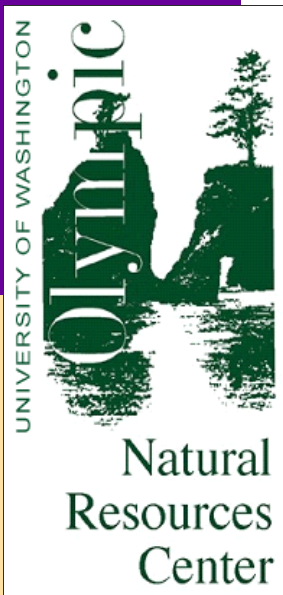


Director's Message

John Calhoun, Director



ONRC UPDATE

A unique role of UW ONRC is bringing high quality scientific expertise to issues important to our regional constituents. Natural resource issues are rarely comprised of clear, black & white choices that can easily be understood. Up-to-date, objective information can often inform a complex issue and make policy choices more rational. Also, a well-informed public can make better judgments on current natural resource policies, allowing high quality, objective evaluation.

We are planning two such opportunities to equip folks with quality information. The first is a workshop on the current status of Spotted Owls on the Olympic Peninsula, checking on population conditions and effectiveness of conservation strategies. It has been about ten years since major conservation measures were initiated. How are the owls doing and how are the assumptions supporting the conservation strategies panning out? For this workshop,

we will bring together state and federal experts involved in implementing plans and monitoring owl populations along with other scientists working on this issue. We expect those attending this workshop will be resource professional with some orientation to this subject. But, perhaps more importantly, we expect the general public, those interested in how natural resource policy affects their quality of life, to be interested as well.

The application of technology in the investigation of natural resources can greatly enhance the quality and objectivity of information. UW ONRC research program often supports technological development. Perhaps the most striking example of this has been the application of mobile weather radar stations to monitor forest lands for the presence of Marbled Murrelets. This UW ONRC-sponsored research greatly enhanced our capability to achieve conservation objectives while signifi-

cantly reducing costs of survey to landowners. We plan to offer a workshop that will identify and demonstrate the latest technological advances in natural resource measurement and management. A wide array of technological tools and techniques will be demonstrated by experts from the University and other scientists. The public is invited.

Look for the announcement of these two workshops soon.

UW ONRC accomplishes its mission through research, education and outreach. Integrating ecological values (sustainability) into commercial management of forest and marine resources is most effective when we take the time to check to see how we are doing compared to what we intended (the owl status workshop) and when we apply the latest technological tools (the technology update workshop). We hope you can attend one or both of these workshops.

Computer Laboratory Upgraded at UW ONRC

Ellen Matheny, Director, Education & Outreach
UW Olympic Natural Resources Center

UW ONRC Research Coordinator Jason Cross obtained funds from the UW Student Technology Fee Fund to replace the computers, monitors, printer, and digital projector in our computer laboratory. The \$45,397 in funding provided us with 19 Dell Optiplex GX270T Pentium 4 (3 GHz) computers and 17" flat screen monitors, a high speed B&W laser printer, and a digital pro-

jector. The new computers, along with other improved features, provide faster processing speed when using software applications and have the ability to save files to a CD or DVD. UW ONRC updated the computer lab with newer computers and enhanced networking to allow for state-of-the-art instructor-led classes in forestry and geographic information system software use.

Normally, we ship all unneeded equipment to the UW Surplus Property department on the main campus in Seattle. This time, however, Jason worked with the manager at surplus property to obtain authorization to transfer our computers & monitors directly to the Quillayute Valley School District (QVSD). UW Surplus Property often allows re-
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Workshop participants using new computers in UW ONRC Computer Laboratory

(Continued from page 2)

quests to transfer unneeded and/or older equipment to the local education organizations, particularly in rural locations.

In September, UW ONRC donated 13 of the replaced computers and monitors to the local school district. The other six computers and monitors will be placed in the apartments on our campus for lodgers to use during their stay. We frequently have people staying on our campus that are attending workshops or conducting research. The in-room computers make doing their work more convenient.

We provided the school district with 13 Dell OptiPlex GX110 Pentium III 500 MHz desktop computers and 13 Dell CRT 17" monitors. UW Surplus Property also allowed UW ONRC to donate an older B&W desktop copier to the schools.

The QVSD was pleased to receive the donated equipment. Business Manager Bruce Thomas said QVSD often takes advantage of surplus property obtained from a variety of organizations. He said QVSD has a talented technical staff that can make older technology work well to support school activities.

Frank Walter, QVSD Superintendent, wrote: "Thank you! These are great! We'll put them to good use in our libraries and high school science classrooms."

Doug Moulton, QVSD Technology Support Staff, let us know how valuable the donated equipment is to the schools. Doug wrote: "The much needed computers are greatly appreciated. Three will go as check out stations for our new Dynix library system coming in December. The remainder will go to our two high school science labs to replace older 300 MHz computers. Thanks again."



Tim Fletcher from the QVSD picks up computers and monitors from UW ONRC for use in the local schools



Jeff Comnick

Jeff Comnick Joins Technical Staff

UW ONRC welcomed in August a new person to our technical staff. Jeff Comnick transferred from the UW College of Forest Resources Rural Technology Initiative (RTI) in Seattle where he worked for two years as a Forest Technology Specialist. While at RTI, Jeff developed and applied a model to predict car-

bon storage in forest products at the landscape level. Jeff also guided the UW College of Forest Resource's preparation for achieving third party certification of UW Pack Forest under the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI).

Jeff graduated in 2000 from the UW College of Forest Resources with a Bachelor of Science degree in Forest Management. He went on to earn a Master of Science degree in Silviculture & Forest Protection also from the UW College of Forest Resources in 2002. Jeff interned with the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Oregon Department of Forestry while studying forestry as an undergraduate student.

Jeff works with Jason Cross, our Research Coordinator, on forestry-

related issues. He develops and applies computer-based modeling to project landscape conditions over time. He uses this modeling in working with landscape projects on the Olympic Experimental State Forest (OESF).

Funding for Jeff's position is shared between UW ONRC and the DNR Olympic Region. The primary focus of Jeff's work is to assist DNR in landscape analysis of the OESF.

Jeff hails from Everett, Wash. He's an outdoor enthusiast and enjoys hiking, skiing, and mountain biking. He also likes sports, especially baseball, and played in a competitive softball league prior to moving to Forks. Jeff would like to learn the art of fly fishing and is looking forward to enjoying some streamside leisure time.

Regional Teachers Gather in Forks to Explore Math & Forestry Education

Ellen Matheny, Director, Education & Outreach
UW Olympic Natural Resources Center



The UW College of Forest Resources recently was awarded a second educational grant by the Washington State Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB). The *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*, an education reform designed to improve student achievement and change the culture of America's schools, has received a great deal of media coverage lately. Debate persists as to whether or not this federal legislation is hitting the mark in terms of raising educational achievement for our children and youth. Even so, it has provided valuable funding to UW. The UW College of Forest Resources has received two grant awards from HECB to design and develop profes-

sional development programs in mathematics education as it relates to the study of forestry. The funding for these grants was provided to Washington state by this federal legislation.

Professor Bob Lee & I collaborated with the UW College of Education and College of Arts & Sciences Department of Mathematics. We

gathered a team of UW faculty and graduate students to create and deliver the content for this project. 40 teachers are participating from rural, timber-dependent communities in coastal Washington. The total funding for this project is \$366,137.

The program consists of two summer institutes held at UW ONRC in Forks, each lasting two weeks, during 2004 and 2005. The institute focuses on reviewing and refining ba-

sic mathematical concepts and then applying the concepts to issues in forestry. For instance, the complexity of forest fires was made more real by learning how to measure and interpret contributory factors, such as wind speed and the moisture content of wood.

One of the goals of this program is to nurture learning communities within and between the teachers' school districts. A challenge in maintaining quality teacher development is rural isolation, where only one or a few teachers are engaged in each area of academic study. Our project is bringing together teachers of mathematics from nearby schools and school districts to facilitate their communication & collaboration, thus reducing the rural isolation experienced by some teachers.

The program continues next year



with another two-week summer institute. During the academic years following the summer institutes, graduate students will work with the teachers in their classrooms. The graduate students all have an interest and expertise in mathematics education and are participating in the summer institute training as well.

The images on this page provide an idea of the diversity of activities the teachers embarked on.

