

A Future for the Elliott State Forest

The Elliott State Forest has been at the center of passionate conversations for many years, with growing tension between the forest's historical role of helping fund our public schools and the forest's potential to provide benefits beyond harvest revenue.

The State Land Board has a modern vision for the Elliott: A public forest that has completed its obligation to funding Oregon schools, but will continue to contribute to conservation, recreation, education, local economies, and more as a research forest.

A World-Class Research Forest

[At the Land Board's direction](#), Oregon Department of State Lands and Oregon State University have worked together since 2019 to explore transforming the Elliott State Forest into a publicly owned state research forest. The Land Board in [December 2019](#) and [December 2020](#) affirmed the Elliott's future as a research forest and directed DSL and OSU to finalize details.

Bringing Together Diverse Interests, Finding Agreement

Since 2019, work has been guided by a 16-member [Advisory Committee](#) representing diverse perspectives on conservation, timber, schools, recreation, local government, and more. Their input and insight, along with extensive engagement of Tribes, community stakeholders, and the public, has helped resolve many challenging issues and continue a path to a research forest.

Work is underway on multiple details, including:

- **Forest Ownership:** Establishing an independent public entity to own the forest would help ensure creation of a world-class research forest in Oregon that is governed with the accountability and transparency Oregonians expect. Collaborative work with the advisory committee is underway to develop a legislative concept for 2022.
- **Habitat Conservation Plan:** On October 8, 2021, DSL submitted the Elliott State Research Forest Administrative Draft Habitat Conservation Plan to federal agencies for review. [Read the Department's submittal letter](#).
- **Forest Management Plan:** OSU is leading work to develop a forest management plan, guided by the Advisory Committee and with extensive engagement planned for 2022.

Additional Resources

- [DSL's Elliott website](#) (news & meeting information, committee information, forest background)
- [OSU's Elliott website](#) (research proposal information, OSU committee/workgroup information)
- [Elliott playlist on YouTube](#) (committee meetings, public information sessions, and more)

Contact DSL

Meliah Masiba, Legislative & Gov. Affairs meliah.m.masiba@dsl.oregon.gov

Geoff Huntington, Elliott State Forest Project Advisor geoffrey.huntington@dsl.oregon.gov