

Submitter: CATHERINE NEWSHELLER

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery

Measure: SB1546

To: Oregon Policy Makers

From: Catherine Newscheller

RE: Amendment to SB 1546 - Establishing an Elliot Research Forest (ESRF)

February 3, 2022,

Dear Oregon Policy Makers,

I feel compelled to add, yet again, comments on the final establishment of the Elliot Research Forest.

Honestly, having the OSU College of Forest in charge of this forest is like putting the fox in charge of the henhouse.

They have proven time and again their inability to separate themselves from the industrial forest complex that funds the College of Forestry (COF) and many chairs including the Dean's own. To deny that influence would be a lie.

To call themselves a "world-class forestry institute" is a joke when they still practice the same old standard clear-cutting and harvesting practices of old. Their own "research" forest in Corvallis is nothing but a hodge-podge of clearcutting managed solely for money to run their research forest. Such a circular route. How long are they going to "research" clearcutting? They plan on doing this, yet again, on the Elliot. World-class means putting carbon sequestration as their number one priority considering what is going on in our world with climate change. Where are their carbon experts on this subject? Seriously?? They should be ashamed of themselves. The people of Oregon lobbied to save this forest, not have it cut down. And they won't even make money from it because one of their goals is to supply mills (at a loss) that should probably be out of business anyway now. We cannot cling to the old ways, but need to figure out how to train and employ people in environmental jobs within the forest. That would employ more people than supplying mills. It's like saying that we will keep producing coal to help out the coal miners in what we know is a dying industry.

Yes, we all need wood products, but sustainable wood-products--not by clear-cutting and bowing to industry. Why industry people even serve on advisory committees is beyond me since we all know that they will lobby to cut, cut, cut. Can we get some real science here? It's out there by the droves, but no one on the advisory committee seems to read it or refer to it. OSU doesn't even listen to or utilize their own former experts at the University such as Norm Johnson and Gerry Franklin.

I hope that you take some of these comments into consideration on your finalization

of the plan. There is no harm in taking the time you need to formulate a better plan than to rush this through just to finish it off and get it down. This forest belongs to the people of Oregon, not industry leaders or the OSU CofF.

Thank you for your consideration.

Catherine Newsheller