

**OSU College of Forestry**  
**McDonald-Dunn Research Forest Faculty Planning Committee Meeting #5**  
**6 December 2022, 1:00-3:00pm**  
**316 Peavy Forest Science Center and Online (via Zoom)**

Faculty Planning Committee Members present: Holly Ober (chair), John Bailey (online), Mindy Crandall, Tiffany Garcia, Mark Kerstens, Dave Lewis, Ian Munanura

College of Forestry research forest staff present: Jenna Baker (online), Steve Fitzgerald, Brent Klumph (online)

### **I. Overview of recent and upcoming events**

The group reviewed the meeting agenda, an overview of the planning process, and the [planning website](#) which contains materials associated with past meetings and events, and provides a list of upcoming meetings and events. All who hadn't yet listened/watched the recording of the second Community Listening Session (CLS) held on November 7 were encouraged to do so.

The chair highlighted the different components of the planning process covered thus far:

- Phase Ia – Gathering of input and information from a variety of sources
- Phase Ib – Discussions and assessment of the 2005 Plan by the SAC and FPC

The group then discussed the components of the planning process currently unfolding:

- Phase IIa – Synthesizing
  - The SAC is preparing a synthesis document reflecting their input on the development of the management plan for the McDonald-Dunn Research Forest along with that of others from the community, to be shared with the FPC. They will soon discuss 'management regimes' for the new plan, scenarios, and necessary components (chapters, appendices) of the new plan.
  - The FPC is preparing an 'Overarching Principles' document to summarize tenets to guide the management of the McDonald-Dunn Research Forest, to be shared with the SAC. Following this they will then return to discussions of potential 'management regimes' for the new plan, scenarios, and necessary components (chapters, appendices) of the new plan.

The group then discussed the components of the planning process that will begin shortly:

- Phase IIb – Modeling and refining – this will entail one round of modeling a suite of scenarios; gathering input on the modeling output from the SAC, FPC, and Community Input Session; followed by a second round of modeling of more refined scenarios and second round of gathering input the same way. It was explained that the FPC will be discussing the metrics needed to evaluate tradeoffs among scenarios. Conversation ensued about financial sustainability needing to be one of the criteria considered.
- Phase IIc – Writing of the various chapters and appendices of the plan.

Phases IIb and c will occur concurrently, because many components of the plan are not influenced by the modeling and can proceed while it is underway.

Next, the group considered whether they preferred to view the synthesis document being prepared by the SAC first, or return to the Overarching Principles document they have been working on before that. After discussion, the decision was made to first view the SAC's synthesis document.

## **II. View the Draft Synthesis Document from the SAC**

The group read through the document. Questions and discussion ensued.

- There was a question as to whether there was any section in this document about use of the forests for education and demonstration: there is not, at this point in time.
- After reading through the '**Plan Development Guiding Principles**' section, an FPC member was critical of the way the statements in this section were worded, as the statements imply there is a need to change what is currently being done on the forests. They felt the College and Research Forest staff are already doing what was described in this section, and the wording suggests they aren't but ought to start. In response, one FPC member shared a recent experience that supported the assertion that some community members are not aware of the many current academic uses of the research forests and that trust-building is needed. Another FPC member pointed out that some community members lost trust in the College in the wake of the *No Vacancy Harvest* in 2019, and that acknowledging this loss of trust in this document is warranted. They also suggested that regardless of what is being done now, it's appropriate for this document to reflect what the SAC and the community at large would like to see continued into the future. It was also acknowledged that the College needs to do a better job of explaining how the forests are being used academically to reduce confusion and increase transparency. The faculty member who initially expressed the critical response to what was written suggested it would be helpful if this document began with a preface, so the statements were put into context. Another FPC member suggested the SAC might potentially consider altering word choice in this section if they in fact weren't trying to imply that all of what's covered in this section isn't going on to any extent currently.
- Discussion ensued about the '**Recreation Principles**', particularly about the expectation that the Visitor Use Plan (VUP) be developed separately from the overall Forest Management Plan. It was explained that development of the VUP will require so much time that it should be created through a separate planning process after the overall FMP is developed, ensuring it is in alignment with the broader plan. It was suggested that the word choice might be changed in this section from 'occur congruently' to something that makes it more clear the VUP will be developed after the FMP is finished. There was also discussion about the Research Forest staff minimizing damage to authorized trails rather than all trails, because many trails on the forest are unauthorized and those will not be protected.
- There was conversation about the '**Research Principles**'. An FPC member thought it inappropriate that faculty be told what topics should be researched. It was clarified that the intent was likely more to ensure that the plan doesn't in any way prevent the option to conduct research on emerging issues rather than to specify exactly what research topics are addressed. It was suggested that the SAC might consider modifying the wording to make this more apparent. There was confusion about the intent of the suggestion to research the planning process itself.
- A question was asked about what was intended by acknowledging biodiversity decline in the '**Species Management**' section and it was clarified that the suggestion was to not lose sight of the needs of rare species in the new plan.

Lastly, it was mentioned that the SAC plans to meet sometime before the end of the year to finalize this document. The document will then come back to the FPC to view.

It was proposed that the SAC & FPC might be invited to a field trip to the forests this winter, to foster greater discussion between the two groups.

### **III. Refinement of 'Overarching Principles' Document**

The intent of this document is to provide ideas that serve as guidelines for the McDonald-Dunn Research Forest, that can be returned to throughout the planning process. It was clarified that this document will be shared with the SAC at whatever point in time the FPC feels it is ready for sharing.

- **Foundational Premises** – There was discussion as to whether statements should be written to reflect what is currently occurring or what is hoped for in the future. The premise covering the expectation to serve as a demonstration forest was edited extensively to remove a list of topics so as to avoid the need to have an exhaustive list. There was discussion as to whether financial sustainability ought to be included more explicitly as a foundational premise, but general agreement that this was evident from the existing premises.
- **Create Learning Opportunities** - The list of research topics was discussed, with concern that any list imposes constraints. The statement was edited so as to reflect a broad range of disciplinary opportunities for research. It was suggested that the statement about Traditional Ecological Knowledge be expanded to encompass management, research, outreach, and educational efforts. The intent will be to get input from each of the tribes on what exactly they would like to see reflected in this statement. The bullet about communication of learning opportunities was expanded to cover more than learning opportunities.
- **Ordering of the subheadings** – It was suggested they are re-ordered to be congruent with the ordering of sentiments in the foundational premises.

### **IV. Next Steps**

The group suggested meeting one more time before the end of the year to finish this document, ultimately agreeing to meet during the standing meeting time (i.e., the next gathering will be Tues, Dec 20, 1-3pm). They then suggested continuing to meet every 2 weeks during winter term. The chair will send a scheduling poll to identify a day of week and time of day that works for standing meetings of the FPC winter term.