From camping to fishing or hiking, Oregon's State Forests are a great place to get out and about this summer. Many state forests are a bit more "off the beaten track" than other more popular areas, but often offer a different forest experience – well worth the extra time, energy, and effort.

"Geocaching" is a fairly new recreation activity in which the participants use a Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver or other navigational techniques to hide and seek containers (called "geocaches" or "caches") anywhere in the world. Geocaching on Oregon's state forests offers Oregon's citizens a chance to get out and see for themselves how Oregon's state forests are being managed – up close and personal – in a fun, enjoyable, family-friendly activity.

Coos District employee Mike Davidson has been placing and maintaining caches in the Elliott State Forest for the past few years. As part of the background information about these caches, Mike includes little snippets of information on the geocaching website about the area the cache is located in – a pre-commercial thinning site, a reforestation activity, or even just a beautiful scenic vista.

Bill Ostrander, Southwest Oregon/Klamath-Lake District employee, is also active in placing geocaches. Thanks to Bill, this year ODF forestlands offer some special geocaching activities in conjunction with celebrations of the agency's Centennial. From caches at the Klamath-Lake District Office to those located at look-outs from long ago, there are some very special ODF geocaches out there for the public to seek out and enjoy.

Get out this summer, try some geocaching, and find some fun! ODF Centennial geocaches can be found at: www.geocaching.com/seek/nearest.aspx?key=ODF+Centennial&submit4=Go. Similar searches can be performed on the website for caches on other Oregon state forestlands.

Goldenrain tree is a rapidly growing small to medium-sized deciduous tree. It’s popular across the world for several reasons. It features attractive foliage, is one of the few trees to flower in mid-summer (early July) in Northern climates, and is also a very hardy tree, tolerating heat, drought, and pollution.

Flowers of the Goldenrain tree are yellow with four petals, and leaves are alternate and pinnate, emerging bronzed and maturing to medium then dark green. This attractive tree has a broad, dome-shaped crown, and its seeds are edible when roasted.

The Goldenrain tree does best in any good loamy soil, and in dry soils. They reach a height of roughly 30 feet tall, and prefer full sun.

While trees may appear a little gangly while young, their showy blooms and urban hardiness helped earn them the 2011 “Urban Tree of the Year” title from the Society of Municipal Arborists. 🌳