



OREGON HUNTERS ASSOCIATION

Protecting Oregon's Wildlife, Habitat and Hunting Heritage

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Written Testimony, SB 5146-1 Feb 3, 2022

Chair Golden and Members of the Committee,

For the record my name is Ken McCall, state board member of Oregon Hunters Association representing a recreation voice on the Elliott State Forest Advisory Committee.

The Elliott Forest, once part of the Siuslaw National Forest has offered public access for 115 years. Approving the Elliott State Research Forest provides public access to the Elliott, as does the adjacent Siuslaw Forest, maintaining the most significant block of public lands in Oregon's Coast Range.

You heard in the Tuesday work session of the time and effort invested in the Elliott process over the last three years. It is important to note that while many compromises were made on complex forest and species management issues, we did not overlook the unique public recreation value of the Elliott.

Traditional outdoor uses like hunting, fishing and resource gathering have long been practiced on the Elliott. Tribal use of the landscape and resources supported humans for many thousands of years prior to more recent times. The Elliott will continue to provide those values as well as new recreation and outdoor education options.

The Elliott can and will, with your support, provide a well-managed, diverse recreation program, many community jobs and positive impacts on local economies.

The focus of physical developments serving forest recreation like developed camping facilities and businesses in local communities minimize direct development impacts on the forest while benefiting our coastal communities with jobs and economic growth.

The opportunity for recreation research and publicly informed recreation planning is but one of many enduring Elliott Forest benefiting Oregon's citizens, recreation demand will continue to grow with our population.

As a Corvallis resident, Serving on the McDonald Dunn Research Forest Advisory committee and recreating on that forest has provided insight into how an actively managed forest can provide public recreation opportunity. An important distinction between the Elliott and Corvallis area research forests is recreation is accommodated

on the Willamette valley forests. The Elliott model incorporates recreation planning into the design.

Lastly, In August 2017 before the ESRF advisory committee was formed, I was invited to join Governor Brown, Treasurer Reed, then Senator Roblan, public land advocates and a curious local Elk herd at the Dean Creek Wildlife Area for the signing of SB 847. Initiating of decoupling the Elliott from the Common School Fund. This committee can continue that process by moving SB 1546-1 forward to signing. This is truly an historic opportunity for Oregon.

Sincerely,
Ken McCall
NW Oregon Director
Oregon Hunters Association,