

# The World

## Students explore natural resource careers at SWOCC



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COOS BAY — The Coos Bay Chapter of the Society of American Foresters, in partnership with Southwestern Oregon Community College, hosted its fifth annual Student Career Day on Oct. 15 at Hales Center.

Forty high school and college students from Myrtle Point and Bandon High Schools and SWOCC learned about natural resource careers, local student internships, and options for study at SWOCC, Oregon State University and Humboldt State University during a career fair, lunch with a professional and panel session, according to a news release.

Twenty-six natural resource professionals from employers including the Bureau of Land Management, South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, Coos Watershed Association, Coos County OSU Extension Service, and some retired participated. Students explored Coquille Watershed Association's model watershed trailer, and got an up-close look at a fire engine thanks to Coos Forest Protective Association.

"It really helped me consider choices I didn't even know I had," said Bandon High student Billy Ray Ward.

The Coos SAF chapter received a grant from the Menasha Legacy Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation to sponsor a free lunch for all students, and Portland-based Oregon Forest Resources Institute reimbursed busing for high schools so students could participate at no cost.

This year was the first that the event was offered as a daytime instead of dinner event, and was inadvertently scheduled on the same day as PSAT testing for South Coast sophomores and juniors. Event organizers hope to avoid a schedule conflict next year so more students can participate.

This event occurs annually in the fall and is open to all South Coast high school students, from Reedsport to Powers to Brookings. High school counselors and science teachers should look for an invitation from Coos SAF chapter in September.

For more information, contact Coos SAF chapter education chair Eva Bailey at [CoosSAFChapter@gmail.com](mailto:CoosSAFChapter@gmail.com).



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Tyler Hays, left, a first-year SWOCC forestry student, talks with local Bureau of Land Management representatives about career options at BLM.



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Bandon High School students, from left, Shawnia Rodriguez, Billy Ray Ward, Morgan Vineyard and Matt Rivera listen to BLM wildlife biologist Colleen Holland talk about career options at BLM.