

Sandy students take classroom into the forest

Sandy High forestry students may have set school fashions back 50 years, but a project on Coalman Road east of Sandy is reaping other benefits.

Students have been working with teachers, Publishers Paper Co. and a logging firm from Molalla to continue a project started several years ago on the district's 40-acre forestry lab.

J&J Logging is cutting the huge Douglas fir trees, the SUHS students are trimming the branches off to prepare for the sale and Publishers is buying the logs. The school will gain several thousand dollars from the project, which is expected to result in some 40,000 feet of lumber.

The money will be put in a trust fund of sorts, to be used in the future for purchasing equipment or making improvements in the lab.

Bob Stocking, head of the SUHS vocational department, says the project will give students a chance to develop their skills in the forest. Last week, before television and newspaper photographers, the students tried their hand at trim-

ing branches, cutting the logs into 16-foot segments and observing professional loggers at work.

Future projects will include replanting, thinning, brush control and a three-acre Christmas tree lot. But first a road system must be installed.

The muddy roads make boots and jeans a necessity, but the quagmire may not last for long. Don Obrist, Inc. of Sandy has donated 100 cubic yards of crushed rock to the district for a road into the lab. A Colton tree farmer has already helped with the dirt road and others have helped clear brush.

In fact, many community members have joined with the school to help the fledgling forestry lab.

The SUHS wood shop will make a sign for the lab to be erected on the road leading into the site on Coalman.

The project is well underway, future developments look encouraging and the students are learning a lot. Who cares about fashion anyway?



Students from Sandy High School cut the logs into 16-foot segments.



Watching the action from a log was a restful learning experience.

photos by Mark Floyd



Loggers from the J&J Logging Company of Molalla cut down the trees.