

Forestry Executive Committee

September 26, 2006, 1:00 – 5:00 pm, RH 115

Summary

Committee Members Present: Hal Salwasser, Steve Hobbs, Ed Jensen, Roger Admiral, Rose Lacey, Claire Montgomery, Barbara Lachenbruch, Steve Tesch, Jack Walstad, Tom McLain

Guests: Brad Withrow-Robinson, (Dave Lysne, Debbie Johnson), Alison Moldenke

1:00

Oak/Prairie Strategy

Brad Withrow-Robinson

Summary: This presentation is a request for approval of this strategy as appendix 3 in the McDonald-Dunn Forest Plan. The strategy describes the approach for restoring Oaks/ and Prairies in McDonald-Dunn Forest. To be clear Brad is asking for approval for this conceptual approach, this does not include any commitment of funds.

Overview:

- Strategy will utilize an adaptive management approach to conservation and restoration.
 - They will integrate learning
- Task Forces (oak, prairie) to plan and oversee integrated TRD (Teaching, Research & Demonstration) and restoration activities
- Stepwise Conservation and Restoration
 - Retain and conserve legacy components
 - Improve what they can.
- They need permission to use funds from cutting out conifers which encroach on Oak trees to support the project.

FEC discussion –

- Q: Any concerns about release treatment being to abrupt. Do they need to be gradual to avoid being detrimental to the Oaks? A: Complete release (out 1 crown width) has been found most successful. They will monitor to learn more.
- Q: Shouldn't there be BLM involvement? A: BLM representatives have been included on some conversations. There will be a lot more opportunities for others to become involved.
- Q: We need an inventory of where potential areas are with regard to landscape theme and how many acres are involved. Concerns about how to get some of the trees out.
A: Task forces will first go out and accumulate information to fill in all those details such as terra, zone, and theme.
- Q: What are the biological and cultural benefits that justify the time and money spent on this?
A: There are several benefits;
 1. We would hang on to legacy trees a link to our historic past.
 2. Wildlife biologists say there is a lot of habitat value.
 3. We will be preserving broad opportunity for teaching, research and education.
- How do we track the financial aspects of this? For example what will it cost to maintain prairie areas? Or not to maintain them? What is the least cost for the outcomes? We want to come up with a criteria or matrix for determining what trees to work on. Given that we won't be able to save everything we want what ones will give us the most bang for the buck, culturally, biologically and educationally.
- Refer to Fort Lewis, Washington Oak Tree Restoration Study. We can build on their study which worked on acorn production.
- In 5 years they hope to have retained and secured Oaks and prairie for future decades of research and education.
- Account for Oak and prairie restoration – some operations in this strategy will be cash positive some will be cash negative. The Appendix Team would like to apply positive cash flow in their account to pay for other restoration work.
- How much will this cost us to maintain into the future? What are the long term costs? Is it worth it?

- It is not clear what the magnitude of the project will be? That still needs to be discovered.

ACTION: The FEC agreed to approve the direction the appendix is taking. Strategy is approved as done thus far but FEC wants more map and tables to fully approved. Decision needs to be informed by assessment. The Appendix Team is on the right path, conduct assessments then come back to FEC for approval of next steps.

Information and Discussion Decision/Action Item Attachment See Attachment FEC9-26-06 Oak Prairie Strategy

2:00 Potential Policy Issues for College of Forestry Advisory Council Consideration All

Summary: Later this fall the College of Forestry Advisory Council (CFAC) will hold its first quarterly meeting. One of the primary roles the CFAC has is to provide the Dean, and subsequently the FEC, with advice on major issues facing the College. The FEC will identify potential major issues so that CFAC and FEC meeting agenda topics can be scheduled in the appropriate sequence. Consistent with Hal’s communication of late July, the scheduling of these meetings and what topics they discuss is very important. The FEC brainstormed about potential major policy issues coming up this year so it could coordinate issues and agenda items with the timing of CFAC meetings so the CFAC can have major input. The Dean wants the Council to provide informed and engaged participation.

ACTION: Brainstorm topics for CFAC to discuss that could be surfacing this year.

- **Fall:**
 - Key messages to legislature – budget strategy we will use in Salem
 - Strategy that the college will use to deal with the actual budget (we will know by spring whether we will come out okay or not).
 - Administrative memo revision review and comment as necessary.
 - Introduce them to decisions we are heading to with projected project with college forest and revenue implications.
 - Blodgett Forest Management Plan
 - Shaping the pilot for student engagement.
 - Review draft code of conduct.
- **Winter:**
 - What process should be used to revise the strategic plan?
 - Review and advise on any major restructuring of departments or service units.
- **Spring**
 - Strategy to deal with potential budget outcomes
 - Guidance to deal with program changes

Information and Discussion

2:30 Upcoming Legislative Session All

Summary: The upcoming legislative session will be pivotal for the College and the FRL. Strategies and specific steps that can be taken to ensure the value of College and FRL programs are effectively communicated to the Legislature will be discussed. Brainstorm on legislative strategy, to prepare for OFIC meeting. Review budget funding projection. The Bottom line question is, Are we going to be asking for enough money to move ahead on these programs or just enough to maintain the status quo?

ACTION: Build a page of Talking points – messages for legislature and OFIC.

1. We are the only public institution conducting significant intensive Douglas-fir mgmt on US West Coast.
2. Rated #1 Forestry Research Academic institution in North American
3. Need trend line in appropriated \$\$ in adjusted \$\$ (we have been under funded for years) as compared to salary and OPE cost increases absorbed by harvest tax and appropriated funds.
4. Need trend line in appropriated cost for FTE (OPE and Salary) funded by FRL approp. and harvest tax
5. Show shift of where funding is coming from.
6. We will look very different in 10 years. If increases in funding are not forthcoming, we will be 1/4 - 1/3 smaller than we are now.
7. We have made and have the potential to make significant contributions to the state economy.
8. Maintaining Innovation, competitiveness, new ideas, viability, and quality of life.
9. Here are new products we are working on, here are the new jobs we have created, show returns on investment to the state.
10. Show contributions to the quality of life in Oregon,
11. Show our initiatives as investment opportunities.
12. Increase global competitiveness through increased productivity, new products, new markets (innovation!!!)
13. Make clear what the consequences will be of not investing.
14. Be sure to show it is not just what the college will be losing – it is what the state will be losing.
15. If the state does not invest in the natural resources of Oregon the benefits from this sector will be diminished.
16. Our graduates – “are workforce ready” this contributes to the economy.
17. We are worldwide leaders in showing the interaction of climate change and forests.
18. We are world leaders in sustainability, research, teaching, and outreach.
19. Develop short stories around individual faculty and students relative to the economy and quality of life in Oregon. Tell stories that give examples of individual faculty; keep them short.
20. It might be worth it to get some external marketing expertise. (Luanne Lawrence or Pat McCormick)
21. Borrow from Journal of Forestry article and ranking of academic forestry research programs.
22. Highlight our contribution to the state economy.
23. We are the most credible asset that state has for vetting the forest practices act and making sure that the regulations are reasonable and soundly based on science.

Information and Discussion

3:15 Break

3:30 Upcoming OFIC Annual Meeting All

Summary: In early October the Oregon Forestry Industries Council (OFIC) will hold its annual meeting. OFIC member organizations are major recipients of College outreach, research, and teaching programs. OFIC and member organizations have historically been strong supporters of College and FRL programs. The FEC will discuss and identify points of emphasis about our programs to be made with OFIC members during the OFIC Annual Meeting. Brainstorming about common messages that we all need to take at Sun River.

- Credible asset for vetting the Forest Practices Act and regulations are based on science.
- This College is vital to the industries global competitiveness through our graduates and research.
 - They hire our graduates, they use our research, they join our coops.
 - We have made and have the potential to make future significant contributions to the state economy. (Global competitiveness, innovations, viability, quality of life, developing new products, new markets.

- Our research and service coops are proven problem-solving organizations..
- We help businesses remain competitive and we are a key link to their future in terms of the knowledge.
- Our initiatives are investment opportunities.
- Remind them how important they are to the economy of this state; i.e. 50% of employment in rural communities.
- The state is investing more in agriculture than it is in forestry.
- The forest sector is very important to the state.
- The TIMOS and the REITS benefit from College programs...ability to protect the social license to practice forestry in Oregon.
- Breadth and depth if expertise we have to offer.
- Only public institution conducting a broad program on intensive Douglas-fir management, on U.S. West Coast.
- Educating the public citizenry “the people who vote” about forest management, (e.g. extension forestry faculty)
- Increase global competitiveness through increased productivity, new products, new markets (innovation!)
- Last message → our initiatives are investment opportunities
- Need the industries support in filling 4.0 million funding gap.
- How they help
 - Be willing to increase the harvest tax.
 - Join coops or help create new ones.
 - Individual gifts to help cover faculty salaries.
 - Advocate for an increase in the FRL appropriation.
 - Continue in kind support.
 - Advocate for an increase in the OUS E & G Budget.

Information and Discussion

4:15

Other

Steve Hobbs

- Annual Report - Allison Moldenke made up a list of what was included in annual reports from previous years as well as a compilation of feedback from the FEC for inclusion on this report. The report that goes to the legislature usually has 10-12 features. She needs to have ideas on features, so we are not repeating the same ones.
- Building Integration Committee – moving natural resources program director and staff to the old Forest Engineering Department offices. They would like some remodeling and carpeting. Time frame for the move is Christmas break.
- CFAC - Send out an all College call for nominations for people to serve on the CFAC.
- Blodgett planning process – graduate seminar? Have a team of students do it? Could John Sessions do it through one of his classes?
- Clarification on Funding – At the 10-10-06 meeting there will be two types of groups looking for funding out of the funds set aside. The first is the appendix teams and the second is other groups seeking competitive funding (i.e., CFRP, Glen Murphy, Glen Howe). The money was set aside for appendices but none was set aside for competitive funding and if there were funds, to be fair it would need to be announced to all in the College. Let second group know that unfortunately there are no competitive funds available.

Upcoming Key Dates:

9-29-06 Sierra Pacific Industries site visit, RH 107
 10-10-06 FEC Meeting, 1:00 – 4:00 pm, RH 115
 10-23-27-06 SAF Annual Convention, Pittsburg, PA

5:00

Adjourn