

Summer Issue 2022

# OREGON Fish & Wildlife JOURNAL

**Wasted Resources  
It's Who You Elect!**

**Furthering The Concept of Multiple Use of Our Lands For Over 40 Years!**



# What's INSIDE...

My Voice... By Cristy Rein ... 5

Delayed Capitol Investigation May Hurt Kotek's Governor Bid...  
From Taxpayers Assn. of Oregon... 7

County Commissioners Speak Out Against Habitat  
Conservation Plan...9

I Buried A Dump Truck!... By Mickey Bellman.... 15

Bad Regulations Destroy Our Environment...  
By Harriet Hageman... 19

Pass Shooting Bandtail Pigeons...By Rolla B. Boughan... 27

"God, Family and The Elliott" Jerry Phillips 1927-2022...  
By Bob Zybach, Ph.D ... 33,

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Northern Spotted Owl Critical  
Habitat Designation Fails Our Forests, Communities and the  
Species Itself...From American Forest Resource Council... 45

Published Editorials Aren't Necessarily Factual...  
By Mark Webb... 49

Create A Defensible Space Against Wildfire .. 52

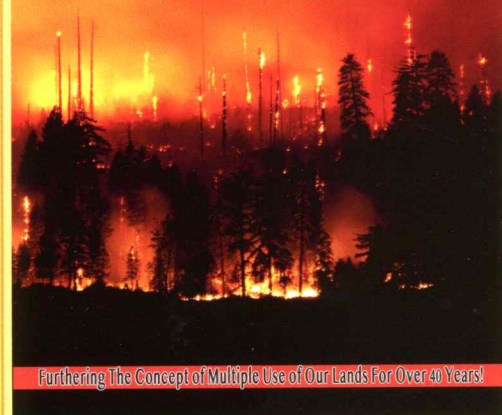
OREGON **Fish&Wildlife** JOURNAL

**Summer Issue 2022**

*Volume 44, Number 3*

## OUR COVER

Wasted Resources  
It's Who You Elect!



**PUBLISHER  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**  
Cristy Rein

**FORESTRY EDITOR**  
Mickey Bellman

**ADVERTISING SALES/ADMINISTRATION**  
Amy Stucks

**CONTENT CONTRIBUTORS**  
Cristy Rein, Dr. Bob Zybach, Mickey Bellman,  
Oregon Catalyst, Taxpayers Assn. of Or-  
egon, Rolla B. Boughan, Mark Webb  
and American Forest Resource Council

OREGON **Fish&Wildlife** JOURNAL



To Subscribe: 503-657-6962 • Fax 503-657-3410

PO Box 1325, Clackamas, Oregon 97015 • email RZPublish@aol.com

One Year (4 issues) \$24.95 • Two Years (8 issues) \$46.50 • Four Years (16 issues) \$83.95

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](http://www.OregonFishAndWildlifeJournal.com)

Oregon Fish & Wildlife Journal is published quarterly by R-Z Publishing, Inc. Unsolicited editorial contributions are welcome but should be accompanied by return postage. Editorial contributions will be handled with care; however, the Publisher assumes no responsibility for safety of artwork, manuscripts or photographs. Publisher is not liable for any claim based on contents of published advertising. Publisher is not liable for content supplied by contributing editors.

© Copyright 2022

**Oregon Fish&Wildlife Journal**



# "God, Family, and The Elliott" Jerry Phillips, 1927-2022

By Bob Zybach, Ph.D



(Left to right) Me, Jerry and David at the newly-christened "Jerry Phillips Reserve."  
Photo by Sam Schwartz, December 15, 2019

Jerry Phillips passed away in March of this year, while vacationing with his family in California. He was 94 years old and lived a long, productive, and mostly very happy life. Jerry was widely known for most of those years as a highly successful forester and as a truly "good man."

For as long as there will ever be an interest in Oregon's first State Forest, the Elliott, there will be an appreciation of Jerry Phillips. He was the Forest's most accomplished manager in its history: a fact clearly recognized by his professional contemporaries and well documented, as Jerry was also the Elliott's most accomplished historian.

Jerry's lived, written, and recorded history regarding the Elliott has been the basis of several significant research and educational projects throughout his retirement years, beginning in 1989. This work has been largely archived at Oregon State University (OSU), is mostly available online (ORWW), and will likely continue to be used by students and researchers for many years to follow.

In 1984 Jerry was selected Oregon State Forester of the Year, in recognition of his greatly successful management of the Elliott; in 2000 he was elected a Fellow of the Society of American Foresters (SAF), a national honor based partly on his comprehensive 1997 published history of the Elliott; in 2019

the Oregon State legislature designated an historic stand of Elliott old-growth as "The Jerry Phillips Reserve"; and in 2021 he received a "Lifetime Achievement Award" from Oregon SAF.

It was these recognitions that were important to Jerry, particularly when they were given by his peers, and especially by his fellow OSU forestry grads and SAF members. But Jerry was a humble and unassuming person, not boastful in any way, and forestry was not the most important thing in his life. When his daughter Sally called to tell me he had died, she remarked that her father "had truly loved God, his family, and the Elliott, in that order."

Anybody who ever got to know Jerry Phillips, understands how accurate this statement is.

## God

Jerry was one of the two or three most Christian people I have ever known. I knew him for 35 years and David Gould, his lifelong friend, knew him for nearly 70. In all that time neither of us had ever heard him swear, become angry, say something mean about anyone, or fail to be calm, kind, and helpful whenever he could. Not a typical forester.

Neither of us had ever heard Jerry say a prayer or preach, either. If you asked, he would say he was a Christian, and



maybe the name of his church, but that was about it. My impression was Jerry wouldn't shy away from a discussion of religion, but wouldn't necessarily initiate one, either. Over time, David has often said Jerry became his "hero" and his "role model." Actions speak louder than words.

I only learned the great importance religion played in Jerry's life in the past few weeks, following his death and after reading his unpublished 2009 autobiography and self-published 2003 family history. I also learned he was an amateur ham radio operator, an accomplished choir singer, a musician, a sharpshooter, and a typist. I knew his academic and professional histories fairly well, knew he drove local veterans to the hospital in Roseburg and back every week for many years, into his 90s, and think I heard he taught Sunday School at times -- but everything else was a revelation, and in some detail.

Jerry describes his father: "I was so blessed to have had him as my father. He was a good role model, had clean speech, good manners, and I never knew him to smoke or drink. He did not talk about it, but I believe he was a Christian, who, with my mother, regularly attended the Multnomah Presbyterian Church, a little west of Portland."

The Multnomah church and congregation were so important to Jerry's family that even after moving to "Powellhurst," east of Portland and a one-hour drive each way for his father, they continued attending Sunday services there for seven or eight more years. That, in addition to a six-day work week and chores, such as milking the goats, gathering eggs, and weeding the garden. As the two older Phillips boys began classes at Franklin High School in 1942, the family moved to the much-closer Mt. Tabor Presbyterian Church.

Jerry enlisted in the Marines as he turned 18 and the War was just ending. That limited his service time to only 15 months, "the longest time I ever lived without attending church." When he returned home his parents enlisted him in college at OSC (Oregon State College, before becoming a university) and he became a regular member of the Corvallis Presbyterian Church. He sang in the church choir, same as always, but was also a member of the 38-voice Corvallis Men's Choir, which performed such four-part harmonies as "The Lost Chord," "Goin' Home," and "All Through The Night."

Jerry met his future wife of 60 years, LaRose Bowman, on a blind date. LaRose was also an OSC student but attended Corvallis Methodist Church. When they married, following Jerry's graduation in June 1950, it was in the Methodist Church, but due to circumstances, was officiated by the Presbyterian minister!

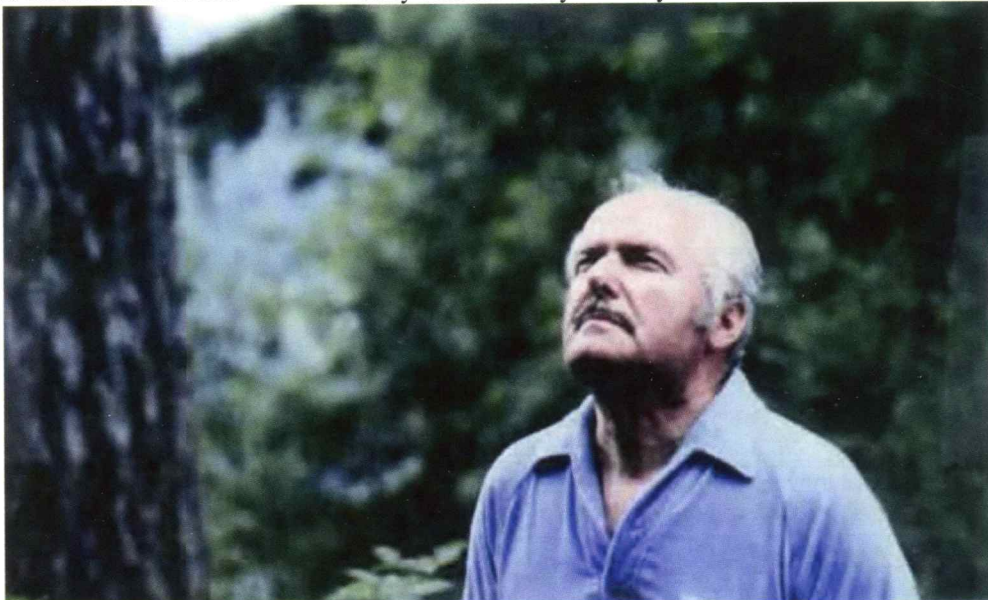
Following LaRose's graduation and a variety of short-term forestry jobs, Jerry accepted work with the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) in 1952, in Coos Bay. The young couple, with baby Sally, moved to their new home that year and stayed the rest of their lives. For the next 36 years the Phillips family -- including four sons that followed Sally, were members of First Methodist Church, where Jerry sang in the choir and taught Sunday School for 23 years.

In 1988, after raising all five children in the Methodist Church, Jerry and LaRose moved to Hauser Community Church and stayed there the next 30 years. Within a few years the Hauser congregation had grown to 1600 members and became the largest church in Coos County.

Near the end of his 2003 self-published family history and genealogy, on pages 176-179, Jerry directly addressed his "ten Grandchildren (and generations to follow)." These pages are a detailed summary of his religious beliefs, titled "The Author's Own Personal Faith Statement." It is basically a clearly and sincerely written nine-point outline of timeless Christian lessons, and most likely a distillation of Jerry's many years teaching Sunday School and leading Bible studies. For his descendants.

#### **Family**

Jerry was definitely a family man. He and LaRose raised



**A favorite photo of Jerry, at work in the Elliott. Unknown date and photographer**

their five children in the Coos Bay home they built in 1959, and both lived in until the end. LaRose, the love of Jerry's life, died in 2010. His two younger brothers, each with four children of their own and numerous grandchildren, survived him; as have four of his own children, his 2003 "Ten Grandchildren", and now, 10 great-grandchildren.

Jerry's father, Jim, died relatively young and unexpectedly at age 59. His mother, Georgia, lived to be 92. From the time the Phillips family moved to their home in Powellhurst in 1934 until she remarried and moved again in 1975, Georgia lived in the family home. Her three sons graduated from high school there, and they, their wives, and ultimately her thirteen grandchildren, always celebrated Thanksgiving and Christmas at "Grandma's." In later years the milk goats and chickens had disappeared, but there was always a large, beautiful garden and lots of flowers.

Education and music were very important in the Phillips household. Jim had an OAC (Oregon Agricultural College) degree in Animal Husbandry and Georgia had been one of the very first female graduates of Stanford, in 1922, with a degree in history. All three sons graduated college as well, as did all five of Jerry's children. According to Sally, they were never asked "if" they were going to college, but "where?" It didn't matter what courses they took, but after graduation the ques-



tion became whether they were "finding employment, or not."

Jerry and his brothers learned band instruments in high school, and Jerry sang bass in church choirs for many years. After the kids were born there were weekend and annual camping vacations around the State, and even trips to the Grand Canyon, Washington DC, following the Oregon Trail, and other distant locations. While hauling their tent trailer behind the family car, "Mom and Dad" would pass the travel time by singing songs, such as "She'll Be Coming Round The Mountain," "America The Beautiful," and other favorites. Sometimes the kids would sing along; all five played band instruments in high school, of course.

After spending the first seven years of his retirement researching and writing his history of the Elliott State Forest, a 414-page documentary epic, self-published in two editions and 300 copies, Jerry turned his attention to his own family history. He then spent the next seven years researching, writing, and self-publishing *Our Phillips Family*.

As might be expected, Jerry's genealogical research was exhaustive, and to his and LaRose's pleasure, involved a lot of domestic and overseas travel. Although Jerry, "like most of the Phillips family did not 'inherit the math gene'," he was able to trace the Phillips name and family in North America back to 1676 and the arrival of indentured Welsh servants, George and Mary Phillips. Including his own grandchildren and best math skills, Jerry determined the following 10 generations had totaled 77,644 descendants by 2003!

In contrast, Jerry's mother's family, the Thompsons, had both emigrated to North America from Denmark in the 1890s, met and married in Oregon, and owned a wheat farm in Moro, which remains in the Thompson family more than a hundred years later, and where Jerry worked two summers as a young teenager during the War.

#### The Elliott

One of Jerry's earliest memories was when he was seven years old and his father drove the family to a ridgetop in west Portland to view "a terrible, throbbing red glow in the sky many miles away", the catastrophic 1933 Tillamook Fire.

When he was 16, and because older young men in the US were mostly involved in the War, Jerry was able to get a job with the US Forest Service on a 15-man fire crew near Cave Junction, in the Siskiyou National Forest. "By the end of the summer" he was "hooked" and had "subconsciously chosen my life career, as a professional forester."

The following year, 1944, Jerry was given the task of manning the Chetco Peak Lookout Tower, located in today's Kalmiopsis Wilderness and then only accessible by a 17-mile pack trail. Because it was still wartime, he was also trained to identify the silhouettes of Japanese warplanes and to keep a constant vigil for them, as well as for forest fires.



The Phillips family in their new Coos Bay Kingwood Avenue home, Christmas 1959. Jerry, Bart on lap, Sally, baby Kirk, LaRose, and Mark (L) and Lee (R) in front.

Jerry graduated from high school, turned 18, and joined the Marines as WWII was ending. Just as his ham radio skills had aided his work with wildfire fighting crews, his high school typing classes allowed him to complete his service as an office worker in Hawaii. His skill with a rifle meant an extra \$5/month pay and all added to the G.I. Bill. God's grace.

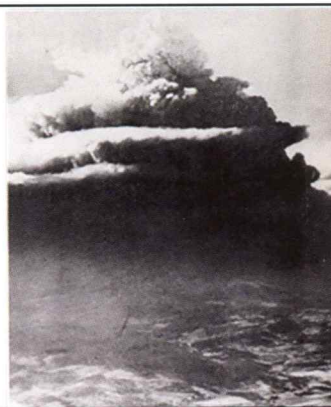
When Jerry returned home, his parents had already enrolled him at OSC, no time off, as he had wanted and expected. He majored in Forest Management and spent summers working as a fire lookout. His permanent 1952 ODF job in Coos Bay started as a "Compliance Inspector" for "Coos District" logging and saw-milling operations, which included the Elliott State Forest:

"I'd been vaguely aware of the Forest's existence since attending Oregon State College, where it was described in college literature as an undeveloped State-owned forest of young timber lying between Coos and Umpqua Rivers, dedicated to educational purposes."

At that time the Elliott was only accessible by 1930s CCC roads, foot trails, and pack trails, many of which

had been established and maintained by David's family, the Goulds and McClays, beginning in the early 1880s.

## The Great Fires



### Indian Burning and Catastrophic Forest Fire Patterns of the Oregon Coast Range 1491-1951

By Dr. Bob Zybach

Reprinting of Dr. Zybach's 2003 PhD dissertation. Includes: 364 pages, full text; 60 maps (47 color); 38 figures (17 color), and 26 tables.

**Available now on Amazon Books.**



Glae Gould, David's father, was a hard-nosed 4th-generation Coos County resident that supported his family by contract logging, sawmilling, roadbuilding, and quarry rock sales in the 1950s. Glae considered it his privilege, as a taxpayer, to call Jerry, the ODF field forester, at any time of the day or night to resolve a problem. Jerry always answered and did his best to help.

When David was 10 years old he was working with his Dad on a small "wind-throw" salvage logging job on Elliott property about a mile from the family sawmill. David's job as "chaser" was working the landing, where he unhooked chokers, set tongs on the log truck, and bucked off root wads, using a Homelite chain saw with a 32-inch bar.

That's when Jerry showed up with an order for the crew to stop logging because they didn't have the proper number of fire extinguishers available. Glae's response was to begin loudly yelling and swearing at Jerry and telling him where to get off. Then they both got in Glae's war-surplus Jeep and drove "straight downhill on a cat road, with Jerry hanging on for dear life" to the sawmill, got the required number of extinguishers, and returned to work. Problem solved.

The Elliott State Forest was established in 1930, making it Oregon's first state forest. It was formed by trading the portion of the 1908 Siuslaw National Forest lying south of the Umpqua River, about 70,000 acres, for Common School Fund properties scattered around the State of similar value. The scattered properties had been awarded to the State in 1859 specifically for the purpose of funding Oregon schools, and the Elliott inherited that responsibility with its creation.

In 1930 the Elliott was mostly covered with young Douglas fir and red alder trees that had seeded in, following the catastrophic 1879 "Big Burn" wildfire and several subsequent decades of livestock grazing, firewood gathering, logging, and clearing fires by the Goulds, McClays, and others who had settled in the area.

In 1955 the Oregon legislature determined the time had come to begin actively managing the Elliott, and ODF was given management responsibility. The following year Jerry transferred from his job as Coos District logging inspector to Elliott staff member and was soon tasked with taking a detailed inventory of the Forest.

The primary purpose of the project was to identify commercial and developing stands of timber that could be sold to fund road construction needed to sell logs to compensate the Common School Fund on a sustainable basis. As required by law and taught at OSC.



Jerry's 90th birthday party, with children and grandkids, May 4, 2017. Photo by granddaughter, Shasta Hernandez.

The first major logging sale on the Elliott was a stand of mostly 200-year-old Douglas fir on North Marlow Ridge. Log hauling started on April 22, 1959, and a photo of the event is featured on the front cover of Jerry's Elliott history.

Then, on October 12, 1962, everything changed. The Columbus Day Storm arrived without warning and blew down 100 million board feet (mmbf) of 70-year-old second-growth timber on the Elliott in a matter of hours. Winds greater than

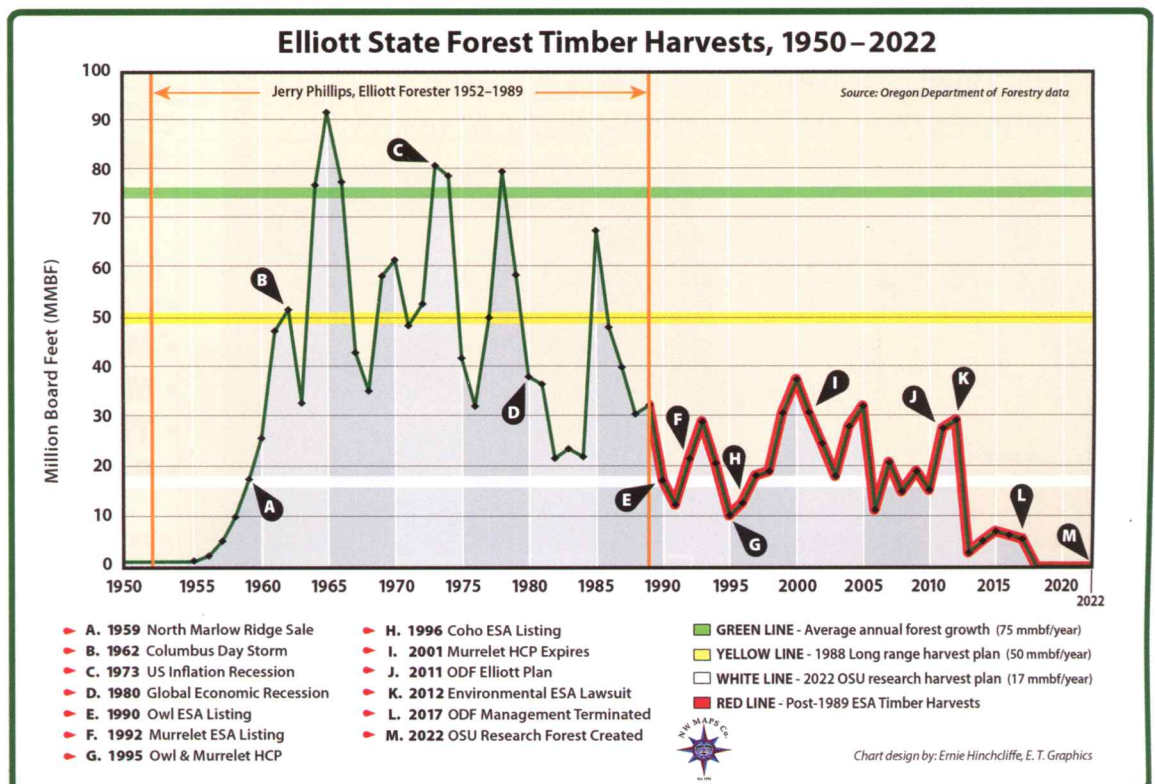
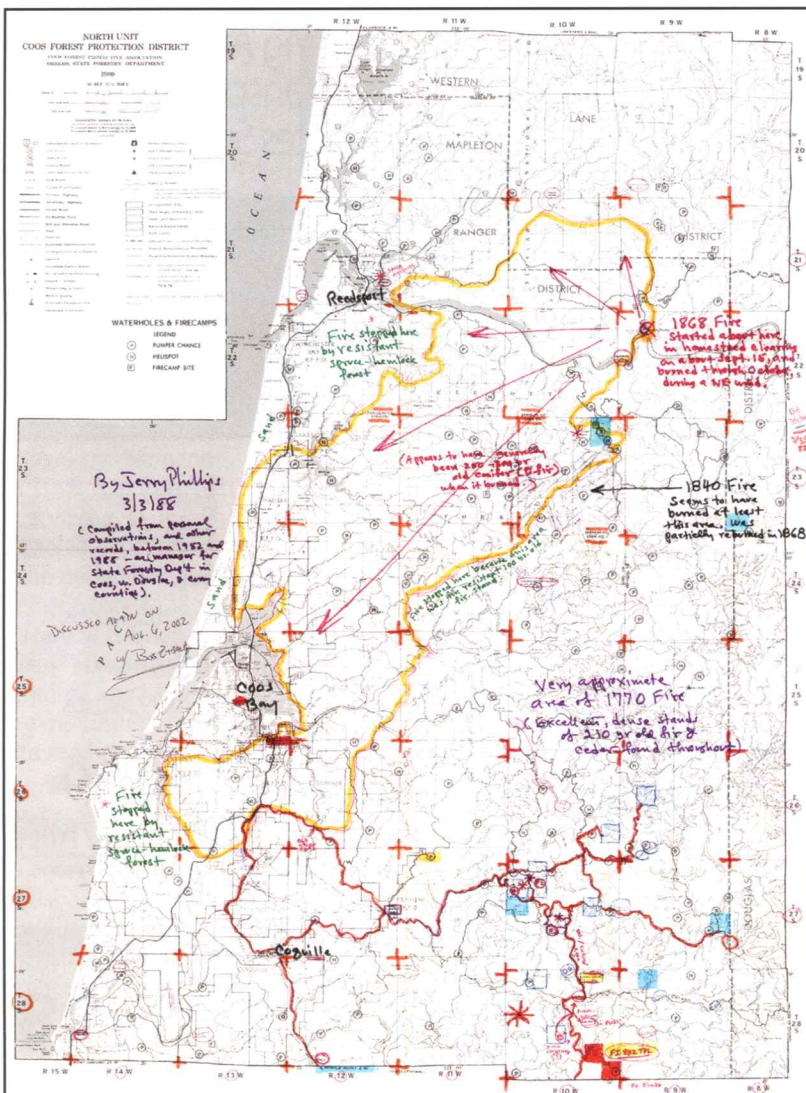


Chart of Elliott State Forest Timber Harvesting History, 1950-2022.





**Jerry Phillips' Map of Elliott State Forest Wildfire History, 1770-1988.**

150 miles-per-hour were recorded.

The next several years were spent on roadbuilding and "clean-up" salvage sales from the damage, causing 200 miles of additional road construction to reach 250 areas of "blow-down" and more than 300 mmbf in timber sales by 1966. Jerry was "Sales Coordinator" for this monumental task.

In 1970, Jerry was made Forest Manager of the Elliott and in 1984 he was selected "Oregon Forester of the Year" in recognition of his excellent work as a forester and as manager of the Elliott under unprecedented circumstances, and for the Forest's subsequent, and significant, economic contributions to the Common School Fund and to local communities.

### "Retirement"

The first time I recall meeting Jerry in person was March 3, 1988, at his home on Kingwood Avenue in Coos Bay. His wife LaRose was a gracious

hostess. They raised their five children in this hill-top house they designed and built together, 30 years earlier.

I was a middle-aged forestry student from OSU, conducting Oregon Coast Range wildfire history research under Professor Dick Hermann; Jerry was the widely acknowledged expert on the topic for Coos County; and we both had a strong interest and common history in Douglas fir forest management and reforestation. Memory says we had previously only talked by phone or corresponded on these topics.

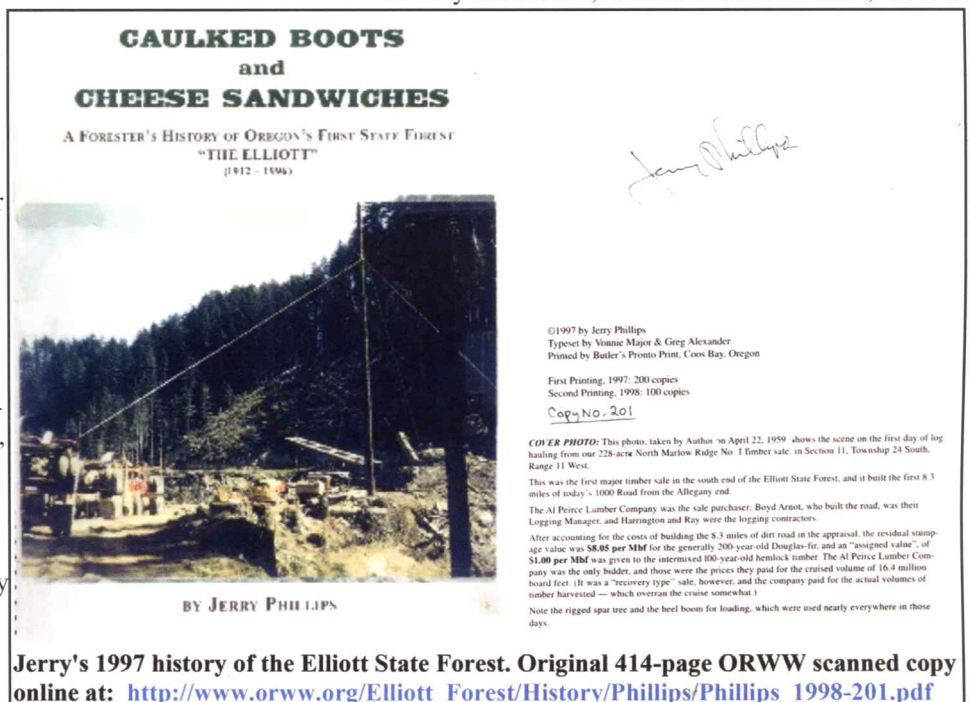
The focus of discussion was Jerry's hand-annotated fire history map of the Elliott that he created for me earlier that day. The map and subsequent discussions became an important part of my PhD research and, also for the next three decades, at the center of our ongoing discussions of spotted owl politics and Elliott Forest planning.

Jerry retired the following year, at age 62. Clark Seeley, Klamath Falls District Forester, who started his career as a "Forester Trainee" on the Elliott, replaced him:

"But four pairs of spotted owls had been observed in our Mill Creek canyon when I walked out the front door of our Coos Bay office on my last day of work, May 31, 1989, so things were looking a little bit ominous (even though "experts" said owls required old-growth)."

"Now what?" For the next seven years Jerry focused on researching and writing the history of the Elliott State Forest, which book he considered "almost another of my children."

In 2000 Jerry was nationally recognized as a "Fellow" of SAF, which organization dates to 1905 and has had tens of thousands of members. The Oregon State Society is the largest in SAF, with 15 chapters and 800 members. In most years, the Oregon Chapter might select one or two members deserving this honor, awarded for "long-standing service to forestry at the state, local and national levels," so this



**Jerry's 1997 history of the Elliott State Forest. Original 414-page ORWW scanned copy online at: [http://www.orww.org/Elliott\\_Forest/History/Phillips/Phillips\\_1998-201.pdf](http://www.orww.org/Elliott_Forest/History/Phillips/Phillips_1998-201.pdf)**



was a significant recognition of Jerry's career and his high standing among peers. Much of this recognition, Jerry believed, was due to his written history of the Elliott.

The subsequent discovery of spotted owls all through the Elliott, in second-growth stands as young as 60 years, and it's listing as "threatened" by the federal government in 1990, had changed everything, again. Then marbled murrelet and coho populations also became listed and HCPs ("Habitat Conservation Plans") became legally required, greatly reducing the Elliott's log sales and road maintenance.

A new plan, with HCPs, was developed in 2011 and challenged in court in 2012 by a collaboration of Portland and Eugene environmental organizations. All timber sales on the Elliott, and on other State Forests, was halted. Rather than challenging this ruling, the State Land Board, led by the Governor, decided to sell the Elliott. When this sale was determined to be illegal, the Governor publicly and privately requested ideas for a new management plan for the Elliott.

In late 2017, Jerry, David, Wayne Giesy, and I took a drive through the Elliott and discussed possible strategies for returning the Forest to active management for local jobs and for meeting Common School Fund obligations. We had been spending a lot of time together on the Elliott, recording oral histories based on Jerry's book, and determined that "public education" was needed for people to better understand the issues involved. Oral history recordings and transcriptions were later deposited in OSU Archives as the basis for their new "Elliott State Forest Collection."

David has funded a "Jerry Phillips Endowment" for North Bend High School forestry students. The 2017 recipient was attending Southwestern Oregon Community College (SWOCC) when we contacted Tasha Livingstone, SWOCC forestry instructor, to gauge potential student interest in studying the Elliott. Tasha quickly agreed to spring-term field trips to the Forest and the related development of a draft recreation plan -- another first for the Elliott. These educational field trips, five or six a year and based on Jerry's book and oral histories, were led by Jerry, David, and me and have taken place annually ever since -- with



While working on the Elliott the past few years I have had the pleasure of meeting and listening to a number of the most knowledgeable and experienced foresters, historians and forest scientists I have ever known. I have greatly enjoyed helping to preserve their thoughts and works and have gained incredible insights while listening to, and recording, their stories of the Elliott.

One of my first assignments on the Elliott was digitizing Jerry's 435-page history of the Forest that he spent seven years writing after his retirement in 1989. This was the basis of the oral histories that followed and were then developed into the field trips for Tasha's classes. The oral history recordings totaled more than 25 hours and the resulting transcriptions were more than 900 pages long. So I thought I knew him pretty well.

When I met Jerry in person for the first time -- and knowing he had been a forester on the Elliott for 38 years and as its long-time successful manager, I expected a hardened, gruff individual, tough as nails and tall -- like Sam Elliott, but maybe a bit sterner and more reserved. Instead, I was greeted by one of the kindest and most thoughtful people I have ever met. Also, he was clean shaven and a lot shorter than the movie star.

There are always a lot of smiles and laughs when Jerry tells his stories of working on the Elliott, the process of buying and selling the timber there, the stories of the people he met and worked with, and the history of logging and logging roads. Learning with him is always fun. Jerry's attachment to the Elliott is widely recognized and why the Forest's remaining stand of old-growth is named in his honor: the Jerry Phillips Reserve.

\*\*\*Excerpt from "Dinosaurs of the Elliott State Forest," by McKenzie Peters, *Evergreen Magazine*: [http://www.orww.org/Elliott\\_Forest/References/History/Peters\\_20210725.pdf](http://www.orww.org/Elliott_Forest/References/History/Peters_20210725.pdf)

Earlier this year Jerry got pneumonia and his daughter Sally and granddaughter Shasta helped nurse him back to health. He lost some weight, took a few drives through the Elliott with David, was looking forward to his trip to California, and then died, on vacation, at peace and with family. His work continues. A wonderful life and a great legacy.

This article is courtesy of Evergreen Magazine.



#### IN CONCLUSION

I have no idea as to how to end an autobiography, but I guess I'll just say that I have had (and am having) a blessed life, with a few "speed bumps," as everyone has. And I am so thankful for the help that so many people have given to make it that way.

Also, I want to add that I do believe that God has a plan for each person's life, and almost certainly no one completely lives that plan, but for much of my own life I did try. I will always be grateful that He did guide me, and that while I am a sinner, I am a forgiven sinner, and that I am a John 3:16 Christian.

by Jerry Phillips  
May 4, 2009

Final paragraphs and dated signature of Jerry's unpublished 2009 autobiography, Jerry: [http://www.orww.org/Elliott\\_Forest/History/Phillips/Phillips\\_20090504.pdf](http://www.orww.org/Elliott_Forest/History/Phillips/Phillips_20090504.pdf)