

My name is Doug Pollock. I'm the founder of the conservation group, Friends of OSU Old Growth.

While I'm speaking, I hope you'll take a look at these photos showing the ecological damage that has been done in the past five years under OSU's management of the research forests.

I submitted written comments to you earlier this week documenting ethical violations by OSU officials. I also included a (25-page) document refuting OSU's misinformation campaign about the controversial logging near Peavy Arboretum in July. I urge you to take a look at this information and judge it objectively. I ask you to consider whether any of the problems I'm reporting are consistent with OSU's Code of Ethics.

I've been exploring the McDonald-Dunn for more than 38 years. My family and I live close by, so the forests are a big part of our lives. They are our refuge from the summer heat, a source of inspiration and spiritual renewal, and, of course, a place for outdoor adventures.

Over the past couple of decades, we've become increasingly dismayed and impacted by OSU's regressive forestry practices. One of our favorite old-growth forests was destroyed in 2019. We've seen OSU systematically clearcut one section of old forest after another – with trees ranging from 75 to 150 years of age. In the late fall and early winter, smoke from OSU's slash fires fills the air. In some cases, these fires smolder for months, filling our valley with acrid smoke.

We're also exposed to unknown risks from herbicide spraying. Unlike city residents, our drinking water comes from ground water which is filled by the watersheds OSU routinely sprays. We worry about the high rate of cancer among our Soap Creek neighbors and wonder if its linked to the use of these chemicals. When OSU officials refuse to provide even basic information about the herbicides used in the McDonald-Dunn, it is profoundly personal for us. I want you to understand that all of these adverse impacts to our lives are connected to the decisions you and your foresters make.

College leaders proudly promote OSU's "working forest research model". They love to talk about honoring Tribal values, "seventh-generation thinking", and all of the wonderful research being done. But OSU's liquidation of older forests has exposed the hypocrisy behind this promotional facade.

If you're not swayed by words and photos, how about data? A detailed analysis of the College's own data shows the **AVERAGE** harvest age over the past six years was 83 years of age. The red line shows the industry's average harvest (or rotation), which is roughly 40 years. **In other words, the data clearly shows that OSU is routinely cutting trees that are TWICE as old as the industry average!**

You don't have to be an expert to understand that destroying these older public forests compromises OSU's education and research missions. Why is OSU teaching students that cutting older forests is not only acceptable, but expected? Why aren't College leaders promoting, teaching and demonstrating ecological forestry practices? Are there really compelling research needs driving the cutting of these old forests? How does the ecological damage you've seen in these pictures honor Tribal values and the expectations of Oregonians?

I hope you understand that the destruction of these public forests under your stewardship must stop. I urge you to get involved and create a better future for these public forests.

Thank you!