

**SB 161 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Carrier:** Sen. Golden

**Senate Committee On Natural Resources**

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**Action Date:** 03/22/23

**Action:** Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

**Vote:** 5-0-0-0

**Yeas:** 5 - Girod, Golden, Prozanski, Smith DB, Taylor

**Fiscal:** No fiscal impact

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

**Prepared By:** Laura Kentnesse, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 3/20, 3/22

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Changes the date by which certain tasks must be accomplished from July 1, 2023 to November 1, 2023 for the Elliott State Research Forest provisions to become operative on January 1, 2024. Changes the requirement that the National Marine Fisheries Service and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) jointly publish a notice of the availability of a final habitat conservation plan for the Elliott State Forest and a final environmental impact statement to a requirement that the Department of State Lands submits a habitat conservation plan for the Elliott State Forest to the federal agencies and that the USFWS initiates preparation of a final environmental impact statement. Changes the State Land Board reporting date from September 15, 2023 to February 15, 2024. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Senate Bill 1546 (2022) and the vision for the Elliott State Research Forest
- Timeline for establishment of the Elliott State Research Forest
- Interconnectedness of remaining deliverables
- Federal agency commitment to the new dates specified in the measure
- No changes to substantive direction, policy, or management provisions

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

Replaces the measure.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Elliott State Forest is a 91,000-acre forest located in Coos and Douglas Counties in the central Oregon Coast Range. It was established in 1930 as Oregon's first state forest and has been overseen by the State Land Board and managed by the Department of State Lands (DSL) as a Common School Fund land asset since its inception.

In 2022, the Legislative Assembly enacted Senate Bill 1546, which officially established the Elliott State Research Forest from lands formerly constituting the Elliott State Forest, established the Elliott State Research Forest Authority as an independent state agency to govern the forest, and established the mission and management policies for the forest. The law requires that several tasks be accomplished by or before July 1, 2023 for the Elliott State Research Forest provisions to become operative on January 1, 2024.

Senate Bill 161 A would change the date by which certain tasks to establish the Elliott State Research Forest must be accomplished from July 1, 2023 to November 1, 2023, would change requirements related to federal and state responsibilities for a final habitat conservation plan and final environmental impact statement, and would change the State Land Board reporting date from September 15, 2023 to February 15, 2024.