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## Alder Creek - A Great Educational Project

By [Doug Robertson](#) | Published 02/13/2008 | [Political Commentary](#) , [13 February 2008](#) | Unrated

### From the desk of Commissioner Robertson



Doug Robertson

I recently had the opportunity to visit a forest education project in South County just outside of Canyonville that has gained national recognition. The project was the vision of Jim Proctor. During the course of settling the estate of his parents, Bob and Virginia Proctor, Jim began to think about the seventy-eight wooded acres included in the estate and what possibilities might exist for a living tribute to his mom and dad. The result was the formation of the Alder Creek Children's Forest. The idea was to create a working forest landscape that blended the values of forest management and environmental protection in a project that was easily accessible to school children in the area. Jim's idea began to get momentum. Entities such as the Forest Service, BLM, Douglas County, local school districts, Oregon State University, Partnership for the U

### Doug Robertson

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mpqua Rivers, and many more have come on board with contributions and in-kind support. Most importantly, these entities have also recognized Jim's vision and the potential for a meaningful outdoor learning experience for young people.

One of the main reasons for the success of the Alder Creek Children's Forest is a dedicated and committed Board of Directors. Past and current board members have been the backbone of the project and continue to contribute their time and effort to keep it growing. As I mentioned in the beginning, the project recently received national recognition for the creation of an interactive webpage that allows students wherever they may be, to go on a virtual tour of the forest. The Hands on the Land Web Resources Award is the most recent of several state and national awards and recognition the project has received since its inception. Hats off to Jim Proctor and his Board of Directors for a great job!

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