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**Visitors to the Tillamook Forest Center enjoy themselves and learn something, a recent survey says**

A recent survey of visitors to the Tillamook Forest Center found that nearly all respondents said their experience was positive, they learned something and they came away with a better understanding of forest management.

The center on Highway 6 between Portland and Tillamook tries to help visitors make connections to the forest while learning about the many values the forest provides. Visitors to the 3½-year-old center will find displays, hands-on exhibits and tours.

The survey gathered feedback from nearly 400 visitors. It was conducted by Mark Needham, an assistant professor in the Recreation Resource Management Program, Department of Forest Ecosystems and Society, at Oregon State University.

A Final Report summarizing the results of the survey completed in August indicates, among other things, that:

- Overall visitor satisfaction at the center was extremely high, as 83 percent rated the center as "very good" and 11 percent rated it as "good."
- Almost all respondents believed that they learned something during their visit to the center, with only a few (less than 7 percent) saying that they had learned little or nothing.
- Almost all respondents agreed that their visit to the center gave them more appreciation, support and understanding of the Tillamook State Forest and its management.

The results of the survey will be used to improve the services and visitor programs provided for those who come to the center. Funding for the coordination and analysis of this survey was made possible through the support of the Tillamook Forest Heritage Trust.

More than 34,000 persons have visited the center since January. This represents an increase of 1,000 over the same period of time last year, even though the center has been closed on Mondays and Tuesdays this summer due to state-wide budget reductions. Donations to the Tillamook Forest Heritage Trust have more than doubled in recent months and volunteer hours at the center also are up.

On Sept. 9, the center will change to fall hours and be open to the public Wednesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free. More information on center services and programs can be found online at [www.tillamookforestcenter.org](http://www.tillamookforestcenter.org). The center is managed by the Oregon Department of Forestry.

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