

Rubie P. Matteson Demonstration Forest

*Oregon State University
College of Forestry
Research Forests*

Education, Demonstration and Research Goals

Prepared by:

Jake Barker
Extension Forester

September 2025



Overview

The 180-acre Rubie P. Matteson Demonstration Forest (or Matteson) is an ideal fit for research, demonstration, and outreach for diverse audiences and is accessible for natural resource professionals and forest enthusiasts in Washington county and the greater Portland metropolitan area. From January to April 2025, OSU Extension and the College of Forestry Research Forests led a public process with community members, local OSWA Chapter representatives, natural resource agencies, schools, forestry companies and organizations, and the Confederated Tribes of the Grande Ronde to outline goals for the forest. Over the course of several meeting, the group provided input and suggestions for the Matteson. Together, three Guiding Principles and Actions were proposed, as well as a series of Goals on different timescales. From that process, an informal group of partners continued to meet monthly in 2025 as the 'Friends of Matteson'. The group envisions that alongside the updated Forest Management Plan, these principles and goals can help inform demonstration, education and research at the Matteson, and that they can be adapted and modified over time with additional input, perspectives, and changing conditions.

Guiding Principle 1: Destination for Forest Education

Create a welcoming, inviting site for forestry education and demonstration by providing an enclosed education area, facilities, and storage

Actions: Enhance education through infrastructure and interpretative signage for diverse audiences

Guiding Principle 2: Ecological Forestry Model

Serve as model in demonstrating climate-informed ecological forestry, including ongoing monitoring for biodiversity, improving adaptability and resilience, increasing timber volumes, and connecting to community

Actions: Oak restoration, Western redcedar regeneration, community-science initiatives, NTFPs

Guiding Principle 3: Collaborative Stewardship

Build formal partnerships with Tribes, agencies, and educational institutions to incorporate their goals and priorities into stewardship

Actions: Host monthly public meetings, showcase progress and highlight successes at annual work day at the forest

Goals

From the three guiding principles, the group proposed goals for each year, short term (6 months to 1 year), medium term (1 to 3 years), and long term (3+ years). These goals serve as starting points and are not exhaustive. The group suggested that the goals should be revisited annually for feasibility, relevance, and accountability.

Annual	Description	Partners involved
Invasive plant management	Spraying, management, monitoring	Tualatin SWCD, OSURF
Invasive plant 'report card'	Mapping, education, reduce spread	Tualatin SWCD, OSURF, OSU Ext
Trail work maintenance	Enhance and restore trail	Tualatin SWCD, OSURF, OSU Ext, Volunteers
Maintenance of pollinator garden	Weeding	OSU Ext, Community
Friends of Matteson monthly meeting	Build in flexibility for other participants (Tribal/Spanish speakers)	Community
Workshops/field days	Forest ecology, forest management, invasive plant trainings etc.	OSU Ext
Annual monitoring of long-term trends	Annual forest health survey, weather trends, 5-year tree inventory for growth/carbon, biotic inventory when time/resources allow	OSU Ext, OSURF
Communications	Website, programming info, newsletter	OSU Ext
Reservation/Scheduling System	Based on interest	OSU Ext, OSURF, CoF

Short-term (6 months to 1 year)	Description	Partners involved
Building construction	Dimensions, approach, county approval, bids, break ground	OSURF, WCSWA, contractors
Build budget	Infrastructure, signage, workshops	OSU Ext
Apply for SWCD Funding / other funds	CONE Grant, other partners/orgs	OSU Ext
Capital funding	Private/public funding/philanthropy	OSURF
Phase 1 Education	Identify audiences, build outreach plan	OSU Ext
Interpretative Signage	Maps/Demonstration signs/boot brushes/forest ecology	OSURF, OSU Ext, TSWCD, more
Plan Oak restoration/release	Layout, sampling, research component (bird survey)	OSURF, OSU Ext
Coordinate with schools	Size of group, location, access (age/school)	OSU Ext
Formalize partnerships	Schools, tribes, associations	OSU Ext, CoF
OSU Staffing	Hire .5 FTE program assistant	OSU Ext, CoF

Medium-term (1 year to 3 years)	Description	Partners involved
Construct building	Complete education building	OSU, Contractors
Implement Oak Restoration	Layout unit, hire contractor, conduct operations	OSURF, contractors, Tualatin SWCD
Phase 2 Education	Workshop series, adapted to community needs and infrastructure	OSU Ext
Forest Ecology	Sampling flora/fauna of forest (for ongoing engagement), community science initiatives	OSU Ext, CoF, community
Ongoing Tribal Partnership	MOU, research, access, overlap with education	Tribal partners

Long-term (3 years to 10+ years)	Description	Partners involved
Climate-informed ecological silviculture	Variable retention harvest, group selection, thinning	OSURF, Contractors, OSWA
Leader in forest education	Excellent experiences, users/audiences feel energized, inspired, and connected	OSU Ext, Schools
Phase 3 education	Long-term education planning	OSU Ext, OSURF