

OFRI provides funding for the Talk About Trees classroom education program that reaches over 100,000 students in Oregon each year. OFRI also provides funding for ONREP – Oregon Natural Resources Education Program at Oregon State University, which is the state’s primary natural resources education professional development program. Additionally, OFRI provides school bus transportation funding for field trips and substitute teacher reimbursement. Without OFRI’s support many of our state’s natural resources education programs including the World Forestry Center’s Discovery Museum, Tillamook Forest Center, Hopkins Demonstration Forest, Forests Today and Forever, OSU’s Wood Magic Program and Envirothon would not be able to reach all the students that they currently serve due to a lack of funding within the local school districts. In addition, OFRI has worked to develop the Oregon Forest Literacy Plan and provides the LearnForests website for educators.

At the high school level, OFRI has been a leader in developing the state’s network of Career Technical Education Programs

that focus on Natural Resources. Additionally, OFRI works closely with the CTE programs to establish connections that feed directly into Oregon's Community College forestry degree programs.

Amendment four to HB 2495 would take funding away from critical natural resources education programs in the state and would dramatically reduce the number of students, teachers that receive hands on natural resources education and training across K-12.