

I am a third grade teacher in Grants Pass, Oregon. Amanda Close, from Talk About Trees, has been visiting my class of students for the past four years. This program is an amazing, educational program for our school and the material that she teaches aligns with our Oregon State Science Standards.

Amanda teaches about the different types of trees that are found in Oregon. She teaches the scientific words for various trees and parts of trees. She brings her subject to life by showing pictures and sharing hands-on materials like pinecones, samaras, tree bark, pine needles, and various types of leaves. She facilitates amazing discussions where children are able to share their personal experiences regarding trees with her. Her presentations are unbiased and completed scientific. She relates their experiences back to the scientific nature of trees.

She also teaches the students how paper is made and allows them to participate in the paper making process. She brings all of the materials to our classrooms and demonstrates the process. Each student is able to participate, learning how to make a piece of paper, that they then get to take home with them.

The funding for OFRI is dire in order to continue these wonderfully engaging and educational programs for the children in our community. We have been so grateful to have had Talk About Trees in our schools and would be devastated to see the funding come to an end. Thanks you for supporting our children and their education.