

**Office of the Dean** 

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## MEMORANDUM

Date: Oct. 28, 2020

To: College of Forestry Research Forests Advisory Committee – Matt Powers, Jim Rivers, Catalina Segura, Fred Kamke, Michael Nelson, EJ Davis, Ian Munanura, Woody Chung, Stephen Fitzgerald, Michael Collins

From: Tom DeLuca, Dean College of Forestry

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Re: College Research Forests Advisory Committée Charge, Fall 2020

Thank you for your willingness to serve on the College of Forestry (CoF) Research Forests Advisory Committee. As you know, our research forests have been home to countless teaching, extension, research, and community activities for generations. Multiple-value management activities have guided OSU forest operations for years, and your work on this advisory committee will ensure our practices continue to evolve and that multiple-value management remains the focus for years to come.

As an advisory committee, I task you with the following:

- Create a draft vision, mission, and goals statement that encompasses all of our Research Forests tracts to submit for approval by the dean;
- Develop and suggest a process to create new management plans for all of our tracts, prioritizing the McDonald and Dunn Research Forests;
- Consider serving on the full McDonald and Dunn forest management planning committee and advise on external stakeholders who can serve on the committee and assist in your efforts. The committee will be charged with creating a draft forest management plan for approval by the dean.

It is critical your work as an advisory committee is built on the principle that informed stakeholders lead to meaningful partnerships. College Research Forests operations must be a complementary and essential component of the college's mission, reflect the college's diverse values, and position our forests to be a model of sustainable multiple-value forest management. This approach will ensure our forest plans reflect ecological, recreational, cultural, financial, operational, and other attributes that emerge through a robust process.

Your work and advice need to address the challenges 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. As a result, individual forest management plans will ensure our Research Forests serve as a base for the College of Forestry's teaching, research, and extension activity.

Additional potential specific objectives and milestones for the advisory committee are outlined below:

- Consider input from throughout the College in developing the Research Forests' vision, mission, and goals.
- Identify external committee members for the McDonald and Dunn forest management planning process and invite them to participate.
- Participate in and thoroughly consider input from the CoF, University, agency partners, neighbors, and the general public throughout the McDonald and Dunn forest management planning process.
- Invite outside experts and community representatives to help consider, discuss, and frame the comments received from the listening sessions. Develop potential themes/management alternatives.
- Using the gathered input, task the McDonald and Dunn forest management planning committee to develop management alternatives and themes to be modeled. The modeling exercise will help develop and quantify tradeoffs associated with various management alternatives or management themes.
- Allow for public input and comment on these alternatives and themes and adjust as appropriate.
- Model themes and management alternatives and develop criteria for evaluating and selecting management alternatives.
- Create a transparent process. Take and distribute meeting minutes and share all activities and materials used to inform potential actions on the Research Forests website.
- Utilizing a third-party service, conduct listening sessions and gather comments from the College of Forestry community, agency partners, neighbors, and the general public regarding potential goals or management themes for the new McDonald and Dunn forest management plan.
- Draft a McDonald and Dunn forest management plan that is flexible and dynamic. As a team, write a draft plan and submit it to the dean for approval. Engage individual experts and stakeholders, if needed, to review specific aspects (i.e., recreation, monitoring, reporting).
- Conduct education and outreach with community and stakeholders throughout the process and before the dean approves and launches the McDonald and Dunn forest management plans.
- Implement the McDonald-Dunn forest management plan.

Thank you again for your willingness to serve and please let me know if you have any questions.