

Summer Issue 2017

OREGON Fish & Wildlife JOURNAL



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Larry Arndt with the Oregon State Record shad at 6 pounds, 8 ounces. See page 7!

PUBLISHER

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Cristy Rein

FORESTRY EDITOR

Mickey Bellman

OFFICE MANAGER

Nicole de Leon

ADVERTISING SALES

Nicole de Leon

CONTENT CONTRIBUTORS

Cristy Rein, Dr. Bob Zybach, Mickey Bellman,
Steve Byas, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service,
American Forest Resource Council, Jeff Plew,
House Committee On Natural Resources,
US Department of Interior

We can be reached at (503) 657-6962

FAX (503) 657-3410 • P.O. Box 1325

Clackamas, Oregon 97015

email: RZPublish@aol.com

www.OregonFishAndWildlifeJournal.com

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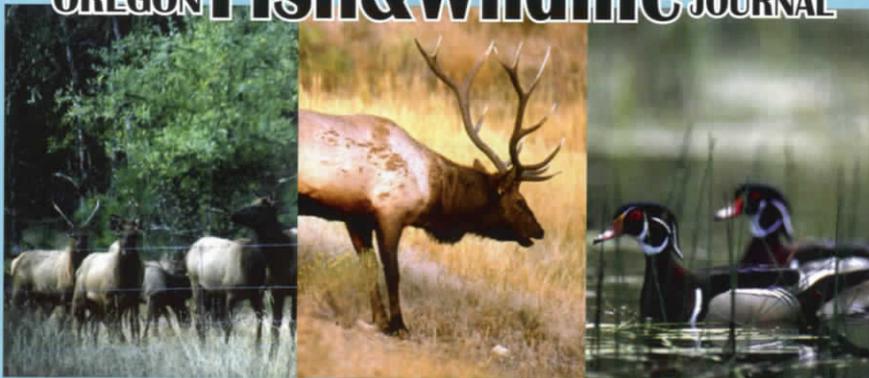
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MyVoice

By *Cristy Rein*

We've covered issues regarding natural resource management for literally decades. For the past 8 years we've honestly felt our message has gone unheard. Until now.

With the publication of our Spring 2017 Issue we covered natural resource management issues along with the politics that seem to surround them. Finally we've been heard!

Our article about Obama using the Antiquities Act of 1906 has helped to bring on the first ever public comment period concerning these land set asides.

Even though the law clearly states, the President is required to reserve the **smallest** area of land possible for the objects to be protected. Obama used this to lock up more than **half a billion acres**.

President Trump has called for a review of all large (over 100,000 acres) land set asides made using this act since 1996. That will include Clinton's set asides as well.

The Antiquities Act of 1906 stands alone among environmental preservation statutes, because it allows a President to unilaterally set aside millions of acres of land and water for special protections. In contrast to all other federal laws, it requires zero procedural protections (accountability) for those in affected areas.

Please look at page 31 in this issue for information on making your own voice heard. No public comment have ever been heard regarding this act since 1906!

Wonderful news for the people!

As you may remember in our last issue we also published the "Gisey Plan" as an alternative to selling off our assets with the Elliott State Forest. This is now being considered by the Oregon Lands Board. The Land Board also voted to keep The Elliott Forest under public ownership. It's intent is to fund schools

but hasn't been managed to achieve that for years. The Gisey Plan is one that preserves land and species while it creates jobs and takes care of the forest. We support it fully!

Then, on May 24, 2017 after we published the story on Governor Brown awarding multi-million dollar state contracts to her own big campaign contributors we received an email from Senate Republican Leader Ted Ferrioli's office.

Ferrioli wrote, "Oregonians ought to question what is going on here. "Is Oregon's government using state agency spending to influence the electorate? We need a deep state investigation to connect these dots...."

Again we were heard! We distribute magazines to all Oregon State Senators and Representatives, as well as all members of the US Congress and the US Senate... even the entire Executive Cabinet in DC.

The report on Governor Brown had been originally published in February on the authors (Adam Andrzejewski) own website and Forbes Magazine. There was no sign that Oregon lawmakers were aware so we published it in our Spring 2017 Issue. Again, we were heard!

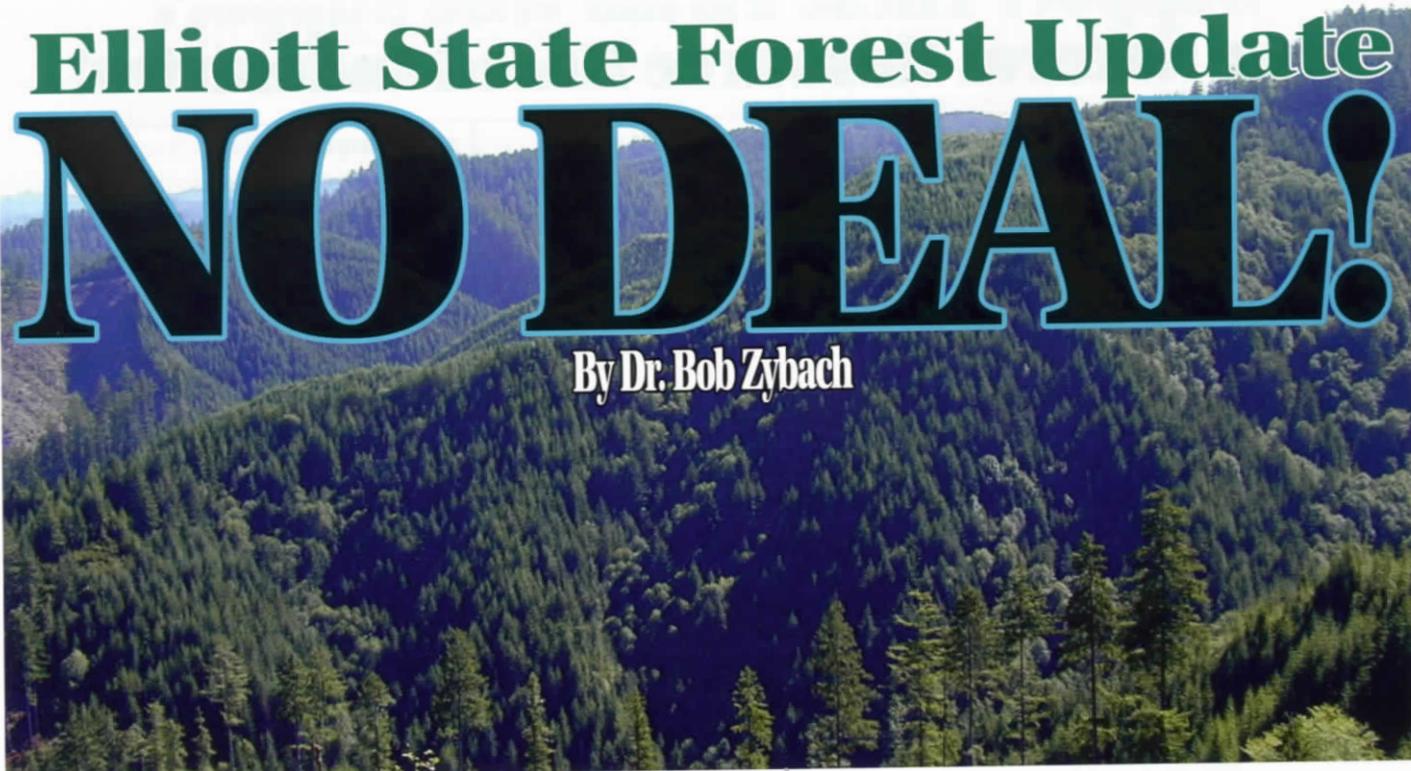
Now it's with renewed vigor we continue to cover these issues!

Thanks to all our advertisers, subscribers and supporters for helping us do our best to make a difference getting out facts and the real news!

At press time we hear about the shooting in Washington DC where Republicans lawmakers were practicing for their fund raising baseball game... the shooter is identified as a Bernie Sanders zealot... and he had a gun?!?

Past time for the hypocrisy to end and get down to the business of facts and what is good for Americans.





Elliott State Forest Update

NO DEAL!

By Dr. Bob Zybach

In the last issue of Oregon Fish & Wildlife Journal I wrote two articles about the Elliott State Forest. The first had to do with my 1994 forest industry-sponsored response to the proposed 1993 Elliott State Forest management plan in regards to catastrophic wildfire history. The second was based on the “Elliott State Educational Forest” proposal: the “Giesy Plan Alternative” to selling the Forest -- and for greatly increased benefits to Oregon schools and residents.

I also wrote about the impending sale of the Elliott for \$220 million as decided by a 2-1 vote of the Oregon Land Board (OLB) at their February 14, 2017 public meeting. Governor Kate Brown voted to cancel the sale, but Secretary Dennis Richardson and Treasurer Tobias Read unexpectedly voted to complete it.

During the previous public OLB meeting, on December 12, 2016, Brown had stated it was “appropriate for the Board to have another option” than selling the Forest. She “call[ed] upon the public to use their creativity, passion and time to pursue options for the Elliott,” and, “she is adamant about creating jobs, particularly in Coos and Douglas Counties, maintaining public access and preserving endangered species and their habitat.”

Brown further “told the audience” that “this is their opportunity to bring another option forward.”

These comments encouraged me and Wayne Giesy – at the suggestion of State Senator Ted Ferrioli, and working in partnership with rural nonprofit www.ORWW.org – to develop an alternative management. The resulting “Giesy Plan Alternative” is largely based on Wayne’s long-time efforts to resume active management of our federal western

forestlands.

We submitted our proposal and I spoke a few words at the February meeting under the impression the sale would be terminated and “other options” – including our own – would be considered moving forward. Apparently Brown had been fairly confident of this outcome when she made her comments in December, seemed to remain so throughout the meeting, and was noticeably shocked at being out-voted.

The OLB was committed to keeping its word and completing the sale. The Elliott State Educational Forest was not an option.

Revisiting the Giesy Plan Alternative

The Giesy Plan has been written about in some detail in earlier issues of this magazine. In essence, federal forested subbasins would be evenly divided by acreage into three categories: 1) active forest management for maximum jobs and products; 2) old-growth forest wildlife habitat, with a focus on listed ESA species; and 3) riparian areas for native fish, freshwater, recreation, and public access.

Ferrioli’s suggestion was to modify the Giesy Plan in such a way as to be applied to the Elliott State Forest in lieu of selling it; and also as a public demonstration as to what could be achieved on all Oregon’s federal lands.

Wayne and I developed a modified approach in which each of the three land divisions would be closely monitored by Oregon students, researchers, and educators for a 20-year period. Specific studies would focus on economics, aesthetics, wildlife populations, recreational uses, and wildfire mitigation. Field trips and student research projects would be encouraged, and the entire Forest and these topics would

be closely monitored and documented by modern technical means with all observations and findings transparently shared via Internet.

These results would be dependent on five conditions: 1) all existing ridgeline and riparian roads would remain open to public access; 2) more than 40% of the land would be dedicated to old-growth forest habitat; 3) more than 40% of the land would be managed for maximum short-term and long-term revenue to the Common School Fund; 4) all of the

meeting” was postponed from April to May 9. By early May it had become obvious that Read, at least, had changed his mind and the sale would be terminated. In the days leading up to the rescheduled May meeting, all three OLB members had publicly released detailed responses regarding the likelihood of continued public ownership.

In the meantime, Senator Ferrioli requested an economic analysis of estimated income the School Fund would receive over the 20-year timeframe of the proposed Giesy Plan.

Table 1. Oregon Forestry Related Employment vs. Government, 1990-2016

Job Description	1990 Jobs	2016 Jobs	Gained	Lost
Logging	11,300	6,000		5,300
Paper Manufacturing	8,900	4,200		4,700
Plywood & Engineered Wood Products	17,900	8,600		9,300
Sawmill & Wood Preservation	12,000	6,400		5,600
Forestry-Related Job Totals	50,100	25,200	0	24,900
Federal Government	34,000	28,300		5,700
State & Local Government	100,600	146,600	46,000	
State & Local Government Education	97,700	132,200	34,500	
Government-Related Job Totals	232,300	307,100	74,800	0

This table illustrates the great number of forestry jobs lost in Oregon since the listing of spotted owls as an Endangered Species in 1990. It also indicates the great increase in non-federal government jobs during the same period. In 1990 the ratio of private forestry jobs to government jobs was more than 1:5; since then the ratio has decreased to less than 1:12. Few forestry jobs require even a high school education because they are largely based on actual experience; conversely, a large percentage of government jobs require a minimum four-year college degree. This disparity is a strong indicator of the deepening urban/rural economic divide in Oregon with a basis in the 30-year “forest wars.” Jobs data provided by Andrea Fogue, Oregon Employment Department.

Forests’ subbasins would be scientifically and transparently monitored so that all Oregonians could directly participate in considering the differing management approaches; and 5) litigation regarding the management of the Forest would be banned for 20 years, by legal and political agreement.

Most reviewers of this proposal have noted that condition #5 will pose the greatest hurdle. Current Oregon State Forest employment, income, and market values have all been severely impacted by litigation related to spotted owls and marbled murrelets during the past 25 years. The Elliott is proof.

May 9 Meeting: No Deal

Following the February OLB meeting several changes began taking shape regarding the future of the Elliott. A number of news outlets reported that Read was being heavily lobbied by the Governor, local activists, and national environmental organizations to change his vote and thus terminate the sale at the next OLB meeting. The “next OLB

Christine Broniak, Economist for the Legislative Revenue Office, returned a figure of \$460+ million – an average of more than \$23 million per year!

Here is the method Broniak used to arrive at these figures:

“The good news is that I can use prices that were bid on the harvests for the past three years in the Elliott (\$367.50/ per million board feet (mmbf) in 2017 equivalent) and grow them forward according to the Producer Price Index for logging to come up with revenue estimates for that 50 mmbf/ year level of harvest.”

As stated, these numbers were based on harvesting an historical average of 50 mmbf of timber a year for 20 years from the Forest’s subbasins specifically managed for jobs and income. This number may seem large, but it is less than the Elliott’s annual growth rate of 60-70 mmbf per year and only a small fraction of the Forest’s 2.5+ billion board feet of standing timber. At this rate there would be more timber

on the Forest at the end of 20 years than at the beginning.

During the May 9 meeting, Oregon Department of Forestry Division Chief Liz Dent provided a “conservative estimate of 8.8 direct and indirect job created for every million board feet of harvest.” Using that multiplier, the Giesy Plan would create an estimated 440+ mostly local jobs that would last for 20 years.

The May 9 meeting was a big deal. The room was

packed with witnesses, environmental activists, politicians, outdoor recreationists, and others with a strong interest in the future of the Elliott. It was the first OLB meeting in its 158-year history to be live-streamed on the Internet and immediately released as a 3-hour video on YouTube. An historical event on several levels.

There were more than 30 witnesses, who were mostly heard three at a time. Most only got one or two minutes to provide testimony. However, the first several were organized in groups of two as “panels” and got extra time. Wayne and I formed the panel that immediately followed the President and the Dean of Forestry of Oregon State University. They, in turn, followed the Oregon State Forester and Liz Dent. Governor Brown personally recognized Wayne and got gasps of amazement and a loud ovation from the crowd – not “jazz hands” -- when she revealed he was 97 years old. We were given eight minutes and submitted a six-page update to our proposal.

Because the Board had released their statements a few days in advance, we were able to anticipate the final vote to terminate the sale, as well as a detailed accounting of each member’s proposal.

Both Brown and Read had settled on plans involving public bonds in the \$100 million range and creating “HCPs” (Habitat Conservation Plans) in collaboration with the

federal government to manage for spotted owls and marbled murrelets. Also, no logging for at least a year or two, and only then at greatly reduced rates from historical levels.

Rather than submit a plan, Richardson developed “eight leadership principles” for his assessment of the relative merits of the Brown and Read proposals. We determined these criteria were also useful for considering our own proposal.

Richardson’s “Eight Principles”



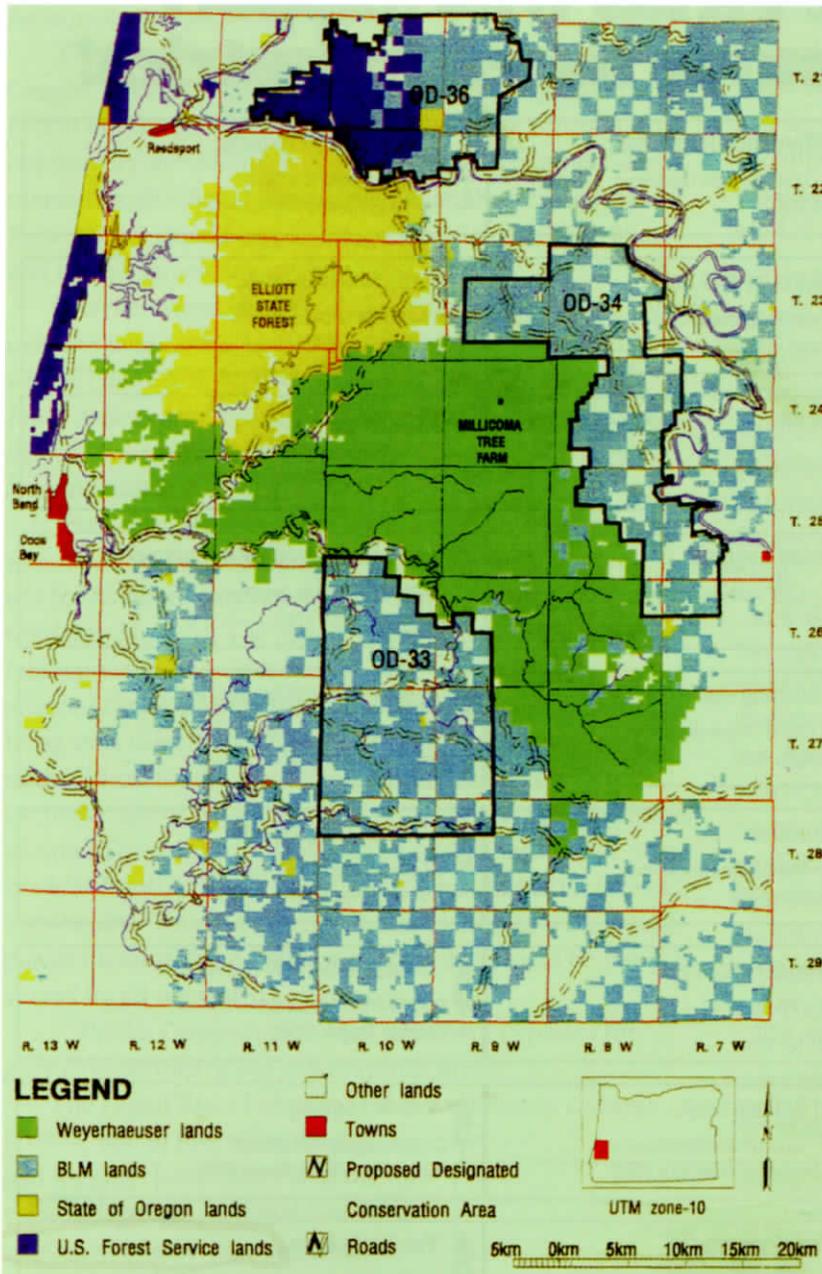
Wayne Giesy with 2013 Society of American Foresters’ National “Honorary Member” Award, for lifetime achievement in the field of forestry. and the Giesy Plan Alternative

Richardson’s principles are given below in italics and are quoted directly from his press release. Our submitted responses follow. They are from the perspective of adopting the Giesy Plan Alternative and are slightly edited from the original document:

1. Education First. A plan must be consistent with the moral and constitutional requirements to prioritize Oregon schoolchildren by providing at least \$220.8 million for smaller class sizes, more school days, expanding career training, and increasing graduation rates. The members of the Land Board are Trustees of the Common School Fund and our paramount fiduciary duty is to maximize yields.

The Giesy Plan would only last 20 years and would generate an estimated \$460+ million during that time — all to be allocated to the School Fund as currently required by law, and with added incentives and technology to be included in statewide curricula and in direct learning opportunities.

2. Protect Environment. A plan must incorporate Forest Stewardship Council principles and clearly meet the re-



Map 1. This shows the Elliott State Forest in relation to Weyerhaeuser’s Millicoma Tree Farm in Coos and Douglas counties. These patterns are significant in that the Weyerhaeuser ownership closely reflects the ca.1765 Millicoma Fire, while the Elliott was shaped by the 1868 Coos Fire. A comprehensive forest inventory of the Millicoma in 1945-1947 documented extensive landscape-scale stand conditions of an unmanaged, native second-growth Douglas Fir coastal forest at age 180; as the older trees were transitioning from “mature” second-growth to 200-year “young” old-growth. The older trees in the Elliott are now approaching 150 years of age.

The Millicoma Tree Farm also includes the 48,000 acre “Pillsbury Tract,” which, despite containing large acreages of old-growth in excess of 300 years of age, also contained “quite an appreciable amount of old burn.” Many of the trees were about 225 years of age, perhaps dating to a fire in 1725; others ranged as high as 390 years, perhaps following a fire in 1560. Careful records were kept of rot, bugs, and mortality of the stands, in addition to species, age, and volume. Findings consistently showed that rates of decay and mortality began to increase in stands in excess of 180 years, resulting in few – if any – trees reaching 400 years of age. These were the local forest environments that spotted owls and marbled murrelets either adapted to, or expanded their range into, during the past 500 years.

quirements of the Endangered Species Act to protect critical habitat and wildlife.

An estimated 35,000+ acres of the Elliott would be set aside specifically for the management of older forest species, and particularly for spotted owls and marbled murrelets. All of the Forest’s streams would be dedicated to actively monitoring and enhancing native coho runs, and particularly those streams above Tenmile Lakes. Riparian acreages would be in addition to older forest set asides and would likely total another 10,000 to 20,000 acres.

3. Create Jobs. A plan must allow sustainable timber harvest to create permanent family-wage jobs in struggling rural and coastal communities.

The Giesy Plan would create an estimated 440+ direct and indirect jobs, mainly in Coos and Douglas counties, for the entire 20-year period. An entire, greatly-informed,

generation of schoolchildren and taxpayers could then make a far better and informed decision as to whether to sell the Elliott, or otherwise alter its management direction, at that time.

4. Recreational Access. A plan must ensure that hunters, anglers, hikers, and all other Oregonians have access to the forest.

The Giesy Plan stipulates that 100% of the primary (and nationally historic) ridgeline and riparian road network be maintained and improved for 100% access by Oregon residents. Increased usage for recreational, educational, and/or research purposes would be encouraged — and particularly those activities that might generate additional funding for the School Fund and Forest management.

5. Tribal Justice. A plan must keep the promise to restore ownership of ancestral homelands to tribal peoples who

have protected them for millennia.

The Giesy Plan identifies the four early historical Oregon Indian Tribes that lived in and were adjacent to the Elliott Forest: Kelawatset, Hanis, Miluk, and Yoncalla. Any opportunity to coordinate coho recovery, recreational development, and/or forest management with the descendants of these people should be encouraged, particularly if written and signed agreements are involved.

6. Generational Equity. A plan must be financially sound over the long-term and avoid saddling Oregon's children with decades of debt. It should avoid spending General Fund dollars for management, avoid expensive litigation against the state, and avoid public debt to buy an asset the State already owns.

The Giesy Plan produces a good income, hundreds of jobs, and excellent educational and recreational opportunities for an entire generation of Oregon schoolchildren and residents. No debt. The plan is dependent on formal good-faith agreements with recent litigants who have directly affected Forest management in the past. In exchange for not filing suits directly or indirectly affecting the management of the Elliott for the next 20 years, they would be given exclusive use of nearly one-half of the Forest for that period of time. The sole purpose would be to demonstrate the value of older forest habitat to spotted owl and marbled murrelets populations. This is a basic scientific challenge with a transparent monitoring and review process that would be publicly shared by all interested Oregonians.

7. Public Ownership. A plan must retain options for public ownership of old growth forest areas.

The Elliott State Forest is almost exclusively second-growth, due to fire, wind, landslides, and logging. Less than 1% of the forest is old-growth, and that is mostly contained in a 50-acre patch purchased from Weyerhaeuser. Another 300 acres or so are scattered along the "Mill Creek Canyon," with trees estimated to be more than 150 years old. More than one-half of the Forest would be retained in older forest conditions for the next 20 years and all of the Forest would remain in public ownership during that time.

8. State Reputation. A plan must preserve the state's reputation and its ability to negotiate agreements in good faith with business and nonprofit partners in the future.

Part of the risk of conducting business is that often times good-faith agreements are unable to be fulfilled.

Despite this broken promise, we believe that the positive example Oregon would set for the management of its forests and wildlife, its commitments to education and recreation, and its willingness to scientifically address the "forest wars" and unprecedented forest wildfires of the past 30 years, would greatly enhance the State's reputation among its western US neighbors.

Summary

The so-called "forest wars" have dragged on for far too long and have left billions of wasted dollars, thousands of ruined families, damaged forests, degraded rural infrastructures, bankrupt counties and communities, catastrophic wildfires, and millions of dead wildlife in their wake. The principal conflict is between commercial management of our forests vs. managing them primarily as habitat for endangered species: active management vs. passive management.

The Elliot State Educational Forest proposal provides a real opportunity to scientifically address these differences, and to the immediate benefit of Oregon schools, students, teachers, researchers, and taxpayers in the process.

Assuming this proposal is adopted, at the end of 20 years Oregon would have a very well informed and experienced citizenry: capable of making expert decisions regarding Elliott Forest ownership and management in following years, and capable of making better informed decisions regarding federal forestlands management almost from the beginning.

The Giesy Plan Alternative to the management of the Elliott State Educational Forest would be a benefit to all Oregonians and would provide much needed direction toward the management of our State's federal forestlands as well.



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