

Editor's note: The newspaper received a number of letters this past week, fearing a clearcut planned for Monday at McDonald-Dunn Forest. The operation was delayed, but OSU officials still plan to carry it out. See the Page A1 story for more details.

OSU is callous to lovers of forest

My name is Cody. I'm a 17-year-old student at Crescent Valley High School, and I consider the McDonald-Dunn Forest my home.

As a lifelong runner and member of my school's cross country team, I have spent hundreds, if not thousands of hours, out in the forested hills of the Lewisburg Saddle and beyond. I almost feel spoiled — the McDonald-Dunn is something truly special, and I consider myself incredibly fortunate to live within such a close distance to something so beautiful.

Because of this, it is absolutely heartbreaking to see the approach that has been taken by Oregon State University to the MacDonald-Dunn's management: a policy of stumps and slash-piles.

If a tree falls in a forest, and no one is around to hear it, does it make a sound? Now how about if a multi-acre stretch of beautiful forest is razed to the torn-up dirt with chainsaw and machine, is there a sound? The answer is yes, and I could hear it from my house.

Something as wonderful as the publicly-owned McDonald-Dunn, a breathing landscape of life, should not be managed as OSU prefers — callous to the people who love it. It should instead be a pure and largely unadulterated stretch of wilderness.

As I write this, one of my favorite stretches of forest, a beautiful area out by Peavy Arboretum, had less than 48 hours to live. By the time you read this, its ancient trees may have likely been torn down, uprooted and harvested. Our forests need change.

Cody Pollock
Corvallis

Hope OSU can listen to local residents

As summer heat waves hit and wildfire risks loom.

I cannot help but fear for our community as I wonder when these threats will descend upon the forests that surround this beautiful valley.

After attending Oregon State University's June 5 community input session for the McDonald-Dunn Forest, I feel an even greater sense of worry and outrage. The proposed models for "management" of these public forests show little regard for resilience against wildfires, and as numerous meeting attendees and experts pointed out, the models presented have the potential to significantly increase vulnerability to wildfires.

These forests are a safe haven for our community members, they offer shelter to protected species and the flora and fauna we are so privileged to share our home with, and they serve as invaluable carbon sinks in a time of climate crisis. In continuing

to actively clearcut old-growth stands in our public forests, the OSU College of Forestry is showing active disregard for community safety and wellbeing.

This is a level of blatant disregard that is completely unacceptable. I hope that OSU College of Forestry can listen to community members and behave with some measure of integrity before it is too late.

Ellie Cates
Corvallis

OSU's efforts to ignore our heritage

While I am relatively new to the area (18 years), I am consistently shocked at the disparity between the Green Oregon we sell to ourselves and tourists, and the reality we live with.

The constant barrage of marketing by the lumber industry (indirectly Oregon State University) — "Oregon Forests Forever" etc. — and the reality of forestry practices are stunning.

First of all, there are almost no forests left. What we have are monoculture plantings that lack the diversity of the old-growth forests that people are finally trying to protect.

OSU's continued efforts to ignore the heritage of what Oregonians value is despicable, all in the name of monetary industrialization. A sad indictment of the regents and staff of a university that is supposed to represent a forward-thinking public interest.

Once again, old men who will be dead by the time their decisions are inflicted on future generations are deciding our future.

Kurt Widstrand
Corvallis

Please stop cutting beautiful forests

The clear-cutting in McDonald-Dunn Forest has been heartbreaking.

As a resident of Corvallis for more than 30 years, I have nourished my soul by going trail running, hiking and biking in McDonald-Dunn Forest. In recent years, it seems the rate of cutting has rapidly increased.

Playtime Trail has had two major clearcuts in the past two years. Alpha Trail has been closed for a year. A huge section on the north end of Dave's Trail was recently cut. Peavy Peak was devastatingly thinned around the same time.

Now it looks like Oregon State University Forestry is about to cut some beautiful old forest along Section 36 Loop, Cronemiller Lake and Calloway Creek (The Woodpecker Cut).

These are some of the most beautiful and "natureful" (as my sons said when they were young) sections of McDonald-Dunn Forest. What will this do to the wildlife? What will this do to the environment of the forest? How will this affect the temperature in the forest?

OSU should be working to save the trees and protect the climate, not speed up climate change. Please stop the cutting of our beautiful older forests, and implement a forest plan prioritizing environmental values.

Darcie Hamel
Corvallis

Take a few minutes to send an email

Oregon State University is planning to start a forest cut on Monday, June 24, in a 108-year-old stand near Cronemiller Lake and the popular 36 Trail Loop.

If you know this section, it is one of the most beautiful areas in Peavy Arboretum. There is no scientific or research basis for the destruction of these old trees. The dean and his "research forest" staff are simply following their outdated "working forest" ideology.

OSU wants to cut the big trees before public pressure and a new forest plan force them to protect the older stands of these public forests.

We as a community cannot allow this to happen; these magnificent trees protect and keep our forest healthy. We need to put public pressure on OSU and demand they stop this proposed cut.

Please take a few minutes to send an email to President Murthy and the OSU Trustees to share your concerns about their stewardship of these public forests and the flawed planning process.

Sandy Kuhns
Corvallis

Our earth, bodies need trees' oxygen

I can't believe Oregon State University is allowing the cutting down of old-growth trees and nothing is being said or done to stop it.

These trees are at least 108 years old. Once they're gone, they're gone! This has to stop; our earth and bodies need every single bit of oxygen all of these trees put out, not to mention the shade.

Patricia Metzger
Corvallis

Let your voice be heard on this issue

So saddened by the speed at which Oregon State University is cutting the older trees in the McDonald-Dunn Forest after attending the June 5 hearing about its management of the forest.

The trees to be cut are near Cronemiller Lake and on the Loop 36 Trail. Everybody in Corvallis has hiked these trails. They belong to all of us. It is a shame that OSU continues to practice outdated forestry management at this crucial time when deforestation is changing the climate.

OSU can do better. Please let your voice be heard on this issue.

Leela Devi
Corvallis

Let the old trees continue to inspire

It has come to my attention that Oregon State University has a plan to cut more old-growth trees along the Loop 36 Trail.

Universities understand legacy and traditions. These trees are our legacy; they are a window to the magnificence of the forests that used to cover our hills and valleys.

Please, please, please let them stand! Let them allow us to know the legacy of the forests that once were. Let the old ones continue to inspire.

Carol Soth
Corvallis