

Nov. 20, 2019

## **OSU RESEARCH FORESTS – McDONALD-DUNN FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANNING PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION QUESTION AND ANSWER SUMMARY**

The following is a question and answer summary of the information sessions held by interim dean Anthony S. Davis on Aug. 28 and Oct. 2 with community, university, college and forestry stakeholders and email inquiries the College of Forestry and the OSU Research Forests have received over the past few months.

For additional questions or comments about the forest management planning process, please email [forest.input@oregonstate.edu](mailto:forest.input@oregonstate.edu). For general questions or comments about the OSU Research Forests, please utilize the research forests' [contact us](#) web tool.

### **FOREST PLANNING PROCESS**

**What are the next steps in the McDonald-Dunn forest planning process?**

**How will you ensure diverse voices participate in conversations about the forest?**

**How will you incorporate non-economic values into the next plan?**

**Will you do a thorough analysis of recreation economic value across the state as part of the next management plan?**

**Will the new management plan change from its current model to one of ecosystem management?**

**How will you protect the non-timber values such as carbon sequestration, source water, and ecological diversity?**

**How will the school ensure the management is based in sound science, the need for constant improvement and reality that Oregon needs to provide sustainable harvest through active management?**

**How will the dean, College of Forestry staff, and Forest Managers be held accountable that they are following the plan?**

**When will Ripple's "warnings" be incorporated into OSU's forestry practices?**

**How is sustainable yield calculated on the OSU Research Forests?**

**Why does the College of Forestry not consult with OSU's own Department of Fisheries and Wildlife regarding sensitive wildlife populations when planning harvesting?**

**How up to date are management plans?**

**What is the status of development of a new plan? Is there a time frame for completion? Is it expected the 2005 plan will provide a framework for a new plan?**

**What changes are being made in the planning process for 2020-22 harvests, given the concerns voiced in the two recent public meetings?**

**The public process has been initiated with two meetings, what happens next?**

**Have you considered third party certification through FSC?**

Per a memo from Oregon State University College of Forestry Interim Dean Anthony S. Davis to the [college community on Oct. 21](#), he will be working with the college's Forestry Executive Committee to identify the next steps in the Oregon State University Research Forests planning process, which includes developing a McDonald-Dunn Research Forest Plan. The work will include identifying individuals who will serve on a planning committee that will represent the various interests of the OSU Research Forests. As work continues to update the college's inventory of its research forests, it is intended that the committee will begin its work in early 2020.

The new McDonald-Dunn Research Forest Plan will be a complementary and essential component of the college's mission, reflect the college's diverse values, and position the McDonald-Dunn Research Forest to be a model of multiple value forest management. Developing the plan will reflect ecological, recreational, cultural, financial, operational, and other attributes that emerge through a robust process.

This process will be built on the principle that informed stakeholders lead to meaningful partnerships. Ultimately, the plan will address the changes anticipated from the impacts of climate change and identify potential climate change mitigation strategies, such as carbon storage, while emphasizing management for diverse forest characteristics. The plan will ensure that the McDonald-Dunn Research Forest serves as a base for the teaching, research, and extension activity of the College of Forestry.

While the new plan is under development, all operations on the McDonald-Dunn Research Forest will be conducted in accordance with the [2005 Forest Plan](#).

**Will forest management planning address all 10 of the college's research forests?**

Yes. However, a new management plan for the McDonald-Dunn Research Forest is the top priority.

**What's the status of the college's forest inventory process?**

**How current are College of Forestry inventories of all tracts?**

Forest inventories are not current. The forest inventory process is underway and is expected to be completed in about two and a half years. The time frame to complete this task is extensive because there are thousands of inventory plots throughout the McDonald-Dunn Research Forest that require re-measurement.

**How does college have a forest management plan before a habitat conservation plan?**

The OSU Research Forests are not required to have a habitat conservation plan as an incidental take permit is not required for operations within OSU's research forests. Learn more about incidental take permits and habitat conservation plans [here](#).

**Has the college adjusted its plans for the Blodgett Forest based on what happened in McDonald-Dunn?**

Harvest operations continue within the Blodgett Forest with a majority of the operations utilizing even-aged forest management.

**INTERIM MEASURES**

**What measures will the college take to ensure that habitat for northern spotted owls is destroyed?**

**Why don't you follow your 2005 forest plan until you come out with a new plan?**

**How will the OSU Research Forests operate before the management plan is ready to implement?**

While the new McDonald-Dunn Forest Management plan is under development, all operations within the Research Forest will be conducted in accordance with the [2005 Forest Plan](#).

**NO VACANCY HARVEST**

**What are your plans for gleaning information on the age structure of this old growth stand from the remaining stumps?**

**What is going to happen to the No Vacancy land now that it's been logged?**

**Can you explain what happened?**

**Why didn't you leave the stand?**

Information regarding the No Vacancy harvest can be found in memos sent from interim dean Anthony S. Davis to the College of Forestry community on [July 12](#) and [July 26](#). The area where the No Vacancy harvest occurred will be reforested as required by law.

**What happened to the money made by the timber sale?**

**Did revenue from No Harvest really go towards funding the building of the new Peavy Hall?**

Timber sale revenue from the No Vacancy harvest went to support College of Forestry research, outreach, education programs and OSU Research Forests operations, including recreational usage by the community. The No Vacancy harvest revenue did not fund construction of the new George W. Peavy Forest Science Center or the A.A. "Red" Emerson Advanced Wood Products Laboratory.

**How many board feet were produced in the No Vacancy harvest?**

**How many trees were harvested?**

**What were the total value of the trees?**

The No Vacancy harvest had a volume of 689,050 net board feet. The timber cruise identified an average of 46 trees per acre. Approximately six trees per acre were left standing for wildlife purposes. So, approximately 624 trees were harvested. The gross revenue of the harvest was \$424,380, with net revenue totaling \$311,295 at this time. Reforestation costs and monitoring expenses of approximately \$13,000, and recent acts of vandalism -- which had an estimated expense of \$8,000 -- will reduce the final net revenue total for the harvest by approximately \$21,000.

**Was the No Vacancy harvest consistent with the 2005 plan?**

No. More information about why the No Vacancy harvest occurred can be found in the memo sent from interim dean Anthony S. Davis to the college community on [July 12](#).

**FOREST OPERATIONS**

**Why do you continue to slash and burn?**

**With climate change, why do the OSU Research Forests burn slash piles?**

Reducing slash is recognized as a necessary forest management tool by the State of Oregon for the protection of reproduction and residual forest stands from risks of fire, insects and disease, to prepare a site for future tree growth productivity, and to minimize the risk of material entering streams ([relevant code here](#)). Large wood (logs) is typically left behind to decay.

Other alternatives, like chipping, are cost prohibitive. OSU Research Forests managers regularly evaluate alternatives for reducing slash.

**Why don't the OSU Research Forests single-log instead of clear-cut?**

The desired future condition of a forest stand is often the driving element when making harvesting decisions. In the case of Douglas-fir in western Oregon, this species grows best in open spaces. Douglas-fir species require a lot of light to grow, which clearcutting allows.

The OSU Research Forests is conducting active research at group selection (openings of 1.5 to 4 acres) for regenerating and growing Douglas-fir and other tree species. Some recent examples of selection

harvests include the 2019 Westfork Selection harvest, the 2017 6021 Stand Selection harvest, and the Group Selection harvests as part of a 30-year College of Forestry Integrated Research Project.

**How are you going to be transparent about operations?**

**What steps will you immediately make to increase transparency and work to regain the public trust?  
Has a public outreach/engagement process been formulated?**

OSU Research Forests staff regularly provide web, e-mail and news media communications along with outreach and engagement programs to inform stakeholders of upcoming activities and programs being conducted by the College of Forestry within our research forests. To improve efforts, staff routinely examine and refine these communications and practices. Meanwhile, members of the public routinely are encouraged to sign-up for the [Research Forests e-newsletter](#), [follow the Research Forests on social media](#), and regularly [check the Research Forests website](#) to learn about harvest and recreation activities and understand how they can engage, provide feedback and ask questions.

**What were the McDonald-Dunn forest harvest volumes over the last five years?**

The following McDonald-Dunn forest harvest volumes are in net board feet.

2015: 7,550,890 (4,773,640 board feet were salvaged from trees damaged in the 2014 ice storm)

2016: 4,425,160

2017: 6,096,610

2018: 6,172,250

2019: 6,625,000

**What is the difference between the OSU's research forests and privately held forests in Oregon and nationally that are managed for wood production?**

The research forests, held by OSU and the College of Forestry, are managed for multiple forest values while also seeking to achieve the overall mission of the College. OSU Research Forests operations create more complex stands and community opportunities in comparison to a private, forest harvest operation, which manage lands primarily for wood production. [Read this article](#) to learn more information about differences between the OSU Research Forests and privately held forests that are managed for wood production.

**What drives decisions regarding the College's research forests?**

**What kind of data do you use to make decisions?**

OSU Research Forests staff manage for multiple values. A variety of factors such as timber harvest location, research being conducted, recreation, aesthetics, revenue, environmental considerations, wildlife habitat, and other values all contribute to land management decisions.

To help make decisions, the Research Forest staff use past forest management plans, historical data, inventory data, GIS, LiDAR, wildlife surveys, cultural resource surveys, [recreation information](#), data from timber cruises, and a wide range of additional sources of information and factors in making decisions.

From the suspension of the 2005 Forest Plan in 2009 until Oct. 2019, the Research Forests did not operate with a formal management plan. The 2005 Forest Plan was reinstated in Oct. 2019 and the process to develop a new formal management plan is underway. Please visit the Research Forests [McDonald-Dunn Forest Planning Process website](#) to learn the current status of the planning process.

**Does OSU College of Forestry coordinate its management practices and research within OSU forests with the management and research activities of the H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest?**

Not explicitly. The H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest is operated by the U.S. Forest Service. The two forests are different and research being conducted within these forests address different scientific questions. The College of Forestry seeks to maintain, through ownership of its forests and partnerships, access to a network of forests that support a broad array of research, teaching, and OSU Extension activities.

**Are you installing cameras on trails and watching recreationists?**

The OSU Research Forests utilizes cameras in its properties only when illegal activity is observed or suspected. This is a standard practice by other institutions, as well as OSU, for areas that allow public use. Footage is used by the Research Forests and the Benton County Sheriff's Office for the purpose of aiding an investigation into observed or suspected criminal activity. Some research projects used cameras to collect data.

**Are harvests done by students or by contractors? If by contractors, what education and training does OSU provide contractors?**

**What are the education opportunities for students at the forest?**

**How do the student logging crew and school forests staff currently integrate their work?**

A majority of harvest operations are done by contractors, while OSU's Student Logging Training Program handles a few harvest operations under the supervision of OSU faculty.

The OSU Research Forests hire about 12-15 students each year whose work encompass all aspects of forest operations: harvest planning, business operations, marketing and communications, etc. A wide-range of OSU classes also use the Research Forests for educational purposes. Past and present OSU class use can be [found online](#). Importantly, OSU's Research Forests are a venue for outdoor education for children and other community members through initiatives like the Forest Discovery Trail.

**What does the 'W' marking mean on the trees?**

The 'W' marking identifies wildlife trees that will be retained during a harvest. OSU Research Forests harvest operations generally retain more wildlife trees than are required by the Oregon Forest Practices Act.

**How does the Oregon Forest Practices Act factor into operations of the College's research forests?**

Operations within the college's Research Forests comply with all applicable regulations and standards as identified by the Oregon Forest Practices Act.

**How is land zoned with the OSU Research Forests? What does that zoning mean?**

**Are OSU forestry lands public?**

**Are the harvest yields public?**

**Does OSU own the trees?**

**Are the McDonald-Dunn Forests and other OSU forests public lands, or are they assets of the university?**

**Are the forests an asset of the college, the university; or, since OSU is a state university, are the research forests an asset of the state?**

Under State of Oregon Land Conservation and Development Commission zoning, the OSU Research Forests are identified as [forest lands \(goal four\)](#). Goal Four protects working forest land around the state, preserving it for commercial forestry, while recognizing the land's value for fish and wildlife habitat, recreation, and protection of air and water quality.

Goal Four requires a county to identify forest land, designate it as such on the comprehensive plan map, and zone it consistently with state rules. In Benton County's case, the county identifies Research Forest property as [Forest Conservation Zone](#).

Goal Four places development restrictions on forest lands. These restrictions seek to prevent activities that could conflict with forestry practices. Therefore, recreation is a conditional use within the forest and cannot deter from the primary use of the land. To make recreational improvements on the OSU Research Forests necessitates applying for a conditional use permit that is considered and approved through public hearings held by Benton County.

The college's Research Forests are property and assets of Oregon State University that can be bought, sold or traded. If a forest has been donated to the university, OSU manages the land according to the language contained in the donation deed to OSU and the College of Forestry. Typically, such language prescribes uses that are specific to furthering the mission of OSU and the College of Forestry, and focuses use of the land on teaching, research and outreach. The OSU Research Forests are not owned or managed by the State of Oregon and do not receive tax funding.

**Where do trees harvested within the OSU Research Forests go?  
Where do the logs go after harvesting?**

Harvested trees are sent to local mills for processing. Harvested trees are not exported overseas per Oregon Administrative Rules.

**Why doesn't OSU follow the Northwest Forest Plan within its research forests?  
The Northwest Forest Plan applies to federally-owned land.**

**How is revenue from harvest operations with the Research Forests used?  
Are the harvests funding the Oregon Forest Science Complex?  
Is revenue from sales part of the College of Forestry's annual budget?  
If not, how is the money classified? Is it income, etc. or does it not get classified in a category since the land was donated?**

Revenue from harvest operations is used to support College of Forestry research, outreach and engagement programs, education programs and Research Forests operations. Net revenue generated from timber sales is a component of the college's annual and long-term budgeting, including fiscal reserves.

While most funding for the Oregon Forest Science Complex has come through private donations and state bonding, timber harvest revenue from operations within the Blodgett Forest in Washington County has helped complete financing for the Oregon Forest Science Complex. No funds from the No Vacancy harvest went to pay for costs associated with constructing the Oregon Forest Science Complex.

**What is the annual budget for recreation planning in the McDonald-Dunn forest?**

### **What's the cost of allowing community recreation access to the forests?**

The OSU Research Forests recreation annual budget is around \$300,000 and includes salaries and program operations.

### **What is the OSU Research Forests annual budget? Is any public money used to fund operations? What are the revenue sources for the College of Forestry?**

OSU Research Forests operations are entirely self-funded through harvest activities and private gifts and also are supported by volunteer engagement by community members. The FY 2020 OSU Research Forests budget can be found [here](#). No public money is used to fund Research Forests operations.

A breakdown of the FY 2019 OSU budget, which includes College of Forestry information, can be found [here](#). Funding sources for the College of Forestry includes education and general funds, such as student tuition and funds authorized by the state legislature and provided the university; Forest Research Laboratory/harvest tax, federal cooperative forest program funds authorized by Congress ([McIntire-Stennis](#)), OSU Foundation endowment funds and gifts (which includes revenue from Research Forests harvests), and auxiliaries' service fees.

### **NORTHERN SPOTTED OWL**

#### **How many northern spotted owls are in the forest? Do any still live there?**

There have been no recent and confirmed sightings of northern spotted owls within OSU's Research Forests. Research Forests staff have surveyed regularly for northern spotted owls since 2012 and continue to do so. Since that time, survey results have not identified a northern spotted owl within OSU Research Forests property.

### **2005 FOREST PLAN**

**Will monitoring reports from the 2005 plan be made public? They were to be done annually--- were the monitoring reports used to address the adaptive management strategy?**

**Have you revised the 2005 plan to take into account the different species?**

**The plan's guidelines indicated that Forest staff "will" develop thinning regimes that maintain NRF and associated timber yields. This was to be done in 2006. Was it done? If so, please make it public. Addendums 2 > 5 were to be added in 2006 but not done. Why?**

The plan was suspended in 2009 due to the national economic downturn. At this time, OSU, the College of Forestry and Research Forests staff are unaware of any monitoring reports or thinning regimes that were created or completed while the plan was active from 2005 to 2009.

The plan was reinstated on Oct. 21, 2019. Until a new management plan is completed, all operations on the McDonald-Dunn Research Forest will be conducted in accordance with the [2005 Forest Plan](#).

### **REVENUE AND FUNDING POSSIBILITIES**

**Can the College of Forest help pay for the operations of its OSU Research Forests by charging recreational usage fees?**

**Have you considered other sources of income on the forest, like an annual access pass?**

While some revenues can be gained by charging recreational usage fees, studies have shown the amount collected would not cover the cost of administering a fee-based recreational program. Charging

a flat user fee would not provide for equal access and opportunity for those interested in taking part in recreational activities within the OSU Research Forests. As a result, such as fee is not being considered at this time.

**How about charging for special places, such as memorials for loved ones, as a revenue raising idea?**

There are a number of different ways the [community can support](#) the OSU Research Forests financially and through volunteer efforts. Members of the community can learn about these opportunities on the [Research Forests website](#). For instance, the Research Forests already have program in place for the donation of memorials with the revenue going toward the Recreation Program. This is a valuable way to generate funds for new projects and programs, but does not generate enough funds to cover costs of forest recreation operations.

**Have you pursued carbon sequestration funding?**

**What is your plan for carbon sequestration?**

To date, the College has not pursued carbon sequestration funding. However, it will be pursued in future forest management plans.

**How much could OSU sell the forest for to a private landowner?**

The McDonald-Dunn Research Forest has not been appraised recently, and there are no plans to sell the land. Its estimated value is more than \$100 million.

**RESEARCH**

**What research studies are taking place within the OSU Research Forests?**

**Does the College of Forestry study wilderness matters? Where?**

**What research is funded by harvests conducted within OSU's Research Forests?**

A list of past and recent research projects conducted on the McDonald-Dunn Research Forest can be [found here](#). Wilderness research conducted by College of Forestry faculty takes place in federally-designated wilderness areas.

**SULPHUR SPINGS/BAKER CREEK AREA**

**Are you willing to protect the last remaining 36 acres of Baker Creek old growth?**

**Will you commit to preserving the 36-acre Sulphur Spring Stand?**

**Will you commit to protecting the remaining 36-acres old growth stand and taking action to protect old growth in other forests managed by OSU, especially the Elliott State Forest?**

Per a memo from Oregon State University College of Forestry interim dean Anthony S. Davis to the [college community on Oct. 21](#), the 36-acre Sulphur Springs stand has been placed within mature forest reserves and will be managed in accordance with the 2005 Forest Plan.

**DEAN SEARCH**

**What is OSU looking for in the permanent dean?**

**What's OSU doing to define the kind of person they are looking for?**

Information about OSU's search for a permanent dean for the College of Forestry can be [found online](#).

**ELLIOTT STATE FOREST**

**How would you do this with the Elliott—would you be taking logs off the Elliott to fund the college?**  
No. The College of Forestry is not interested in having the Elliott State Forest managed as a revenue source.