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## Teacher spends summer in the woods – bringing the forest back to the classroom

(Hoquiam, WA)—Brian Saul, a business education teacher at Ocosta Jr./Sr. High School in Westport, is learning about what happens out in the woods. He is one of 7 teachers in Western Washington participating in a summer program which matches up teachers with tree farmers. Saul will bring this hands-on experience back to the classroom this fall to encourage students to better understand the forests around them.

Saul is working with Rayonier, Inc. Western Forest Resources to conduct field work for a cooperative research project titled, “The Role of Retained Structures for Conserving Wildlife and Biodiversity in Managed Forests.”

In a separate project, he also visited two Great Blue Heron rookeries near Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor to record nesting activity. Saul plans to take his experience back to the classroom, integrating forestry lessons into his existing curriculum.

The TOSA Program is sponsored by the Washington Forest Protection Association (WFPA). Each summer, teachers from Western Washington participate with area timber companies in a six-week, hands-on work experience. Participating teachers work with mentors from forest products companies to accomplish research goals on a wide range of environmental topics and studies, from seedling growth and development to production. Based on their experience, teachers also develop instructional units and activities for the classroom, aligned with state Essential Academic Learning Requirements.

For more information, please visit WFPA’s environmental education website at [www.wfpa.org/TOSA/index.htm](http://www.wfpa.org/TOSA/index.htm) . Photographs are available upon request.

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