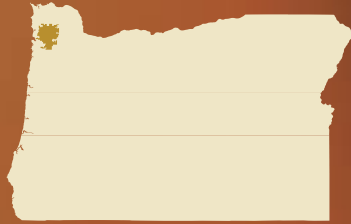


Tillamook STATE FOREST



Enjoy Free Programs

Are you interested in more information about the plants, wildlife or forest in general? Join our knowledgeable staff for family-friendly forest programs throughout the summer. Special programs can be arranged for a group upon request.

If you're looking for a detailed forest map or more specific information on forest activities, pick up additional brochures on camping, nonmotorized trails or OHV trails at one of our district offices or click through our web site at www.oregon.gov/odf

Forest Contact Information:

Forest Grove District Office
Oregon Department of Forestry
801 Gales Creek Road
Forest Grove OR 97116
Phone (503) 357-2191

Recorded Recreation Hot Line: 503-359-7402

Tillamook District Office
Oregon Department of Forestry
5005 East 3rd Street
Tillamook, OR 97141
Phone: (503) 842-2545



Welcome to Tillamook STATE FOREST



University Falls

Are you ready...

...to explore a unique state forest located just 35 miles west of Portland in the lush, northern Oregon Coast Range? The Oregon Department of Forestry invites you to discover the Tillamook State Forest.

Here you will find 364,000 acres of rugged mountains rising above clear rivers where salmon and steelhead return to spawn. Majestic elk roam the forest while busy birds and scurrying squirrels dart through shrubs and treetops. Delicate spring wildflowers emerge across the hillsides and valleys only to surrender their colors to yellow-tinted broadleaf trees in the fall.

Buckets of rainfall from late fall through spring nourish a green world of mosses, ferns and trees. The summer and early fall are generally warm and dry—a time when visitors need to be cautious with fire and comply with fire restrictions.

Plan Your Visit

Whether you're looking for a scenic drive on the way to the beach, a place to pitch your tent, or a trail adventure, you'll find something special in the Tillamook State Forest. Many visitors also enjoy the forest and its streams for fishing, hunting, kayaking, swimming and wildlife viewing.



1933 Tillamook Fire

The smoke plume from the 1933 Tillamook Fire rose to 40,000 feet as the inferno raged across a 15 mile flame front. The power of the fire created a hurricane force wind that uprooted trees and snapped them like matchsticks. Nearby coastal cities were plunged into darkness at mid-day due to the thick, blinding smoke. Ashes and cinders fell on ships 500 miles at sea.

History

By the 1930s the timber industry owned large areas of prime forestland in the northern Coast Range.

The magnificent old-growth forest included scattered openings and young stands created when trees died from insects, disease, wind and fire. Some trees grew to ten feet thick and 300 feet tall!

Oregon's Most Infamous Forest Fire

On August 14th, 1933 one spark changed the landscape forever. The day dawned hot and dry in a forest ripe for fire. A logging company working in Gales Creek canyon planned to shut down early due to the extreme fire danger. As loggers dragged in the last log it was pulled over the top of another log, creating enough friction to ignite a fire.

The Tillamook Fire burned a total of 240,000 acres including the day it “blew up” destroying 200,000 acres of forest in 24 hours. Additional fires scorched the area again in 1939, 1945, and 1951, creating the Tillamook Burn and the legend of the six-year jinx. All the fires were caused by careless logging and spurred the state to strengthen fire prevention regulations. In the end, the series of four wildfires burned 355,000 acres of forest land—an area four times the size of Portland.



Many local and Portland-area schools participated in the replanting effort in the 1950s and 60s. Here, a group of Tillamook schoolchildren gather to plant seedlings near Muesial Creek.



The children worked in pairs. Typically, a boy would excavate a planting hole and then a girl would slip a bare-root seedling into the hole.

The Burn Becomes the Burden of the Counties

Many landowners walked away from their “worthless” lands in the Tillamook Burn. Ownership of these lands resorted back to the counties, creating a financial and environmental burden. The Forest Acquisition Act, passed in 1939, encouraged counties to deed the foreclosed lands to the Oregon Department of Forestry in exchange for a share of future timber harvest revenues, giving rise to the state forest system we have today.

The World's Largest Reforestation Project

The department began a huge reforestation project in 1949 that resulted in the planting of 72 million tree seedlings. Governor Tom McCall dedicated the Tillamook State Forest in 1973. It remains an amazing living tribute to the resiliency of the land and the dedication of a generation of Oregonians.

Managed for a Wide Range of Values

Today, the Oregon Department of Forestry manages the Tillamook State Forest for a range of social, environmental and economic benefits. The health of the forest, from wildlife habitat to water quality, is a driving force behind a forest management plan adopted in 2001. The plan calls for a sustainable level of timber harvesting that is designed to improve the forest's health and contribute revenue to local schools and counties.

Fun in the Forest

Pack up the family and your camping gear and head out to the Tillamook State Forest to one of eight developed campgrounds that offer a range of features. Most campgrounds operate from May through October and charge a small fee. A few campgrounds include facilities for horses and off-highway vehicles.



A forester measures the diameter of a tree in preparation for a timber sale.

Gales Creek Campground.



Selective thinning of crowded tree stands allow the remaining trees to grow larger more quickly.

