

Elliott State Research Forest: Opportunity, Challenges, and Next Steps

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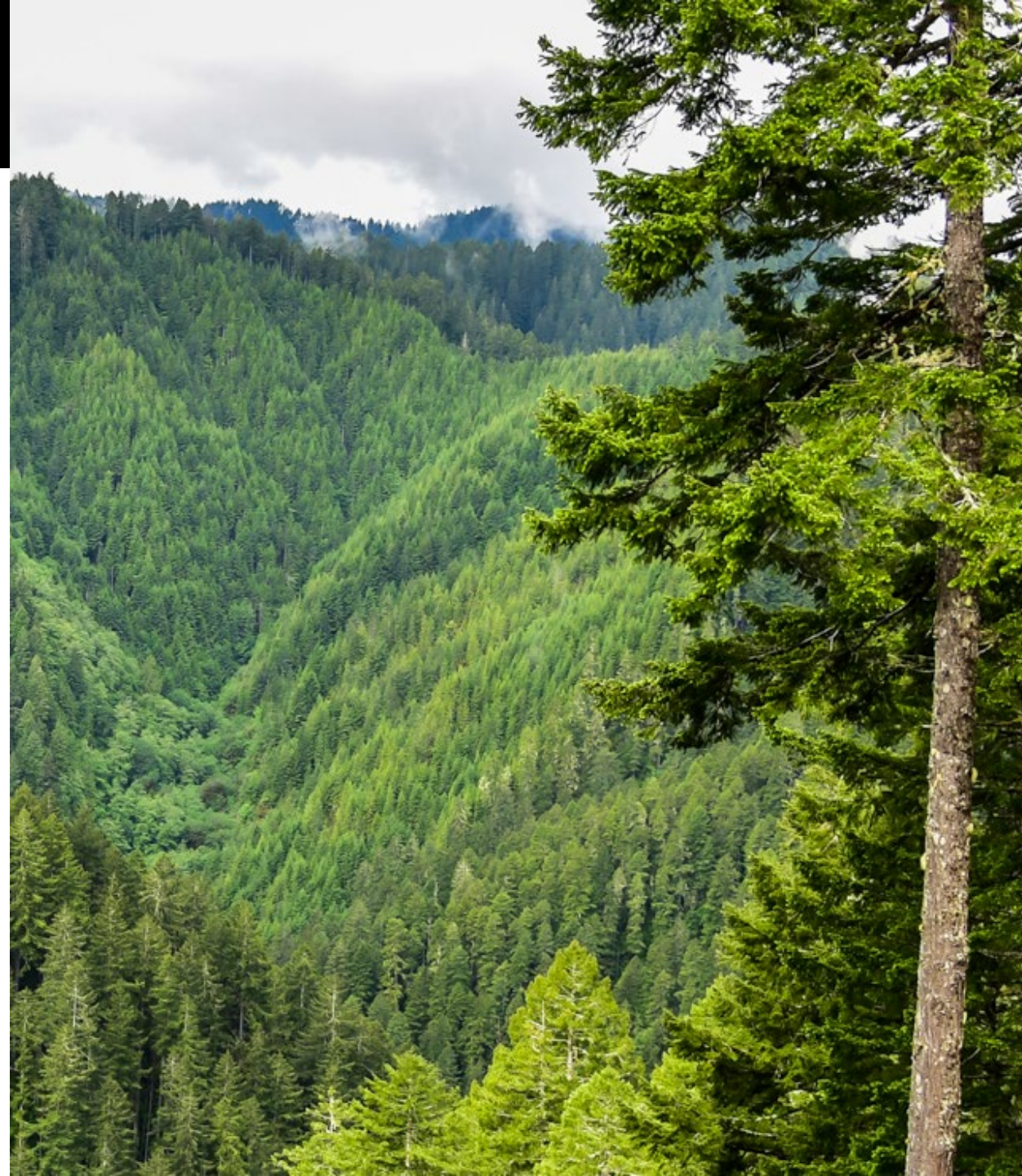
**Oregon State
University**

Joint Committee on Ways
and Means Natural
Resources Subcommittee

February 19, 2024

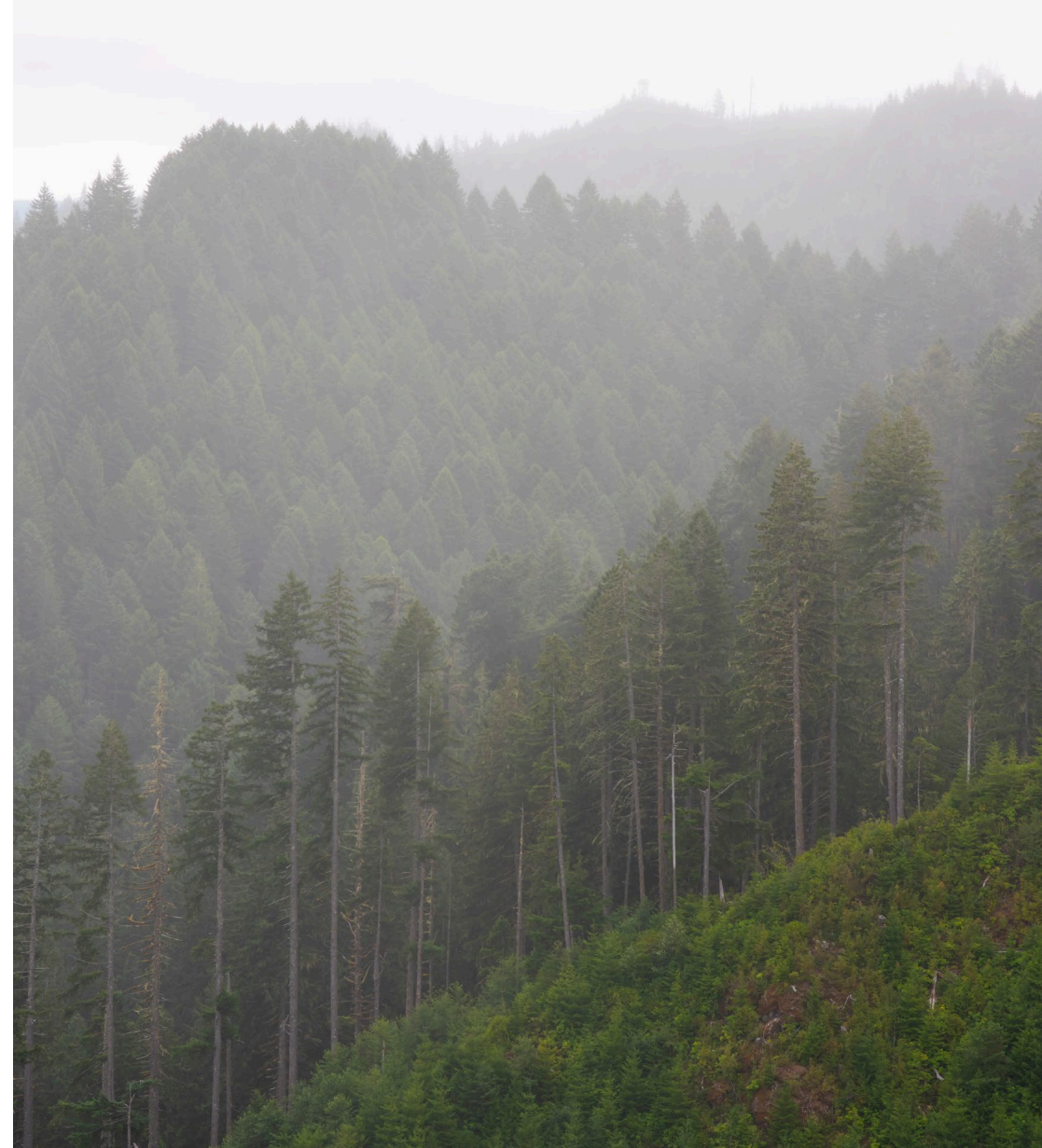
Research Forest Vision

- State Land Board direction (2017)
- Unique potential to create a world-class research forest
- Commitment to conservation, education, public access, Tribal cultural values, local economies
- Long-term field-based research building understanding of complex systems → advancing resiliency, policy & decision-making



Where We Are

- Multi-year process of collaboration, engagement, and compromise
- \$221M state investment
- OSU-led development of ESRF Research Proposal (April 2021), December 2023 ESRF Management Plan (120 contributors) in alignment with DSL-led Habitat Conservation Plan
- Layering of additional requirements and constraints → challenges

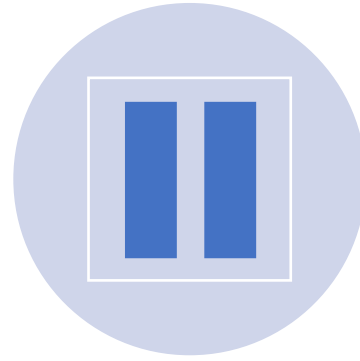


Where We Are

- Concerns raised by OSU, CTCLUSI, and others with requests for a pause and further discussion
 - *November 13, 2023 letter from OSU President Murthy with an open door for dialogue*
- OSU continues to support the vision for an Elliott State Research Forest
- Considering involvement as research partner based on further details of DSL's updated plans



Key Issues



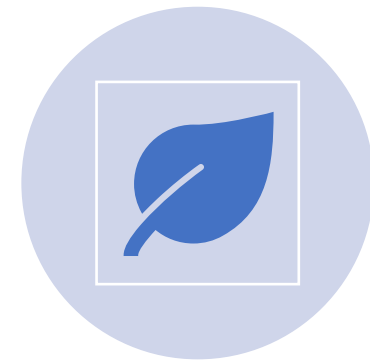
CTCLUSI CONCERNS AND REQUEST
FOR PAUSE



ANNUAL HARVEST VOLUME
RESTRICTIONS IN ADDITION TO
EXISTING CONSERVATION MEASURES



START-UP FUNDS AND LONG-TERM
FINANCIAL SELF-SUFFICIENCY



CARBON OFFSET PROJECT

RESEARCH FOREST:

holistic, designed to build knowledge

RESEARCH IS PRIMARY

- supported by grants, gifts, and harvest
- integral to forest management, inseparable
- integral to habitat conservation, inseparable
- core component of budget

FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

- informed by research
- informing research

HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN

- informed by research
- informing research

FOREST WHERE YOU CAN DO RESEARCH: ad hoc, opportunistic, circular

FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

harvest allocated to cover management costs

- informed by ??
- actions covered in HCP

HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN

monitoring and reporting funded by harvest

RESEARCH IS SECONDARY
limited, based on potential leftover funds and grants

Creating a Successful Research Forest



Commitment and trust built on integrity and mutual respect



Research funding and support with a clear plan and consistent budget



Representative board that includes research scientists



Engagement with Tribes that provides adequate time and effort



Minimal political influence to support unbiased, long-term research

- OSU continues to support the ESRF vision
- Currently assisting with technical expertise as requested
- Will assess OSU's potential research lead based on understanding the details of DSL's plans



Key Questions from OSU

What is the budget for research?

What are the scope and objectives of the research program as envisioned by DSL?

What are the conditions, management strategies and operational guidance set in the FMP that will affect research?

How are the concerns raised by the Tribe(s) being addressed?

What is the board oversight process and involvement in research as envisioned by DSL?

Thank You



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