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Forest HQ and lab at OSU becomes a case study for wood construction

By [JOURNAL STAFF](#)

The Siuslaw National Forest Supervisor's Office and the Corvallis Forestry Sciences Lab now share a renovated building on the campus of Oregon State University in Corvallis.

Construction was completed in 2012, but the project has been used as a case study for its extensive use of wood, according to Rolluda Architects, the Seattle company that designed the space.

Rolluda said the U.S. White House Rural Council recently used the project to demonstrate sustainable design with wood. The architecture firm said in a press release that the case study shows wood can cost less, cut carbon pollution, and be versatile and renewable.

A 10,500-square-foot addition is connected by a breezeway to a 7,500-square-foot forestry sciences lab complex that was renovated. The forest headquarters had been located elsewhere in Corvallis.

Other project team members are Peterson Strehle Martinson, structural engineer; Berona Engineers, mechanical engineer; Sazan Group, electrical engineer; Balzhizer Hubbard Engineers, civil engineer; and CMcG&S, landscape architect.

The renovated lab space got more windows and new casework and finishes. Berry Architects was the lead architect for that portion of the work.

Construction cost \$4.4 million for the new building and lab renovation.

The headquarters project is targeting LEED silver certification.

Besides the offices, the space has conference and meeting rooms, and a lobby for visitors to the national forest.

The building was designed to feature wood products. Nearly 11,000 square feet of sustainable Douglas fir was used in framing. Plywood sheathing and flooring were made from sustainably harvested materials.

Rolluda said a much loved lab wing was demolished to make way for the building, but veneer wood panels and tongue-and-groove cedar soffit from that wing were incorporated into public spaces, like the lobby and conference rooms in the new space.

Western red cedar was used for exterior cladding, and local and regional products were used as



Photos by Jeff Amram Photography [\[enlarge\]](#)

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(Editor's note: Photos in this story were credited to the wrong photographer. The pictures were taken by Jeff Amram Photography of Portland.)

much as possible in the construction. Most of the construction waste was recycled or reused.

A green roof, landscaping with native plants, and a system to recapture rain for watering in the dry season all help to minimize water use.

The building also has lighting controls and window shading. Heat comes from a new co-generation steam plant on the campus.



[\[enlarge\]](#)

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