

Tour of the Pomeroy Tree Farm

In July 1910, E.C. Pomeroy purchased 160 acres in the Lucia Valley near Yacolt. Two weeks later, a forest fire swept through and burned everything, but that didn't discourage Pomeroy since he was a farmer and not interested in timber. He settled there with his wife and 5 children. In 1929 the adjacent hillside burned again. The owner, Weyerhaeuser Timber Company, salvaged logged the timber and sold the land. Pomeroy and son-in-law Charlie Plowman purchased additional land in the 1930's and 40's, and subsequent purchases have brought the ownership to 677 acres in size.

One hundred years later, Pomeroy's great-granddaughter Jane Brink and her husband Bob manage the property. Active forest management began in the 1980's following a sustained yield philosophy. They clearcut about 10 acres a year and thin 10 acres a year on a 50 year harvest cycle, which can continue forever. Brink's also use the farm for living history programs for 3000-4000 students each year, depicting life in the valley in the 1920's. They also host a steam logging show each Fourth of July, have a pumpkin patch every October, and provide a scenic site for summer weddings.



Old farm house used for Living History Tours



Looking across field toward timber stand



Pre-tour snacks at the Farm Café



Bob Brink talking about the 70-year-old stand



Bob talks about different stand activities



Oversized logs from the 2011 logging



The last of the logs from the 2011 logging



Snags left in the 2011 clearcut



A 5-year-old plantation of Douglas-fir



Tours provide an opportunity to learn from others

Mike Rotschy owns 2 old-time steam engines that are set up permanently on the Pomeroy Tree Farm. He and his crew demonstrated yarding logs and loading them on a truck using the steam engines and a spar tree.

