



Elliott State Forest Research Advisory Committee Meeting
 Salem’s Historic Grand Ballroom
 Salem, OR

Advisory Committee Website: <https://www.oregon.gov/dsl/land/pages/elliott.aspx>

Advisory Committee Members present: Asha Aiello, Jen Clark, Melissa Cribbins, Bob Van Dyk, Eric Farm, Geoff Huntington, Ken McCall, Mary Paulson, Bob Sallinger, and Keith Tymchuk

Advisory Committee Members not present: Paul Beck, Chris Boice, Mark Stern

Tribal Representatives: Steve Andringa, Margaret Corvi, Mike Kennedy, Michael Langley, and Mike Wilson

Department of State Lands Staff & Interested Parties: Ali Hansen, Katy Kavanagh, Meliah Masiba, Troy Rahmig, Ryan Singleton, and Robert Underwood

Oregon Consensus Facilitation Team: Peter Harkema, Amy Delahanty, and Brett Brownscombe

Action Items

Action Item	Who	Date Due/Status
Develop and distribute draft action items memo and meeting notes	Oregon Consensus	Complete
Circulate draft operating principles following the meeting and request red flags raised by Committee members be captured in track changes.	Oregon Consensus	Complete
<u>Scheduling and Information Follow up</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Post meeting materials to DSL website ● Send standing Advisory Committee meeting information to members 	DSL Staff & Oregon Consensus	



<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Circulate link to Think Out Loud program where the former Dean Thomas Maness of OSU was asked, “What is a research forest?”	Geoff Huntington, OSU	
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DRAFT Meeting Summary

Welcome, agenda review, and process overview

Director Vicki Walker welcomed the group and thanked members for their willingness to serve on the Elliott State Forest Research Advisory Committee. She noted Advisory Committee members were selected based on their unique backgrounds, expertise, and commitment to the process. Director Walker then provided a brief overview of the Advisory Committee process, sharing its purpose and work ahead. It was highlighted the Land Board set forth a vision the Department of State Lands (DSL) is trying to fulfil, which was to: 1.) keep the Elliott State Forest (Elliott) in public ownership; and 2.) transition the Elliott to a research forest. To that end, the Advisory Committee will work collaboratively together to assist DSL through the end of the year. Director Walker then introduced Oregon Consensus (neutral third party facilitator) and ICF (Habitat Conservation Plan consultant).

On behalf of Governor Brown and the Oregon State Land Board (Land Board), Jason Miner thanked members of the Advisory Committee for agreeing to commit their time, energy and passion to helping them move forward an issue that has been complex to address. He shared his background to the Elliott and spoke to past processes to decouple the Elliott from the Common School Fund. Jason review the current Land Board assumptions (as reflected in Oregon Consensus’ assessment report)¹ with the group. He then highlighted some of the hardest work the group may confront is how to set the Elliott in its historical context, while shaping its future. The Land Board is thankful for members’ willingness to participate and future input on their preferred elements of a research forest.

Facilitator Peter Harkema provided brief introductions of the Oregon Consensus’ facilitation team and shared some background about the statewide program². Peter then reviewed the agenda with the group. Specific agenda topics included: 1) Advisory Committee’s purpose and scope; 2) review of the draft operating principles; 3) overview of existing OSU forests and research programs; and 4) Elliott State Forest Habitat Conservation Plan process and update.

1

<https://www.oregon.gov/dsl/Land/Documents/OregonConsensusElliottStateForestReportOctober2018.pdf>

² <http://oregonconsensus.org/>



Peter then reviewed the draft meeting sequence document. He noted the meeting dates are currently tentative, but a set meeting schedule is forthcoming. For the first set of meetings, Advisory Committee members will spend time talking about their vision and key characteristics for each topic. These expectations will be translated into a set of concise statements and serve as goal posts or criteria to move the group forward. Later, the articulated vision statements will assist the group in identifying potential pathways forward to achieve those goals. Peter explained that this is anticipated to be an iterative process as product and input from the group is generated. The first set of meetings will include a series of presentations, in addition to draft documents presented to the group for Advisory Committee input by Oregon State University (OSU) and others. By the end of the process, the group will have provided input on a proposed plan OSU hopes to bring forth to the Land Board in December.

Group Introductions

Group members conducted a round of introductions. Members were invited to share their history and connection to the Elliott, as well as what success would look like at the end of the Advisory Committee process.

Advisory Committee Purpose, Draft Meeting Sequence, and Draft Operating Principles

Oregon State Treasurer Tobias Read welcomed the group and briefly shared elements of the current Land Board vision to date. He noted the Land Board direction has been specific in parts and broad in others. There is an identified clear destination to transform the Elliott into a research forest and a strong partnership with Oregon State University. The Land Board looks forward to the Advisory Committee providing input on the preferred elements of an Elliott State research forest in December and Treasurer Read thanked them for their time and commitment to the process.

Ryan Singleton (DSL) then presented an overview of the Elliott State Forest to members. Topics included Forest history, structure and attributes, age class distribution, disturbance, and past and current management. *(For additional information, please see ESF PPT)*

Peter Harkema (Oregon Consensus) reviewed the draft operating principles with the group, noting that the Land Board's direction to date is captured in the Oregon Consensus assessment report beginning on page 14. The document will be posted on DSL's website along with any additional meeting materials. Following the meeting, OC will re circulate the draft document to for members to have an additional opportunity to highlight red flags in track changes. The group will look to formally adopt the principles at its next meeting.

The following is a brief summary of the discussion:

- A question was raised about the use of alternates on the Committee. Several members spoke to the benefits of using alternates in similar processes (e.g. scheduling conflicts), while others raised concerns (e.g. catching alternates up to speed mid-process). It was noted that



members of the group were selected for their individual experience and expertise and that participation by members of the Committee was seen as important to the group's success. Some options were proposed to address the stated concerns, but no agreement was made by the group. OC agreed to revisit the wording in the operating principles.

- Tribal members and staff present raised concerns regarding the limitation of tribes to three seats on the Committee. They stated that while they understood the desire to have balance among all parties represented however that as sovereign nations it was unlikely that the tribes would select just three tribes to serve on the committee. One member cautioned if the agency were to proceed with such an approach, it would likely slow down the process considerably. Others noted that the five Western Oregon natural resource staff's work very closely and effectively together and engaging all could be both efficient and instructive for the process. DSL said that it would take this input into consideration as it determines how best to engage the various tribes that are interested in the Elliott. Director Walker also noted that DSL had invited all five Western Oregon Tribes to engage in formal Consultation related to the future of the Elliott.
 - It was clarified OSU is a member of the Advisory Committee, but also holds a distinct and role in the Committee process. OSU and DSL are expected to meet the expectations of the different entities they report to, but are in collaboration with one another in the process.

Research Forest Vision - Presentation

Geoff Huntington (OSU) presented an overview of the existing OSU forests and research programs and the College's anticipated relationship to the Advisory Committee. He explained that OSU has numerous research forests but that the College of forestry has long desired to have a larger landscape to work with as a research forest. Such a forest would offer unique opportunities to conduct research on a scope, scale, and duration not possible with existing research forests and that having the Elliott state research forest (ESRF) at OSU would make the college unique among other forestry schools around the world. Following Geoff's presentation, the group asked a number of questions related to access and recreation on OSU's existing research forests. Geoff agreed to provide additional information to the group but noted that the McDonald Dunn forest near Corvallis has both active research, harvest, and is heavily used by recreationalists. *(For additional information, please see PPT presentation and related supporting materials).*

Members of the Committee were also invited by OSU to provide thoughts on their own vision for the forest and initial ideas on the type of research that they would like to see conducted on an ESRF. A list of these preliminary ideas is included at the back of these notes.

Elliott State Forest Habitat Conservation Plan - Presentation

Troy Rahmig, who works for ICF and has been engaged by DSL to develop the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for DSL, presented information regarding HCPs and a review of the



anticipated Elliott HCP process and structure. The purpose of this presentation was to familiarize all members of the Committee with the concept of an HCP. (*For additional information, please see PPT presentation*)

Meliah Masiba (DSL) briefly highlighted the relationship of the HCP process to Advisory Committee. She noted the HCP process was put into place last year with consultant ICF. DSL and ICF are currently in negotiation of the HCP with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Following the December Land Board meeting, OSU has joined the HCP conversations. She explained that the HCP and Advisory Committee are two distinct processes happening in tandem with one another. Meliah noted that the HCP will not be negotiated at the Advisory Committee table, but acknowledged the overlap in conversations and topics. DSL and OSU will bring topics of discussion from the Advisory Committee to NMFS and USFWS, and vice versa. Additionally, ICF will provide formal updates regarding the Elliott HCP process at various points throughout the Advisory Committee process. Meliah also shared that there will also be opportunities for public comment on the Elliott HCP through the formal NEPA process.

There being no questions, the group shared their reflections from the day. The meeting **adjourned at 3:45p.m.**



Appendix A - Preliminary Brainstorm List of Desired Research

- Research the potential changes that need to be made to the Oregon Forest Practices Act - this opportunity could be a laboratory to address the contemporary regulatory questions.
- What do species want and need e.g. Bard Owls? No matter we will do, will it change the trajectory of the species?
- Long-term carbon sequestration research.
- How to tie in existing conditions and research on the Siuslaw / Pacific NW forest range to the Elliott.
- How specific management practices (e.g. tribal management of forests / management of specific species) influences and supports the health of forests?
- Re: Northwest Forest Plan: Use the Elliott as a control group to extrapolate how the federal overlays work on federal land.
- How to optimize restoration of species with intact patches: how do you do forestry on a large landscape scale.
- There may be a nexus between the proposed Climate Authority and the proposed carbon sequestration strategy on the Elliott.
- Research on the efficiency of clear cutting methods on steeper land than what we find generally.

What would be your vision /aspiration of a research forest?

- Opportunity with 100mil down payment with how to protect the landscape to protect and restore, as well as serve as the baseline for other landscapes that are aggressively managed. There are a lot of opportunities on the protection side.
- Baseline data that relates to climate change.
- What would it look like to have the Elliott managed as if it was a reservation, or managed on Tribal land?
- Compare different forest management practices at different stages.
- Research to determine how we can manage all the acres without having to set aside land.
- Where are the opportunities to collaborate beyond the boundaries of the Elliott.

Elliott State Forest

Ryan Singleton

Forester

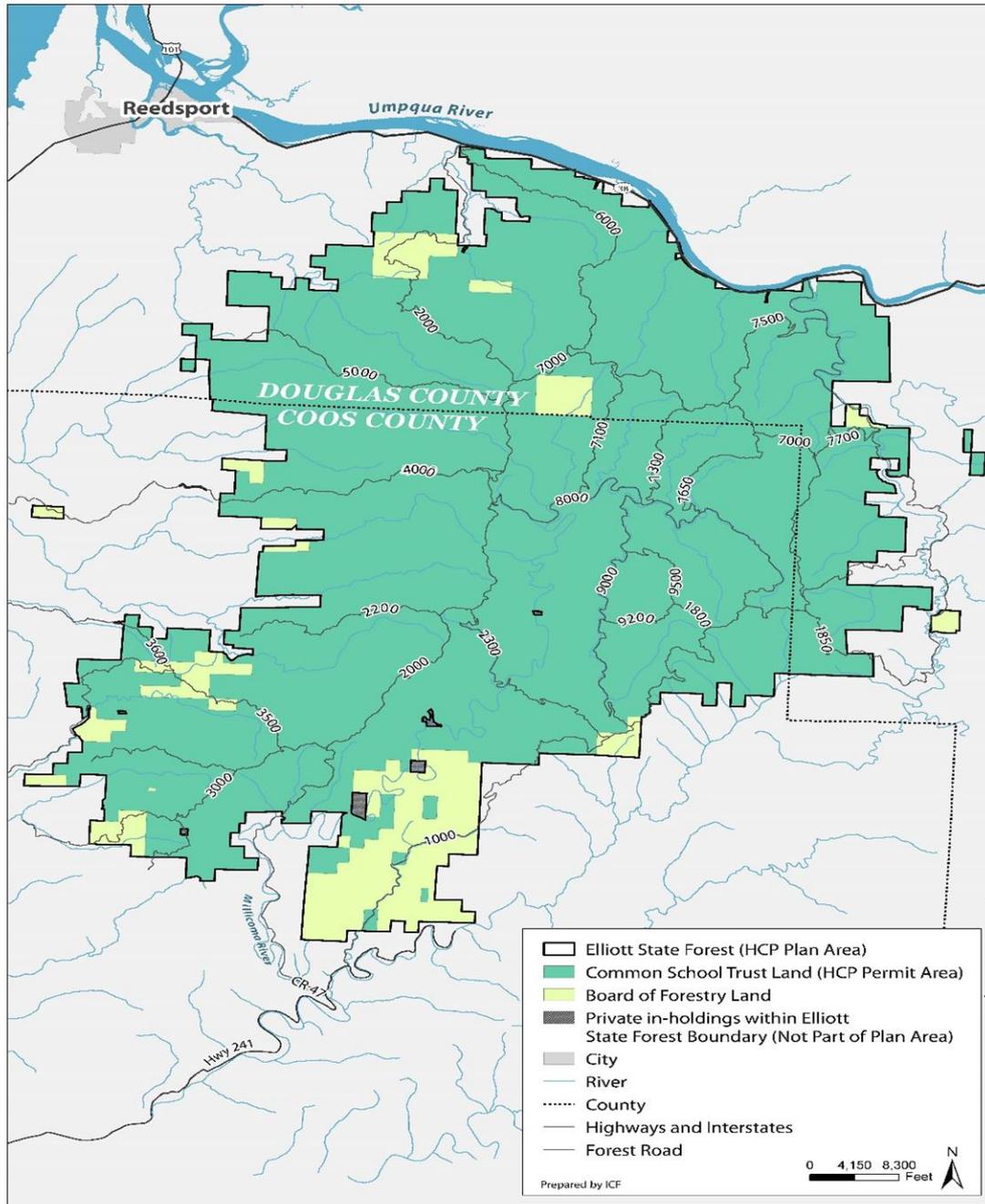
Oregon Department of State Lands



Outline

- ◎ Forest Highlights and History
- ◎ Forest Structure and Attributes
- ◎ Age Class Distribution
- ◎ Disturbance History
- ◎ Past and Current Management



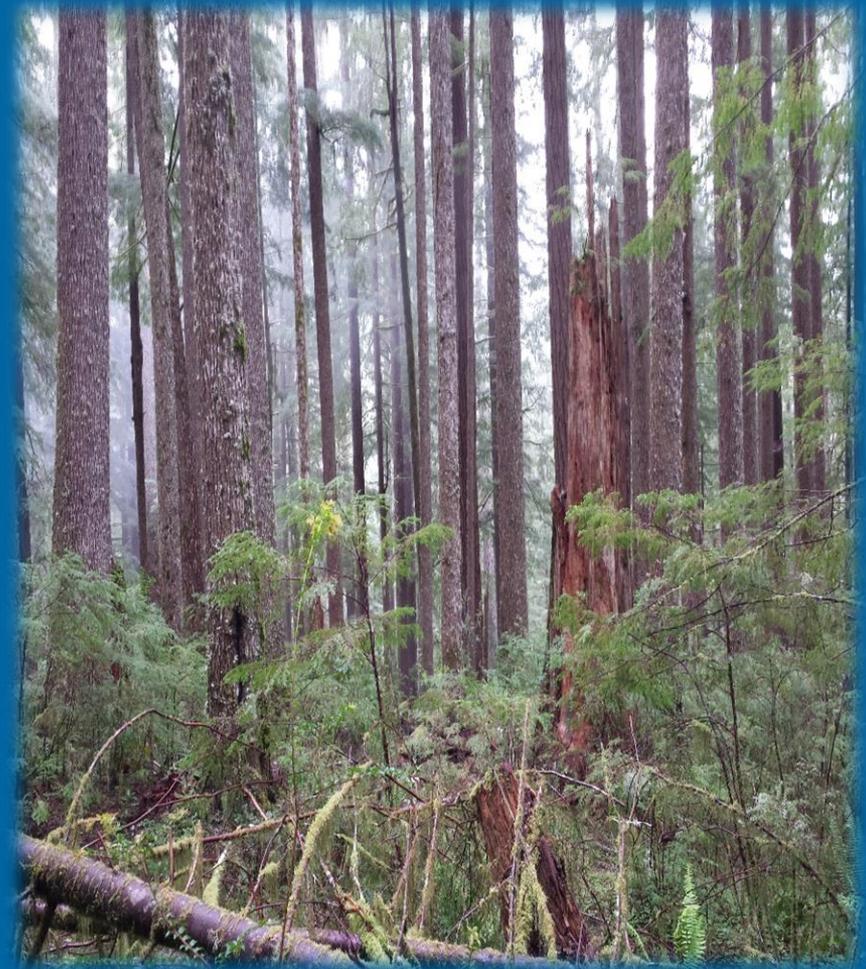


Land Ownership and Road Network



Elliott State Forest Highlights

- ⦿ Established in 1930; 1st state forest
- ⦿ Named after the first state forester, Francis Elliott
- ⦿ Formed after land swap with federal gov't: scattered lands for contiguous tract

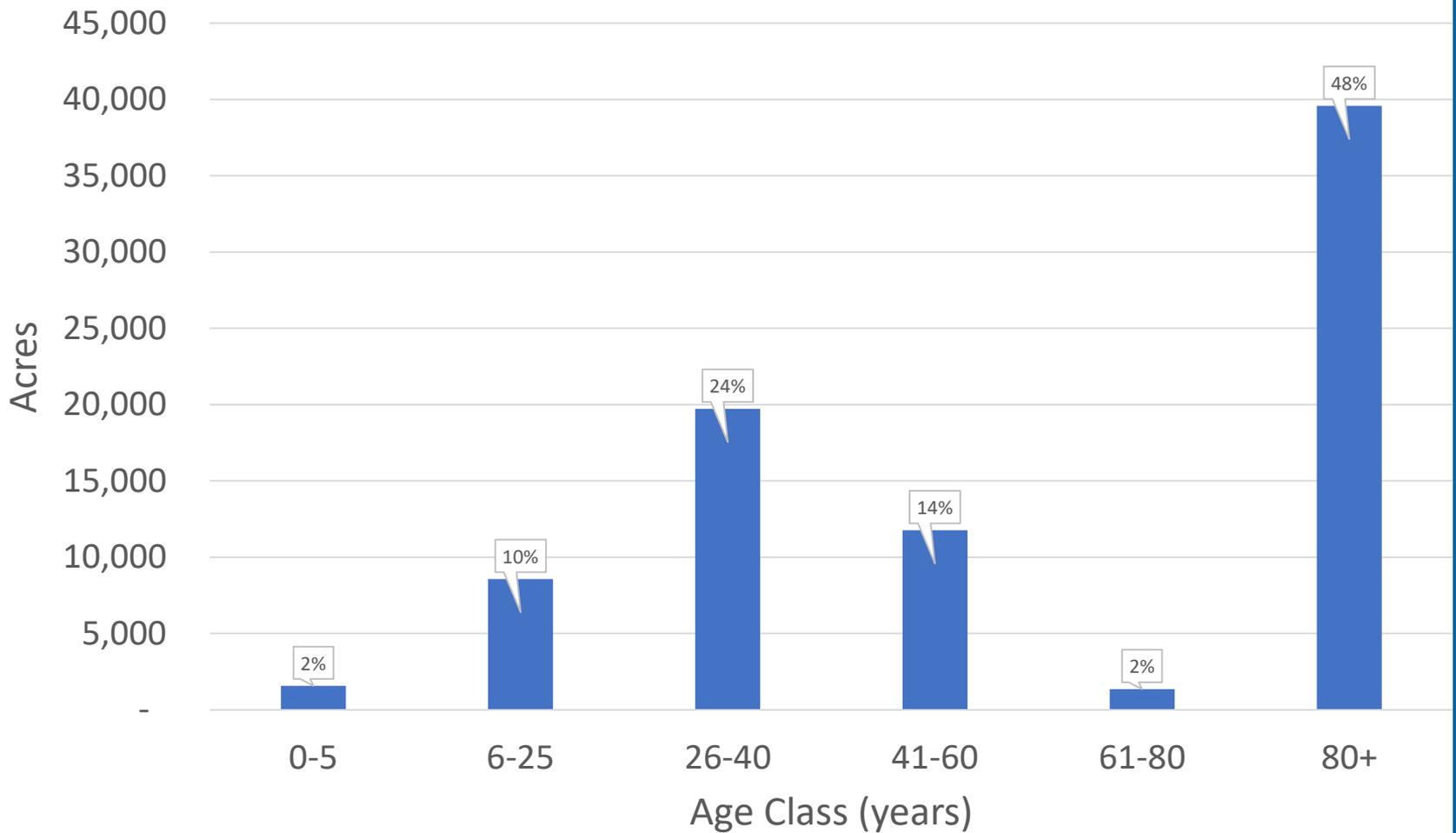


Forest Structure/Attributes

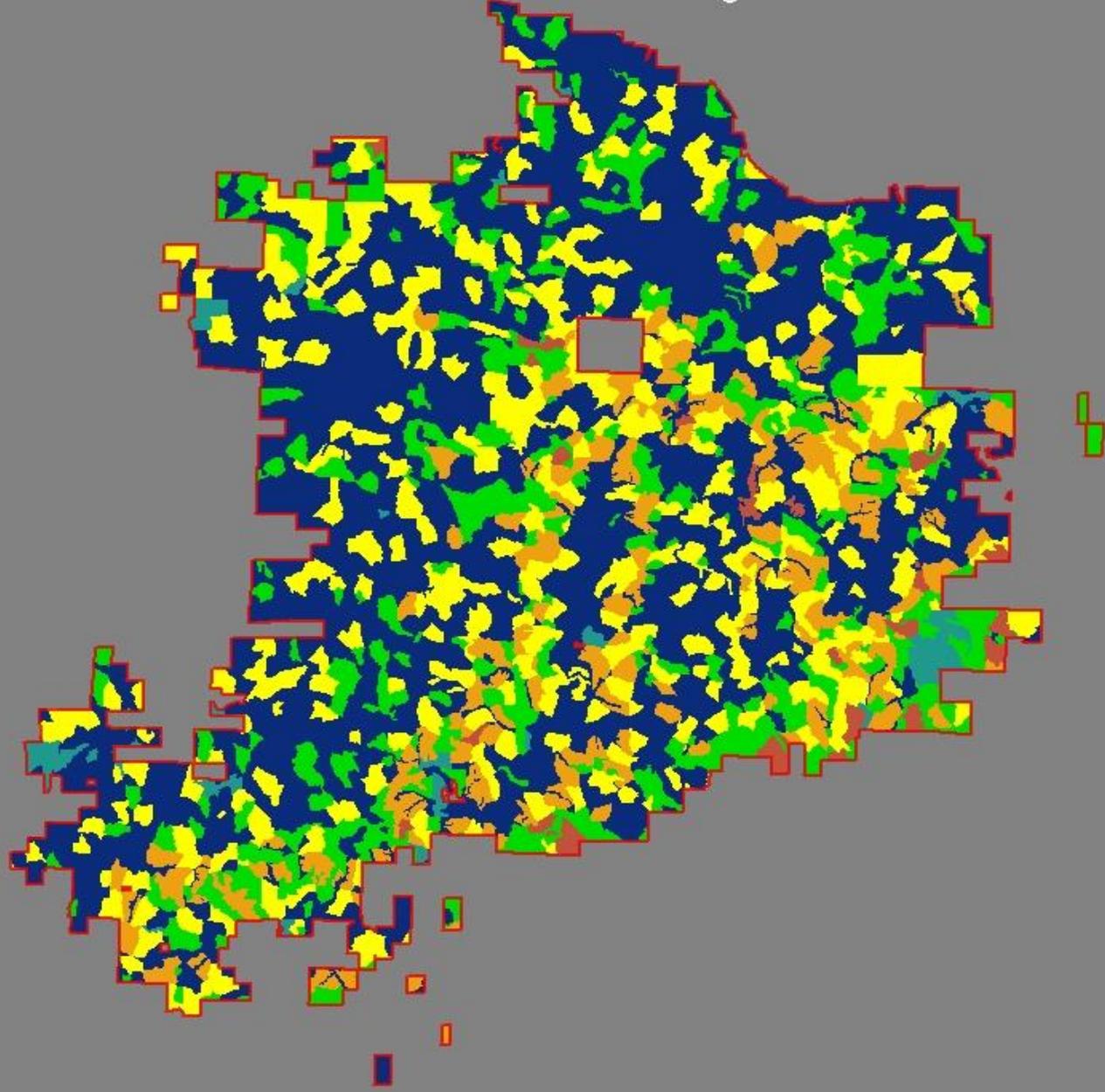
- ◎ Primarily a single-canopy, even-aged forest in various stages of development
- ◎ Little within stand variability; complexity derived with the spatial arrangement of stands
- ◎ Species mix: Primarily Douglas-fir; minor components of hemlock, redcedar, red alder, maple
- ◎ Site Productivity: Mostly Site Class II & III. Dominant tree will grow to 95-135 ft tall in 50 years



Age Class Distribution



Elliott State Forest -Age Class



Legend

- ESF Boundary
- Age**
- 0-5
- 5-25
- 25-40
- 40-60
- 60-80
- 80+

1:146,029

Disturbance History

- Fire: Primary disturbance agent is fire
- Coast Range: Long fire return intervals (100-400 yrs; avg 230 yrs)
- Fires tend to be large-scale, stand-replacing events
- Fine-scale disturbances include root disease, bark beetles, wind, and landslides
- These tend to influence the forest in minor ways



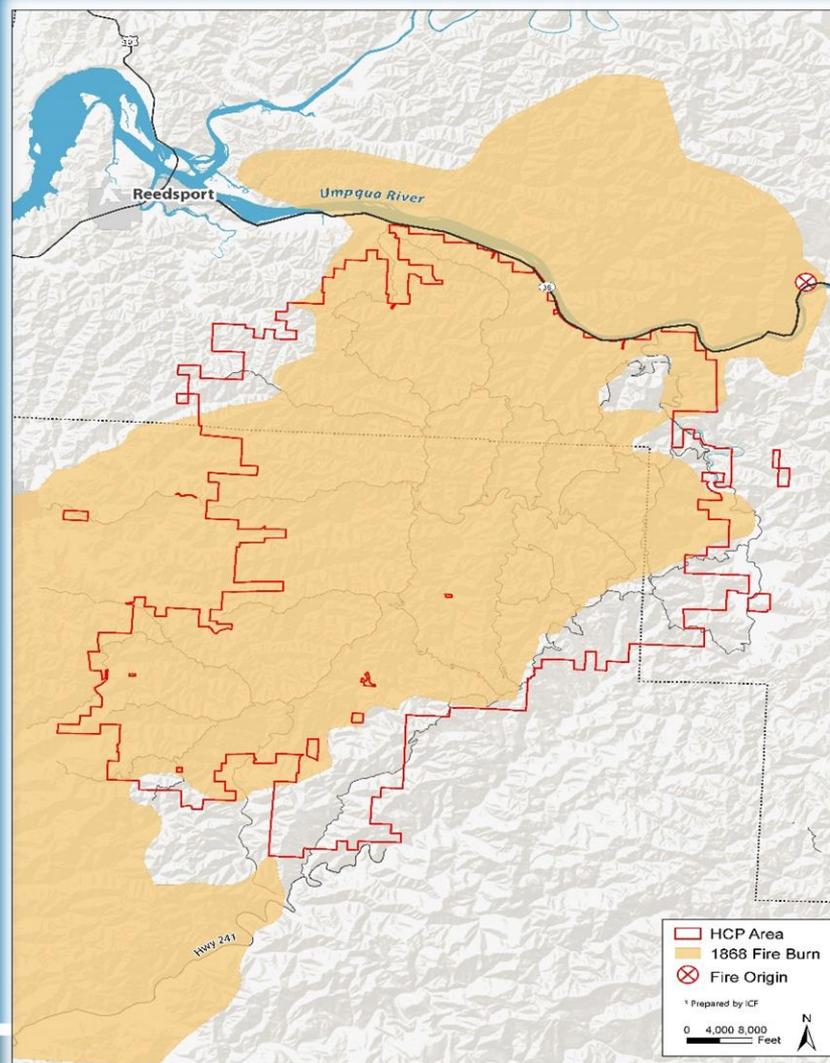
2 Major Disturbance Events

1. Coos Bay Fire (1868)

- Burned 90% of the ESF area; high severity
- Older present-day stands originated from this fire

2. Columbus Day Storm (1962)

- Blew down ~100 mmbf of timber on west side of ESF
- Many roads built to access salvage
- 1/3 of the roads today were built at that time



Fire History



Past Forest Management

- ◎ Little management between 1930-1950
- ◎ 1950s through 1980s: intensive timber management
- ◎ Other resources were considered, but management was driven by timber production



Current Management: Integrated Approach

- ◎ Wildlife/Fish Habitat
- ◎ Water Quality
- ◎ Forest Health
- ◎ Recreation
- ◎ Wood Products
- ◎ Fire Management



Thank you!



Elliott State Forest Habitat Conservation Plan

Advisory Committee Meeting

April 10, 2019



Troy Rahmig
Senior Managing Director
ICF

Overview

- Overview of ESA
- HCP Background and Purpose
- Key HCP Elements
- Progress To Date

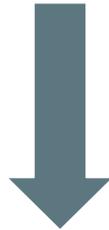
Overview of Endangered Species Act



ESA Regulatory Authority



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)



Marine species and most anadromous fish



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)



Terrestrial and freshwater aquatic species

Section 9: Prohibited Acts

- **Prohibition:** All persons are prohibited from importing, exporting, *taking*, transporting, or selling fish and wildlife species listed as endangered under federal ESA
- **Persons:** Prohibition applies to all private or public entities or individuals subject to U.S. government jurisdiction
- **Take:** Action of or attempt to hunt, *harm, harass*, pursue, shoot, wound, capture, kill, trap, or collect a species



Section 9: Prohibited Acts (Cont.)

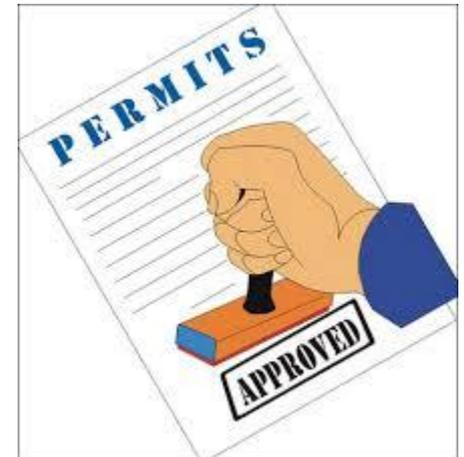
- **Harm:** Any act which actually kills or injures species, including significant habitat modification or degradation where it actually kills or injures wildlife by significantly impairing essential behavior patterns, including breeding, feeding, or sheltering
- **Harass:** Any act or omission, intentional or negligent, that creates the likelihood of injury to wildlife by annoying it to such an extent as to significantly disrupt normal behavior patterns which include, but are not limited to, breeding, feeding, or sheltering.

Source: 50 CFR 17.3

Exceptions to Section 9

- **Section 7: Projects with federal agency involvement**
 - Biological Opinion (BiOp or BO)
 - As part of the federal agency's formal consultation requirement under Section 7 – results in an incidental take statement for listed species

- **Section 10: Projects with no federal agency involvement**
 - Scientific permits
 - Enhancement of survival permit
 - Incidental take permit



Section 10: Permits

- **Section 10(a)(1)(A) Authorized Take Permits**
 - Scientific research and recovery permit:
 - Captive breeding
 - Trapping/banding
 - Interstate commerce permits:
 - Transport
 - Captive breeding activities
 - Enhancement of survival permit (ESP):
 - Safe Harbor Agreement
 - Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances (CCAA)
- **Section 10(a)(1)(B) Incidental Take Permits (ITP):**
 - Incidental Take Permit:
 - Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)

HCP Planning Process



What is a Habitat Conservation Plan?

- **Legal definition of a conservation plan under ESA Section 10(a)(2)(A):**
 - *No permit may be issued by the Secretary authorizing any taking referred to in paragraph (1)(B) unless the applicant therefore submits to the Secretary a conservation plan*
- **Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) is required for issuance of a Section 10 Incidental Take Permit**



Key Elements of the HCP

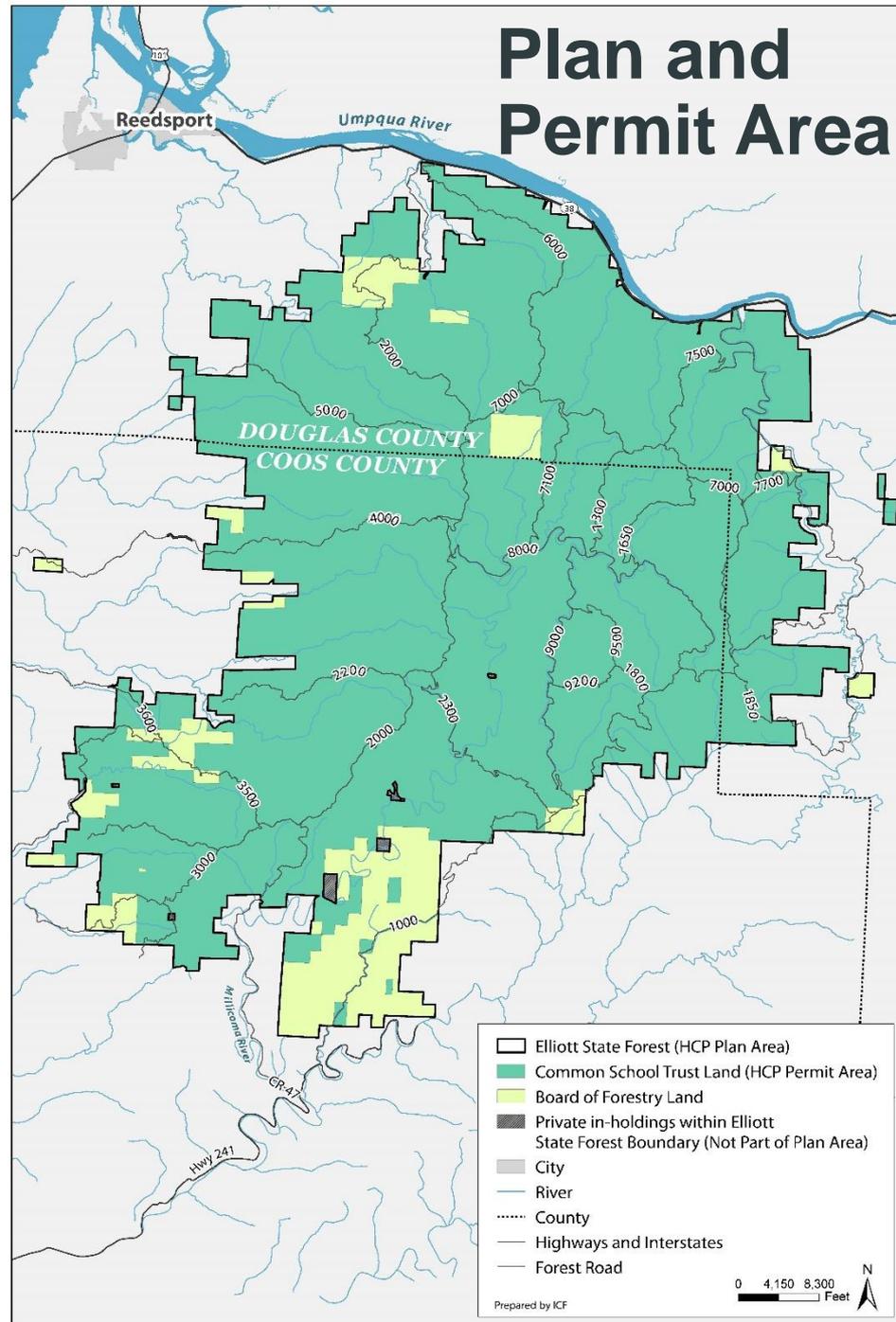
- Geographic Coverage
- Permit Term
- Covered Activities
- Covered Species



Plan and Permit Area

- Permit Area = area where the permit will apply
 - Covered activities will occur
 - Applicant has control of the land or activities
- Plan Area = area of analysis
 - Give context for biological analysis
 - Allow flexibility to include places where covered activities might occur in the future

Plan and Permit Area



Permit Term

- Proposed to be at least 50 years

- Key Considerations
 - How far into the future will covered activities occur?
 - How long will it take to achieve biological goals and objectives?
 - How uncertain is the ecological future?

Covered Activities

Criteria

- **Location:** Will the activity occur in the permit area?
- **Impact:** Is take of covered species likely to occur as the result of the activity?
- **Data:** Is there enough information about the activity to quantify how it may impact covered species during the permit term?
- **Control:** Is the activity under the control of the permittee?

Covered Activities

- Timber Harvest
- Stand Management Activities
- Road System Management
- Research Activities
- Implementation of Conservation Actions

Covered Species

Criteria

- **Status:** Is the species listed under the ESA or likely to become listed within the permit term?
- **Range:** Does the species occur in the permit area?
- **Impact:** Is take of covered species likely to occur from covered activities?
- **Data:** Is there enough information about the species to evaluate impacts and develop meaningful conservation measures?

Covered Species

Marbled murrelet
(*Brachyramphus marmoratus*)



Oregon Coast coho
(*Oncorhynchus kisutch*)



Northern spotted owl
(*Strix occidentalis*)

Thank You!

For further information, please contact:

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