

## WHO WE ARE



WolfTree, Inc. is a 501(c) 3 charitable non-profit corporation that was established in 1994. Our mission is to serve people and their communities through innovative science education, community-based restoration, and research. WolfTree's administrative office is located in Sisters, Oregon from which we serve many communities across Oregon and SW Washington. WolfTree has access to numerous field sites, including our acclaimed **Cascade Streamwatch** education facility located on the Salmon River near the base of Mt. Hood and WolfTree's **Whychus Discovery Outpost** near Sisters Oregon..

Since 1994, WolfTree has served over 150,000 students in the Pacific Northwest. Dozens of professionals from more than 65 organizations have been trained to guide young people on authentic scientific studies. With WolfTree's numerous long-standing and strong partnerships in the region, we have the capacity and resources to empower local citizens to make permanent relationships between diverse sectors of the community. At a time when funds for education are being drastically reduced, WolfTree fulfills a need for additional opportunities. WolfTree's well-established connections with Latino and female student populations can help to prepare these groups for the rising demand for scientists, engineers, and computer specialists. From these connections, an educated core of caring residents will be better able to make complex decisions concerning our natural resources.

WolfTree is a private education organization. We are advocates for fostering invaluable connections among citizens and their public and private lands around them. We present information in a non-value laden, unbiased, objective forum. Participants are then better prepared to make their own choices about how they interact with the environment and society.

We provide the common ground for community stewardship, attracting partners from a wide spectrum of political and economic interests. All of our programs are "hands-on" and provide a unique opportunity for participants to hone their problem-solving skills through authentic studies of forest and aquatic systems. Our graduates will make decisions that are based on knowledge rather than on just emotion.

We believe that getting people excited about science may be the single most enduring contribution WolfTree provides. Educated, aware, and informed citizens will help our public and private resource managers make wise decisions about the future of our natural resources while cultivating the next generation of scientists and engineers.. WolfTree is a proud sponsor of **Science the Forest and Cascade Streamwatch**.



## Community Support:

“Portland Public Schools shares Wolfree’s premise that the prosperity of our communities will depend on well-developed, active minds, imagination, ingenuity, and innovation. We believe that a diversity of learning opportunities enhances school performance, reduces social assistance costs, expands economic activity, supports diversity, and improves family/work life.”

— **Vicki L. Phillips, Gates Foundation, former Superintendent, Portland Public Schools**

“I worked with kids this year who had chronic attendance problems, but they never missed a science class ... it was very frustrating, but it said a lot about Wolfree ... they were willing to go to that class because they really enjoyed being there, it gave them something they didn’t get in the other classes ... we are really trying to model this approach in the rest of our school.”

— **Stevie Newcomer, Principal Pauling Academy of Integrated Science, Marshall H.S.**

“Wolfree sparks the interest of our youth. A lot of these children had never been to a river or forest. You have planted lasting memories. Thank you!”

— **Colleen Swihert, Teacher, Aloha High School**

“ When I attended mentor training in March (2005), I was immediately impressed with the strong science-focused curriculum, the field-based teaching methods that encourage student questioning, and the value-neutral approach to explaining complex and often controversial forestry issues. The whole package was a-breath of fresh air in contrast to the frequently agenda-driven, polarized atmosphere in which forestry topics are often presented. After my mentoring experience, I became excited at the thought of the students I met carrying these acquired skills into adulthood and becoming positive forces in society. I also found my own passion for forestry and environmental education rekindled. I hope I can continue to serve as a Wolfree mentor in the future and encourage my colleagues at the Department of Forestry to join me.”

— **David Morman, Oregon Department of Forestry, Director of Forest Resources Planning**

### RECOGNITION

- 2001, National Rise to the Future Award for science education
- 2002 & 2004, Grosvenor Awards for Inner-City Experiential Learning Project from the National Geographic Society
- 2003, Excellence in Education Award of Merit from the Oregon Chapter of the American Fisheries Society
- 2005, Excellence in Partnerships for Student Learning Award from Portland State University/City of Portland
- 2005, One of the Top 40 Non-Profits in Oregon from the Oregon Community Foundation/Portland Magazine
- 2006, Outstanding Leadership and Stewardship Award from the White House Conference on Cooperative Conservation
- 2007, Mary Rellegert Award for Forestry Education from Oregon Department of Forestry and Oregon State University to Dale Baer, Wolfree staff member and student mentor extraordinaire

