

# The 2011 Elliott State Forest Management Plan

## November 2011

The Elliott State Forest is located east of Reedsport, in south coastal Oregon. The 93,000-acre forest became the first of six State



Forests in 1930, when scattered tracts of Common School Land within national forest boundaries owned by the State were traded for one contiguous block of national forest land. Common School Lands were granted to Oregon by Congress in 1859 through the Oregon Admissions Act to support public education. The State Land Board is the trustee of these land assets. The creation of the forest was the culmination of the 1912 vision of Governor Oswald West and State Forester Francis Elliott.

About 90 percent of the forest is managed by the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) on behalf of the State Land Board and the Department of State Lands (DSL). Net revenues from timber sales on these lands benefit the state's Common School Fund. During the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011, the forest provided nearly \$8.1 million for the Common School Fund. The other 10 percent of forestland within the Elliott State Forest provides revenue to Coos and Douglas Counties.

The Oregon Board of Forestry and State Land Board in 2010 directed ODF and DSL to seek a new forest management plan for the Elliott State Forest.

*The plan, scheduled to go into effect on January 1, 2012:*

### **Increases timber production with sustainable targets.**

Projected annual timber harvests increase from the current average of 25 million board feet to 40 million board feet. Harvests are planned to occur on 1 percent of the forest's total acreage each year. All harvest areas are replanted, as required by Oregon law.

### **Provides conservation areas that are protected from timber harvest.**

The new plan will establish conservation areas on 28,000 acres – about 1/3 of the forest. Over the next 35 years, the amount of the forest in older forest habitat is expected to increase from 43 percent of the forest to 50 percent.

### **Expands revenues to state schools.**

The 2011 plan is forecast to provide net revenue to the Common School Fund and counties of \$9 million to \$13 million annually, depending on market conditions – an increase over current yields of about \$6 million to \$8 million under the 1995 plan.

## **Supports the economies of coastal Oregon and the Willamette Valley.**

The plan will generate several million dollars in additional logging and forest-products sector payroll in southern Oregon and the mid-Willamette Valley to process Elliott State Forest logs in local mills. Logs harvested from state lands are prohibited under federal and state law from being exported as raw logs.

Development of the 2011 Forest Management Plan has been under way since 2000. It included public involvement processes and contributions from county, state and federal agencies.

The 2011 Forest Management Plan for the Elliott State Forest uses a strategy called “take-avoidance” for compliance with the federal Endangered Species Act. This involves surveying for endangered species and, when found, maintaining their habitat.

ODF’s take-avoidance policies minimize the risk of potential harm to threatened and endangered wildlife from forest management practices while also seeking to meet environmental, social and economic objectives.

ODF uses adaptive management, a system of making, implementing and evaluating decisions recognizing that forest ecosystems, scientific understanding, and the social values of Oregonians, change over time. In adaptive management, ODF learns from management actions and decisions, research and monitoring, and accommodates change at the appropriate planning level.

### **For more information:**

**[www.oregon.gov/ODF/STATE\\_FORESTS/elliott.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/STATE_FORESTS/elliott.shtml)**

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## Comparisons between 2011 and 1995 ESF Management Plans

Subject	Draft 2011 Elliott Forest Management Plan	1995 Forest Management Plan
<b>Acreage of Plan</b>	95,273 acres	95,273 acres
<b>Harvest Volume</b>	40 million board feet per year	25 million board feet per year
<b>Annual average harvest acres</b>	850 clear cut / 250 partial cut	500 clear cut / 500 partial cut
<b>Annual Net Revenue</b>	Between \$9 and \$13 million depending on market conditions.	Between \$6 and \$8 million depending on market conditions.
<b>Choosing Harvest Areas</b>	No long rotation basins or basin targets for advanced structure. Harvest available if not constrained by Conservation Area.	About one-half of the forest in long rotation basins with limited harvest. Harvest concentrated in remaining half of forest.
<b>Endangered Species Act compliance</b>	Take-avoidance surveys for owls and murrelets for each proposed timber sale.	Habitat Conservation Plans for owls and take-avoidance surveys for murrelets for each proposed timber sale.
<b>Non-Listed species</b>	No specific species of concern strategy. Amount and arrangement of stand structures expected to provide biodiversity.	No specific species of concern strategy. Amount and arrangement of habitat expected to provide biodiversity.
<b>Forest Structure</b>	<p>Replaced age-based habitat definitions with expected range of forest-wide stand types based on structural characteristics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advanced Structure 30-50% of forest</li> <li>• Intermediate Structure 30-60% of forest</li> <li>• Early Structure 10-20% of forest</li> </ul>	<p>Seventeen management basins representing three age classes: Late, Middle and Early successional.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nine basins of 160-240 year harvest rotations</li> <li>• Eight basins of 80-135 year harvest rotations</li> <li>• Harvest units located to minimize fragmentation of larger blocks of mature forest.</li> <li>• Maintain 50% dispersal habitat by basin.</li> <li>• Maintain 43% of the forest in an 80+ year age class.</li> </ul>
<b>Carbon Sequestration</b>	<p>Plan increases carbon storage of forest. At 40 million board-foot harvest level, forest still achieves 60 percent of its carbon storage potential during the next 40 years. [Ecotrust 2010 study]</p>	<p>Plan increases carbon storage of forest. HCP based models store approximately 60 to 68 percent of the forest's carbon storage potential during the next 40 years. [Ecotrust 2010 study]</p>

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<b>Conservation Areas (Threatened &amp; Endangered Species, Core areas, Riparian Management Areas, Steep-Unique-Visual)</b>	Conservation Areas include owl circles, Marbled Murrelet Management Areas (MMMA's) , Riparian Management Areas and other designated areas. Acreage likely to increase overtime as new MMMA's are added. About 30% or 28,000 acres of forest unavailable to harvest over time.	Reserve Areas - Habitat Conservancy Areas for owls, Riparian Management Areas, Marbled Murrelet Management Areas (MMMA's) and other reserves in all management basins. Total reserve acres = 22,370
<b>Arrangement of Stand Structure</b>	No specific landscape design. A range of habitat conditions will exist that will contribute to maintaining or enhancing native wild-life populations at self-sustaining levels within a regional context; advance structure will be well distributed contributing to connectivity, however connectivity will not be specifically designed.	A balanced landscape approach. Balance the amount and distribution of owl habitat based on stand age across the landscape. Landscape balanced between long rotation basins and shorter rotation basins. Plan designed to create and maintain larger blocks of late succession habitat and provide harvest primarily in shorter rotation basins.
<b>Legacy Components</b>	Two to four live trees per acre, create one snag per two acres, create 300-600 cubic feet per acre of downed wood.	Three to five live trees per acre, create one snag per two acres, leave 3-4 downed logs of 1 foot x 16 foot each per acre.
<b>Integrated Pest Management</b>	Active management for forest health.	Active management for forest health.
<b>Aquatic &amp; Riparian Systems</b>	All measurements are <u>horizontal</u> distance <b>Fish Streams</b> - No harvest within 25 feet, No harvest within 100 feet after mature condition. From 100-160 feet maintain 10-45 trees per acre. (Same for Large perennial N Streams) <b>Small Perennial Non-Fish/Not Drinking Water Streams and potential debris flow</b> – No harvest within 25 feet, from 25 to 100 feet back must have 15-25 trees per acre, 100 to 160 feet must have up to 10 trees per acre, and 80 percent of potential shade within 500 feet of fish streams. <b>Seasonal Non-Fish/Not Drinking Water Streams</b> - Protect channel integrity, within 25-100 feet have 10 trees per acre when operationally feasible.	All measurements are <u>slope</u> distance <b>Fish Streams</b> - No harvest within 100 feet. <b>Perennial Non-Fish/Not Drinking Water Streams</b> - No harvest within 50 feet. <b>Seasonal Non-Fish/Not Drinking Water Streams</b> - Protect channel integrity.