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**For Release:** Aug. 14, 2024

## Successful Natural Resources Camp Shows Young Women Career Pathways

*The camp hosted six youth as part of its work to introduce young women to forestry, wildland firefighting, wildlife biology, fisheries and more.*

**HOOD RIVER, Ore.** – Discover Your Forest and Green Diamond Resource Company partnered to offer its first-ever Young Women’s Natural Resource Career Camp July 23-26, 2024, in the Hood River Valley on Green Diamond timberland.

Six youth were sponsored for the camp as part of both organizations’ effort to introduce young women to careers in natural resources, including forest management, wildlife biology, recreation, fisheries, wildland fire, and more.

“Our goal with this camp is to show these young women the wide variety of natural resource careers that are available to them. Our hope is that they left camp able to see themselves in these types of professions and feel inspired and empowered to pursue them,” said Emily Curtis, Wildland Fire Education Coordinator for Discover Your Forest

During the camp, female professionals from Green Diamond, the Forest Service, and Discover Your Forest among other organizations supervised and mentored the young women.

“This camp was our effort to show how careers in working forests and across the natural resources landscape welcome everyone,” said Lauren Magalska, Northwest Timberlands Forestry Operations Manager for Green Diamond. “I hope they left the experience with the understanding that they, as women and our future workforce, have a lot of career options available to them and that the only thing that will limit them is their own ambition.”

Curtis noted that while the camp is set up to host as many as 15 participants, it typically takes three years for a new program to gain traction in an area and fill up.

“The great news is that at least two of the girls who are entering their senior year of high school this year hope to get seasonal forestry or wildland fire jobs next summer. One of them is interested in working at the nursery next spring,” Curtis said.



The camp was free to all participants and included daily meals, equipment, and transportation. Additionally, each participant received \$150.00 for school supplies, tuition, and books as part of completing the program.

Discover Your Forest is a nonprofit stewardship organization in Central Oregon. Learn more about their mission at: <https://discoveryourforest.org/>.

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*Discover Your Forest is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization (IRS Tax ID # 91-0921955)*

