

Thanks to the OSAF Special Projects Grant Program, over 350 middle school students were supported and served at the Hopkins Demonstration Forest last fall 2015 that otherwise would not have.

Boring Middle School was the first school and pilot program that brought nearly 150 students and 15 chaperones to the Hopkins Demonstration Forest to study 'Science in the Forest'. Students were given background information about Hopkins prior to their visit back in their classrooms along with training with basic tools used to collect data in the forest environment. In addition, a standardized data collection sheet was provided that would allow them to gather information to compare different forest management techniques and their associated forest characteristics/structure.

Students developed a science inquiry question and used their data sheets and tools to gather information that would allow them to answer their questions. When returning back to the classroom, students analyzed their data and prepared reports about their findings.

Besides Boring Middle School, two other middle schools followed a similar model of learning for their students. Sunnyside Environmental and Bridger Middle Schools—both from Portland—brought more than 200 students and 35 teachers and chaperones over a seven-day period. In addition to these participants 13 faculty and mentors helped with the field activity from Oregon State University and Portland State University.

