



HJ Andrews Experimental Forest Long Term Ecological Research Program
<http://andrewsforest.oregonstate.edu>

Considerations for working or staying at the HJA Research Station

Transportation and Directions:

See <https://andrewsforest.oregonstate.edu/about/directions> for driving directions to the site.

If you don't have your own vehicle, you may need to develop a transportation plan to get you to, from, and around the site safely. Driving onsite to field locations (outside of headquarters) is almost entirely on steep, narrow, gravel roads. Use a vehicle that is capable of safe transport in these conditions – sedans are discouraged unless being used only on the paved access road to HJA headquarters.

If you do not have your own transportation, consider arranging trips with a mentor or colleague to a local grocery store. It is often possible to share rides into town with other field station residents with some planning and flexibility. There is a bus several times a day from Blue River to Eugene.

Living situation:

Housing at HJA is in shared apartments. Our apartments are suites with 4 or 5 bedrooms that share a kitchen, living area and two bathrooms. Bedrooms are double; be prepared to share a room with another person. Apartments are fully furnished, but please bring your own pillow, linens and towel. Spaces are shared and storage space is limited. Coin laundry is available on site. See more at <https://andrewsforest.oregonstate.edu/about/facility>. Given our mountainous forested landscape, power outages of several hours to a couple days are possible at all times of year.

Meals:

In most cases, you will be providing/preparing your own meals during your stay. There is no meal service onsite and only three restaurants within 10 miles. The apartments have small kitchens with dishes, pots, pans and other cooking utensils. Limited groceries are available at Blue Sky Market, approximately 6 miles from HJA Headquarters. The nearest grocery stores are in Springfield/Eugene.

Connectivity:

Cell phone service at HJA is limited; to use your phone at headquarters, we recommend figuring out how to enable Wi-Fi calling on your phone before you arrive. Landline phones are available in the office building for local and emergency calls (they require a pre-paid calling card for long distance calls, so most people prefer using Wi-Fi calling). All labs, offices, classrooms and apartments are connected via a wireless local area network. Internet service is limited and can be overwhelmed during busy periods; research and education use of bandwidth is prioritized and may necessitate Wi-Fi rationing. The computer lab in the office building has four basic internet-connected public workstations, a copier and several printers.

Site and local community context:

The H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest is part of the Willamette National Forest and open to the public. Visitors come for hiking trails, hunting, exploring and other recreation. The Blue River Reservoir just outside HJA gets heavy traffic in spring and summer. The McKenzie valley community near the HJA is a mixture of small unincorporated towns established during the peak of the timber harvest and dam-building era with an expanding vacation and retirement sector. Demographics, social and political

perspectives reflect this range in backgrounds and economic privilege. The field station community ranges in size seasonally from 5-70 residents, and includes permanent staff, longer term field crews, visiting writers and artists, shorter term research crews, classes and conferences.

Recreation:

There is a volleyball net, ping-pong table and corn-hole set on site. There are world-class biking and hiking trails in the area, rafting and fishing on the McKenzie and Blue Rivers (fishing not allowed in Lookout Creek), and a reservoir for boating and swimming and/or being poisoned by toxic algae blooms. The Springfield/Eugene area is about an hour away by car, and Bend is about 1.5 hours with summer driving conditions. The usual amenities – restaurants, libraries, movies, music, shopping – can be found in either population center.

Conditions and Site Hazards:

The Lookout Creek watershed contains old growth coniferous forests, clear fast streams, and diverse montane meadows. It is a beautiful landscape in which to work. There are also challenges associated with the steep terrain and remote location. Walking can be difficult, on uneven terrain, on steep slopes, on wet or slippery ground, through brushy areas, or under and over downed wood. Weather can vary from cold and wet to extreme heat. In summer, the biting and stinging insect populations can be an issue; those with known allergies to bee and wasp stings should carry an Epi-pen and antihistamine. Poison oak grows on drier low elevation sites; black bears and cougars occur throughout the area. After the 2020 and 2023 wildfires, burned sites on the HJA require special safety precautions due to unstable soil, loose rocks, cryptic burned-out root cavities, and increased rates of falling trees and branches. These risks increase on rainy and windy days and require additional safety training and procedures for all who need to work inside the fire footprints. For all field work it is important to have appropriate gear (see checklist below) and safety training. For more information see <https://andrewsforest.oregonstate.edu/research/guidelines/procedures>.

Pets:

Please note that pets are not allowed in shared housing at the HJA headquarters site or at any field location (but also note that this rule is not enforceable for members of the general public outside of headquarters). We follow the ADA definition and requirements for Service Animals.

Mail:

There is no direct mail delivery to HJA Headquarters, but we have PO Box 390 at the Blue River Post Office. HJA staff check the PO Box 2-3 times per week and distribute mail to apartment mail slots in the Office building. For UPS and FEDEX deliveries use our 91991 Blue River Reservoir Road address. [YOUR NAME] C/O H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest, 91991 Blue River Reservoir Road, P.O. Box 390, Blue River, OR 97413.

What to Bring: Clothing & Personal Items Checklist

Having appropriate equipment for the conditions will make your experience more enjoyable as well as safer. If you do not own and can't easily obtain the critical field items detailed below, please contact the Site Manager or Forest Director about possible use of our gear closet/loan program.

Field clothing: Dress in layers to accommodate temperatures as high as 105 degrees F and as low as 40 degrees F during summer months (in spring, fall and winter wet conditions hovering slightly above or below freezing are the most common). Avoid cotton except on dry summer days; use fabrics (wool, or synthetics) that provide insulation when wet and dry quickly.

- High-top heavy-weight boots with traction (e.g., vibram) soles. With lightweight boots you may end up on the ground as often as on your feet
- Several pairs of hiking socks
- Lightweight base layers (t-shirt, light thermal underwear, etc)
- Long pants (abrasion resistant)
- Long-sleeve shirts (loose and something you are emotionally prepared to throw away at end of summer)
- Fleece/wool sweater/overshirt/light jacket
- Full set of raingear (you won't need it most days in the summer, but when you need it you really need it)

Field supplies (basic list, ask your mentor about needs specific to project):

- First aid kit
- Water bottles (minimum of 2 quarts/day)
- UV protection (hat/sunglasses/sun block)
- Good-sized daypack for carrying your gear into the field.
- Compass
- Headlamp/flashlight
- Insect repellent (many people can manage the insects on the HJA without repellent, but the high Cascades have ferocious insects through mid to late summer)
- Personal Protective Equipment (e.g., gloves, eye protection, hardhat) suitable to the field work

Bedding:

- Pillow
- Bedding for a twin bed (sheets and a lightweight sleeping bag can be a good option).
- Towel

Laundry:

- Detergent for the laundry machines; hamper or laundry bag can be useful.
- Quarters or dollar bills. The change machine accepts dollar bills only.

For moments when you are not in the field:

- Toiletries, clothing, and personal items that you like to have on hot summer days, cold summer nights and for recreating.