



**CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF  
COOS, LOWER UMPQUA AND SIUSLAW INDIANS  
TRIBAL GOVERNMENT**

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January 28, 2022

**RE: Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians' Support for SB 1546 -1**

Honorable Members of the Oregon Legislature,

I am writing to express the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians' (CTCLUSI) full support for the Elliott State Research Forest, and to urge you to vote in favor SB 1546 - 1.

The Tribes are the original inhabitants of the lands that are now known as the Elliott State Forest, and we continue to depend on those lands as a source of food, medicine, and spiritual connection. Because of our strong ties to the Elliott, it is essential that the future management of these lands fully consider and incorporate tribal interests as well as tribal knowledge. We feel that DSL, alongside OSU and Oregon Consensus, have achieved these goals by providing a level of consultation and coordination with the Tribes that can be held up as an example of how the State should work with tribes on issues of mutual interest.

Our Tribes have been heavily involved in the process of developing the Elliott State Research Forest proposal over the past three years. DSL and OSU contacted the Tribes early in the process, and have maintained frequent two-way communications with all levels of Tribal Government throughout the process. They came to the table to work with the affected tribes in a way that was respectful of each tribes' unique culture, structure, and policy related to government-to-government consultation. DSL and OSU did not try to define for the tribes how consultation would occur, but rather met with each tribe on the tribes' own terms. They were persistent in their efforts to make sure the tribes were included in the process. They did not get discouraged when they made missteps, but instead doubled their efforts to keep the tribes involved and engaged.

Consultation was not just approached as a procedural exercise. CTCLUSI feels that our input has provided meaningful contributions to the collaborative effort, and has been incorporated into the Elliott State Research Forest foundational documents (including SB 1546 -1) which will guide management and research on the Elliott going forward.

DSL and OSU also recognize that consultation with CTCLUSI will be an ongoing process. This juncture does not mark the end of consultation; it is only the beginning of a long relationship with the Tribes. CTCLUSI will continue to coordinate and consult with DSL, OSU, and the Elliott State Research Authority as we implement our vision for management of the Elliott as a research forest.

We feel that the high level of tribal involvement is evident in the direction that we have charted for management and research on the Elliott, and we are excited for the future direction of the Elliott.

We look forward to a science-based riparian management approach that will place emphasis on providing cold, clean water and protecting some of the best salmon and lamprey habitat on Oregon's coast. We're happy to see a shift towards conservation-focused management that will dramatically increase the extent of older forest on the Elliott. We look forward to the return of some harvest and management disturbance on the Elliott which will provide local jobs, reinforce local people's active connection to the land, and provide for a variety of habitat conditions to sustain healthy populations of all the species that call the Elliott home. We're relieved that the Elliott will remain a public forest, and will continue to provide opportunities for people to connect to the land.

We are especially eager to both contribute to and benefit from the research that is conducted on the Elliott. As the original stewards of these lands, the Tribes possess an abundance of traditional ecological knowledge that is relevant to the future management of these forestlands. As present-day practitioners of holistic forest management on our own Tribal Forest, we can also provide contemporary knowledge related to ecological forestry. The research that is produced on the Elliott will advance the practice of ecological forestry on our own lands, as well as on other forestlands within our Ancestral Homeland. We worked closely with DSL to include language in SB 1546 -1 that will allow the Tribes to remain closely involved in the future management of the Elliott, and we plan to continue working with the Elliott State Research Forest Authority and OSU on planning and implementation of management activities as well as research on the Elliott.

More than anything else, we are happy that CTCLUSI will be able to continue actively participating in management of the Elliott so that it may continue to provide food, medicine, and spiritual connection for our Tribal Members. SB 1546 -1 codifies the intent of DSL and OSU to continue their active partnerships with the tribes and to provide opportunities for tribal members to harvest traditional forest products and engage in traditional tribal practices. This is of great importance to us, and we believe that it is of great importance to DSL and OSU as well. We look forward to continuing our close connections to the Elliott that our Tribes have maintained since time immemorial.

In closing, I would like to reiterate that CTCLUSI is fully supportive of the Elliott State Research Forest. We are also committed to continuing to work with DSL, OSU, and the Elliott State Research Forest Authority to successfully implement our shared vision for the future of the Elliott. I thank you for your support, and urge you to vote in favor of SB 1546 -1.

Sincerely,



Debbie Bossley  
Tribal Council Chair  
Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua & Siuslaw Indians