

Chair Witt, committee members,

I'm Fergus Mclean, a retired forester certified as a Woodland Manager by OSU Extension.

I have mixed feelings about HB 2357. Despite having crossed the line between doing research in the public interest and suppressing real forest science and issuing self-serving propaganda at the public's expense, OFRI provides useful services for hardworking family foresters and gets schoolkids out into our forests.

Rather than eliminating OFRI, the legislature might consider altering the composition of OFRI's board. Then simply matching OFRI's self-imposed harvest tax with an identical one devoted to our new Elliott Research Forest we would be funding a pathway towards a new, ecosystems-based, carbon sensitive forest management system with enormous potential for employment of Oregon schoolkids in Green Economy jobs and economic revitalization of rural communities through a shift oriented towards nurturing natural ecosystems attractive to tourism.

OFRI's attack on the peer-reviewed breakthrough forest carbon findings of Dr Law and her OSU colleagues has done catastrophic harm to planning for Elliott research done to date by OSU and DSL. Despite her promises to do so, DSL Director Walker failed to invite longtime Global Warming Commission Chair Angus Duncan to present his findings in the November 2018 report of the Forest Carbon Accounting Project (featuring Dr Law's work) to the Elliott Advisory Committee. As a result, Elliott research planning has gone forward absent input from Dr Law- with her OSU colleague Dr Mark Harmon- widely recognized as the world's leading forest carbon scientists.

Thus, due to OFRI's intimidation and suppression of good science, we have lost five years of public policy awareness that our basic understanding of how our forests operate and effect atmospheric CO2 has undergone a major shift. And, thanks to OFRI, the design of the nation's biggest research forest has gone forward with an emphasis on timber harvest volume while the most important scientific development in forest science in decades- coming from OSU's own researchers- has been ignored. This is damage which will be very expensive and difficult to undo. Thanks to OFRI, OSU's Elliott research strategy is hopelessly compromised. NW Forest Plan author Jerry Franklin has described OSU's Elliott research design approach as "an outstandingly bad idea."

OFRI's corrosive and fraudulent anti-science influence demonstrates above all the need for ample, dependable and entirely impartial funding for forestry research. Establishing a tax identical to the rate OFRI imposes on itself to be devoted to funding good science in the Elliott may be the best way to undo the damage OFRI has done to forest science in Oregon.

Unfortunately, OSU and DSL are complicit in suppressing Dr Law's forest carbon science discoveries, raising very serious questions whether the institutional culture at OSU is worthy of the state's trust in managing forestry research. It would appear otherwise, as OSU- where the timber industry funds the Dean of Forestry's salary- has shown itself to be incapable of stepping outside the influence of their timber industry patrons. As Dr Franklin has pointed out, their "science" simply cannot be trusted.

Fortunately, there is an alternative to OSU "owning" the Elliott, based on the Oregon Supreme Court's December 2018 ruling *DSL vs Cascadia Wildlands*.

Contrary to what legislators heard from DSL, OFRI, AOL and the School Boards Association, that maximization of Elliott timber harvest revenue must be its paramount priority, the high court found that it is the legislature which is empowered to determine Elliott management priorities.

By its approval of \$100 million in bonding to fund non-timber harvest activities in the Elliott the legislature has made it clear it has other, non-financial priorities for the Elliott. Therefore, there is actually no reason at all why the Elliott should be “decoupled” from the Common School Fund. And there is no reason at all why the Elliott should not continue to be managed by DSL on behalf of the State Land Board just as they’ve managed the South Slough Estuarine Research Reserve for the last 40 years. The remaining \$98 million or so out of the \$100 million Elliott bond can therefore be repurposed for establishment and initial operation of an Elliott Research Forest remaining within the Common School Fund.

A harvest tax matching ORFI’s self-imposed tax will be a suitable source of revenue for dependable, impartial funding of the kind of objective forest research Oregon needs, such as comparing industrial forest management practices to the new paradigm standards described in Ecological Forestry (Franklin et al 2018) and its research companion Ecological Silviculture (Franklin et al 2021). And wildfire research. And research on herbicides. And wildlife-related research. Climate-related research and study of how the state can help provide access to global carbon markets for small woodland managers. And examination of OSU’s proposed shrunken riparian buffers. Adequate funding to support a truly accessible top quality program of hands-on education for Oregon schoolkids in summer camps. Things benefiting all Oregonians, rather than the representatives of timber companies and Wall Street speculators occupying seats on OFRI’s Board of Directors.