



# The Lookout

News of the Tillamook Forest Center

Summer 2021 | Volume 15, Number 3

## Tillamook Forest Center

*Inspiring people to connect with the Tillamook State Forest.*



### Staff

**Director**  
Jennifer Magby

**Interpretation & Education Coordinator**  
Denise Berkshire

**Visitor Services Coordinator**  
Jen Warren

**Visitor Services Assistant**  
Megan Fair

**Facilities Maintenance Coordinator**  
Christian Hargrove

**Facilities Assistant**  
Jeremy Wright

**Interpretive**

## Thank you and so long, Christian

Have you ever been struck by the beauty of the Tillamook Forest Center's exhibit hall or by the perfectly landscaped trails winding the grounds? Then you have appreciated the hard work of Christian Hargrove and the facilities staff. Since 2017, Christian has been the Facilities Coordinator keeping the center a safe, clean, and beautiful place for visitors. This month we say farewell and thank you to Christian as he moves on to a new opportunity in eastern Oregon. Although he is leaving the center, he made lasting contributions that will continue to be appreciated such as replacing the logs of the steam donkey, overseeing the construction of the Forest Education Pavilion and the information kiosk in the plaza, and so much more. Most recently, he updated the fire suppression system in the buildings and refinished all the wooden features throughout the grounds. We are grateful for Christian's dedication to safety and quality and thank him for everything he has contributed to the Tillamook Forest Center and the Oregon Department of Forestry.



## From the Director *A time of transition*

It's a beautiful time of year in the forest. The forest is green and teeming with life. Unfortunately, the Tillamook Forest Center remains closed. We are working hard behind the scenes to improve our operation to safely serve our visitors. Flushable vault toilets are being installed adjacent to the Forest Education Pavilion. The project has had setbacks but continues to make progress. Staff transitions are occurring as key staff members have moved on to new opportunities. Your patience is appreciated as we make our way through this time of transition. Trails, campgrounds, and day-use areas in the Tillamook State Forest are open. We hope you find yourself in the forest.



**Naturalist**  
Joslyn Krahel

**Executive Director,  
Tillamook Forest  
Heritage Trust**  
Shawn Morford

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### Hours:

*Due to the ongoing pandemic, and limited staffing, the center remains closed. Watch our website and follow us on Facebook for updates.*

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Follow us on Facebook  
and catch our  
YouTube channel.



## Know before you go

Excited to get out of the house and enjoy the sunny weather outdoors? If you're planning a trip to Oregon's state forests this summer, here are some tips and resources to get the most out of your experience.

We encourage you to check the status and conditions of your destination beforehand and have a backup plan just in case. Bring all the essentials and be aware that often you may be without cell phone reception. Let someone know your plans and when you will be returning. Clean up before you leave and pack out all trash so that others may also enjoy Oregon's beautiful outdoor spaces.

Visit the Oregon Department of Forestry's [website](#) for information on all recreation sites and activities on state forest land. For current and more specific information on the Tillamook State Forest, check out the [Tillamook State Forest blog](#). Another great resource is [Oregon's Recreation Site Status Map](#). This interagency map was created to help navigate the status of popular recreation areas across the state which were impacted by the 2020 wildfire season.

Please make sure you are doing your part this year to be fire safe. Check [fire restrictions](#) before you head out, only have campfires in designated areas, and never leave your campfire unattended. Bring water and a shovel, and always make sure your fire is dead out. If it's too hot to touch, it's too hot to leave.

Need more information? Contact the Tillamook Forest Center at (503) 815-6800 or [tfc.info@oregon.gov](mailto:tfc.info@oregon.gov). We're available to answer your questions and help you enjoy your next trip to the forest.



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## Forestry Field Trips

*What will be offered during the  
2021 – 2022 school year?*

Summer is here, school is out, and life seems to be inching closer to normalcy. So, what does this mean for TFC field trips in the next school year? The last forestry field trip at the center was *Salmon in Our Streams* on November 22, 2019 for 75 third graders! As with most things, quite a bit has changed since that time, providing us an opportunity to reimagine the future. The Interpretation and Education Program has been through significant changes during the closure, and we are currently evaluating options for virtual and on-site field trips during the 2021 – 2022 school year. To aid in our planning, we would love to hear from teachers and youth leaders. Please consider taking this [five-minute survey](#) to share your ideas and interest. Watch our website, Facebook page, and upcoming newsletters to see what offerings will be available for youth field trips. We are excited to continue facilitating student connections with the forest in the future. Have a safe and wonderful summer!



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## A warm welcome

While the past year has not turned out in the way any of us would have expected, one thing has remained, and that is our gratitude for the volunteers that help keep the Tillamook Forest Center moving. With greatly-reduced capacity this summer and an interpretive center which remains closed, we are grateful to welcome Jimmy O'Meara

to our volunteer team. Jimmy comes to us retired from a career in pharmaceutical sales and as a consulting environmental hydrogeologist. He decided to volunteer as a site host at the TFC excited by the mission and looking to contribute to the center's success. When asked what inspires Jimmy to volunteer, he says that he enjoys "being a positive contributor toward making the world a better place and try to make things better than I found them." We are deeply grateful for Jimmy's support this summer!



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## Get your Smokey on

Check out new and exciting Smokey Bear items in the Tillamook Forest Center gift shop. Clothing, souvenirs, toys, and more! Something for all ages to enjoy. Show your commitment to Smokey's very important message of wildfire prevention this fire season. Remember only YOU can prevent wildfires. Visit our [online store](#) and order your favorite Smokey item today!

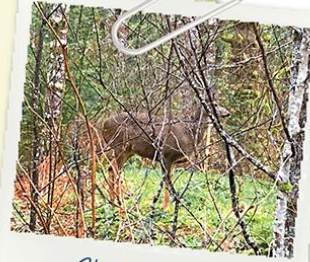
We still have our sale going on: all food items are 50% off plus free shipping when you spend \$75 sitewide.



# naturalist notes

Joslyn Krahel

3/4/2021 - Drizzling rain, mist rests suspended in the air, and the forest is quiet apart from the constant motion of the Wilson River. I examine the bright green needles of a young hemlock tree and abruptly realize I am not alone. A deer stares at me, expertly hidden, as she browses just beyond the trail. How long has she been there?



She sees me.

3/30/2021 - The first colors of spring arrive! The red huckleberry's delicate leaves fill in the forest's understory with dabs of pink and green. Sparse patches of vibrant yellow violets splatter the base of mossy trees. Trillium leaves of three are all around, but only one is open showing off its white petals. What flower will be the next to arrive on the trails?



4/30/2021 - April delivered dazzling warm and dry days. The rain gauge recorded just 2.22 inches of precipitation for the month. In contrast to the 9.36 inches in 2019 and the whopping 17.04 inches in 2018, this April fell short.



Spring flowers arrive.

5/28/2021 - The forest is alive with the distant hum of motorcycles, and the chipping of the swallows gliding above my head. Joyful sounds swim through the trees.

6/9/2021 - Bold orange columbine, tiger lily, and honeysuckle flowers are prominent on the Tillamook Forest Center trails. Berries are coming in green. With a patient gaze, I spot a single ripe salmonberry. It is not long now until the berries are plentiful.



The first berry.

I can't wait to reconnect with visitors in-person, but until then I enjoy sharing forest photos, videos, and starting conversations about the forest on the Tillamook Forest Center Facebook page.

## News from the Trust

### *Paying it forward*

Just as we marvel at how past Oregonians came together to restore the burned Tillamook Forest 70+ years ago, future generations will gaze around and utter thank you. Your gifts to the Tillamook Forest Heritage Trust are restoring the burned Santiam State Forest, enhancing the Tillamook Forest Center, and improving recreation infrastructure on state forests, benefitting generations to come. On their behalf, we thank you.

Tillamook  
Forest  
HERITAGE  
TRUST

The Trust posted a colorful biennial report to share accomplishments, financials, and thank supporters- lots of pictures and not too many numbers! See [www.tillamooktrust.org](http://www.tillamooktrust.org) (click on "Events and News").