UPCOMING McDONALD-DUNN HARVEST UPDATES

The McDonald-Dunn is an actively managed research forest that is achieving diverse ecological conditions while generating wood products and supporting education, recreation, research and outreach. The current conditions of the McDonald-Dunn reflect its decades-long history as a working forest that has been planted, thinned and nurtured with the intention of future forest management. Forestry is a long-term practice, and our efforts are aimed at achieving forest conditions 10–50 years into the future.

While a new Forest Management Plan is in development, with expected implementation in 2025, all harvest activity on the McDonald-Dunn Forest is based on the existing forest plan. Harvests on the research forests are planned approximately 1.5 years prior to taking place. This allows research forest staff to secure contractors, conduct ecological and cultural surveys and minimize impacts on the forest ecosystem and recreation. Active management is a core tenet of the research forests' mission as a tool for teaching and demonstration. Students participate in many aspects of harvest on the research forests including harvest unit design and layout, marking trees, identifying riparian areas, evaluating recreational tradeoffs, road design/maintenance and naming the harvests.

See below for additional details regarding upcoming harvests on the McDonald-Dunn:

- **Timberhill:** The Timberhill project aims to promote older forest conditions in the long run through selective removal of trees. This thinning will help ensure remaining trees have less competition and more access to nutrients and light. The project also includes removal of vegetation near residential development to reduce wildfire hazard. Removal or thinning of dense understory vegetation helps reduce ladder fuels, which have the potential to carry fire from the ground to the crowns of trees in areas where trees crowns overlap. There is also a component of Oregon white oak restoration. Conifer trees will be removed when they shade/overtop oaks, to help remove competition and support their continued vigor. After the harvest, a mulcher will grind slash on portions of the project to help break down remaining debris. This stand was last thinned in 2002.
- **Good Neighbor:** The Good Neighbor project follows-up on a prior harvest and replanting in this stand that took place in 2002. The project consists of six small patch cuts (2-3 acres each; 17.3 total acres) of even-aged trees, designed to maintain structural diversity within the project area. The harvest and replanting (planned winter 2026) will create a third age class within the project area to support future multi-aged forest conditions that promote biodiversity and habitat. Additionally, within some of the patch cuts, selected Oregon white oaks have been prioritized for protection.
- **Woodpecker:** The Woodpecker project is currently wrapping up, with expected completion by the end of August. This project is a selective-thinning and restoration harvest, aimed at achieving several ecological objectives to support long-term forest health and resilience, including thinning, oak savannah restoration and patch cuts to set the stage for future multi-aged forest conditions across a landscape scale. This stand was last thinned in 1999. Learn more about the project here.

ALL ACTIVE HARVEST UNITS ARE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

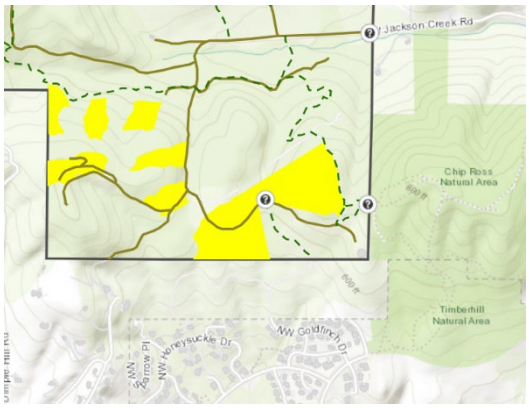
Please remember that harvest areas are extremely dangerous, with hazards from falling trees, uneven terrain and large equipment. Thank you for respecting all posted safety closures.

For a comprehensive look at active harvests and road closures, visit our Interactive Harvest Closures Web Map page.

UPCOMING HARVEST FAQ:

Q: Where are the Good Neighbor and Timberhill harvests taking place?

A: These harvests are located in stands that were last harvested in 2002, along the southeastern border of the McDonald Forest near the Chip Ross and Timberhill Natural areas. These harvest sites back directly to residential areas, including current or planned development. An interactive map of the harvests can be found here.



Q: Why are these harvests being done?

A: Active management is a core tenet of the research forests' mission as a tool for teaching and demonstration. The McDonald-Dunn is a managed forest and these stands have been planted, thinned and nurtured with the intention of future forest management. The stands where these harvests are taking place were last thinned in 2002. These projects have multiple objectives, including wildfire fuels reduction, Oregon white oak preservation and creating multi-aged forest conditions.

In addition, the OSU Research Forests receive zero outside funding, and revenue from harvests keeps the forests operational and open to recreational users. After forest operating expenses are covered, any remaining revenue from these harvests will first be contributed to the forest financial reserves, and then to research, teaching and advising. More about the self-sustaining model is available here.

Q: I live near this harvest. What are you doing to minimize impacts to nearby residences?

A: We're working hard to minimize impacts on nearby residences. There are many factors that stipulate hours of operations for harvests, including mill run times, trucking distance and daily post-operation fire watches. Typical hours of operation will be 4 a.m. – 4 p.m., with trucks beginning loading at 4 a.m., and fire watch concluding at 4 p.m. Contractors have already been working on the weekends to help expedite the project and minimize the length of closures.

Additional measures for both projects include:

- Reduced truck speed on Jackson Creek Road to 10 MPH to mitigate dust.
- Staged recreational closures so that access from Chip Ross to the Research Forests can be maintained with minimal complete closures (1-2 days in total where access to Chip Ross will be closed).

Q: How old are these stands?

A: The Good Neighbor harvest is in a stand with an average age of 78 years. The Timberhill harvest is in a stand with an average age of 69-81 years. Both were most recently harvested in 2002.

Q: Where can I learn more?

A: For additional frequently asked questions on OSU Research Forest operations, refer to the research forest website.