## 4-H FORESTRY FACT SHEET Map Reading

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Before reading a map it is necessary to know about how townships and ranges are formed. Since we are going to be primarily interested in reading maps in Oregon, we will study the Willamette Meridian which is the principal meridian for all of Oregon and Washington.

To start with, you must have an <u>initial point</u>. In the case of the Willamette Meridian this point is near Portland. The line running north and south through this point is called the principal meridian or, in our case, the Willamette Meridian. The line running east and west through the initial point is a true parallel of latitude and is called the base line. The principal meridian and the base line may also be called standard lines.

In describing the townships, which are areas six miles square, you will be concerned in which way they lie from the initial point. In doing this the area north or south from the initial point will be called either township north or township south. The area east and west of the initial point will be divided into areas six miles wide and will be called ranges east or west. Below is a diagram which should make this clearer.

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To describe an individual township combine the township north and south with the range east or west and arrive at a description like Township 12 South, Range 2 West or in abbreviated form T. 12 S., R 2. 2 W. You would find Lebanon in this township. You might have a township described as T. 2 N., R. 9 E. which would be up near Hood River. This can be broken down into one of the 36 sections in a township, an even



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further breakdown would be 1/4 or 1/16 sections. For example, the club's tree farm is located in north 1/2 of the northwest 1/4 of Sec. 7, T. 13 S., R. 1 E.

In reading a map that is broken down into townships and ranges, the township numbers are usually marked at the top or the bottom of the map and the ranges on the right or left side of the map. Occasionally they are marked within the map itself.

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