

H. J. Andrews Forest

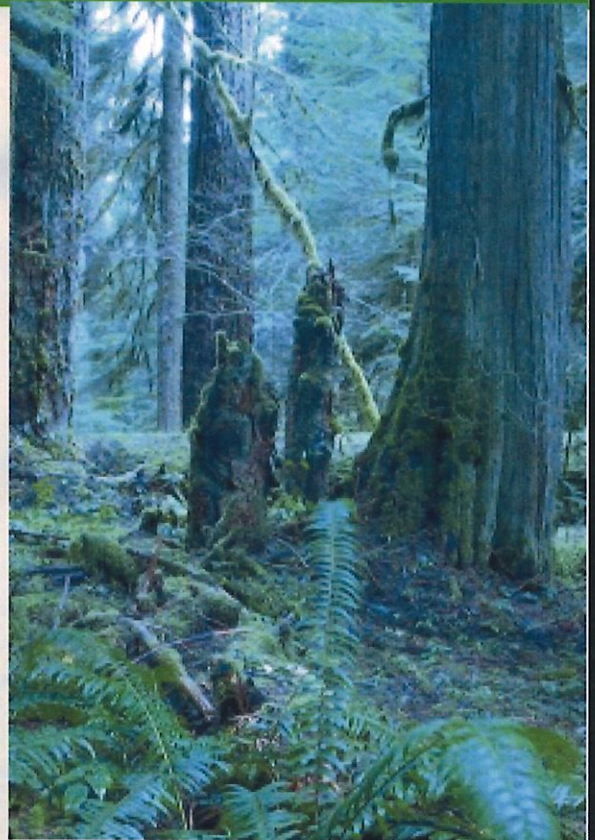
Long Term Ecological Research

DEAD WOOD COMES TO LIFE AT H. J. ANDREWS LTER

A distinctive feature of the H. J. Andrews LTER is the abundance of large, old-growth trees that dominate many forest stands and extensive areas of the landscape. For many generations these giant trees that contain vast quantities of wood have inspired scientists and non-scientists alike. Scientists study how these trees came into existence, how they grew to be so large and old, and how their towering height might limit their growth. This scientific curiosity has spilled over into studying the "life" of dead trees.

Pioneering work at the Andrews is investigating how these trees die, the various ways that dead wood is used by organisms ranging from the tiniest bacteria to huge bears, and how fast these structures decompose and are recycled into the next generation of trees.

The forests around Andrews have many streams running through them and the relationship between the trees and water is equally fascinating. The forests provide food for the stream system and dead trees create critical habitat structures in these fast flowing ribbons of clean, clear water. Scientists have learned a great deal by watching how this system changes over time. Now, in a unique new program called the *long-term ecological reflection*, artists and writers come to the Andrews to observe and reflect upon trees and nature. These creative individuals often bring fresh, new perspectives to many of the places, issues and processes that scientists are studying. Most importantly, they share the essays, poems, and other creative products of their experiences with a much broader audience that includes scientists and non-scientists.



Forests are valuable resources that provide important benefits to humans. The Andrews LTER now incorporates scientific findings and insights obtained from fundamental and basic research into current practices to extract forest resources as efficiently as possible. This ensures that as humans use and benefit from these systems, they do so in a manner that will maintain and sustain this remarkable forested landscape.

Website: <http://www.fsl.orst.edu/lter/>

