

FOREST DEFENSE IS CLIMATE DEFENSE  
Action ALERT!  
Defend the Elliott Forest!

Many of you were in the room at the Department of State Lands meeting and testified to keep the Elliott State Forest in the hands of the public and out of the hands of the timber industry. It was an exciting moment when Governor Kate Brown said the state would put up some of the money and allow a plan to be developed to pay for the forest and de-couple it from the rural school funding.

Now the plan for a *Research Forest* is being developed by Oregon State University.  
You can read it here:

<https://www.oregon.gov/dsl/Land/Pages/Elliott-Forest-Proposal.aspx>

It is time for the public to make comments about how the Elliott will be managed by OSU.

**Deadline for comments is 5:00 pm November 29<sup>th</sup>**

The final draft research forest proposal will be presented to the State Land Board on December 8. (<https://www.oregon.gov/dsl/Board/Pages/SLBmeetings.aspx>)

We can do this!

Online Form <https://forms.dsl.state.or.us/Forms/ElliottStateForest>

Email [Ali.R.Hansen@dsl.state.or.us](mailto:Ali.R.Hansen@dsl.state.or.us)

Mail ESRF Feedback, [775 Summer St. NE, Suite 100, Salem, Oregon 97301](#)

Here are some talking points from our Southern Oregon forest friends:

**Do not to do research on how to log Marbled Murrelet habitat.** Research findings would not be relevant to future private-land logging, as most private lands are young plantations, not murrelet habitat. Public forests, including the Elliott, should fully protect marbled murrelets and not log near nests or potential murrelet habitat at all.

**Protect all wildlife at risk on the Elliott,** including coho salmon, spotted owls, and marbled murrelets. The Coastal Fisher and Pacific Martin used to live in the Elliott, and we would like to see them back. While we appreciate the 60% of the Elliott proposed for reserves, much of this is older plantations. We are concerned that old forests elsewhere are not protected.

**Do not cut old trees.** Currently the OSU proposal is to not cut any tree older than 150 years. This is too old. Lower the age to be protected down to 120 years, or younger.

**We support decoupling from the Common School Fund.** This fund required the Elliott to pay for education. We support eliminating this pressure to log endangered species habitat. The money needed to decouple can instead be made by carefully thinning the “managed plantations”. Thinning these old clearcuts can help reintroduce diversity and speed up recovery to carbon sequestering mature forests.

**Provide for managed recreation.** We would like hiking trails and other forms of non-motorized recreation in the Elliott. Recreation fees can help fund Elliott management.

**Provide for robust carbon sequestering.** No management activity should release excessive amounts of carbon into the atmosphere. Every management activity should fully account for the amount of carbon release and/or sequestration, and the time frame for these carbon impacts.

**Provide for transparency and public input.** The previous managers of the Elliott, Oregon Department of Forestry, asked for public comments on annual management activities, every year. OSU should do at least this much, if not more opportunities for public feedback.

**Pesticides should be limited to controlling non-native, invasive plant species.** Aerial spraying of herbicides, especially near wildlife and fish habitat, is unacceptable. On the adjacent BLM land, the BLM does not spray herbicides to enhance reforestation, only for roadside invasive plants. The BLM is successful in reforestation without pesticides, and the OSU could be to. Do not spray pesticides, especially aerial spraying of pesticides, in the intensive lands that will be clearcut, or elsewhere.

**Protect all native wildlife.** Don't kill native wildlife species to conduct clearcut logging, wildlife such as mountain beavers and black bears. If necessary, research could show how native species can be protected and thrive in logged areas, instead of being killed.

**Protect all streams on the Elliott.** This includes non-fish streams, since all streams flow into coho salmon habitat. Streams should have an unlogged buffer of 200-feet, an average tree height on the Elliott. Providing a tree-height buffer on non-fish streams will assure a natural amount of wood will be provided downstream into endangered fish habitat. All streams on the adjacent BLM lands are protected with larger buffers than OSU is proposing. The BLM uses scientific input to establish their buffers. In the Elliott Research Forest, OSU should use the same science. A 50' buffer on small streams is too small.

**Thinning in reserves:** OSU is proposing a one-time thinning in reserves. Is the purpose of this one-time thinning to reintroduce diversity in Douglas-fir plantations? If so, OSU should set a trees-per-acre requirement in the reserves, so the reserves are not thinned for the greatest economic return. While OSU can do research on how to thin for the greatest wildlife benefit, this should not result in something that would leave only 5-10 trees per acre. At least 100 trees per acre should be left to help provide for future snag and blow-down events.

**Reduce Harvest Level:** OSU has stated that they will try to remove 17 MMBF a year off of the Elliott. This is too high. When ODF managed the Elliott, they extracted a little over 20 MMFB a year. That was too high to sustain adequate wildlife and carbon sequestration. OSU should not have a target volume, and if you do, it should be less than 10 MMBF a year.