

A forest manager wearing a red hard hat and a grey jacket is standing in a lush green forest, looking at a clipboard. The forest is filled with tall trees and dense undergrowth, including many ferns. The scene is captured in a natural, slightly overcast light.

McDonald & Dunn Forest Management Planning Process

Spring 2022 – Fall 2023

OSU College of Forestry
McDonald-Dunn Research Forest Faculty Planning Committee Meeting #9
316 Peavy Forest Science Center or Zoom ([Join Zoom Meeting](#))
20 February 2023, 11am-1pm

Agenda

Meeting Purpose:

- *Finalize underlining principles and definitions for each 'management strategy'*
- *Consider criteria used to evaluate tradeoffs among 'scenarios'*
- *Develop list of 'scenarios' to be modeled*

Start Time	Activity
11:00am	Welcome and introductions Overview of recent and upcoming events
11:10am	Refine technical definitions and principles underlying each of the 5 new 'management strategies'
11:50am	Revisit criteria to be used to evaluate tradeoffs among 'scenarios'
12:00pm	Develop list of 'scenarios' to be modeled
12:45pm	Revisit the draft Table of Contents for the new plan
12:55pm	Next steps
1:00pm	Adjourn



COMMUNITY LISTENING SESSION

The video from our community listening session on November 7 is now available.

[VIEW THE RECORDING](#)

MCDONALD-DUNN RESEARCH FOREST PLANNING PROCESS



MCDONALD-DUNN RESEARCH FOREST PLANNING PROCESS



The OSU College of Forestry is developing a new management plan for the McDonald and Dunn Research Forests, which is anticipated to be ready for implementation in 2024. This new plan will determine how the forests provide opportunities for teaching, research and outreach efforts of the College of Forestry. The new research forest plan will reflect the college's diverse values, and will position the McDonald-Dunn Research Forest to be a model example of multiple value forest management. Management decisions and activities on the McDonald-Dunn Research Forest will be driven by College of Forestry research agendas, education and demonstration opportunities, and considerations of an inclusive balance of forest uses and values.

The process of developing the new management plan will involve opportunities for public input, and two committees working in tandem from spring 2022 through fall 2023.

- Public input opportunities include three Community Listening Sessions, a [webform](#) through which written comments can be provided, and an [email](#) to which written questions can be sent.
- Two committees will assist in the development of the new plan: an external Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) and College of Forestry Faculty Planning Committee (FPC). Comments submitted through the webform will be forwarded to these committees.

Upcoming Meetings & Events:

- February 20, 2023 11:00am-1:00pm, Faculty Planning Committee Meeting ([agenda](#), open to the public to listen remotely through Zoom but not comment; video recording will be posted online after the meeting) Zoom link: <https://oregonstate.zoom.us/j/8948549218?pwd=Uko4L2hYNnpQU0diWlhWWGxhcFZFZz09>
- March 1, 2023, 1:00pm – 4:00pm – Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meeting (open to the public to listen remotely through Zoom but not comment; video recording will be posted online after the meeting).
- March 6, 2023, 11:00am – 1:00pm – Faculty Planning Committee Meeting (open to the public to listen remotely through Zoom but not comment; video recording will be posted online after the meeting).

Past Meetings & Events:

- June 14, 2022, SAC and FPC Joint Kickoff Meeting ([agenda](#), [video](#), [meeting summary](#))
- Aug 30, 2022, SAC Meeting ([agenda](#), [presentation](#), [meeting summary](#))
- Aug. 31, 2022, Community Listening Session ([agenda](#), [presentation](#), [meeting summary](#))
- Sept. 16, 2022, Faculty Planning Committee Meeting ([agenda](#), [presentation](#), [meeting summary](#))
- Sept. 20, 2022, Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meeting ([agenda](#), [presentation](#), [video recording](#), [meeting summary](#))
- Oct. 11, 2022, Faculty Planning Committee Meeting ([agenda](#), [presentation](#), [video recording](#), [meeting summary](#))
- Oct. 25, 2022, Faculty Planning Committee Meeting ([agenda](#), [presentation](#), [video recording](#), [meeting summary](#))
- Nov. 7, 2022, Community Listening Session ([agenda](#), [presentation](#), [video recording](#), [meeting summary](#))
- Nov. 22, 2022, Faculty Planning Committee Meeting ([agenda](#), [presentation](#), [video recording](#), [meeting summary](#))
- Dec. 5, 2022, Stakeholder Advisory Committee ([agenda](#), [presentation](#), [video recording](#), [meeting summary](#))
- Dec. 6, 2022, Faculty Planning Committee Meeting ([agenda](#), [presentation](#), [video recording](#), [meeting summary](#))- Remarks made by an individual during the Dec 6 Faculty Planning Committee meeting do not reflect the values of the university or the College of Forestry, or our shared commitment to respectful discussion and engagement. The College appreciates all input being provided in planning the future of the McDonald-Dunn Research Forests and is committed to listening to and considering all perspectives with respect. An apology for these remarks was made during the Stakeholder Advisory Committee meeting on Dec 13.
- Dec. 13, 2022, Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meeting ([agenda](#), [video recording](#), [meeting summary](#))
- Dec. 20, 2022, Faculty Planning Committee Meeting ([agenda](#), [presentation](#), [video recording](#), [meeting summary](#))
- Jan. 18, 2023, Stakeholder Advisory Committee ([agenda](#), [presentation](#), [video recording](#), [meeting summary](#))
- Jan. 23, 2023, Faculty Planning Committee Meeting ([agenda](#), [presentation](#), [video recording](#), [meeting summary](#))
- Feb. 6, 2023, Faculty Planning Committee Meeting ([agenda](#), [presentation](#), [video recording](#))

SUBMIT YOUR COMMENTS

SUBMIT YOUR QUESTIONS

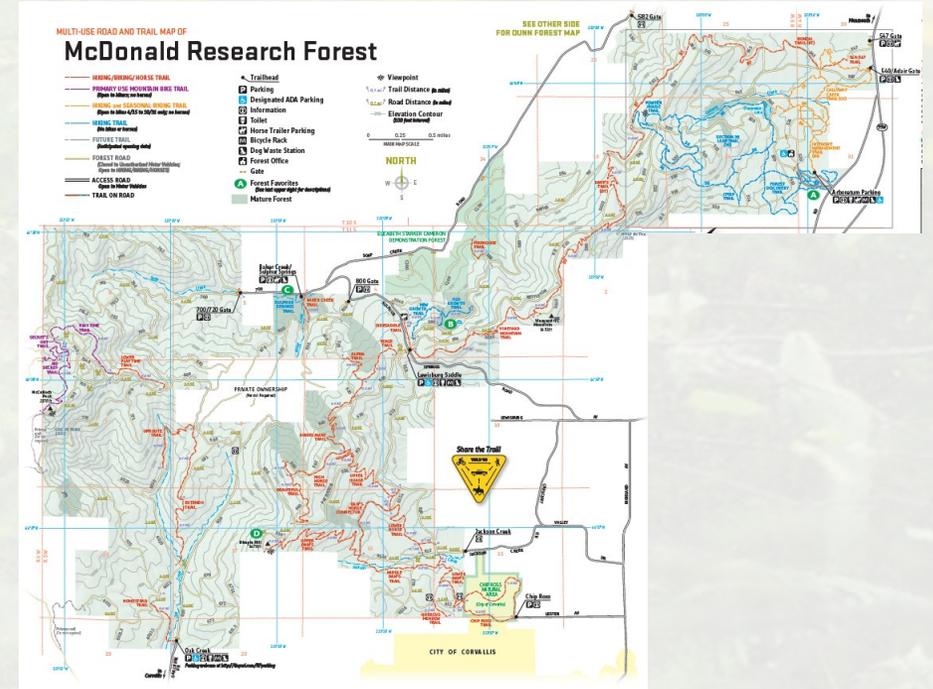
STAY CONNECTED

READ PUBLIC COMMENTS

HISTORIC DOCUMENTS - MCDONALD-DUNN RESEARCH FOREST PLANNING
2004-PRESENT

Upcoming Events

- Field Tour
 - weekend option: Sat, Feb 25, 8:30am-12:30pm
 - weekday option: Tues, Feb 28, 1-5pm
- SAC Meeting
 - Wed, Mar 1, 1-4pm
- Academic User Listening Session
 - Faculty, staff, students
 - Intent of better understanding constraints in using the forest for R/T/O
 - Will be scheduled for March
 - 2 hybrid events
 - One during the workday and one in the evening



McDonald & Dunn Research Forests Management Planning Process

Phase I: Information gathering, Discussions, Assessment of former FMP (Spring-Summer 2022)

Initial Interviews

Inventory of COF
Academic Use

Community Listening
Session I

Stakeholder Advisory
Committee Meetings

Faculty Planning
Committee Meetings

Comment / Question
Submission

Phase II: Synthesizing, Modeling, Writing, Refining (Fall 2022-Summer 2023)

Stakeholder Advisory
Committee Meetings

Faculty Planning
Committee Meetings

Community Listening
Session II

Academic User
Listening Session

Community Input
Sessions I & II

Comment / Question
Submission

Phase III: Finalizing (Fall 2023)

Presentation of draft plan to the Dean &
Forestry Executive Committee for review

Forest management plan refinement

Forest management plan approval by Dean

McDonald & Dunn Research Forests Management Planning Process

PHASE 2		SYNTHESIZING, MODELING, REFINING, WRITING	
2a	Synthesizing		
		<p><u>SAC meetings</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -write synthesis document to share with FPC -identify new 'management strategies' & 'scenarios' -consider structure & components of the new plan <p><u>FPC meetings</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -write overarching principles document to share with SAC -identify new 'management strategies' & 'scenarios' -consider structure & components of the new plan 	
2b	Modeling, Refining		
	Round 1	Modeling	
		Evaluation of merits of each scenario (SAC, FPC, Community Input Session I)	
	Round 2	Modeling	
	Evaluation of merits of each scenario (SAC, FPC, Community Input Session II)		
2c	Writing		
	Drafting of chapters (various work groups and individuals)		

Detailed view of Phase 2 of the plan development process

Defining each new 'Forest Management Strategy'

- A. Even-aged, short rotation
- B. Even-aged, long rotation
- C. Multi-aged, multi-species
- D. ~~Reserves &~~ Managed reserves
- E. ~~Restoration of~~ Ecosystems of concern



Draft guidelines for each new 'Management Strategy' [after subcommittee meeting - February 2023]

	<u>Even-aged short rotation</u>	<u>Even-aged long rotation</u>	Multi-aged multi-species	Reserves & Managed Reserves	Restoration of ecosystems of concern
Overview	Even-aged plantations of Douglas-fir (or other climatic-appropriate species and genetic stock) will be established and managed to be financially competitive by maximizing yields of wood products valuable for domestic mills. Clearcut harvests will not exceed 80 acres (there may be exceptions to this limit) .	Even-aged forests of Douglas-fir (or other climatic-appropriate species and genetic stock) will be established and managed to provide older forest conditions and produce high-quality wood for domestic mills. Clearcut harvests will not exceed 40 acres (there may be exceptions to this limit) .	Multi-aged, mixed-species forests of primarily Douglas-fir will be established and managed using <i>shelterwood-with-residuals</i> , <i>group-selection</i> , and <i>variable retention</i> regeneration harvests to create heterogeneity in openings, regenerate new age classes of trees, and maintain structural diversity and visual aesthetics. Multiple native tree species will be encouraged.	These areas will be held and conserved outside the management base using only a light touch when needed to promote and maintain older forest structural diversity and visual aesthetics and provide for public safety. Forest succession and developmental processes following natural disturbances will proceed naturally with little human intervention. Added acres to the reserve base may need more active operations to promote structural development.	Restoration and maintenance activities will be undertaken in native grasslands, oak savanna/woodlands, and aquatic systems. Two strategies will be employed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • retain and conserve the most at-risk and highest value components of ecological and cultural diversity, and • use intensive efforts where needed to improve and restore broader ecological and/or cultural functions at specific sites.
Guiding Principles	<i>Manage in a way that creates learning and research opportunities about short-rotation forestry and early seral conditions.</i>	<i>Manage in a way that creates learning and research opportunities about long-rotation forestry and retention of legacy elements at time of harvest.</i>	<i>Manage in a way that creates learning and research opportunities about managing multi-aged and/or multi-species stands.</i>	<i>Manage in a way that ensures learning and research opportunities about the creation and maintenance of late-seral forest conditions in the absence of timber harvest.</i>	<i>Manage in a way that creates learning opportunities about a range of restoration opportunities and intensities to improve the health of selected degraded ecosystems.</i>

	Even-aged short rotation	Even-aged long rotation	Multi-aged multi-species	Reserves & Managed Reserves	Restoration of Ecosystems of concern
Opportunities created	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dependable financial returns • <u>Early-seral</u> conditions provide habitat for some plant & wildlife species • <u>Early-seral</u> conditions are preferred for hunting • Short rotations ensure edge habitat important for some <u>wildlife</u> • Allows testing & demonstration of climate adaptability using alternative genetics of DF or other species. • Demonstration of the longevity and character of early-seral conditions and use of prescribed fire. • Learning opportunities about harvest operations, regeneration, vegetation treatments, fuels management and the comparison of net carbon sequestration between DF and alternative species. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dependable financial returns • Production of high-quality logs/wood that fills niche <u>markets</u> • Net carbon sequestration potential relative to short rotations • Aesthetically appealing • More legacy elements retained at stand initiation (old trees and CWD) provide habitat for <u>wildlife</u> • Stands of a variety of ages promotes biodiversity across the <u>landscape</u> • Older stands fill a gap on the landscape (few such forests on lands under other ownership) • Learning opportunities about managing and financing rotation lengths longer than is <u>typical</u> • Training opportunities on thinning and underburning • Comparisons of conditions in stands initiated through Theme I from 2005 Plan and later converted vs those initiated more softly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing reduced and variable financial returns • Multi-aged stands of varying degrees of <u>within stand</u> complexity will promote <u>overall</u> biodiversity and a range of wildlife habitat <u>conditions</u> • Continuous cover ensures visual <u>aesthetics</u> • Enhanced recreational opportunities. • Net carbon sequestration in multi-aged stands and multi-species stands. • Multi-age and multi-species stands fill a gap on the landscape (few such forests on lands under other ownership) • Learning opportunities about managing with complex silvicultural techniques, and investigations of operational costs and harvest costs associated with non-typical silvicultural approaches • Demonstration opportunities for small-scale forest operations and woodland owners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploring non-timber benefits and preserving the option for future carbon markets • Calculating opportunity costs and direct costs and benefits of conserving late seral conditions. • Relatively undisturbed conditions that promote habitat for some plant and wildlife species and relatively stable watershed dynamics • Preferred aesthetic conditions for <u>recreation</u> • Net Carbon sequestration baseline conditions • Learning opportunities about long-term risks from invasive species, climate change and climate-induced disturbances as trees age and tree densities increase • Outreach opportunities about the importance of old forests and the benefits of conservation management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploring non-timber benefits to ecosystem restoration • Costs of restoration and maintenance programs for unique ecosystems • Enhance biodiversity by improving health in three distinct ecosystem types and at the landscape <u>scale</u> • Demonstrate potential applications of Traditional Ecological Knowledge • Reduce wildfire risk in the WUI through strategic fuel breaks in oak woodlands • Healthy examples of native grasslands and oak woodlands fill a gap on the landscape (few exist on lands under other ownership) • Increase social license to operate • Enhance partnerships with external entities interested in restoration • Demonstration and research of grassland, oak, and aquatic restoration and monitoring • Learn about restoration principles, the ecology of native plants, first foods, invasive species reduction

	Even-aged short rotation	Even-aged long rotation	Multi-aged multi-species	Reserves & Managed Reserves	Restoration of Ecosystems of concern
Stand establishment	<p>Intensive site preparation following industry standards (prescribed fire and vegetation control) for ease of planting and early stand establishment. Planted seedlings will be from the best genetically selected material available for timber production but will also consider genetic seed sources adapted to a changing climate. Planting densities will be sufficient to meet the Oregon Forest Practices Act but avoid the need for precommercial thinning. Spacing is intentionally uniform. Competing vegetation will be managed to minimize growth loss of tree seedlings from competing vegetation for the years 1-5 until trees are free-to-growth, and then allow competing vegetation to grow.</p>	<p>Adequate site preparation for planting and establishing a stock young stand. Planted seedlings will be from the best genetically selected material available for timber production but will also consider genetic seed sources adapted to a changing climate with an eye to longer rotations. Initial stocking rates will be appropriate for the site with enough established trees to accommodate multiple <u>commercial</u> thins within the rotation. Spacing can be variable and appropriate to the site. Competing vegetation will be managed to limit unacceptable growth loss of tree seedlings from competing vegetation for 1-3 years, and then will allow competing vegetation to grow.</p>	<p>Understory and/or small opening site preparation through a combination of pile burning, broadcast burning and surface herbicide treatments. Interplanted seedlings to augment natural regeneration of conifers from seed and hardwoods from both sprouts and seed, with an eye to species richness and genetic variability.</p> <p>Group-selection harvests contain small (1.5-4.0 acre) openings. Variable retention regeneration harvests will retain individual trees, clumps of thinned and unthinned trees, and/or no-touch areas that are dictated by site, stand, and windthrow risk conditions. Shelterwood with residuals will be of an appropriate overstory density to allow understory trees to grow. The overstory trees may be spaced uniformly or variable across the areas dictated by site, stand, and windthrow risk conditions.</p>	<p>Typically, stands will regenerate continuously on their own from natural seeding. Active conifer and hardwood regeneration efforts may occur in areas subjected to large-scale disturbances (e.g., windstorms, ice storms, or wildfires), or when adding acres to the reserve base. Competing vegetation will be managed to ensure seedling establishment and growth.</p>	<p><u>Oak savanna/woodlands</u> – in areas designated to receive intensive restoration treatment, oaks may be purposefully established through seed or seedlings at appropriate densities along with other native vegetation that historically occurred in these ecosystems. Site preparation with prescribed fire and/or limited surface spraying may be required.</p> <p><u>Grasslands</u> – may require site preparation and seeding of native herbaceous <u>vegetation</u>.</p> <p><u>Aquatic/riparian systems</u> in riparian areas designated to receive small-scale restoration treatment, limited harvests with site preparation and planting at appropriate densities along with other native vegetation that historically occurred in these ecosystems.</p>

	Even-aged short rotation	Even-aged long rotation	Multi-aged multi-species	Reserves & Managed Reserves	Restoration of ecosystems of concern
Intermediate treatments	Thinning and other intermediate stand treatments will only be done if justifiable economically or if needed to respond to an unplanned disturbance event to maintain the health of the stand.	The first commercial thinning may occur around 28-34 years of age. Additional commercial thinning entries are expected until final harvest using a variety of thinning approaches. The last thinning will occur no later than 10-15 years before final harvest.	<p><u>Shelterwood-with-residuals</u> understory trees may be commercially thinned when needed (30-40 years) depending on the overstory density. If overstory trees die, replacement trees can be assigned from the understory cohort to maintain the two-stored canopy structure over time.</p> <p><u>Group-selection and variable retention regeneration harvests</u> - Periodic thinning will increase vertical and horizontal structure, maintain health, and provide interim income.</p>	<p>Added acres to the reserve base may need intermediate treatment under limited circumstances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treatment of invasive species • Removal of individual trees due to safety concerns • Irregular thinning to create characteristics of "old growth" stands typical of the region and in light of emerging climate change. • Prescribed burning to emulate natural processes and for research purposes. 	<p><u>Oak savanna/woodlands</u> - treatments could include prescribed burning, control of invasive plants, and/or precommercial thinning to remove young invading conifers.</p> <p><u>Grasslands</u> - treatments could include repeat burning and control of invasive plants and invading conifer.</p> <p><u>Aquatic/riparian systems</u> - treatments could include additional structural thinning, repeat burning and control of invasive plants</p>
Stand age	Rotation lengths will be regulated primarily by age that maximizes net revenue production. Rotations will be 30-60, likely 35-45 years.	Rotations typically will be 60-90 years, with a small percentage (<10%) managed to a rotation of 120 years.	<p><u>Shelterwood-with-residuals</u> - Final harvest of understory trees will be 60-70 years. The age of the oldest trees harvested from these stands will be 60-120 years, regulated primarily by the complexity of habitat desired for each stand.</p> <p><u>Group-selection and variable retention harvest</u> - No rotation age, but re-entry harvest every 15-20-30 years to create 3-4 age classes. Minimum proximity of group</p>	NA. The age of the oldest trees in these stands will continue to increase over time adding to the age-class diversity across the forest.	NA. The age of the oldest trees, if any, in these ecosystems will tend to increase over time

			openings to previous harvest entries will be >200 feet.		
	Even-aged short rotation	Even-aged long rotation	Multi-aged multi-species	Reserves & Managed Reserves	Restoration of ecosystems of concern
Legacy elements	Follow OFPA regulations (retain wildlife trees and CWD if harvest unit >25 acres).	Exceed OFPA regulations (retain <u>legacy trees</u> , green trees, and snags).	This management system maintains abundant living and dead structure constantly within the stand.	NA - it is the legacy	<u>Oak savanna/woodlands</u> - old conifers with an open grown character dating to pre- or post-settlement will be retained. <u>Grasslands</u> - NA <u>Aquatic/riparian systems</u> large old trees and big logs will be retained or enhanced
Questions to consider					