

Pack Forest

Pack Forest houses the Center for Sustainable Forestry, whose mission is to advance the concept and practice of sustainability. The Center engages students, scientists, professionals, policymakers and community members through research, demonstration, service and continuing education and outreach in natural resources and environmental science and management. The Center seeks to identify the boundaries of sustainable forest ecosystems, including extraction of forest products while maintaining ecosystem integrity.

NESTLED IN THE CASCADE FOOTHILLS on the flanks of Mount Rainier, Pack Forest sits on 4,300 acres of working forestland. The forest was established in the 1920s through a generous gift from East Coast lumberman Charles Lathrop Pack. His vision, which began with only 334 acres, was a forestry research and demonstration site easily accessible to the public traveling along the main route to Mount Rainier. Ninety years later, the forest and facilities continue to serve as a premier place to discover, teach and demonstrate the concepts of forestry with an emphasis on sustainable practices at the College of the Environment's School of Environmental and Forest Sciences.

The Center for Sustainable Forestry research program focuses on sustainable forest enterprises and sustainable land and ecosystem management. This interdisciplinary approach taps economic, social, biological and physical sciences to better understand, manage and use the products and amenities that forests offer—and it does so in a way that maintains healthy, productive ecosystems for future generations. Summer internships and field-based graduate research projects integrate UW students into active management of the forest.

Pack Forest achieves its mission by providing a place to retreat, to study and to connect people to thriving forested landscapes, including an old-growth grove on the “Trail of the Giants.” The land is divided into approximately 200 stands with diverse structure, including a range of forest

types, sites, soils and operating features, providing freedom for experimental treatments and faculty research. Staff maintains the setting and forest diversity to foster ever-expanding and cutting-edge research opportunities. UW students and visiting scholars use the conference facilities during their stay to study, maintain field installations, process samples, write, reflect and reconnect with nature.

Yet research is not the only focus. The Center offers a variety of educational experiences tailored to a group's age level and program needs. For example, the Center has developed a K–12 curriculum on a wide range of forest ecology topics from soil studies to water quality monitoring to exploring diverse wildlife habitats. Guided forest tours and adaptable classes for undergraduate, graduate and adult groups are also available. And a new endeavor, the Mount Rainier Institute, is up and running in partnership with the nearby Mount Rainier National Park to provide nature-based, residential education experiences rooted in science to nurture the next generation of environmental stewards and leaders.

The Center also makes sure there are wider-world connections, providing insight into innovative and experimental practices that provide profits while maintaining biodiversity. An outreach program offers small landowner assistance, technology transfer, community-based forestry organization and mediation. Communicating and implementing the knowledge gained through ongoing research is a critical part of what happens at Pack Forest.





Pack Forest's Center for Sustainable Forestry focuses on:

- Watershed and community development
- Forestry focused on sustainability
- Forest certification-related research
- Landscape management systems
- Fostering public participation in forestry management



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