

Mike Bondi

Extension Agent—Forestry, Christmas Trees and Staff Chair



Mike Bondi is a Professor of Forestry in the Department of Forest Science at Oregon State University. He has been an Extension Agent with OSU since 1978. He was the first Extension Forestry Agent serving the North Oregon Coast in Clatsop and Tillamook Counties his first seven years and transferred to Clackamas County in 1985.

“I wanted to come to Clackamas County because this part of the state has a long history of leadership in forestry and a very dedicated and motivated group of family forest owners. I wanted to be part of this community and help bring an ethic of land management and stewardship to many more landowners and to the public.”

Bondi has responsibility for the overall management of Extension’s Forestry program in Clackamas County and the east Portland metropolitan area. His primary area of coverage is roughly from the Willamette River east to the crest of the Cascades and from the Columbia River south to the Silverton Hills. Bondi splits his time and program emphasis between forestry/natural resource education and Christmas trees. In addition, since 1999 Bondi has been the Staff Chair for the Extension office in Oregon City and has the administrative responsibility for all faculty and staff in the county. About 40% of his time is now allocated to Staff Chair duties.

The Extension Forestry program has grown significantly during the past 23 years of Bondi’s leadership. The following accomplishments are examples:

- Delivery of nearly 1,000 educational programs, classes, demonstrations and tours for family forest owners, Christmas tree growers, teachers and students, loggers, professional foresters and natural resource managers, and the public.
- Tree Farmer Recognition Banquet—annual event started in 1987.
- Four Master Woodland Manager trainings—more than 50 volunteers certified—serving throughout Clackamas County since 1988.
- Creation of the Clackamas County Christmas Tree Marketing Association linking together local growers to pool financial resources for marketing and advertising. Group has been working together for the past 18 years and has collectively marketed more than a million trees.
- Incorporation of the non-profit organization called, Forests Forever, Inc., and the development of the Hopkins Memorial Tree Farm (now called the Hopkins Demonstration Forest). Has served as the organization’s Secretary since its inception in 1990.
- Creation of Tree School. Now in its 18th year, Tree School has developed into the largest annual woodland owner education program in the Pacific Northwest and, possibly, the entire U.S. This one-day back-to-school event, features 50-70 classes offering a wide range of topics for nearly every interest in forestry, natural resource management, Christmas trees, and land stewardship.
- Establishment of more than 35 field applied research trials in forestry and Christmas trees throughout the county.

- Seven international forestry study tours have been designed and delivered to all regions of the world that practice intensive forest management. Nearly 250 forest landowners and forestry professionals from around Oregon have participated in these programs that are designed to keep attendees on the cutting edge of the forestry and to develop business relationships.
- Establishment of three Extension Forestry faculty positions that work with Bondi to lead various elements of the overall program: Outreach Educator at Hopkins Demonstration Forest, Extension Forestry Program Assistant, and Tree School Coordinator.

A native of the Midwest, Bondi was raised mostly as a city kid. When in high school, his family moved to Minnesota. It was there that he became interested in trees and forests. He attended Iowa State University and received a Bachelor of Science degree in Forestry (management option). His minor was in Soils.

Bondi was a Fulbright Scholar and represented the United States during his graduate studies in New Zealand in the early 1970s. Bondi received his Masters in Forest Science from the University of Canterbury in Christchurch. His thesis focused on tree seedling survival and water stress in radiata pine plantations influenced by a variety site preparation methods.

Bondi and his wife, Connie, live in Lake Oswego. Their son, Aaron, lives and works in Bend.