

Oregon Society of American Foresters Honors Hampton Lumber With Heritage Award

For Immediate Release-

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PORTLAND—Hampton Lumber has received the Heritage Award from the Oregon Society of American Foresters (OSAF). This longtime fixture of the Oregon forestry community, with operations in Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia, received the award at the OSAF virtual annual meeting on May 13, 2021.

The Heritage Award is presented to private organizations for sustained excellent performance and support of SAF for over 25 to 50+ years in three key areas: 1) stewardship in forestry resource management and communities; 2) support for SAF/OSAF activities (events, meetings, activities, fundraisers, advertisements; and 3) support for SAF/OSAF employee membership/participation.

Hampton Lumber's story began in 1942 with Bud Hampton's purchase of a sawmill in Willamina to supply his lumber business in Tacoma, Washington. Now in its third generation of family ownership, the thread of commitment to community, continuous improvement in safety and wellness, and as a steward of company forestlands, exists among the three current owners: David, Elizabeth, and Jamey Hampton

"Hampton Lumber supports SAF at all levels, is an involved community partner, and a leader in the forest industry in Oregon. Their long-standing land management ethic and willingness to allow the public recreational access to their lands is symbolic of their commitment to both forestry and the communities in which they operate," said Tim Keith, OSAF Awards Committee Co-Chair.

The World Forestry Center Leadership Hall, which recognizes those who have made significant advancements in forests and forests worldwide and their contributions to furthering advancement in forestry through managing, utilizing, and protecting forest resources for the benefit of society, includes Lester M. "Bud" Hampton and John C. Hampton. Yet there is a fun side to Hampton Lumber; its Willamina sawmill created the big smiley face made of growing trees on the south side of Highway 22.

In its dedication to sustainable stewardship and serving the community, Hampton Lumber forest lands are certified through the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, and pollinator habitats are being enhanced in areas where the forest canopy has been opened. Its forestlands are open for public recreational uses including wildlife viewing, hiking, biking, hunting, foraging, and fishing except during periods of high fire danger.

The company also has a long history of supporting employees' OSAF membership with time and materials to become leaders within the organization and provide outreach. Dennis Creel, long associated with Hampton Lumber's Willamina sawmill, continues to be a strong OSAF supporter now going on 612 months (51 years) of SAF membership in 2021.

OSAF and its 15 local chapters represent all segments the forestry profession within the state. The society includes public and private practitioners, researchers, administrators, educators, and forestry students. Its mission is to advance the science, education, technology, and practice of forestry; to enhance the competency of its members; to establish professional excellence; and to use the knowledge, skills, and conservation ethics of the profession to ensure the continued health and use of forest ecosystems and the present and future availability of forest resources to benefit society.

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