

Jessica Simulcik Smith

From: Jan Stewart [stewartjr_5@hotmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, December 02, 2007 2:51 PM
To: Jessica Simulcik Smith
Subject: FW: More Evidence for the Jackson Plateau

Please fwd to commissioners. Thank you.

Date: Tue, 27 Nov 2007 14:31:56 -0800
From: birdsbeesfishtrees@gmail.com
To: donnaeggen@comcast.net; stewartjr_5@hotmail.com
Subject: More Evidence for the Jackson Plateau

Hi Donna & Jan,

Attached you will find a copy of the Seattle Times front page article about forest research being by the UW. I have highlighted 2 paragraphs in green. They could be very important in arguing to keep the trees on the plateau. You might want to send it the Planning Commission to be sure it becomes a part of the formal public record.

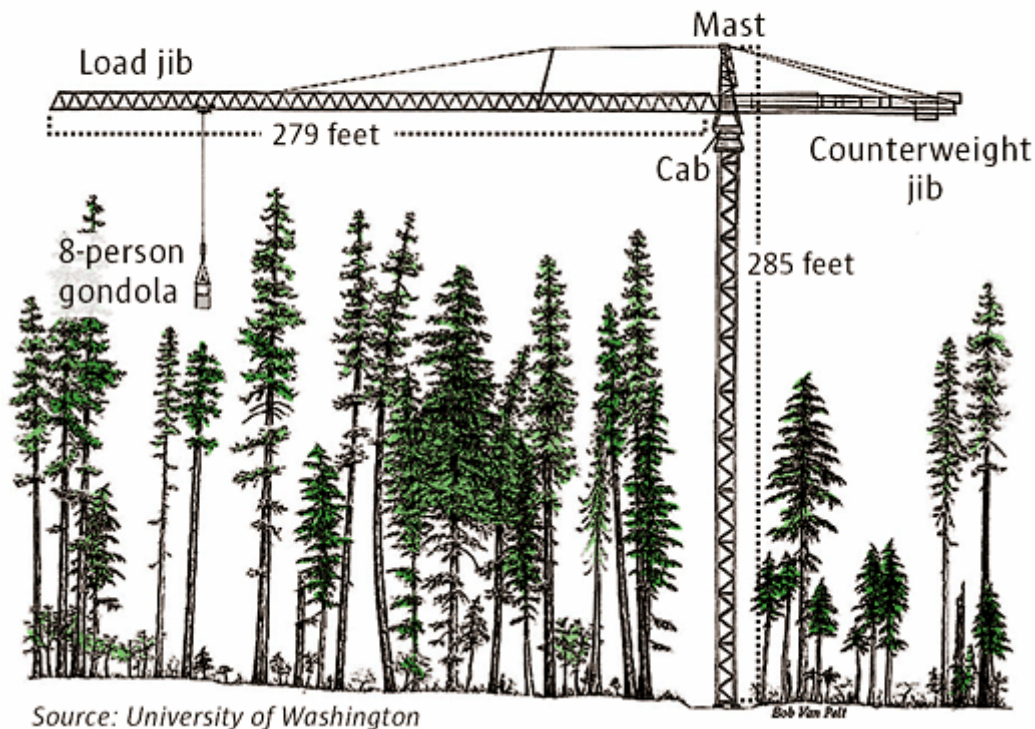
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Sincerely,

Boni Biery
Shoreline's
Community Wildlife Habitat
Team Coordinator

You keep typing, we keep giving. Download Messenger and join the i'm Initiative now. [Join in!](#)

Wind River Canopy Crane



Trees giving bizarre clues to climate change

By [Sandi Doughton](#)

Seattle Times science reporter



GREG GILBERT / THE SEATTLE TIMES

The Wind River Tree Crane rises 285 feet into old-growth Douglas fir and other trees.

Learn more about the Wind River Canopy Crane and control a live crane camera:

www.depts.washington.edu/wrcrf/

CARSON, Skamania County — Suspended 20 stories in the air, Ken Bible looks down on the crown of a 500-year-old Douglas fir and ponders a mystery.

It's not the obvious one: How does a man without superpowers hover above the treetops?

That's easy. The University of Washington forest ecologist rose to his lofty perch in a metal gondola hoisted by a 285-foot-tall construction crane.

The vantage point allows Bible to study the upper reaches of this old-growth forest, where a reproductive orgy is under way.

"We've never seen anything like this here," he says, reaching over the edge of the open-air gondola to grasp a limb laden with cones.

He counts at least 30.

"Normally, a branch like this would have about three," he says. "Why so many this year? We really don't know."

Maybe global warming nudged the trees to procreate. Perhaps it's a natural cycle.

In either case, Bible wants to pinpoint the trigger. Did the forest crank up cone production in response to temperature? Is moisture the key? Or could the flush of fertility be traced to high spring winds that whipped up a sexy cyclone of pollen?

The work is part of a bigger effort to figure out what climate change, both natural and man-made, will mean for the Northwest's iconic forests. The UW's Wind River Canopy Crane, erected in 1995 near the Columbia River, is proving an ideal tool.

The crane and the research area that surrounds it have already helped answer several fundamental questions about forests and their ability to counteract global warming. A cooperative venture with the Forest Service, the crane is the largest in the world dedicated to forestry research, and the only one in North America.

It was here that scientists put to rest the myth that mature forests are biologically moribund. By rising above the treetops, they were able to take measurements that showed old forests continue to grow and act as a sink for carbon dioxide, a major greenhouse gas.

Studies here also proved it doesn't make sense from a global-warming perspective to cut older forests and replace them with seedlings, which grow faster and had been thought to absorb more carbon dioxide. Old forests are storehouses for such vast amounts of carbon that it would take many decades for new forests to catch up on the carbon balance sheet.

"If you want to measure these kinds of things, you need to be able to get up in the tops of the trees and out at the ends of the branches where processes like photosynthesis are really going on," says UW forestry professor Jerry Franklin, who pioneered the study of old growth. "The canopy crane gives you that ability."

Scientists' thrill ride

Riding the crane is like taking an elevator to the sky.

As the gondola glides upward, the gloom of the forest floor falls away. Sunlight floods in and the temperature climbs 10 degrees. Branches draped with tattered lichens called old man's beard float past.

When the gondola reaches its apex, startled hawks sometimes circle around to see who's intruding on their bird's-eye view of the forest canopy, which spreads out in every direction like a lumpy green blanket.

The Douglas firs here can reach between 180 and 220 feet above the forest floor. The species mix also includes Western red cedar, Pacific silver fir and grand fir.

In addition to counting cones, Bible and his colleague Matt Schroeder are using the crane on this November morning to examine the buds that will determine how many new branches the trees will produce next year.

Schroeder speaks into a walkie-talkie, asking the crane operator to swivel the nearly 300-foot boom and bring the gondola hard up against a massive fir. Centuries of battering by wind and rain have flattened its crown.

Schroeder bends back the needles on the closest branch to reveal tiny brown spots that hold the arboreal equivalent of stem cells, able to form either branches or cones. "I can see about 100 buds on these top branches," he says.

There's abundant evidence from around the world that crocuses, lilacs and other flowering plants are blooming earlier each spring in response to rising temperatures. But nobody has figured out how to look for a similar response in full-grown trees. Buds may hold the answer, says Bible, director of the crane facility.

"The first thing we're going to look at is whether these buds are going to break earlier in the spring over time."

Warming is expected to bring more fires and insect infestations to Northwest forests, says Mark Harmon, an Oregon State University forestry expert who has used the canopy crane in his research. But experts are split on whether forest productivity will increase over time.

Carbon dioxide is a basic building block plants use to generate energy through photosynthesis, so it's possible higher CO₂ levels in the atmosphere will act like a fertilizer. But other nutrients could eventually put the brakes on forest growth, as would the drying predicted as snowpacks diminish in the Northwest, Harmon said.

Ambitious research plans

That uncertainty about what to expect reflects how little is known about the basic biological responses of trees — even the mainstay of the region's timber industry, Bible says.

"We know next to nothing about Douglas fir, and it's the species we know the most about," he said.

Without a better understanding of the way trees will respond to a changing climate, it's hard to evaluate programs that claim to offset carbon emissions by planting trees or protecting forests.

Many of the existing data gaps could be filled if the federal government funds an ambitious proposal for a nationwide network of ecological monitoring stations called NEON — the National Ecological Observatory Network.

The 10,000-acre Wind River Experimental Forest, now home to the canopy crane and a wide array of other forestry-research projects, is on the shortlist to be included in the network.

The area would be wired with a variety of sensors to monitor the way changing climate and different land-use practices, such as logging, affect flora, fauna, soil chemistry and the entire web of life.

"These measurements are going to be made on a scale that's never been done before," Franklin said. "And for the first time, we'll be using identical instruments, so we'll be able to integrate data from across the United States."

In the meantime, Bible and Schroeder plan to spend part of the winter poring over weather data from the past year, to see if they can tease out the factors behind this year's bounty of cones, which seems to extend well beyond the boundaries of the research area.

"It's a very big cone year all around," Bible said. "There has to be a reason."

Sandi Doughton: 206-464-2491 or sdoughton@seattletimes.com

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Jessica Simulcik Smith

From: Barry & Darlene [sommers1@comcast.net]
Sent: Sunday, December 02, 2007 3:26 PM
To: Jessica Simulcik Smith
Subject: 6-lot Subdivision SEPA @14521 11th AVE NE- File@201584

Please forward this letter and photos to the planning Commission

At the November meeting there was some discussion about the potential of storm water coming into Little's Creek and how big the retention tank should be.

The attached photos show what is happening now (photos taken in Nov & Dec '07), and why I am **concerned** about any **more water** coming into the creek. The attached photos show street water gathering at the catch basin at the front of our property, coming out through a culvert into the creek, and the amount of water that can go through the creek in a rainstorm.

Thanks for your consideration,

Barry Sommerdorf
14600 9th PI NE
Shoreline











Jessica Simulcik Smith

From: Jessica Simulcik Smith
Sent: Tuesday, December 04, 2007 9:54 AM
To: Will Hall; Chakorn Phisuthikul; David Harris; David Pyle (H); David Pyle (W); Michael Broili; Michael Broili 2; Michelle L. Wagner (H); Robin S. McClelland (H); Robin S. McClelland (W); Rocky Piro (H); Rocky Piro (W); Sid Kuboi (H); Sid Kuboi (W)
Subject: Another Plateau at Jackson comment letter w/ pictures

-----Original Message-----

From: terriyaki2@comcast.net [mailto:terriyaki2@comcast.net]
Sent: Tuesday, December 04, 2007 9:46 AM
To: Jessica Simulcik Smith
Subject: Little Creek flooding

Good morning!

Tried to send these to you yesterday but, was having some email problems. At it's worst. Little's Creek was raging about 1' OVER my bridge. The creek, at it's deepest point, is just under 4' and has never risen as high as it did yesterday. Paul and Jill were here with me and 4 other neighbors for almost 2 hours. We really appreciated their time.

I would like these photos sent to every member of the Planning Commission before the meeting on Thursday. It is so very important that they understand how the runoff from 4-7 new houses will impact those downstream. I would like confirmation that they have received the pictures.

Little's Creek is a tributary of Thornton Creek (for which I am a certified creek steward) and it flooded Nathan Hale High School (where my sons are students) and the school was closed. 31st and 35th at Meadowbrook were closed because of the creek and the beaver ponds (Meadowbrook) were terribly flooded. The runoff from more homes will only make the situation so much worse.

15th at about 135th was closed at the entrance to the Jackson Park golf course because of the creek as well.

Thank you!

Terri Benson

<http://i13.photobucket.com/albums/a273/terriyaki2/Dec2007flooding014.jpg>
<http://i13.photobucket.com/albums/a273/terriyaki2/Dec2007flooding013.jpg>
<http://i13.photobucket.com/albums/a273/terriyaki2/Dec2007flooding012.jpg>
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<http://i13.photobucket.com/albums/a273/terriyaki2/Dec2007flooding002.jpg>