

ENVIRONMENT

RAISING ALARM ABOUT FOREST



PHOTO COURTESY DOUG POLLOCK

Trees marked for removal at Oregon State University's McDonald-Dunn Forest have spurred an outcry among big fans of the forest.

Controversy brews over planned harvest at McDonald-Dunn

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Some Corvallis residents are sounding alarm bells over a planned timber harvest in the heart of the McDonald-Dunn Forest.

That operation, known as the Woodpecker Harvest, which encompasses over 60 acres of trees around Cronemiller Lake near a popular hiking trail, was slated to begin Monday, June 24.

But so far no trees have been felled, according to Oregon State University officials at the

College of Forestry, including the college's dean, Tom DeLuca.

That's because the college has tapped an ecologist and silviculturist from within the College of Forestry to conduct a review of the planned harvest site, DeLuca said, to ensure the operation aligns with the forest's current management plan.

The move is intended to respond to concerns expressed by some community members, DeLuca added, though he emphasized the operation was above-board.

Indeed, folks have emailed complaints to college officials this week, including university President Jayathi Murthy, in a message campaign organized by local, and quite outspoken, environmental activist Doug Pollock, lamenting the potential loss of the century-old trees rooted within the site's stands.

Mid-Valley Media has also been the recipient of about 10 letters to the editor on the subject.

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