Introduction

When Pack Forest was given to the University of Washington in 1926, its primary purpose was for forestry research and demonstration. Over the years, Pack has been the subject of hundreds of research projects by scientists and students alike, and has offered its grounds to forestry students for field training and skill building.

On its website, Pack Forest offers several pages describing different projects, past and present that it has hosted. Pack’s main Research and Publications tab lists just under a dozen current research projects, but only includes the official title of the experiment and the names of those involved; because of this, individuals unfamiliar with forestry and biological terminology might be confused by the descriptions.

For site visitors further interested in research at Pack Forest, there is a page that describes the versatility of the forest as a subject for research, which also lists several large-scale experiments hosted in the past, such as the Municipal Biosolids Utilization Project — arguably the best known experiment to have taken place in Pack Forest. Readers also learn about a few other projects involving spacing, pruning, and thinning, but do not have the opportunity to visualize what the projects might look like.

The goal of my project was to create an interactive map that describes past research projects in terms understandable to the general public, who may be interested in learning more about the experimental side of Pack Forest.

Methods

1. My first step was to familiarize myself with some of the most significant research projects that had taken place in Pack Forest over its entire history. Many of the records of these projects were still in physical form on the Pack Forest campus, while others were accessible in digital form.
2. With the help of Pack Forest staff, including Dave Cass and Greg Ettl, I compiled a list of research sites that I thought would be the most interesting to the general public. For each of these sites, I summarized the purpose and significance of each project in simple terms.
3. I created a map using ArcGIS online that included the stands of Pack Forest, and then added two layers, one for stands that contained a research site or demonstration, and one for demonstrative trails. Each site received a marker that could be clicked, which opens a site description that contains the summary of the experiment or demonstration within the area.
4. The final map will be hosted on the Pack Forest website, and physical signs will be placed at the research sites along roads and trails.

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References

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