

with wildfire and each other evolves, so do our CWPPs. We are evolving our CWPP language and best practices, discovering new partners, and learning new paths to success for implementation. While there will always be new tools and funding opportunities to take advantage of, the key thing to remember in the CWPP planning and implementation process is that the plan needs to work for and be tailored to the communities it is addressing. The CWPP planning

process, as described in the *Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network 2021* publication, “represents an opportunity for diverse community stakeholders to meaningfully engage in their local wildfire risk reduction actions” (<https://tinyurl.com/y4tv8xps>).

For those of us on the westside of the Cascades, we may not have as many wildfire disasters as our eastside counterparts, but it’s a great time to be proactive knowing that our risk is increasing. Given

the resources available, the next five years is an opportune time to be considering the development and implementation of a CWPP in your county. *WF*

**Jennifer Coe** is the community resilience coordinator—Western Washington with the Washington State Department of Natural Resources. She can be reached at [Jennifer.Coe@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Coe@dnr.wa.gov) or (360) 972-4428.

## A Successful Northwest Active Management Tour

By John Riling

This year’s Northwest Active Management Tour took place from October 7-9, 2022. The Active Management Tour started in 2016 and has taken the past couple years off due to the COVID-19 pandemic but came roaring back in 2022 with an exceptional tour of Oregon’s Blue Mountains. Forty-three attendees, most of whom were students from Grays Harbor College, Oregon State University, Utah State, and the University of Idaho, were hosted at Westminster Woods, in the heart of the Blues.

The event started with a tour of Woodgrain’s Pilot Rock Sawmill, where everyone received a warm welcome and engaging discussion about where Pilot Rock sources their wood products and key elements to their success, including the integration of technology and long-standing history the mill has in providing jobs and support to the community. The afternoon covered the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, including multiple stops showcasing enhancement of First Foods, wildfire risk reduction in the wildland urban interface, tethered, cut-to-length and ground-based logging, timber sale planning considerations on allotted reservations, and harvesting practices to encourage huckleberry production. In the evening, the forest supervisor from the Umatilla National Forest helped facilitate a campfire discussion on career paths for foresters entering the workforce, with perspectives from forestry professionals working in academia, city, state, private, and



The Northwest Active Management Tour highlighted forestry in northeast Oregon, with stops at Pilot Rock Sawmill, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and Starkey Experimental Forest, the Umatilla National Forest, and Green Diamond Resource Company-managed property.

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federal careers, each with an interesting story on how they got to where they are today.

The second day included stops on U.S. Forest Service dry and moist forest restoration sites, including management considerations along the Oregon trail and treatments for wildlife and old forest habitat. Lunch was provided at the Starkey Experimental Forest, where attendees learned about the largest ungulate research enclosure (25,000 acres) in the country, as well as management implications gleaned from over 80 studies and 350 scientific publications generated from the Experimental Forest. Saturday concluded with a visit to property managed by Green Diamond, highlighting their mission to manage private timberland sustainably and responsibly, spotlighting challenges they face managing forests in northeast Oregon. Following dinner, local logger Justin Wagner hosted a campfire conversation on his multi-generational family operation, sharing the joys and



challenges of owning a small logging operation in northeast Oregon.

Before folks departed on Sunday morning, an optional walking tour showcased ongoing harvest operations at Westminster Woods, highlighting consultation forestry, management plans, Oregon best management practices and small-scale private harvest operations.

This year’s tour was made possible thanks to exceptional support from the Blue Mountain Chapter of the Society of American Foresters and our sponsors who kept costs down for student attendance. Sponsors were Green Diamond Resource Company, American Forest Resource Council, Oregon Forest Resources Institute, Blue Mountain SAF Chapter, Oregon SAF, SAF Foresters Fund, University of Idaho, and Utah State University. *WF*