

**OSU College of Forestry
McDonald-Dunn Research Forest Faculty Planning Committee (FPC) Meeting #19
12 December 2023, noon-2:00pm
315 Peavy Forest Science Center and Zoom**

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

Ex Officio Members present: Jenna Baker, 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. The group currently awaits the results of the first round of the modeling exercise that will serve as the basis for assessing tradeoffs among different land allocation scenarios across the forest. It was suggested that the group consider having a brief, optional meeting to discuss raw modeling results as soon as they become available to brainstorm about their interpretation. A decision will be made on this once the timing of the results is more clearly known. Otherwise, this group will plan to meet once per month during winter term (Jan, Feb, and March). A scheduling poll will be distributed soon to determine a day of week/time of day that works well for the majority.

II. Indicators of Performance for Monitoring

Because regular monitoring will be needed to assess whether the forest is meeting the mission and goals prescribed once the new plan is implemented, the group discussed objectives and associated indicators and measurements that would be needed to assess performance over time, keeping in mind that research forest staff capacity is limited. Building upon the group's effort during the last meeting to discuss the first 18 of the 57 indicators proposed in the 2005 Plan, they discussed the next 32. There were 13 indicators proposed in the 2005 Plan that match up with the second mission of the Research Forest, which calls for active demonstration showcasing conservation, economic sustainability and resilience (Mission 2 is *"To demonstrate how an actively and sustainably managed forest fosters economic prosperity, biodiversity conservation, and resilience amidst disturbances and global change."*). After discussing the 13 indicators proposed in the 2005 Plan, the group suggested surely retaining 6, dropping from consideration 5, and giving 2 further consideration at a later point in time.

Next, the group discussed each of the 2005 Plan indicators associated with the third mission (*"To support social and cultural values of forests, enhancing the wellbeing of local communities, Tribal communities, and our broader citizenship."*). After discussing the 19 indicators proposed in the 2005 Plan, they suggested retaining 7, dropping from consideration 5, and giving further consideration to 7 at a later point in time.

Lastly, they read through the first 3 of 10 crosscutting indicators proposed in the 2005 Plan. They suggested that one of these be retained and the other 2 dropped from consideration. Because of lack of time, discussion of the final 8 metrics proposed in the 2005 Plan will need to be continued during the next FPC meeting.

During the course of discussion, it was suggested that the Research Forest consider earmarking funding to enable students to conduct some monitoring efforts, either as part of theses or classes. This could be a win-win, with students gaining valuable experience and the Research Forest staff getting data that assists with adaptive management without investing Research Forest staff time.

III. 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.*)
- Holly will send a scheduling poll to determine a good time to meet during winter term. The plan is to meet once per month during January, February, and March, and do other work associated with refining and reviewing written material via email and sharing of files in Box.
- The group will likely use the next meeting to develop ideas as to how to interpret the data from the first round of modeling. If time allows, they will also finish discussion of the remaining indicators proposed in the 2005 Plan and brainstorming about what additional metrics should be added so that the monitoring covers all aspects of the plan.

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

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

Objectives (slightly modified)	Indicators	Measurement	Retain?	How often to report?	Who is responsible?	Current Goal(s)	Other notes
Demonstrate examples of different strategies and practices for managed forests in the region.	A. Representative examples of management and restoration practices implemented for each of the 5 management strategies.	Annual report of operations summarizes # of acres in each management strategy and each EOC, along with a comparison or acreage with acreage goals.	Yes	Annually	Research Forest Manager & Director	2, 5	
Demonstrate carbon accounting	A. Estimates of above ground carbon stores for each of the 5 management strategies.	Five-year report estimates above ground carbon for each management strategy and each EOC.	Yes	Every 5 years	Inventory Manager	2, 5	This was modified from original to reflect carbon accounting rather than carbon balance
Demonstrate stewardship by meeting or exceeding all laws, except where research requires deviation from laws and rules, and exemption is obtained from appropriate regulatory agencies.	A. Success in operational practices meeting or exceeding OR FPA regulations including where research projects dictate testing an alternative approach.	Annual report of operations documenting # of acres where OR FPA has been met, exceeded, or deviated from to facilitate teaching, research, or demonstration.	Yes	Annually	Research Forest Manager & Director	2, 5	Brent & Fitz may consider other potential metrics to report here.
	B. Research Forest participation statewide conservation initiatives (e.g., the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds).	Annual report that summarizes the initiatives participated in.	Revisit	Annually	Research Forest Manager & Director	2, 5	Consider whether there are other statewide initiatives that should be added to this one specific example.
Demonstrate conservation by sustaining and restoring native species, their	A. Protection of species of conservation concern.	Periodic report of known locations of these species and occupancy estimates.	Revisit	TBD once species are known	TBD once species are known	2, 5	Investigate further once we have a species list from INR. Consider

habitats, and ecosystem diversity.

B. Distribution of tree species, size, and structural forest characteristics.	Report on inventory measurements at a level sufficient to maintain stand-level descriptions.	Yes	3-5 years	Inventory Manager	2, 5
C. Distribution and quantity of legacy structures/character trees and standing dead wood in clearcut stands pre-harvest.	Annual report of leave tree data by harvest unit and inventory of snags every 10 years.	Yes	Variable (annually and every 10 years)	Inventory Manager & Timber Program Manager	2, 5
D. Invasive species mitigation activities.	Annual report of # of acres treated for each targeted species.	Yes	Annually	Reforestation Manager	2, 5

community science approach to engage public in surveys.
If a new position were added to the Research Forest staff, additional data could be reported on.

Monitoring metrics proposed in the 2005 Plan that will be pursued in the 2024 Plan.
3rd Mission: support social & cultural values of forests

Objectives (slightly modified)	Indicators	Measurement	Retain?	How often to report?	Who is responsible?	Current Goal(s)	Other notes
Provide nature-based recreation desired by local users that minimizes negative impacts while fitting in with the goals of the forest.	A. Estimated number of recreation visits per year by major category of use.	Conduct a survey every five years.	Yes	Every 5 years	Rec Manager & grad student	6, 7	Is 5 years best? Synch with below if a different timing is preferred.
	B. Satisfaction of visitors with recreation opportunities.	Conduct a survey every five years.	Yes	Every 5 years	Rec Manager & grad student	6, 7	Is 5 years best? Synch with above.

	C. Authorized and unauthorized trails.	Report # of miles of each trail type every 5 years.	Yes	Every 5 years	Rec Manager or Field Coordinator	6, 7	This was modified from original (which mentioned "ecological damage") to reflect more specific metrics.
Minimize conflicts between recreation users and others.	A. Number, type, and location of conflicts.	Report annually from the database.	Yes	Annually	Rec Manager	6,7	
Engage the community with the research forest recreation program.	A. Numbers and types of actions taken to engage recreation users in strategies to improve performance on recreational goals.	Report annually.	Revisit	Annually	Rec Manager	6, 7	Consider if this indicator is best for capturing the intent of this objective.
	B. Volunteer efforts on the Research Forests.	Annual report of # of volunteer hours and value of time invested.	Yes	Annually	Volunteer Coordinator	6, 7	
Proactively establish, maintain, and enhance good relationships with neighbors and others connected with the Research Forest.	A. Communication with neighbors and the community.	Annually report # of subscribers to the newsletter, website traffic, and social media engagement.	Yes	Annually	Rec Manager	6, 7	This was modified from original (which highlighted communication about the plan) to reflect communication more broadly. Ask a question on the recreation survey to assess this; the survey asks about proximity to forest so can
	B. Understanding by neighbors of College Forest's management policies.	Survey every five years.	Yes	Every 5 years	Rec Manager & grad student	7	

<p>Sustain, and restore, if necessary, known examples of natural heritage resources.</p>	<p>A. Natural heritage sites registered by the Oregon Natural Heritage Program that are identified and maintained.</p>	<p>Report from the database.</p>	<p>Revisit</p>	<p>?</p>	<p>?</p>	<p>extract data from neighbors Investigate the OR Natural Heritage Program to determine if this should be retained, modified, or dropped</p>
<p>Protect cultural resources during forest management activities.</p>	<p>A. Continue to identify and protect cultural resources prior to ground-disturbing activities.</p>	<p>Annual report on surveys and protection measures for cultural resources before disturbance.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Annually</p>	<p>Forest Manager</p>	<p>5, 7</p>
<p>Maintain relations between the College and the recognized indigenous Tribes of Oregon that are based on trust and mutual respect.</p>	<p>A. Engagement of the appropriate tribes' cultural resources staff in early stages of revisions to College Forest management plans to obtain tribal input to the formulation of goals and objectives for cultural resources. B. Development of Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with appropriate tribes. MOUs that cover collaborative activities between the tribes and College in protecting and enhancing tribal cultural sites on Research Forests.</p>		<p>Revisit</p>			<p>Discuss when Cristina can be part of the conversation Discuss when Cristina can be part of the conversation</p>

C. Implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde and modification as necessary.
 D. Discussion of annual operations plans, and ideas to improve cultural resources stewardship with the Research Forest staff and the appropriate tribes' cultural resources staff.

Annual meeting between the College and appropriate tribes

Revisit

Revisit

Discuss when Cristina can be part of the conversation

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

Crosscutting across Missions: Underpinnings of Sustainability and accountability

Objectives (slightly modified)	Indicators	Measurement	Retain?	How often to report?	Who is responsible?	Current Goal(s)	Other notes
Manage and harvest forest growth sustainably through time in conformance with management strategies and goals.	Relation of actual harvest to decadal harvest scheduling targets met for each management strategy.	Annual report on harvest type acres and volume by management strategy relative to the plan.	Yes	Annually	Forest Manager		

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
Meet or exceed state, federal, or other laws, except where research requires deviation from laws and rules, and exemption is obtained from the appropriate regulatory agencies.	Success in plans and practices complying with regulations for at risk and federally listed species.		No, but ensure imperiled species show up in another monitoring objective
Sustain or restore native plant and animal species, fish and wildlife habitats, and ecosystem diversity commensurate with overall management strategies or purposes for each area of the forest.	Distribution and quantity, and characteristics of legacy structures and character trees.	Leave tree database by harvest unit compared to plan guidelines	No. Combined with other
	Distribution, quantity and characteristics of wetlands, meadows, oak savannas, and/or other sites of exceptional conservation value identified, restored and sustained.	Biannual report of restoration successes and failures	No
	Damage to the water resource or riparian habitat by management activities.	Stream surveys every 10 years	No

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?
Minimize conflicts among recreation users, between recreation users and adjacent landowners, and between recreation users and forest management, teaching, research, and demonstration operations.	Conflicts between recreation users and teaching and research uses of the forest decrease.	Report database/survey	No
Proactively establish, maintain, and enhance good relationships with	Experiences of neighbors with nearby forest operations and in working with forest staff.	Annual survey	No

neighbors and others connected with Research Forest properties.	Relationship of College Forest with forest contractors.	Evaluation form sent to each contractor at the close of the contract	No
Protect cultural resources heritage sites during forest management activities operations.	Success in avoiding damage to identified cultural heritage sites.	Annual report on success in avoiding damage of known sites	No
	Success in avoiding damage to cultural heritage sites (overall--known and unknown).	Annual report on any site damage along with steps taken to avoid damage in future	No
Monitoring metrics proposed in the 2005 Plan that will NOT be pursued in the 2024 Plan. Crosscutting across Missions: Underpinnings of Sustainability and accountability			
Manage and harvest forest growth sustainably through time in conformance with management strategies and goals for particular forest management areas.	Relation of growth and yield measured through inventory to decadal and long term expectations.	Annual cutout report compared with inventory estimates/actual growth compared to simulated growth on a decadal basis Acres of poorly stocked and/or greatly	No
	Progress in rehabilitation of poorly stocked or greatly underperforming stands.	underperforming stands evaluated as part of ongoing inventory/ Investments in rehabilitating stands	No