With the leadership of Eric Kranzush & Foxie Proctor, Oregon Society of American Foresters (OSAF) established a sub-fund of the [Oregon Natural Resource Education Fund (ONREF)](http://www.onref.org/) in 2005 to help create transitions from high school forestry education to Oregon State University’s forestry programs. These funds provide opportunities for high school students to learn about how forestry can help them reach their career goals through higher education. It also provides work and leadership learning situations that are of great value regardless of the career students ultimately pursue.

OSAF members serve as advisory members to the ONREF Board of Directors and provide input on selection of high school natural resource program grants.

**Fund Balances**

OSAF’s sub-fund balance was modest initially, totaling $15,187.34 on June 30, 2010. A substantial fundraising effort took place in 2011 prompted by a challenge to contribute $30,000 to the sub-fund if OSAF could successfully raise $10,000. OSAF raised $12,098 during the challenge and the $30,000 was subsequently deposited in OSAF’s sub-fund. As of May, 2015, the fund’s balance stood at $65,817.76.

**2015 ONREF SAF Sub-Fund Winners**

OSAF’s sub-fund was able to contribute $2,600 to high school programs chosen by the ONREF Board of Directors and the respective sub-fund advisors at their May 2015 Board meeting, which is approximately 4% of the OSAF sub-fund’s nearly $66,000. The award winners that OSAF was able to contribute to included:

* Amity High School: $700 (total ONREF grant of $2,500)
* Philomath High School: $100 (total ONREF grant of $1,500)
* Sandy High School: $600 (total ONREF grant of $1,710)
* Sutherlin High School: $600 (total ONREF grant of $1,500)
* Life Christian High School: $600 (total ONREF grant of $1,000)

**ONREF Video Contest**

ONREF sponsors a video contest annually for high school natural resources/forestry programs. The deadline annually to enter is March 1. The 2015 winners and links are:

* First place: Philomath High School: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f5L9A-zlF8s&feature=youtu.be>
* Second place: Elkton High School: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GhzTgfm5ehY&feature=youtu.be>
* Third place: Life Christian High School: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r1xEwvLskiQ>

**Questions/Contacts**

If there are any questions about OSAF’s ONREF sub-fund or you would like to donate to the sub-fund, please contact Tim Keith ([tim.keith@oregon.gov](mailto:tim.keith@oregon.gov)) or Dick Powell ([rlpowell@peak.org](mailto:rlpowell@peak.org)).

**About the Oregon Natural Resource Education Fund:** http://[www.onref.org/home/](http://www.onref.org/home/)

The Oregon Natural Resources Education Fund (ONREF) is a community field of interest fund administered through the Oregon Community Foundation. The fund was established in early 2001 to provide funds to establish, expand, improve, and maintain forest-related natural resources education opportunities in Oregon high schools. Specifically, the fund provides charitable distributions to Oregon public or private high schools that commit to provide educational opportunities in the field of forestry, which will integrate wood products, silviculture, harvesting, fisheries, wildlife, water, soils, recreation, and the management of other forest-related natural resources of Oregon and related career and leadership development. ONREF Board Members include: Pete Sikora\* (President), Jim Rombach\* (Secretary), Julie Woodward\*, Jim James (Oregon Small Woodlands Association), and Reynold Gardner (Oregon Department of Education).

\*OSAF members

**About the Oregon Community Foundation:** <http://www.oregoncf.org/>

The mission of The Oregon Community Foundation (OCF) is to improve life in Oregon and promote effective philanthropy.

OCF works with individuals, families, businesses and organizations to create charitable funds to support the community causes they care about. Through these funds, OCF awards more than $60 million annually in grants and scholarships. Current assets under management exceed $1 billion.

Thousands of citizens have created a permanent endowment for Oregon through OCF—an endowment that will help Oregonians today and for generations to come.