

**OSU College of Forestry**  
**McDonald-Dunn Research Forest Faculty Planning Committee (FPC) Meeting #18**  
**28 November 2023, noon-2:00pm**  
**315 Peavy Forest Science Center and Zoom**

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

Ex Officio Members present: Jenna Baker, Cristina Eisenberg, Steve Fitzgerald, Brent Klumph (online), Carli Morgan (online)

### **I. Welcome. Overview of Recent & Upcoming Activities**

The group reviewed the meeting agenda and the [forest planning website](#) which contains materials associated with past and future meetings and events, reviewed a diagram outlining the forest planning process, and discussed a tentative timeline of activities for the next few months.

### **II. Assessing Tradeoffs Among Land Allocation Scenarios**

The group revisited the methodology that will be used to assess various forest characteristics during efforts to evaluate tradeoffs among land allocation scenarios. It was clarified that **Resilience-composition** will range from 0 to 5 so that it's on a scale similar to that used for other forest values, with low numbers indicating conditions that are nearly entirely Douglas-fir and high numbers indicating greater presence of trees of any species other than Douglas-fir. Thus, lower numbers could suggest lower resilience to various sources of stress.

The group also discussed potential complications that could arise if acceptability thresholds were set for any of the metrics. It was decided that it would be best to avoid setting acceptability thresholds for any metrics during the first round of modeling, since the first round is intended to be exploratory in nature.

### **III. Indicators of Performance for Monitoring**

Knowing that regular monitoring will be needed to assess whether the forest is meeting the mission and goals prescribed, the group invested time considering objectives and associated indicators that would enable assessment of performance over time, keeping in mind that research forest staff time is limited. In preparation for this discussion, Holly had taken all 57 indicators proposed in the 2005 Plan and organized them such that they fit into the 3 newly defined missions of the Research Forests. The group reviewed the first 18 of these, with the intent of assessing which ought to be included in the new plan.

They first looked through a compilation of all the 2005 Plan indicators associated with the first new Research Forest mission, which pertains to learning, discovery, engagement, and research (*"To create opportunities for education, research, and outreach to address the economic, social, and environmental values of current and future generations of Oregonians and beyond."*). They read through 15 indicators proposed in the 2005 Plan, and for each decided whether to retain/modify/delete, how often to report, who should be responsible for reporting, and which of

the current Research Forest goals it pertained to. Of these 15, it was decided 6 should surely be retained, 6 dropped, and 3 needed further consideration.

Next the group began reading a compilation of all the 2005 Plan indicators associated with the second new Research Forest mission, which pertains to active demonstration showcasing conservation, economic sustainability and resilience (*"To demonstrate how an actively and sustainably managed forest fosters economic prosperity, biodiversity conservation, and resilience amidst disturbances and global change."*). They read through the first 3 of 13 indicators proposed in the 2005 Plan. Because of lack of time, this discussion will need to be continued during the next FPC meeting.

#### **V. Next Steps**

- Holly will reorganize the list of indicators discussed during this meeting and send them back out to the group to verify whether additional changes are suggested. (*See tables on the next few pages.*)
- The group will use the next meeting to continue discussion of other indicators proposed in the 2005 Plan and brainstorming about what additional metrics should be added.

**Monitoring metrics proposed in the 2005 Plan that will be pursued in the 2024 Plan.**

**1st Mission: Learning, Discovery, Engagement, Research**

<b>Objectives from 2005 Plan (slightly modified)</b>	<b>Indicators (slightly modified)</b>	<b>Measurement (slightly modified)</b>	<b>Retain?</b>	<b>How often to report?</b>	<b>Who is responsible?</b>	<b>Current Goal(s)</b>	<b>Other notes</b>
<b>Provide a diverse array of high-quality outdoor learning opportunities for students from CoF, OSU, and other institutions of higher education.</b>	A. Amount of use of Research Forest <u>by college students for research</u> and <u>by college classes for teaching</u> .	Usage trends compiled each year	Yes	annually	Research Forest Director	1,3	ask motor pool to add questions for van rentals (what class/dept?), (purpose of research or teaching); also, new use reflected by gate key requests from key shop
	B. Type and number of requests for Research Forest Staff to provide <u>tours of forest operations for college classes</u> .	Research Forest Staff requests for class tours summarized annually	Yes, but modify to make intent clearer	annually	Research Forest Director	1	this would capture research forest staff involvement in hosting tours for college students
<b>Provide opportunities for research.</b>	A. Number of researchers' requests for establishment of <u>new research and demonstration projects</u> .	Annual report on progress	Yes	annually	Research Forest Director	1, 3	
	B. Number of new <u>publications</u> and <u>number of citations</u> of publications describing research done on Research Forests in academic and trade publications.	Number of pubs and citations compiled each year; archived in Research Database	Yes	annually	Research Forest Director	1, 3	
	C. Proportion of active research sites on Research Forests that are not disturbed/vandalized.	Vandalism report compiled annually and summary of protection measures	Revisit	annually	Research Forest Director	1,3	report % of active research projects that are disturbed to track trends over time

**Provide a diversity of high-quality outdoor learning opportunities for a variety of audiences including natural resource professionals, neighbors, youth, recreational users, civic groups, and others.**

A. Number of requests for public tours, including K-12 school groups.	Annual report	Yes	annually	Recreation Manager	1, 7	
B. Number of Research Forest operations, research and demonstration plots featured in <u>outreach events and tours</u> conducted by OSU and others.	Annual report of operations includes list of tours and events	Yes, but modify to reduce redundancy with others	annually	Instructors	1, 3, 7	Google doc; make it an expectation during PROFs to fill out Google doc
C. Knowledge gained by Research Forest visitors from informational kiosks.	Survey of visitors	modify	? Every 5 years?	Recreation Manager + Professor with Student	1, 7	check later if redundant with other metrics associated with 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mission, once those are complete

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**Monitoring metrics proposed in the 2005 Plan that will be pursued in the 2024 Plan.**

**2nd Mission: Demonstrate conservation, economic sustainability, and resilience**

<b>Objectives (slightly modified)</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Measurement</b>	<b>Retain?</b>	<b>How often to report?</b>	<b>Who is responsible?</b>	<b>Current Goal(s)</b>	<b>Other notes</b>
<b><u>Demonstrate examples of different strategies and practices for managed forests in the region.</u></b>	A. Representative examples of strategies and practices implemented for each of the 5 management strategies.	Annual report of operations summarizes # of acres in each management strategy.	Yes	annually	Research Forest Manager & Director	5	
<b><u>Demonstrate stewardship by meet or exceeding all laws, except where research requires deviation from laws and rules, and exemption is obtained from appropriate regulatory agencies.</u></b>	A. Success in operational practices meeting or exceeding OR FPA regulations except where research projects dictate testing an alternative approach.	Annual report of operations summarizes # of acres with clearcut retention exceeding FPA regulations, and # of warnings/citations.	Yes, but modify to be more comprehensive	annually	Research Forest Manager & Director	2	Brent & Fitz will consider other metrics to report here.

**Metrics proposed in the 2005 Plan that will NOT be pursued in the 2024 Plan.**

**1st Mission: Learning, Discovery, Engagement, Research**

Objective	Indicators	Measurement	Retain?
Provide a diverse array of high-quality outdoor learning opportunities for students from institutions of higher education.	Educational needs identified by College Forest Advisory Committee, College Forest staff, faculty, and from other sources, along with how they were accommodated.	Needs surveys conducted every year/ record of accommodation along with reasons for any that could not be accommodated	No
	Important teaching sites that are identified and managed according to written plans.	Existence of and progress on plans audited every 5 years	No
Provide opportunities for research.	Whether research and demonstration projects on College Forest properties have written plans on file.	Research Database	No (redundant)
	Research needs identified by College Forest Advisory Committee, College Forest staff, faculty, and from other sources and how they are accommodated.	Needs surveys conducted every year/written response with requests along with reasons for any that could not be accommodated	No
	Demonstration needs identified by College Forest Advisory Committee, College Forest staff, faculty, and from other sources and how they are accommodated.	Needs surveys conducted every year/written response with requests along with reasons for any denials	No
Provide a diversity of high-quality outdoor learning opportunities for a variety of audiences.	Gain in knowledge by participants in programs on the College Forests regarding forests, forest management and the impact of College Forests on OSU and surrounding communities.	Survey of selected individual events annually	No
	Visits of <u>natural resource professionals</u> and others to operations and research sites on College Forests.	Annual report of operations includes number of participants of different categories	No (captured by other metrics)

**Monitoring metrics proposed in the 2005 Plan that will NOT be pursued in the 2024 Plan.**

**2nd Mission: Demonstrate conservation, economic sustainability, and resilience**

Objective	Indicators	Measurement	Retain?
Include potentially attractive examples of different strategies and practices for managed forests in the region.	Whether regional forest managers perceive College Forests as leaders in the development and application of innovative forest management practices.	Survey completed once every two years	No