

**OSU College of Forestry
McDonald-Dunn Research Forest Faculty Planning Committee Meeting #9
20 February 2023, 11:00am-1:00pm
316 Peavy Forest Science Center (no participants joined via Zoom)**

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

Ex Officio Members present: Cristina Eisenberg, Steve Fitzgerald, Brent Klumph

I. Welcome, Introductions, & Overview of Recent and Upcoming Events

Cristina Eisenberg, Associate Dean of Inclusive Excellence and Director of Tribal Initiatives, joined the group as an *ex officio* member. She will be attending FPC meetings as her schedule allows.

The group reviewed the meeting agenda and the [planning website](#) which contains materials associated with past and future meetings and events. Three upcoming events were discussed:

- 2 field tours of the forest for the SAC and FPC. These will take place the morning of Saturday, Feb 25 and the afternoon of Tuesday, Feb 28.
- The next SAC meeting will take place the afternoon of Wed, March 1.
- Dates for 2 'Academic User Listening Sessions' will be selected soon, likely in mid-March. These will provide an opportunity for faculty, staff, and students across OSU who do or could make use of the forest for research, teaching, and/or outreach to provide input.

II. Defining the New Forest Management Strategies

A revised version of the handout describing an overview, guiding principles, and definitions for each stage of the 5 different forest *management strategies* was distributed. The initial foundation of this document was definitions from the existing silvicultural Themes defined by the 2005 Plan, with updates provided by Research Forest Director Steve Fitzgerald prior to the FPC discussion at their last meeting on February 6. The draft the group looked at now reflected input from the entire FPC during the Feb 6 meeting as well as a meeting of a subcommittee last week (Dave Lewis, John Bailey, and Steve Fitzgerald). The FPC opted to read through the entire document, row-by-row.

Overview – Possible exceptions to the maximum size of clearcut harvests were discussed for the first 3 management strategies. Descriptions of the intent of management that might occur in managed reserves were provided.

Guiding Principles – It was suggested that revenue generation be mentioned under the even-aged short rotation management strategy, that retention of legacy elements be considered throughout the life of each stand under the even-aged long rotation management strategy, and that support for diverse forest values (including cultural values) be mentioned in the multi-aged/multi-species management strategy. It was also suggested that it be clarified that forest reserves be managed to promote historic late-seral conditions, and that ecosystems of concern be managed to not only improve but also maintain health and resiliency.

Opportunities Created – Because the material written reflects what the group developed during the Feb 6 FPC meeting, no additional time was spent on this.

Stand Establishment – A member of the subcommittee highlighted the gradient of declining intensity of management across the first 3 management strategies. It was suggested that a minimum level of hardwood resprout retention be mentioned: 5% for the even-aged short rotation and 10% for the even-aged long rotation. After discussion of the size of openings created through group-selection harvests, it was decided that although the small size results in operational challenges on steep slopes that require cable-logging, a 4-acre size limit was necessary to retain the intended spirit of this approach. In recognition of the interest of Tribal forest managers reducing use of herbicides, wording was edited to reflect the gradient of declining intensity of herbicide use across the first 4 management strategies.

Intermediate Treatments and Stand Age – The group agreed with edits made by the subcommittee to these 2 sections to refine rotation lengths for the short rotation and long rotation strategies so that all stand ages were covered between the two, and also the minimum required distance between successive group openings in group-selection harvests. There was some ambiguity as to whether stands currently designated as Reserves would potentially receive treatment for invasive species, use of prescribed burning, and removal of individual trees for safety concerns, but certainty that thinning would be restricted to only those stands that are moved from some other current silvicultural Theme from the 2005 Plan into this new management strategy. For ecosystems of concern, management activities in riparian areas will be dictated by the Private Forest Accord regulations.

Legacy Elements – No additional edits were suggested for this section.

Word Choice & Definitions

- It was suggested that the proper word choice to use is ‘indigenous knowledge’ rather than ‘traditional ecological knowledge’.
- A definition of ‘culturally significant species’ should be added to the glossary of the new plan.
- A definition for ‘historical forest conditions’ as ‘pre-settlement’ should be included in the new plan, and also added to the *Overarching Principles* document.

III. Next Steps

- The Chair will revise the document that describes the definitions of the management strategies and send it out to the group for final refinements to ensure it reflects what was discussed today prior to being shared with the SAC.
- The group will revisit the *Overarching Principles* document to add a definition of ‘historical forest conditions’ as ‘pre-settlement’.
- At the next FPC meeting we will return to our discussion of scenarios.