

Visitor Use Management Plan Update for the McDonald-Dunn Forest



Oregon State
University

Recreation in the McDonald-Dunn Forest has been an important part of the local community for decades, shaped by multiple planning efforts over time. In 2026, Oregon State University Research Forests will update the Visitor Use Management Plan (VUMP) and invite input from forest users to help guide the future of recreation.

What is the Visitor Use Management Plan?

The Visitor Use Management Plan will consolidate existing policies into one document to support consistent, transparent decision-making as conditions change and provide strategic guidance for managing recreation and visitor use in the McDonald-Dunn Forest. The plan is designed to adapt over time, allowing forest staff to respond to changing use patterns, forest conditions and community needs.

How will the plan be used?

The plan will provide clear guidance for forest staff and the public on how recreation decisions are made, helping ensure safe, equitable and high-quality recreational experiences while balancing public access with resource protection, sustainable forest management and other forest priorities.

What will the plan include?

The plan brings together key elements of visitor management into one framework, including:

- Purpose, vision and guiding principles for recreation.
- Desired conditions for public access.
- A summary of current trails, access and parking.
- Recreation policies and best practices.
- A five- to 10-year trail development plan.
- Community engagement, education and volunteer strategies.
- Monitoring and adaptive management.

What's Changing?

- Updated vision, mission and values for recreation and engagement.
- Goals and desired conditions aligned with the 2025 Forest Management Plan.
- A new five- to 10-year trail plan.
- Potential updates to the electric bike policy.
- A community “wish-list” to help guide future planning.

What's Staying the Same?

- Existing trails, parking areas and facilities.
- Core visitor use guidelines from the 2025 Forest Management Plan.
- Current rules, regulations and best practices.

Timeline

January-February 2026.....Online survey and focus group applications open.

March–May 2026.....Trail planning focus groups.

June–December 2026.....Draft plan development and partner consultation.

Early 2027.....Final plan published.

How Can You Participate?

Project updates will be shared at beav.es/VUMP, posted at trailhead kiosks and through the Forest Updates email list (sign up online).



Fill out an Online Survey

Share ideas, priorities, hopes and concerns. Open through Spring 2026.



Apply to join a focus Group

Apply to participate in trail planning discussions. More information available in February 2026.

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