Additional organism role cards that can be used with the H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest Tea Party Activity. Many of these cards describe organisms that live in or near streams.

Developed by Dr. Judy Li, retired OSU Fish & Wildlife Professor

Millipede

On each of my many many segments (except the first one that is my head), I have 2 pairs of legs. To protect myself I can curl into a tight spiral or sometimes emit a foul smell, but I am not poisonous and I don't bite! I'm one of the bigger invertebrates on the forest floor – some millipedes are almost 1 foot long.

I live in moist environments (and especially like soft wood in rotting logs or nurse trees). Most of my kind are either scavengers or herbivores.

Image by Ken Hammond (H. J. Andrews photograph)

Pacific giant salamander *(Dicamptodon tenebrosus) juvenile*

I spend several years in the stream, often hiding under big boulders or logs. My mottled coloring provides great camouflage underwater. Sometimes adults stay in the stream, and others live close to the stream in very moist habitats.

At all stages I am an excellent predator – I generally eat stream insects, but when I am big enough I can eat small fish.

Image by Matt Hunter. H. J. Andrews photograph.

McKenzie "Redside" rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss) juvenile*

I am native to the McKenzie River basin in Oregon. Like other trout, I thrive in cool, well oxygenated waters.

Undercut banks on the sides of a stream or pools formed by logs or big boulders are important habitats for me.

Often I wait in pools for insects to drift in, then I catch them on the surface of the water. I'll eat invertebrates from the stream and others that fall in from riparian plants.

Image from H. J. Andrews collection

Oregon slender salmander (Batrachoseps wrighti)

I am a small salamander. I live only in the Pacific Northwest, where I like moist forests – like doug fir, maple or red cedar woodlands. Because of my diminutive size, I fit easily in small crevices of down wood, and in the leaf litter.

I eat insects that I find on the forest floor.

Like many other amphibians, I am very vulnerable to habitat loss. I have been listed as threatened by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature.

Image by From USDA Forest service, http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/centraloregon/wildlife/species/reptiles-amphibians/salamanders.shtml

Long-horned beetle (Cerambycidae)

I am one of many kinds of bark beetles in the forest. As a larva I feed on dead, dying or decaying wood. These activities are important for wood decomposition.

I spend most of my 1-3 years as a larva. After pupating I emerge as an adult (my photo shown here) when I feed on flowers or other plant parts for a few days to months.

Image by Jeff Miller. H. J. Andrews photograph.

Belted kingfisher Megaceryle alcyon

I am a noisy, stocky bird who cruises through stream corridors looking for fish in the stream. You can tell I am a female because I have a chestnut-colored band across my chest; males have only one blue band.

I often perch on branches over the stream, watching for fish that I'll dive into the water to catch. Check out my big sword-like bill! I depend entirely on aquatic prey. I will dig a burrow into a soft earthen bank to build a nest.

I can be found throughout North America, though I spend winters only in places where the water doesn't freeze so I can feed.

Image by Nick Chill, San Diego CA. Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Mayfly (subimago)

I spend most of my life in the stream as a larva (also called a nymph). This is a photo of me just after I flew out of the water – this subadult stage is called a subimago. After I warm up and my wings are fully developed I will molt one more time to be a fully colored adult.

In the stream I probably depended on algae or tiny bits of leaves or other organic materials, but as an adult I won't eat at all! To find a mate we dance and bob in the air, then eggs are lain in the stream. All this activity in just a few days of adulthood.

Image by Bill Gerth, OSU Stream Team.

Swainson's thrush (Catharus ustulatus)

Like most songbirds in the Pacific Northwest I migrate from tropical forests and arrive in the Spring. I breed and nest in Douglas fir forests.

I forage near the ground to find berries (like huckleberries) and insects to eat. They are plentiful in the riparian zones near streams where I spend most my time.

For my nest I find a hidden spot in a shrub of the forest understory. I make an open cup of plant stems and moss, lined with lichens, rootlets and more moss.

Image by Tom Smith, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology.