

Elliott State Forest Alternatives Project

May – December 2014

Oregon Department of State Lands

Goal: To develop a range of feasible ownership and management models for the Elliott State Forest, to be considered by the State Land Board in December 2014. The Land Board is composed of the Governor, Secretary of State, and State Treasurer.

Background

- The Elliott State Forest covers 93,000 acres in Coos and Douglas counties in Southwestern Oregon. The forest was created in 1930 to provide long-term funding for Oregon schools as an asset of the Common School Fund. About 84,000 acres are school trust lands.
- Over time, timber harvests have been greatly reduced, due primarily to protection of threatened and endangered species, resulting in net deficits from managing the Elliott. In 2013, loss from the Elliott was \$3 million, and deficits are projected to continue.
- Draining money from the Common School Fund to maintain an asset violates the fiduciary responsibility of the State Land Board.
- The forest offers a range of conservation, recreation, and community values that need to be taken into account for any planning of its future.
- In May of 2014, the Department of State Lands initiated the Elliott Alternatives Project to develop a range of feasible business models for future ownership and management of the forest. The goal is to deliver options to the Land Board at their Dec. 9, 2014 public meeting.

Process

Through group work sessions and individual contacts, the Elliott Forest project team will seek management ideas from education beneficiaries, conservation and land trust representatives, timber management interests, tribal governments, elected officials, economic and community development groups, and government agencies. In addition, the project team has formed an interagency technical workgroup and is working with a technical consultant to conduct research on how other states manage school land trusts and investigate options for the Elliott.

June	Initial outreach / set up interagency workgroup
July	First-round stakeholder work sessions / review input / continue research
August	Technical consultant and interagency workgroup help draft alternatives
September	Review alternatives in second-round stakeholder work sessions
October	Hold public information meeting in the Coos Bay area and Salem
November	Develop final draft of business model alternatives using public input
December	Present findings to the State Land Board on Dec. 9, 2014

More information: <http://www.oregon.gov/dsl/LW/Pages/Elliott-State-Forest-Alternatives-Project.aspx>

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