



Photo: Jamie Francis / The Oregonian / 2009

## Sawmills are the key to forest restoration

The Malheur Lumber Company in John Day has been granted a reprieve from the closure that parent company Ochoco Lumber announced last month. The promise of private landowners to supply the mill with enough timber supply for a month or two to keep it open is but a temporary solution.

I have participated for three years on the state's Federal Forest Advisory Committee's Implementation Working Group, collaborating to reach consensus on ways to restore eastside forests. Recently, \$2.5 million in federal funds was extended to support the [Blue Mountain Forest Partners](#) collaborative for this purpose. But the federal help may be too little, too late.

Without that mill, the small-diameter logs from forest restoration efforts will have to be trucked to Lakeview or Gilchrist - 210 miles or 190 miles, respectively. Probably not feasible with today's fuel prices.

John Day is a community surrounded by national forests. That struggling sawmill has been a steady supplier of lumber and family-wage jobs for decades.

Without sawmills located close to areas needing thinning, there's no economic engine to make restoration economically viable. It is the lumber that will help pay for this work. Ironically, the mill closed because there is not enough timber to keep the mill open, even though it is located within eyesight of a sea of forests needing attention.



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### Get Outside: Chief Joseph Trail

Beginning along the Wallowa River, the [Chief Joseph Trail](#) travels the flank of Chief Joseph Mountain and leads to stunning vistas of Wallowa Lake and the Wallowa Valley. Turning around at the mountain cascade Upper BC Falls makes this an easy 2.5-mile round trip.



### Oregon Woodland Cooperative to host free learning fair, BBQ

Hands-on demonstrations of crafts and forest products, speakers and walking tours will help family foresters learn about income-

We can't afford to lose any more mills in eastern Oregon.

-Paul Barnum  
Executive Director



### **OFRI kid-vids also prove popular with adults**

A series of 90-second animations designed for K-12 classrooms has also attracted an adult audience. The animations simplify complex forestry topics like photosynthesis into fun and engaging quick-takes.

The lively videos first made their way into OFRI Speakers Bureau talks and other special presentations. Even adults appreciated the simplified information. The Idaho Forest Products Commission and the Forest Foundation of California then spotted the videos, and asked permission to customize them for distribution through their agencies.

Jordan Benner, OFRI's public outreach program manager, developed and animated the productions. "It started out as a small project to create richer content for K-12 students. People really enjoyed them," said Benner. "We got requests to tackle more issues, so we produced another five. The series continues this year when we'll add five more."

Available now on DVD at no charge, the 10 videos cover topics including reforestation, forest fires, wildlife, clearcutting, water, forest management, carbon sequestration, green building, tree biology, and photosynthesis. Check them out online at [OFRI's YouTube channel](#).

earning opportunities  
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## A hundred ways for mature forests to age

In today's world of overnight opinion polls and instant online surveys, it's worth remembering that some scientific studies last a year or longer. In fact, at Oregon State University, there's a study two decades in the making.

Twenty years ago, Professor Mike Newton and faculty research assistant Liz Cole of the OSU [College of Forestry](#) began a study at the McDonald-Dunn Research Forest near Corvallis on active-management alternatives to create mature forest characteristics. They and their colleagues tried hundreds of silvicultural methods on 260 acres within the forest.

Today, the fascinating results show how, over a relatively short period, deliberate active forest management can provide a range of characteristics for wildlife, fish habitat and - if desired - high-quality timber products.

Jointly sponsored by OFRI and the OSU College of Forestry, the first Mature Forest Study Field Workshop was held for policymakers on Aug. 28. The tour will be repeated Sept. 28 for federal foresters, and another will be scheduled for family forest landowners and extension foresters. Tours are free and transportation and lunch are provided.

Contact Mike Cloughesy at [cloughesy@ofri.org](mailto:cloughesy@ofri.org) or 971-673-2955 for more information and to sign up.



## Brief videos help teachers assess forestry education opportunities

Just in time for the new school year, OFRI has created a series of one-minute videos highlighting five popular forestry education programs available for K-12 teachers and their students. The fast-paced spots offer educators a highlight reel of experiences available for students.

The videos describe the venue, facilities and learning opportunities. Featured are OFRI's forestry education partners: the Tillamook Forest Center, the Talk About Trees in-class program, the Hopkins Demonstration Forest, Forests Today & Forever, and OFRI's own Rediscovery Forest at The Oregon Garden.

According to Jordan Benner, OFRI's public outreach program manager, "The videos are like tiny ads to help inform teachers about the many learning opportunities related to forestry in Oregon. They are a quick and easy way for teachers to plan high-quality field trips and in-classroom experiences that count toward state teaching standards."

View the videos at [LearnForests.org](http://LearnForests.org) in the "Field Programs" section and [OFRI's YouTube channel](#).

### Oregon Forest Resources Institute · [OregonForests.org](http://OregonForests.org)

The Oregon Legislature created the Oregon Forest Resources Institute in 1991 to improve public understanding of the state's forest resources and to encourage environmentally sound forest management through training and other educational programs for forest landowners. OFRI is funded by a dedicated harvest tax on forest products producers.

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