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News about Benton County,  
the mid-Willamette Valley  
and the Pacific Northwest

## OSU researchers get \$3.3 million for Blue River programs

The National Science Foundation awarded a \$3.3 million, six-year grant to researchers at the H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest at Blue River, managed jointly by Oregon State and the U.S. Forest Service. The grant will allow researchers to continue the nation's long-term ecological research program.

The 15,800-acre experimental forest in the central Oregon Cascade Range was established in 1948. It has more than 100 research projects under way involving Forest Service researchers and faculty from 10 departments at OSU.

The Andrews Forest has become a world center for studies on forest and stream ecosystems, especially those important to the Pacific Northwest. Operated jointly by OSU and the U.S. Forest Service, it will continue to expand its research operations in the 1990s, scientists say.

"The total program of research at the H.J. Andrews now involves nearly 70 scientists and students, with funding of about \$2 million a year from a variety of

sources," said Arthur McKee, site director with the OSU Department of Forest Science, in an OSU press release.

The Andrews Forest includes thousands of acres of diverse conifer forests, some up to 500 years old. There are icy trout streams, varying geological terrain and an abundance of wildlife that provide scientists with an ideal setting for the types of long-term ecological studies often difficult to do elsewhere.

"In the future, we'll be moving away from studying forests as separate tree stands and more as entire, complex and interwoven ecological landscapes," McKee said. "Issues such as biodiversity, sustainable forestry and global climate change will all become a much greater part of the picture."

According to Fred Swanson, a project leader with the U.S. Forest Service, the new grant will run from 1991-96 and allow continued expansion of some of the nation's most critical ecological studies.