

Submitter: Stephanie Noll
On Behalf Of: Oregon Trails Coalition
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery
Measure: SB1546

February 3, 2022

Dear Chair Golden and Members of the Committee:

I'm submitting this testimony in support of SB 1546-1 on behalf of the Oregon Trails Coalition.

The Oregon Trails Coalition is a coalition of broad-based, statewide partners dedicated to the preservation, development, and stewardship of a statewide network of sustainable trails that provide access to outdoor recreation and active transportation for all.

Our advisory council includes representatives from more than twenty-five federal, state, and local agencies, trail user groups, outdoor industry and tourism partners, conservation advocates, and volunteer organizations. We represent walkers, bikers, runners, paddlers, equestrians, adaptive equipment users, skiers, snowmobilers, and motorized trail enthusiasts.

The creation of "an enduring, world-class research forest that:

- (a) Advances and supports forest health, climate resilience, carbon sequestration, biodiversity, recovery of imperiled species, water quality and quantity, recreational opportunities and local economies, and
- (b) Is managed to promote collaboration, partnerships, inclusive public processes and equity"

is very much in line with our Coalition values of stewardship and conservation; joy, curiosity, education, and wonder; access to outdoor recreation for all Oregonians; honoring a diversity of abilities, personal and cultural histories, and contributions; and transparency, accountability, and information sharing.

We hope that the Elliot State Research Forest can serve not only a home for research and demonstration of sustainable forestry, but also for sustainable and inclusive outdoor recreation opportunities for all Oregonians. We hope plans for the Research Forest account for the desire for a wide variety of recreation types with universal design and inclusive information that ensure all Oregonians (and especially those communities near the forest) can fully participate in recreating on and learning from their public lands.

We hope to see this legislation forwarded by the committee.

Thank you for your leadership,

Stephanie Noll,
Coalition Director,
Oregon Trails Coalition