

## Elliott State Forest Research Advisory Committee

April 17, 2020

Via Zoom

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

Advisory Committee Members present (via Zoom): Steve Andringa, Bob Sallinger, Michael Langley, Mary Paulson, Paul Beck, Jen Clark, Eric Farm, Geoff Huntington, Mike Kennedy, Ken McCall, Mark Stern, Keith Tymchuk, Vicki Walker, Melissa Cribbins, and Bob Van Dyk.

Department of State Lands and Oregon State University Staff (via Zoom): Meliah Masiba, Robert Underwood, Ali Ryan Hansen, Ryan Singleton, Bill Ryan, and Caitlyn Reilley.

Oregon Consensus Facilitation Team (via Zoom): Peter Harkema, Brett Brownscombe, Jennah Stillman, and Amy Delahanty

### Action Items

Action Item	Who	Date
Circulate draft April 17 meeting summary to AC members for review and comment.	OC	Completed.

### Welcome, Agenda Review and Process Overview

Facilitator Peter Harkema welcomed the group and invited members to do a round of introductions via Zoom. He then reviewed the agenda topics with the group, which included hearing general updates from Advisory Committee members, Department of State Lands (DSL) and Oregon State University (OSU), as well as updates on the Elliott Habitat Conservation Plan and Elliott State Forest Research Forest (ESRF) work group efforts to date. Following this, Peter invited DSL Director Walker to provide updates from the DSL.

### General Updates

#### *Department of State Lands*

DSL Director, Vicki Walker, thanked and acknowledged her team that has been working diligently on behalf of the Agency during the COVID-19 crisis. She shared that the Land Board continues to encourage the Agency to move forward and continue the collaborative work on the Elliott. To that end, Director Walker anticipates the work to continue with a research forest proposal to be provided to the Land Board in late 2020.

Director Walker then highlighted the public engagement efforts that occurred in 2019. She noted the Agency has worked to keep the public informed about the Elliott State Research Forest process through open houses, presentations, and email updates. Many members of the public attended events and also spoke at Land Board meetings. Last week, DSL sent an [email update](#) reflecting back what was heard from those various engagement efforts throughout 2019. In 2020, Director Walker shared the Agency will continue to provide information and opportunities for public engagement, keeping social distancing restrictions in mind as necessary.

### ***Oregon State University***

Geoff Huntington (OSU) provided a brief update of the College of Forestry's recreation stakeholder outreach efforts. Geoff reminded the group that in 2019 the College held recreation focus group sessions that helped inform the construction of the recreation portion of the Elliott State Research Forest Guiding Principles working draft document. (Information on the Advisory Committee and its work to-date, including the Guiding Principles, can be found here: Advisory Committee Website: <https://www.oregon.gov/dsl/land/pages/elliott.aspx>). Geoff noted that recreation was, and continues to be, an important topic to stakeholders if the Elliott becomes a research forest.

To that end, the College plans to reconvene recreation stakeholders in the coming weeks to discuss what a future process for developing a recreation management plan might look like. Geoff noted that recreation planning won't come until later in planning efforts for the Elliott, but there is significant interest in the topic and the College would like to continue those conversations and engagement. Geoff shared there are 20-25 people that have expressed interest in this topic area at past meetings with the bulk of people being local to the area, though there are also a few individuals from the Valley.

### **Break Out Groups**

Advisory Committee members were then invited into small breakout groups to check-in for approximately five minutes.

### **General Updates--Continued**

Advisory Committee members, DSL and OSU staff then provided brief updates on the recent activities related to the ESRF effort. They were as follows:

### ***Governance Work Group***

Meliah Masiba, Department of State Lands, reviewed the purpose of the governance work group and efforts to date. Meliah noted that the purpose of the Governance Work Group was for members to provide input on an ESRF governance framework that is consistent with the governance Guiding Principles agreed upon by the Advisory Committee and OSU in 2019. She shared that DSL and OSU are intending for the work on governance to continue to move forward, despite disruptions associated with the coronavirus pandemic. She noted that at the first meeting the group reviewed examples of various governance structures and engaged in a preliminary

conversation about the desired attributes members would like to see in an ESRF governance model. At its upcoming meeting, the group will further discuss governance considerations as they relate to potential engagement with carbon markets and continue to discuss and identify mechanisms for operationalizing governance principles that are aligned with the Guiding Principles outlined by Advisory Committee members.

### ***Decoupling Conversations***

Meliah reminded the group that the Oregon Supreme Court's decision in the *Cascadia* case raises potential considerations for both Elliott ownership and decoupling. Meliah shared that the Court's decision means the Elliott must remain in state ownership and directs that common school lands must be managed to obtain the greatest benefit for Oregonians. While this decision will generate continued conversations around the implications for common school fund land management, she noted the Land Board's vision for the Elliott has always included a desire to obtain a multitude of benefits for Oregon. Meliah also added OSU is considered an entity of the state, which should allow for a research forest scenario if title to the forest is transferred to them. The *Cascadia* decision generated interest and discussion by Advisory Committee members, and it was recognized that conversations regarding the decision should be informed by attorneys who were not present at the Advisory Committee meeting. Further discussion of decoupling awaits additional work within the Research Platform group (below) and will require engagement of additional stakeholders.

### ***Science Advisory Panel***

Peter then invited Portland State University faculty and chair of the Science Advisory Panel, Dr. Jennifer Allen, to provide a brief update of the Science Advisory Panel's charge and work to date. Dr. Allen noted the following (as articulated in an email previously forwarded by Oregon Consensus on behalf of OSU's Interim Dean of the College of Forestry to the Advisory Committee):

“The Science Advisory Panel, charged by the Dean of the College of Forestry, will work to ensure the vision and goals of the research charter, and associated research design, to position the Elliott State Research Forest as a world-leading source of scientific knowledge and discovery to advance the study and practice of forestry. The work will require the panel to offer direct feedback and input on OSU's research design and its intersection with the values emphasized by the University, the Land Board stakeholder advisory committee, and Oregonians. The panel will also advise on how to ensure the research charter and governance structure, along with proposed conservation and research actions, emphasize scientific integrity while balancing multiple perspectives.”

Dr. Allen then shared the initial membership of the panel and the areas of expertise the panelists represent. Dr. Allen clarified that this group is not intended to be representative of the various interests around the Elliott, but rather, be able to offer perspectives from the areas of expertise in their research. Following this, AC members asked questions related to panelist representation; timeline; and how the Science Advisory Panel role in the long-term governance structure of the Elliott.

## **Research Platform**

Geoff Huntington provided an overview of the current mapping and acreage allocation configuration and an update on ongoing research platform work. Research Platform Work Group members were invited to share their perspectives on the group's discussions. Following this presentation and updates, Advisory Committee members asked questions related to Murrelet distribution, spatial and temporal distribution of early seral habitat over time, the definition of extensive, and how forest structure would shift over the life of the research forest.

## **Habitat Conservation Plan Update**

Troy Rahmig, ICF, provided a brief update on efforts related to the Elliott HCP. Troy shared that a considerable amount of work has been happening in ESRF work groups around the research platform, designations across the landscape, and governance considerations. Troy shared the HCP work will ramp up further based on where the research forest platform workgroup effort lands, and that that output will direct the analysis that occurs in the HCP. ICF has been updating background information and is poised to start the analysis as the final pieces of the land allocation come together. He noted work on the HCP will increase during the summer months and he anticipates a draft HCP will be ready for the Land Board in late 2020.

Troy shared that a component of the HCP will be to identify what monitoring will look like, including the type and level of intensity. Monitoring will help track achievement of HCP objectives and inform where the species are in the future relative to today. Troy shared it is important to remember that along with the HCP comes an incidental take permit. The permit holder is not penalized for growing habitat into the future. If species grow into habitat the permit holder has designated for harvest under the research platform, the HCP provides authorization and assurances that removal of such habitat is permitted so long as consistent with the conditions in the HCP. Troy then shared that proposed land allocations, habitat protections and expectations for harvest regimes will be documented and analyzed in the HCP and its future National Environmental Policy Act process.

## **Next Steps**

Geoff then briefly reviewed the next steps on the research design and other estimated timelines. They were generally as follows:

### **Research Design Draft Timeline:**

- Watershed-by-watershed mapping of Conservation Research Watersheds
- Establish principles for what constitutes “intensive” and “extensive” harvest regimes
- Provide a view of harvest and age distribution over time
- Model harvest volume and revenue projections associated with draft allocation and prescriptions
- Involve new College of Forestry Dean, Tom DeLuca

Other estimated timelines:

- Additional mapping (April)
- Harvest modeling (May)
- Platform conversations (May-July)
- Carbon protocol projection (June/July)
- Advisory committee meeting (Mid July)
- Platform committee concurrence on conceptual research resign (July/Aug)
- Frame carbon protocol (TBD)
- Governance framework (TBD)
- Financial plan (TBD)
- Extensive public engagement (TBD)

Following this, Peter invited final closing thoughts by committee members. The group shared general reflections and comments. Peter noted that committee members will continue to be consulted to advance the effort outside of formal Advisory Committee meetings. He invited committee members to continue to reach out to the facilitation, DSL and OSU teams at any point. Members of the public were encouraged to contact Ali Ryan Hansen (DSL) to stay informed on the Elliott process. There being no further questions, the meeting was adjourned.