

Research Forests Advisory Committee
May 10, 2021

Advisory Committee Members present (via Zoom): Woodam Chung, Michael Collins, Emily Jane Davis, Stephen Fitzgerald, Fred Kamke, Ian Munanura, Michael Nelson, Matt Powers, Jim Rivers

Agenda and minutes

1. **Continue discussion of draft Research Forests vision, mission, and goals** - The advisory committee discussed a revised draft of the Research Forests vision, mission, and goals document following the March 2021 meeting. The committee reviewed the preamble and mission related to social and cultural values. After discussion, the committee agreed that the document could move to the next steps and be shared with the college community for comment.
2. **Management planning process for satellite forests** – To open the discussion, Stephen Fitzgerald provided background information on operations at the research forests tracts throughout Oregon. Most of the tracts have teaching and demonstration components with an extension forester helping to lead operations. Fitzgerald discussed how the satellite forests do not have as many and varied stakeholders as the McDonald and Dunn forests. Most forest tracts are closed to recreation, and the Marchel and Collins forests are not open to the public.

The advisory committee agreed management plans for the satellite forest tracts need to show how they meet the broader vision, mission, and goals of the Research Forests. The committee discussed the potential forest management planning process and agreed the extension forester tied to the individual forest tracts should work with the Research Forests director and forest-area stakeholders. The committee also agreed a timeline for the individual forest tract plans needs to be finalized by the Research Forests. A draft outlining the process for each forest tract will be presented to the committee for review at an upcoming meeting.

3. **Management planning process for the McDonald and Dunn forests** – The committee started discussing the process and timeline for the McDonald and Dunn forest management plans. The entire committee noted that throughout the process, public engagement would play an essential and critical role in developing a forest management plan that meets the broader vision, mission, and goals. The committee agreed that a third-party should provide oversight and input into the public engagement aspects of the planning process.

Several committee members asked whether or not there would be OSU perspectives for the public to consider throughout the planning process. Michael Collins and Stephen Fitzgerald stated that zoning laws designate the McDonald and Dunn Forests as forest conservation (growing and harvesting trees), recreation is a conditional use, mature forest reserves need to increase, and the Research Forests tracts must provide enough revenue to cover RF operations.

The committee agreed that the first step for the planning process would be organizing a stakeholder list and engaging with a third-party to help create a participatory process design. The committee agreed a sub-committee should lead this process and present a draft McDonald and Dunn forest plan timeline for review (similar to Table 1 in the 2005 Forest Plan). It was agreed that public engagement needs to occur at an earlier stage in the process than during the 2005 revision. The sub-committee will meet and engage potential third-party collaborators before the next Research Forests Advisory Committee meeting.