

Major Grant Received by Local Non-Profit

The non-profit, Forests Forever Inc., is one step closer to starting construction of a classroom and natural resources building at its Hopkins Demonstration Forest near Beavercreek in Clackamas County.

The M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust of Vancouver, WA, recently made a \$50,000 match grant to the non-profit's building fund drive, according to Ken Everett, Forests Forever's Executive Director.

The trust will match every new dollar donated up to \$50,000, Everett said. "Our goal is to raise \$25,000 by May 1, which matched by the Murdock Trust will allow us to start construction."

The construction fund drive began 2 ½ years ago, but has been slowed by the economic recession. The estimated construction cost is \$325,000 for the 2,400 square foot, one-story wood frame building. Everett said cash donations already have exceeded \$136,000 by March 1, and \$24,000 of building materials also had been donated.

A concrete foundation, septic system and utility lines were completed last year. Forests Forever hopes a weather-tight building shell can be completed by this fall. Work on finishing the building interior's will begin when additional funds are raised.

The trust was established by the will of the late Melvin "Jack" Murdock, co-founder of Tektronix Inc. Some of its donations are for education and research causes.

Forests Forever plans to use the building to enhance natural resource learning of school classes and teachers that visit the 140-acre Hopkins Demonstration Forest. The structure also will be available for community and business meetings, and for other events. Seating capacity will be about 100.

Those wanting to help match the Murdock Trust contribution for the new classroom at Hopkins, can contact Everett at 503-655-5524.

