

As a middle school science teacher, I have directly witnessed my students benefiting from the instruction provided by the Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI) in the form of their Talk About Trees program. The instruction was relevant to our lives here in Oregon, it was accurate and scientific, and, as this is of foremost importance to this hearing, it was not presented with a bias. Indeed, forest management and health was promoted in the light of logging as an important industry. The presentation was not pro or anti any particular political perspective. Oregon's forests are an extremely important natural resource, one that should be well taken care of so that future generations can benefit from its renewable nature. The Talk About Trees curriculum highlighted:

- Steps that can be taken to ensure that forests remain healthy.
- Career opportunities within the forest sector.
- Importance of forests for the health of riparian zones and as a barrier against erosion.
- Wildfire prevention and causes.
- Science of tree growth and development.

The presentation also included valuable hands-on experiences for the students where they tested how different soil types would erode with rainfall, and a lab on paper making was also offered.

The lessons that the students in my classroom received were well put together, informative, relevant, and valuable. The instructor presenting the curriculum was professional and did not present a bias of any kind. It is my hope to see this program continue into the future with continued funding from the OFRI.