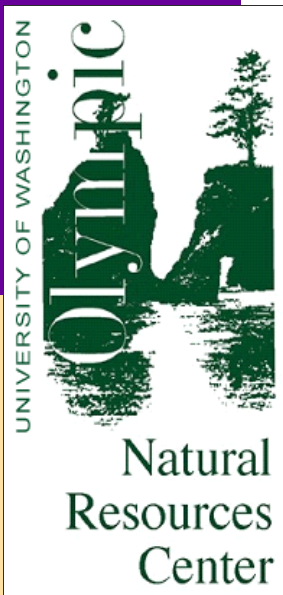


Director's Message

John Calhoun, *Director*



UW ONRC is fortunate to operate out of an outstanding facility, located near Forks, Washington. The “bricks and mortar” provide ONRC with an important set of assets and opportunities, beyond research and education, to fulfill our mission.

It was no accident that the Washington State Legislature directed the University of Washington to build facilities for ONRC near Forks. The Legislature was acting on recommendations from the Commission on Old Growth Alternatives to create an experimental state forest on the west side of the Olympic Peninsula and to create a research and education center to enhance the purposes of discovering ways to integrate ecological values—sustainability—into commercial management of forest and ocean resources. The

Commission also recognized the economic benefit to a timber dependent community, such as Forks, that such a center could bring.

This issue of *ONRC Update* highlights activities and opportunities made possible by our wonderful facility.

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We manage a full service conference center, serving clients as diverse as local citizens seeking a venue for a family reunion to international professional conference organizers. This activity not only provides direct employment to local folks but also brings hundreds of people to Forks each year that otherwise would not be visiting our area. It is not un-

common to hear these first time visitors exclaim that the area is so beautiful and interesting that they intend to bring their families back for a return visit.

The mission of our conference center is to provide a high quality, reasonably priced, full service experience in support of our research, education, and community needs. The conference center is managed as a stand alone cost center which means it is supported only by the fees we must charge for use and related services. So far our clients are well satisfied with value received. This past year has been the best ever in terms of facility use and conference center services provided. The next time you are searching for a meeting or conference location, give us a call.

2007 a Busy Year at ONRC

Theresa Santman, Conference Center Coordinator



Calendar year 2007 proved to be an active time for the ONRC Conference Center as we enjoyed a surge in student field trips to our facility. We were delighted to host field trips from a variety of programs as educators increasingly integrate the study of the environment across broad curricula. ONRC sits at the foot of the Olympic Mountains and is just a short drive away from rugged ocean beaches, extensive forestlands, and the temperate rain forest. Nearby Olympic National Park, Olympic National Forest, and the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary provide an abundance of research and educa-

ergreen State College students engaged in diverse educational programs including salmon ecology, indigenous peoples' studies and art and conservation courses were able to make good use of our facility for extended field trips.

Field trip bookings of science and environmental studies were also robust. These included biology and marine biology classes from the University of Washington as well as from Western Washington University, UW College of Forest Resources' field trips in silviculture and wildlife management, and UW School of Aquatic and Fishery Sci-

Forest Ecosystems. This gathering brought together over 70 citizens including representatives from private industry, local, tribal, state and federal agencies, and UW researchers to explore the implications and potential effects of climate change on the health of the forests on the Olympic Peninsula.

The staff at ONRC seeks to be available to UW departments engaged in research and outreach in the community. In 2007, this included lodging and meeting room space for the 1) UW Center for Experiential Learning's Pipeline Project as undergrad students worked in local elementary schools, 2) UW Pacific Northwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center staff doing research in the area, and 3) UW staff members providing regional training for the Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team program.

Supporting the university's educational mission remains one of our highest priorities. In June, the center was the site for a week long Institute of Teaching Excellence offered to UW faculty through the UW Teaching Academy. In August, the ONRC hosted a one-week institute that concluded a two-year program for teachers on the Olympic Peninsula in mathematics education. Spearheaded by ONRC Education & Outreach Director Ellen Matheny, this "math camp" for K-12 educators was a collaborative project with the UW Dept of Mathematics,

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HOW TO RESERVE ONRC FACILITIES

The ONRC Conference Center provides meeting room rentals, conference support, and catering. Our facility features conference space for up to 100 people, wireless internet throughout our facility, catering to suit your needs, and lodging for up to 40 guests.

For more information on how ONRC can help you plan your next event, call Theresa Santman, *Conference Center Coordinator*, at (360) 374-3220 Ext 223 or email her at tsantman@u.washington.edu. Visit the ONRC website to obtain additional information about the facilities including room sizes and proposed layouts as well as colorful images around the campus: www.onrc.washington.edu (Click on *Conference Center*).

tional study opportunities.

In January, Southern Birmingham College students travelled to ONRC from Alabama as they combined studies of the temperate rain forest with advanced English coursework. Throughout 2007, Ev-

ences students.

We hosted several conferences at ONRC in 2007. Most notably, in February the ONRC worked with members of the conservation community to host *Climate Change: Implications for Olympic Peninsula*

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College for Education, and College of Forest Resources.

Other functions hosted at ONRC in 2007 included training classes and workshops, class reunions, wedding receptions, and catered dinners for private parties.

As we begin 2008, we look forward to providing these services to both our established clients and those who are making use of us for the first time. Consider hosting your next event at ONRC. I look forward to hearing from you.



Deric Kettel working on trail renovations

Maintenance and the Future of the ONRC

Deric Kettel, *Maintenance Mechanic*

In July of 1995, I started working at the UW ONRC. Over the years, we have had some significant improvements to the facility. We have also had some maintenance issues that have been somewhat challenging. With those challenges, comes great pride in keeping the facility looking its best. One such challenge has been keeping up with maintenance on the ONRC Loop Trail that goes from the Timber Museum to the Center. Nearly two miles of trail with wood bridges, creek crossings, and a variety of terrains makes the ONRC trail a local public favorite for lunchtime, after work, and weekend users.

This year, though, it became apparent that after ten years the trail was in need of some serious maintenance. Most of the gravel that had originally been placed on the trail has become thin or non-existent. With only one week's notice that Forks Sand and Gravel was going out of business, I decided to order 50 yards of gravel to be delivered at various trailheads throughout the trail system.

Instrumental in getting this project underway will be help from the Olympic Corrections Center (OCC) Community Service Work Crew Program. The work crew from OCC

has helped us and the entire community on many occasions and, in fact, did a lot of the original trail work when first establishing this trail system. In the coming weeks, we will be doing a complete overhaul of the trail which will include new gravel throughout the trail along with some drainage work and stabilizing the existing bridges so we can continue to offer this great community resource to users that really enjoy its beauty.

Another project that has been ongoing for the past couple of years has been re-sealing the water vault down by Highway 101. We recently hired a contractor to pull the top of the 6' X 8' concrete vault and place a new seal to keep water from getting inside. A couple of years ago a higher than normal rainstorm, in combination with a power outage lasting for a couple of days over a weekend, allowed water to fill up the vault. This caused significant damage to water controls and other vital equipment that serves the ONRC. Since then, I have installed a 12-volt battery backup pump system to keep water out during power outages. This work, along with the sealing of the top of the vault, has decreased the incoming water by 90%. This summer I will seal the walls to keep the remaining water outside the vault.

A third major item here at the Center has been an ongoing search for funds that will allow us to put back in the emergency generator

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that was dropped from the original construction project. It's a shame, too. There are emergency circuits throughout the facility that are wired to emergency power panels, along with an 800-amp disconnect, Kirk Key System, and transfer switch. I can't even imagine the extra time and money that went into all of this work; the only thing that is missing is the physical piece of equipment - the generator.

Being a recognized Red Cross Shelter and trying to find ways to limit staff downtime because of power outages is the driving force behind this project. We need to be able to continue with not only our day-to-day workload when the power is out, but we also need to be able to offer the use of the facility in times of disaster. Hopefully, we can move forward in locating and installing an emergency generator so we can accomplish this.



ONRC Trail with recent renovations



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