

**OSU College of Forestry
McDonald-Dunn Research Forest Faculty Planning Committee Meeting #7
23 January 2023, 11:00am-1:00pm
316 Peavy Forest Science Center and Online (via Zoom)**

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

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

I. Overview of Recent and Upcoming Events

The group reviewed the meeting agenda and the [planning website](#) which contains materials associated with past and future meetings and events, and was reminded about how to access input provided by the community. The chair highlighted the most recent developments in the planning process:

- Production of a document by the SAC synthesizing ideas on what they and others in the community believe should be included in the new forest management plan.
- Simultaneous production of a document by the FPC to summarize tenets intended to guide the management of the research forests (referred to as 'Overarching Principles'). The FPC will strive to finalize this document today.

Upcoming events

- 'Academic User Listening Session' – the intent is to gather input from faculty, staff, and students across OSU who might make use of the forest for research, teaching, or outreach. It was clarified that individuals at other universities who might use the forests for these uses is also welcomed.
 - o A single event during the day could be challenging for everyone to attend
 - o An evening event might be preferred by some; it should be hybrid
 - o We should take steps to get the word out to grad students (who do research in the forests) and TAs (who do teaching in the forests)
 - o Notifications should be sent to all relevant department heads in the College of Ag and College of Oceanic and Atmospheric Sciences, as well as their Associate Deans of Research. Specific departments and entities thought to make use of the forest for research and teaching included FWCS, AnRS, Geosciences, Integrative Biology, Recreation Sports (Adventure Leadership Institute), Philosophy, Anthropology, Civil Engineering, and ROTC
- Field tour with the SAC
 - o The SAC and FPC will be provided opportunities to weigh in on highest priorities for what topics are discussed during the tour
 - o Preferred scheduling was weekends for some and weekdays for others

II. Refinement of 'Overarching Principles' Document

The group was reminded that the intent of this document is to provide ideas that serve as a foundation for the management of the McDonald-Dunn Research Forest, that can be returned to throughout the planning process to ensure important concepts are not left out of the plan. The draft

document was shared with the SAC last week, and three areas of concern expressed by the SAC were explored by the FPC.

- It was shared that some members of the SAC expressed surprise or concern that several topics were not called out explicitly in this document: biodiversity decline, climate change, silviculture, and wildfire. The FPC decided to make several edits: biodiversity, climate change, and silviculture were each added to bullets within the section of the document on environmental sustainability.
- It was shared that a member of the SAC suggested this document mention jobs supported and products created by the forest sector. These concepts were added to a bullet point within the section of the document on environmental sustainability.
- It was shared that several members of the SAC expressed concern that the bullet point regarding financial self-sustainability was vague. The group refined this.
- The chair promised to upload a clean version of the document to the Box folder that FPC members could revisit if they'd like to suggest additional edits.
- Some discussion ensued as to whether this document would be included in the new plan, and it was decided that we would wait to determine if that seems appropriate once the outline of the plan is in place.

III. Components of the New Plan

The group looked at the Table of Contents of the 2005 Plan and a strawman draft of a Table of Contents for the new plan. The proposed new outline has these sections:

- Executive Summary
- Introductory Context
 - o It was suggested that the goals of the McDonald-Dunn Forest and desired future conditions be described here as the first sub-section
 - o The next subsection would describe the process used to develop the vision/mission/goals of the forest, with a clarification here of the difference between conservation and preservation
 - o The next subsection would describe the process used to develop the new plan and mention the Overarching Principles
 - o The sub-section would end with an overview of the recent history of the forest
- Site Description – location, biophysical conditions, history (ownership – mention Morill Act, land use), cultural resources, zoning and regulations, it was suggested that timber harvest and recreation use be added, current forest conditions
- New Management Paradigms
 - o Prioritization of Opportunities for Research, Teaching, and Demonstration (there was mention of needing to make clear that long term research and teaching areas are protected)
 - o Forest Management ~~Regimes~~ Strategies that Create Learning Opportunities and Ensure Financial Sustainability
 - o Incorporation of Native American Perspectives
 - o Maintaining Biodiversity
 - o Managing Threats to Forest Health
 - o Nurturing Human Dimensions

- Enhancing Community Engagement (this will include community science, interpretation, and communication strategies)
- Plan Implementation
- Literature Cited
- Glossary
- Appendices
- There was discussion as to where a land acknowledgement should be located within the document, and general agreement that it should be not only at the beginning but throughout.

IV. Management Regimes Strategies and Scenarios

It was agreed that we would call these ‘management strategies’ rather than ‘management regimes’.

The group discussed how to define each of the new management strategies, looking back at definitions used in the 2005 plan as a start. There was recognition that we need to define the silvicultural practices associated with each so that the modeler can begin work, and we will later be describing the entire suite of benefits associated with each management strategy to include in the plan. At the present time, the primary task is to succinctly describe the silviculture.

- **even-aged, short-rotation**: it was suggested that some details included in the 2005 plan definition be removed (e.g., competition with the southeastern US, fertilization)
- **even-aged, long-rotation**: it was suggested that the age be changed from 60-90 years to 60-120 years
- **multi-aged/multi-species**: the group did not have time to discuss this
- **mature**: there was recognition that the group would need to discuss whether all current reserves would be in this category, and if so, would we want to allow any management in these areas (e.g., underburning, salvage logging if there were a windstorm, planting following a large natural disturbance, treatment of invasive species, thinning)
- **restoration of unique habitats**: the group did not have time to discuss this

It was suggested that as a next step, the Research Forest Staff craft some draft silvicultural descriptions for each of the 5 management strategies that the FPC could discuss next time.

IV. Next Steps

- A scheduling poll will be circulated to determine date(s) for the SAC-FPC field tour
- The latest version of the Overarching Principles will be posted in the Box folder.
- A revised version of the Table of Contents of the new plan will be posted in the Box folder.
- The Research Forest Staff will develop draft silvicultural guidelines to define each of the 5 new Management Strategies that the FPC will discuss at our next meeting.