

**OSU College of Forestry
McDonald-Dunn Research Forest Faculty Planning Committee Meeting #11
20 March 2023, 11:00am-12:30pm
316 Peavy Forest Science Center**

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

Ex Officio Members present: Steve Fitzgerald, Carli Morgan (online)

I. Welcome & Overview of Upcoming Events

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

- The 2 '[Academic User Listening Sessions](#)' (open forums) will be March 21 (evening) and 22 (morning). These will provide an opportunity for faculty, staff, and students to provide thoughts on what changes could be made to improve the likelihood they would use the forest for research, teaching, and/or outreach, or improve the quality of their experience when doing so. A Qualtrics survey was included in the meeting announcements as a means through which people could provide input if they would prefer not to attend a session. Distribution of the announcement has occurred through College of Forestry announcements, emails to department heads across the university, and through graduate student groups.
- The second [field tour of the forest](#) for the SAC and FPC is scheduled for Monday, March 27. Meet in the parking lot on the south side of Richardson Hall for a 1pm departure.

II. Defining the New Forest Management Strategies

The group revisited the document describing guidelines for each of the management strategies.

-Overview

- Recognizing the subjective nature of the term "visual aesthetics" included in guidelines for two of the management strategies (*multi-aged*, *multi-species* and *managed reserves*), this was edited from "maintain structural diversity and visual aesthetics" to "maintain structural diversity for a variety of values".

-Guiding Principles

- Language was added to reflect incorporation of Indigenous knowledge in all 5 of the management strategies. Cristina Eisenberg will be consulted on the most appropriate wording.
- Description of the *multi-aged*, *multi-species* strategy was edited to denote use of small openings and lesser levels of disturbance in this approach.

-Stand Establishment

- Wording was changed to make it clear that planting densities would be selected so as to avoid the need for pre commercial thinning (pct) for *even-aged short rotation* and *even-aged long rotation*, but that pct would be allowed if deemed necessary (i.e., is not prohibited).
- Edits were made to make it clear that spacing among trees would be more or less uniform so it's more apparent that spacing would not be exactly uniform.

- Clarifications were made regarding the intent to retain ~5 and ~10% hardwood at time of harvest and throughout the life of the stand. After much discussion regarding the difficulty of implementing this on the ground due to the time that would be required from research forest staff to take measurements, the statement was rephrased to this: “a minor component (minimum of ~5% cover) of hardwood trees and/or resprouts will be identified and purposely left free to grow in the understory throughout the rotation” for *even-aged, short rotation*. A similar statement was added for *even-aged, long rotation*: “a modest component (minimum of ~10% cover) ...”.
- Methodology that could be used to treat invasive species in *managed reserves* was clarified (“with herbicides and alternative measures when needed”), and in riparian areas (“there may be judicious use of herbicides as needed”).

-Intermediate Treatments

- A phrase was added to clarify the timing of retention of ~5% and ~10% cover of hardwoods for *even-aged, short rotation* and *even-aged, long rotation*: throughout the life of each stand.

-Stand Age

- A statement was inserted to clarify that in riparian ecosystems, trees such as red alder will not continue to increase in age over time, but rather senesce.
- It was decided that an explanation should be added to describe the rationale for the rotation ages for the *even aged, long rotation* stands. The wording inserted was that these ages are intended “to represent a variety of common and uncommon rotation lengths and provide a diversity of conditions across the landscape scale”.

-High-level Thoughts Expressed

- In general, the group should be sure not to lose sight of the rationale underlying all the wording that went into the creation of this table. This table is intended to serve as a brief summary of high points: the longer text of the plan itself should flesh out the reasons underlying all of the decisions captured in the table.

III. Criteria to be used to evaluate tradeoffs among scenarios

The group revisited the list of metrics that could be used to evaluate tradeoffs among scenarios, reflecting a variety of forest values. They returned to a table the group worked on during the last FPC meeting, with 8 forest values, and made refinements.

- Biodiversity – In addition to *stand age class distribution* and *forest cover*, the group also discussed *tree species richness or diversity* and *plant associations*. A tally of *Species of Concern* may be attempted (# of species expected to use stands managed a certain way). A discussion of *invasive species cover* made it clear this data is location-specific and not linked to particular silvicultural management strategies, so could not be modeled/extrapolated.
- Forest products - *log diameter and length, total board feet and cubic feet by species* and *defect* were added for consideration.

IV. Opportunities Created

The group opted to work on this matrix that describes the opportunities created through each management strategy independently rather than tackling synchronously as a group effort. The matrix will be shared so everyone can edit on their own.

V. Writing of the New Plan

While modeling is occurring, the FPC will begin writing the plan. The group discussed who would take the lead on writing various sections of the plan.

- The FPC Chair and Research Forest staff (Steve Fitzgerald, Brent Klumph, Carli Morgan, Jenna Baker) will take the lead on those sections of the plan that describe site conditions, harvest and recreation history, long term research and teaching, and the general forest management planning process currently underway.
- Tom DeLuca, Cristina Eisenberg, Steve Fitzgerald, and Holly Ober are currently engaged in discussions with the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians to define their interest in crafting or co-creating components of the plan, developing new MOAs, etc.
- The FPC will work as a group on the section pertaining to plan implementation and the section on enhancing community engagement. Outlines for these sections will be developed during future FPC meetings.
- The more technical aspects of the plan will be drafted by technical work groups (subcommittees). This includes the section on maintaining biodiversity, on managing threats to forest health, and on human dimensions. The group discussed what format might work best, and opted for scheduling biweekly meetings so time is set aside on everyone's calendars.

V. Next Steps

- The Chair will share a Box folder with the latest version of each of the documents the team has been working on (the definitions of the management strategies, a table of the metrics that could be used to evaluate tradeoffs among scenarios, the matrix describing the opportunities created by each management strategy, the draft Table of Contents of the new plan). Everyone is asked to refine each of these documents and add their names to sections of the plans they are willing to work on.
- The Chair will also send around a scheduling poll to determine the timing of meetings Spring Term.