the partnership with WolfTree, Inc. to use Hopkins as one of their field sites for Science in the Forest. Natural resource professionals and Portland State University students volunteer to mentor middle and high school students in the Science in the Forest program. During this reporting period, Science in the Forest programs occurred at Hopkins on 13 days, involving 60 volunteers in over 400 hours of service to provide a forest sciences approach to forestry education.

Volunteerism at Hopkins Demonstration Forest

Outcomes:

- Several local woodland owners shared their knowledge, talent and tools with many of the high school students who came to Hopkins for service-learning projects.
- Dozens of volunteers from Wolfree, Portland State University, the Forest Service and other natural resource management agencies supported youth participants of *Science in the Forest* programs.
- Three Teachers on Summer Assignment completed a timber marking inventory, and a proposed thinning mark in conjunction with the Extension Forester.
- Forests Forever Board of Directors accomplish a wide range of tasks in their volunteer roles: board members prepare lunch and lead work crews on workdays, write articles, raise funds and material donations, and make friends in the community. In total, board members served more than 2,500 hours to support activities at Hopkins Demonstration Forest in the past year.

Volunteerism takes many forms at Hopkins Demonstration Forest, and comes from many people who want to help manage resources, maintain facilities and provide education programs. In the past year, more organized groups have engaged in volunteer activities at Hopkins than in previous years. A few benefits from this new trend are that recruiting is easier and more effective—more people show up to help, and groups come with leadership which often means they can be self-directed once engaged in a project. Efforts to identify and recruit corporate and civic groups will continue in future.

GOAL 2 Community Programs and Outreach

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



Tours are an important way to share with the community what we are doing to manage our forest. In all, tours served about 175 people during the past year. One tour of special note was offered in early summer to preview a planned harvest—the tour attracted 10 people for a closer look at our Pole Management Demonstration. The harvest is now complete, and we want to invite the community again in early 2008 to see what was accomplished.

On-site programming at Hopkins Demonstration Forest

Outcomes:

- 175 people took a closer look at forest management through one of 27 tours given at Hopkins this past year.
- 420 people attended one or more of the 12 events hosted at Hopkins by Forests Forever, or other community groups.

In addition to scheduled tours and events, the community is invited to visit Hopkins on their own time, for individual purposes. To many, Hopkins Demonstration Forest is a “park” with trails, trees, nature. It’s a place to walk dogs and watch birds, ride a horse and practice backpacking. Currently there is no mechanism to accurately count this casual, self-directed use, though it is observed and reported that, rarely does a day go by when someone is not walking the trails at Hopkins, on their own time, at their own pace. Exhibits and trail guides developed in previous years provide information for these guests. A new RV pad completed over the summer is now available for a volunteer host who will be able to greet visitors and observe their habits as we try to understand more about this casual use.



GOAL 2 Community Programs and Outreach

- Participate in a variety of community events, and make use of various media to promote education and community engagement opportunities that occur at Hopkins Demonstration Forest.

Outreach Promotes Hopkins Demonstration Forest

Outcomes:

- 3 issues of *Grouse Hollow News* were published and distributed to supporters and subscribers.
- 3,300 people learned about Hopkins Demonstration Forest at dozens of community events in 2007, including, Chamber of Commerce, Rotary, Clackamas County Tree School, and youth group and educator conferences.
- Marketing materials were created and distributed monthly to promote activities at Hopkins Demonstration Forest, including posters, bill-inserts, flyers, and press releases distributed and ads placed in local print media.
- www.demonstrationforest.org provides information and images that show: “who we are” “what we do” and how the community can “get involved” at Hopkins Demonstration Forest. A calendar page lists our activities and events, with links to slide shows from recent activities.
- 2 different postcards designs were developed and distributed in person, and through correspondence with donors and other supporters.

GOAL 3 Youth Education

- Provide a variety of programming for youth: e.g., tours, field science and service-learning.



High School intern Chao Tan assisted with a survival and vigor study of seedlings in the Red Alder Plantation. Chao helped inventory red alder seedlings and assess vigor of treated and untreated seedlings planted in a comparative study in April 2007. In this reporting period Hopkins hosted an increased number of high school students seeking more in-depth experiences, skill development and career exploration in a natural resources context.

Youth Programs at Hopkins Demonstration Forest

Outcomes:

- Service-learning opportunities are taken advantage of by schools and youth service agencies such as Clackamas County Juvenile Services, and DePaul Treatment Center.
- A construction crew from Clackamas County Youth Corps worked at Hopkins for six weeks last summer: they built a rock retaining wall, made an RV pad, and constructed two small wooden shelters located in our woodland.
- Tours are offered for students from 4th grade through college. Two standard tour formats focus on tree identification and resource sustainability, respectively. Tours are also customized by request of teachers—one example being a tour developed for David Douglas High School students that focuses on careers in natural resources.
- Science inquiry programs such as *Science in the Forest* and other customized “investigative” projects engaged students in practicing observation and measurement skills, and comparison of the ecological effects resulting from resource management at Hopkins Demonstration Forest.
- High School interns from Oregon City Service Learning Academy, Canby, Oregon City, and David Douglas high schools took a hands-on approach to their education at Hopkins.

Serving schools with on-site science programming and service learning opportunities at Hopkins occupies a majority of staff time and attention. Repeat visitors are now more common than new customers. For the first time in Forests Forever’s tenure of the Hopkins property (since 1990), schools are being turned away due to lack of date availability, and staffing limitations.

GOAL 3 Youth Education

- Coordinate with Scouts, clubs, other education providers and youth development organizations in the region to use Hopkins Demonstration Forest as a field site.



Nature is great to explore with all your senses—just ask the youngsters who come to Hopkins to see, touch, smell and sometimes taste the forest. Given staff limitations—we only have one—Forests Forever has not developed its own youth group programs, rather we choose to serve youth groups by providing access to the forest to conduct their own activities. As with most other scheduling for use of the forest, we reserve the entire 140-acres for one group at a time, which gives a feeling of being special, and avoids conflicts for use of popular facilities like the picnic shelter. This approach has been one way to extend the opportunities for forestry education without requiring additional staff.

Hopkins Demonstration Forest Used by Other Groups

Outcomes:

- Youth summer camps schedule to use Hopkins for field trips and nature studies. Usually these groups are self-directed; occasionally they request a tour or other activities.
- For a second year, 4-H forestry clubs used Hopkins for some of their activities: plant identification and collection, orienteering and tree planting.
- Girl and Boy Scouts use Hopkins Demonstration Forest for service projects—trail maintenance and tree planting, and to earn badges, including the Eagle rank, and Bronze Award: we even offer youth a chance to earn a special “Hopkins” patch. Scouts are also making use of Hopkins to practice camping and backpacking, and for their award ceremonies.
- University and college students established forestry research plots, and landform mapping, visited for tours and forestry skills labs.

The approach to working with other entities who want to use Hopkins is to instill a sense of ownership for each group, and develop other leaders’ familiarity with facilities and resources at Hopkins, so each group can truly be self-directed. To assist these groups, orientation of their leadership is important to plan access to facilities and the forest, and use of some equipment. Permitting outside groups to be self-directed, in effect, extends the hours of operation to times when staff is unavailable. Typical in our work, we learn by doing: so far, formalities are few and the desire to fill the forest with people is high. To date, this approach has served Forests Forever and our customers well.

CONCLUSIONS

Forests Forever's Education Consortium was initiated in 2005, following two years of funding solely through Clackamas County's Title III program, beginning in 2003. As the County's funding has decreased, our need to engage new and additional support from the community has increased. September 30, 2008, will conclude the last of Title III funding. Efforts to promote activities at Hopkins prior to and including 2005 are now paying dividends with increased numbers of volunteers and participation in youth education programs. The overall trend is towards increased use and community engagement.

PROGRAM PARTICIPATION SUMMARY

	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003
Activity	#People	#People	#People	#People	#People
<u>Volunteers</u>	770	500	485	440	115
<u>On-site Programs</u>	600	510	775	440	305
<u>Youth Education</u>	1310	1,000	470	250	N/A
<u>Off-site Outreach</u>	3,300	2,800	4640	2300	N/A

The services described in this report are possible because of the generosity of our community—initiated by the gift of land and forest in 1990, and the vision from the Hopkins family for a community forest. Thanks are due our Education Consortium, and the hundreds of volunteers, individuals and businesses in the community who give their time, talent and treasure in support of activities at Hopkins Demonstration Forest. See what we have done so far: what else can we do together? Help plant the future!

Thanks to the Education Consortium, we served these groups in 2007

**4-H Forestry Clubs of Clackamas & Polk counties • Banks
Christian Academy • Binnsmead Middle School • Boy Scouts •
Campfire USA • Canby Youth Corps • Chemeketa Community
College • Christian Trail Riders Fellowship • Clackamas County
Youth Corps • Clackamas County Community Corrections •
Clackamas County Farm Forestry Association • Clackamas
County Juvenile Department • Clairmont Riders Trail Club •
Clark College • Community Solutions of Clackamas County •
David Douglas High School • DePaul Treatment Center •
Estacada High School • Forestry Educators Network •
Girl Scouts • Gladstone High School • Heritage Elementary
School • Hidden Springs Kindercare • Holy Family School •
Marshall High School • Master Woodland Managers - Class of
2007 • Meadow Park Intermediate School • North Clackamas
Christian School • North Clackamas County Chamber of
Commerce • North Clackamas School District - Owen Sabin
Skills Center • Oregon City Chamber of Commerce • Oregon
City High School • Oregon City HS Green Team • Oregon City
Rotary • Oregon City Service Learning Academy •
OSU Clackamas County Extension Service • Portland State
University • Regional Environmental Educators Network •
Reynolds Natural Resources Academy • Saint John Fischer
School • Springwater School • Tryon Creek State Park - Ecology
Camp • Victor Point Elementary School • West Linn-Wilsonville
School District • Wildlife Stewards • Women Owning Woodlands**

We rely on volunteers to help accomplish our mission:

...to help youth, family forest owners and the community learn about sustainable forestry and why it's important to all Oregonians.



The October 2007 Workday at Hopkins Demonstration Forest included an All-Star cast of family forest owners from around Clackamas County. Members of the Clackamas County Farm Forestry Association brought their machines and talents to Hopkins for a day of fall chores. Our roots are in this community—Howard and Margaret Hopkins were well-known and active in the CCFFA. It's been 17 years since Margaret made the gift of her family's forest with the vision that we provide a model for community engagement in a sustainably managed forest. Through the years, many CCFFA members have been instrumental in helping achieve the Hopkins' vision.

Thank you, woodland owners for your participation.

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