

HEALTHY FORESTS

Nearly half of Oregon is covered in forests. Our forests supply lumber, paper, fuel for heating, and jobs that support families and communities. They also filter drinking water, provide a home for many plants and animals, give us oxygen and store carbon from the atmosphere.

Forest management helps Oregon maintain healthy forests and the many benefits they provide.



Engage

Watch the two-minute video [Forest Fact Break: Forest Management](#).

Why is it important to manage forests?

Explore

1. Go outside to assess the health of a tree in your backyard, schoolyard, neighborhood or local park. BE SURE TO CHECK WITH AN ADULT BEFORE HEADING OUT.
2. Using the [Tree ID Guide](#), determine if the tree is a common native Oregon forest tree. Note that many trees in cities and towns are not native to Oregon. Is it a common native Oregon forest tree?
3. Assess the tree's health:
 - Look at the base of the tree where the trunk and roots meet at the soil surface. Check for signs of decay, such as missing or broken bark, or cracks in the trunk.
 - Examine the trunk. Look for deep cracks, which can indicate weakness in the tree.
 - Look up at the tree's top. Check for branches that are broken, bare, or missing bark, which can indicate disease.

On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being most healthy, how healthy you would say this tree is?

What evidence supports your answer?

Explain

Create a plan for a healthy forest! Imagine that you own and manage 100 acres of forest, which is made up of conifer trees that are all about the same age; your forest has a stream running through it.

What is your goal for this forest?

What would your forest look like if your goal is being met? Draw a picture of it here or in your science journal.



What forest management activities would you do in the next year to move toward your goal?

What would you do to ensure that your forest remains healthy for the next 25 years and more, while also meeting your goal?

Elaborate

Read about [things people can do to care for Oregon's forests](#).

What's something you can do to help a forest near you stay healthy?

Evaluate

How does forest management help keep forests healthy?