



FIRSteam News

a newsletter for future forestry students



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

FM Degree Highlight	2
Computer Upgrades	2
Summer Experience	3
Fall Preview Calendar	3
Annual Ring	4
Xi Sigma Pi	4

OSU's Research Forest

The McDonald-Dunn Research Forest, an 11,500 acre tract of forestland nestled in the eastern foothills of Oregon's costal mountain range, lays just fifteen minutes north of the Oregon State University campus. The forest is the largest of seven tracts of land owned by the College of Forestry and is managed for a great variety of uses. Primarily the McDonald-Dunn Forest is used as a research and teaching venue although it is also managed for recreation, cultural resources, geographical information systems (GIS), and wildlife as well.

The accessibility of the McDonald-Dunn Forest, known as "Mac Forest" to forestry students and faculty, and the diversity of the forest stands existing there are an enormous asset for the college community. Rather than reading about an even-aged, uneven-aged, or old-growth stand in a textbook, OSU forestry students are also able to see them firsthand within minutes of leaving the classroom. Almost daily during fall and spring terms forestry students leave campus for field labs in the forest for instruction on everything from tree measurements to stand diversity and forest biology.

Non-motorized recreation opportunities are abundant on McDonald-Dunn Forest as well. Hikers, bikers, and horseback riders

all enjoy the many trails and forest roads that run through the area.



McDonald-Dunn Forest receives over 90,000 recreational visits each year. In addition to students, many other Corvallis residents realize the benefits of easy accessibility to the forest.

Students often find themselves searching for work during the school year and summer. The job opportunities on McDonald-Dunn Forest and Peavy Arboretum are as diverse as the management strategies. Students are employed on various crews working on trails, inventory, and maintenance. The Koller Crew, a student logging crew, also harvests timber off the forest. Working in the forest offer real world experience in the diverse fields of multi-use resource management.

For more information on the McDonald-Dunn Research Forest or any other OSU College of Forestry Research Forests check out www.cof.orst.edu/resfor/.



Program Highlight

Forest Management

A degree in **Forest Management** prepares students to manage the entire forest ecosystem—trees, plants, wildlife, streams, soils, and people's use of our valuable natural resources. Of course this program is for people who like to work outdoors, but it also requires an interest in the biological sciences, teamwork, and problem solving. Our graduates learn to work effectively with stakeholders (e.g., managers, landowners, the public) to establish management objectives for forest stands and watersheds across landscapes.

Forests are among our country's most valuable assets. Today's forest managers face a number of important challenges that require both a strong educational background and set of real-life experiences. We often think that continuing to provide forest products to a nation that depends on wood and paper is an essential task, but other problems also need solutions. Declining forest health and the rise in the number of catastrophic wildfires are huge concerns for all Americans. Protecting watersheds and riparian systems is necessary for clean water. We also need to ensure that a diversity of forest conditions exist for the long-term benefit of various tree species, wildlife, and human uses.

The forest management program incorporates a three-phased approach to prepare students for the challenges ahead. First, coursework targets current forest conditions and emerging problems. Classes are taught by internationally-known faculty who are leaders in forestry research. Professors bring their experiences into the classroom to engage students in discussion and problem solving. Many classes include field labs at OSU's 11,500-acre education and research forest nearby. In addition, students routinely use our state-of-the-art computer facilities and media center for class projects.

Second, we believe that gaining professional work experience is part of the educational process. Thus, six months work experience is a requirement for all forest management students; this is generally met during summer break. In support of this idea, hundreds of paid summer jobs are available to students with private industry and public agencies throughout the Northwest. A student Job Fair each

February kicks off the recruitment season. Not only

do students gain essential work skills, they also make valuable professional contacts for future employment.

Third, students are given considerable opportunity to broaden their experiences through sponsored events and activities. For example, both the Forestry Club and the Logging Sports Team are student-organized activities that offer opportunities for interaction and competition as well as a place to develop leadership skills. An increasing number of students also take advantage of our international programs where they can extend their forestry education at sister-universities or complete internships with travel to other countries. Forest management majors recently have studied in Argentina, Russia, England, New Zealand, and South Africa. Funding for these experiences is often available for serious, qualified students.

More forestry professionals in the western U.S. have earned their degrees at OSU than from any other university, and the diversity of the jobs they hold tells a good part of the story. Our graduates are working in silviculture, stream and wildlife ecology, forest planning, fire management, harvesting operations, reforestation, insect and disease management... and the list goes on. The organizations they work for are equally diverse. Each year the forest timber and products industry, consulting firms, environmental organizations, and public agencies such as the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and the Oregon State Department of Forestry recruit our graduates. As other countries become more concerned about their natural resources, our recent graduates have also been taking their skills overseas to work in international settings.



What is the average life expectancy of a white ash tree?

Two-hundred seventy-five years.

COF Tech. Upgrades

The computer resources available to COF students are continually updated using student technology fees and outside grants. Below are some of the recent technology upgrades:

SUMMER 2001

Peavy 236 upgraded with:

- 22 workstations – Dell Optiplex Pentium III 1 GHz with 512mb RAM, CD Burners, and running Windows 2000
- HP 6200c flatbed scanner
- NoteVision 6 computer projector

FALL 2001 – SUMMER 2002

Continued upgrading 6 classrooms with:

- Dell Latitude C610 Pentium III laptop, 1.20GHz, 1024mb RAM
- VCR and DVD player
- Sound system
- Projection system for computers and video equipment

Student technology fees also purchased a portable 3D video projection unit, available in the Forestry Media Center, used to project a sample (like leaves) to a classroom of students

WINTER 2002

New computers for GIS lab

- 19 workstations – Dell OptiPlex GX240, Pentium 4, 1.7GHz, 512mb RAM, CD Burners, flat screen monitors and running Windows 2000 Pro.

SUMMER 2002

Peavy 240 upgraded with:

- 22 workstations – Dell OptiPlex GX260 Pentium 4, 2.00GHz, half with ZIP drives, half with CD burners, 17" Trinitron monitors, and running Windows 2000 Pro.

Summer Experience

"I've gotten a lot more confident with strangers," says junior Angela Gelaty, Natural Resources in Agriculture major, of her summer work experience as a recreation research assistant. "People are surprisingly willing to take the surveys, especially when we tell them what the project is and that we're from OSU." Angela talks to many different people as part of a larger recreation-use study and gets to see for herself the impact that recreation management, the subject of her studies, has on the real public.

Each year most Forestry students go out into the real world to gain work credits for their majors. In the process they gain real experience that can make a difference in how they view the world.

The purpose of Angela's project is to glean information about both local and visitor use at several recreation areas in Oregon. Angela surveys people at Hood River, Cascade Locks, and Garibaldi, to learn how people use the sites, and where they spend their money.

Fellow Recreation Resource student Jared Mangini has had similar experiences. Jared is stationed at Gold Beach, Florence, and Newport, also taking surveys and collecting data. "Sometimes it

takes a little bit of persuasion" he says. "The local people say they don't count because they are locals, and the tourists will say they don't count because they are tourists." Jared says after talking to people and seeing what the larger public looks like, "you start to care about them".

For graduates of the College of Forestry, work experience continues their education. Heather Marren, a December 2001 Forest Recreation Resources graduate, is the outreach and education intern with the nonprofit organization Friends of Trees in Portland. Heather educates the public about the benefits of the urban forest and the mission of Friends of Trees. The organization is "dedicated exclusively to planting and caring for city trees and inspiring public stewardship of our urban forest," Heather says.

Heather performs tasks ranging from writing grants for education and outreach equipment, to assisting the training of volunteers who give information to the public. The internship has broadened Heather's education. When first starting at the College, "I did not think much about urban forestry," she says. "My thoughts seemed to focus on natural areas, some near urban areas but not within. But the same principles of healthy forests, apply to both urban and non-urban forests." The internship "has been a wonderful opportunity for me to use the skills I learned in

school while broadening my horizons into new fields."

After Mike Cerbone graduated in 1999 from OSU with a Forest Recreation Resources degree, he began working for the USDA Forest Service as a seasonal employee. But he soon felt his real interests lay in community development. Looking to the University of Oregon, Mike discovered the RARE program, which matches potential employees with many natural resource and recreation companies. The internship gave him nine credits towards his Masters in Community and Regional Planning, \$800 per month, a rent allowance, most importantly experience of the real world, and a job in natural resources during the winter months, which he says is difficult to find. Cerbone was stationed in Waldport, OR (pop. 2000) for his internship. He evaluated employee applications, did park planning, and wrote many grant proposals, including one for a skate park. The internship, he says, gave him skills and experience he needed to succeed in his present job as a field services representative for the Oregon Downtown Development Association, a private nonprofit organization "dedicated to helping Oregon communities develop their economic potential." Cerbone is currently assisting Maupin, Gold Hill, Enterprise, and Oakridge to help them make the transition from resource-dependant economies to ones based on tourism.

Through work experience, Forestry students learn that a career in forestry encompasses more than logging. An undergraduate degree from the College of Forestry can be expanded to include just about any career choice these days, and can lead to jobs and other activities that truly impact lives.

This article was written by Mary Wells for the Fall edition of "Focus on Forestry" COF Alumni magazine.

Fall Preview Calendar



Friday, September 27th	COF Orientation at 1:30 p.m.
Saturday, September 28th	Annual Ring for all new and current students
Monday, September 30th	First day of Classes - Fall term 2002
Thursday, October 3rd	COF Fall Barbeque - all students, faculty, & staff
Friday, October 12th	OSU Preview Day - great way to see COF in an afternoon
Saturday, November 9th	Beaver Open House - a full day to see OSU and the COF
November 28th - Dec 1st	Thanksgiving Vacation
December 9 - 13	Final Exam Week
Monday, January 6th	First day of Classes - Winter term 2003



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Xi Sigma Pi, the forestry honor society, held an initiation of many new students this past spring.

Annual Ring

Annual Ring is a great opportunity for our new students to get acquainted with the College of Forestry (COF) as well as our continuing students. Each fall, the COF clubs put together this informative as well as entertaining day to introduce new members to the College of Forestry family.

This fall, Annual Ring will be held on Saturday, September 28th, 2002. We will meet at 9:00 am in the Peavy Hall courtyard for morning refreshments followed by a student-led tour of the Forestry buildings highlighting the things that new students really need to know. This will be followed by a bus tour of the Research Forest to introduce you to the cutting edge research and management of the McDonald-Dunn forest. Lunch will be provided at the Forestry Club Cabin followed by a demonstration of logging sports events. The afternoon is free for

to enjoy hiking, mountain biking, canoeing on Cronemiller Lake, or learn the skills of logging sports. We will return to Peavy Hall by 4:00 p.m.

What to bring:

A change of clothes is suggested if you plan to try your hand at the water-based logging sports or canoeing. If you would like to mountain bike, please bring your bike to Peavy Hall that morning – it will be transported to the Forestry Club Cabin for you. (Helmet and appropriate shoes are required). No need for money – you are our guest for the day.

If you will be bringing family members please let Clay.Torset@orst.edu at 541-737-1592 know for bus and food planning. They are more than welcome because you are all now part of the College of Forestry family.

Xi Sigma Pi

Xi Sigma Pi, the national forestry honor society, is committed to “secure and maintain a high standard of scholarship in forest education, to promote the profession of Forestry, and to encourage closer relations among earnest workers engaged in forest activities.”

The Zeta chapter, established at Oregon State in 1921, provides service to the College of Forestry with many projects and activities. During the 2001-2002 year, some highlights included:

- Providing tours to the Central Oregon Community College forestry students during their visit to the OSU College of Forestry during winter term 2002.

- A Chili & Bread cook-off fundraiser and faculty/student mixer in winter 2002.
- Hosted the spring term “Chat with the Dean”, providing a forum for students to interact with Dean Hal Salwasser about their educational experience and the future in a world of sustainable forestry.
- With a generous \$500 donation from Willamette Industries, purchased a chainsaw which was raffled off to raise funds for the Jackson Street Youth Shelter in Corvallis during spring term.
- Held the new member initiation and student/faculty barbeque at the Forestry Club Cabin at the conclusion of spring term.