

Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources Field Hearing

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Chair Devlin and Committee members, I am Hal Salwasser, Dean of the College of Forestry and Director of the Oregon Forest Research Laboratory at Oregon State University.

Forestry at OSU is celebrating its 100th year!

For 100 years, forestry at OSU has added significant value to Oregon's economy and quality of life:

- by educating society-ready students;
- by conducting innovative and problem solving research;
- by conveying science based information to decision makers, policy makers, regulators, and the public; and
- by providing opportunities for life long learning in this world of rapid change.

OSU forestry graduates and the research and outreach education we conduct contribute major parts of the forest and forest products sector in Oregon, a \$12.6 billion economic engine, that directly employs over 85,000 people in companies, agencies, and consulting businesses.

Education and Workforce Preparation

- More than 5,000 forestry graduates in 100 years
- Graduates are employed by private forestry and natural resources landowners and manufacturing firms, state and federal agencies, natural resource and engineering consulting firms, K-12 schools, community colleges and universities, and environmental organizations.
- Bachelor's degrees are given in Forest Management, Forest Engineering, Forest Engineering/Civil Engineering, Forest Operations Management, Wood Science and Technology, Natural Resources, Outdoor Recreation Leadership and Tourism (OSU-CC), and Recreation Resources Management.
 - Disciplinary options are offered in Forest Management (8), Natural Resources (14), Recreation Resources Management (9), Wood Science and Technology (6), and ORLT (3)
- Enrollment is at a 25 year high and has grown by 40% since 2000. Unfortunately funding to educate those additional students has not grown at the same pace as enrollment growth.
- Projected workforce needs in Oregon far exceed current graduates at current enrollment level of 500 undergraduates and employers cannot go to other schools as their enrollments are declining.
 - Employment of graduates in Forest Management, Forest Engineering and Wood Science and Technology is 100% of those graduates seeking immediate employment in their chosen field.
- We currently have 140 graduate students enrolled in Masters and PhD programs and a new online Certificate Program in Sustainable Natural Resources.
 - Forest Resources with 18 different concentrations
 - Forest Science with 9 different concentrations
 - Forest Engineering with 6 different concentrations
 - Wood Science with 8 different concentrations
 - Forest Products
- Masters and PhD graduates are highly sought by companies, agencies and other universities
- College has 4 University Distinguished Professors, an award that recognizes distinction in teaching and research

- Distance Education Courses
 - Natural Resources Bachelor's degree program

Research

- Oregon Forest Research Laboratory is the state's forest resources research agency; it's Signature Forest Resources Research Center.
- OFRL is a research powerhouse.
- OFRL research and technology innovations support Oregon's \$12.6 billion forest sector in annual economy; 85,000 direct jobs depend on productive, globally competitive forest sector served by OFRL.
- Highest rated university forest resources research institution in North America.
- 54 Faculty fractional FTE have appointments in the Oregon Forest Research Laboratory supported by annual General Fund appropriation of \$2.7 million (FY06).
- Faculty brings in \$12 million per year in external grants and contracts and college receives additional \$4.6 from federal formula funds, forestland owners, and endowment matches; \$6:\$1 leverage on state GF appropriation
- 10 endowed Professors reflects external support for distinctive Forestry teaching and research at OSU
- Research on every aspect of forests and forest resources except paper, from tree genetics to forests and climate to growing trees for wood to water quality to forest wildlife to innovative wood products; basic, applied, collaborative and multidisciplinary problem solving science.
- 10 Research Cooperatives with industry and state and federal agencies focus on problem solving; newest one just initiated is Center for Intensive Plantation Silviculture.
- Examples of (just a few) research breakthroughs include:
 - Dr. Kaichang Li's formaldehyde-free glue for panels based on mussel proteins synthesized from soy bean flour.
 - Dr. John Garland's research on nylon ropes to replace heavy steel cables in logging and log transport.
 - Dr. Rakesh Gupta's work on using wood in construction to withstand earthquakes.
 - Dr. Barbara Bond's work on why trees don't grow any taller than they do; it has to do with water transport up the tree.
 - Dr. Darrell Ross's work on use of natural chemicals, called pheromones, to attract or repel insects as a tool in managing forest insect outbreaks organically.
- Signature research programs (just a few of them)
 - HJ Andrews Long Term Ecological Research Center with USFS and faculty from other colleges across campus.
 - Cooperative Forest Ecosystem Research with USGS and college of Agricultural Science.
 - Watersheds Research Cooperative with private landowners, state and federal agencies and colleagues across campus.
 - Oregon Wood Innovation Center.
 - Ameriflux network on forests and carbon flux with the atmosphere, leading the network of measuring sites throughout the Americas.

Extension

- Nation's largest, deepest forest resource Extension Service: 14 county-based faculty, 7 on-campus faculty; 17 total FTEs.
- Serve Oregon's family forestland owners; over 100,000 families, more than 4.5 million acres.
- Christmas trees to intensive plantation management to forests for wildlife and conservation to small diameter forest products and thinning for forest health.

Budget Challenges

- Cost increases not funded by appropriations since 2001 have created a \$3.5 million gap between projected future annual revenues and expenditures with current staffing.
- OUS Policy Option Package 201 proposed to increase OFRL biennial appropriation by \$2.2 million, closing \$1 million of the gap.
- Forest owners who pay Harvest Tax of \$0.67/thousand board feet are considering support for an increase in the Harvest Tax to close up to another \$1 million of the gap.
- College will soon begin restructuring staffing and administration to reduce operating costs by up to \$1 million while retaining as much faculty capacity to deliver classes and conduct research as possible. There will be impacts however on services provided and ability to maintain relationships with stakeholders.
- OSU Capital Campaign is raising private gifts that will close the remainder of the gap.
- Governor's Recommended Budget proposed \$800,000 biennial increase for OFRL.
- Ways and Means Co-chairs proposed no increase for OFRL.
- If we are not successful in obtaining the OFRL OUS biennial request for \$2.2 million and a matching harvest tax increase, we will begin reducing capacity for teaching, research and outreach at the College and OFRL by a total of \$3.5 million or 27% of current capacity by July 2009. Budget declines since 2001 have already caused the College and OFRL to reduce capacity by 10% from 2001 levels of faculty and staff.
- Oregon's forests, its economic future and our remarkable quality of life will all suffer from disinvestments in higher education and forestry programs in particular.