

Agenda Item No.:	7
Work Plan:	State Forests Work Plan
Topic:	State Forest Management
Presentation Title:	Elliott State Forest Update
Date of Presentation:	January 7, 2015
Contact Information:	Mary Abrams Director, Department of State Lands (503) 986-5224, mary.m.abrams@state.or.us

SUMMARY

Mary Abrams, Director of the Oregon Department of State Lands, will provide the Board of Forestry with an update on the Elliott State Forest Alternatives Project and share direction provided by the State Land Board at their December 9 meeting, when a final report on the project was presented.

CONTEXT

The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) manages 117,238 acres of Common School Forest Land, most of which (86,270 acres) is within the ODF Coos District, which includes the Elliott State Forest. These lands are managed through an agreement among ODF, the State Land Board (Land Board) and the Department of State Lands (DSL), finalized in 2005. As trustee of this Common School Forest Land, the State Land Board oversees management to provide greatest benefit for the people of Oregon consistent with conservation of the forest resource under sound techniques of land management.

The Elliott State Forest is an asset of the Common School Fund – a trust established to benefit public schools. As such, management of this forest emphasizes fiduciary responsibilities to maximize revenues to the Common School Fund. Under ODF management, timber harvest from the Elliott has generated revenue to the Fund and protected and improved habitat for threatened marbled murrelets, northern spotted owls, and coastal coho. However, in recent years protections provided for listed species under the Federal Endangered Species Act have significantly reduced timber harvests and associated revenue to the Fund. Given the likelihood that the fiscal losses will continue, the Land Board directed DSL to evaluate alternatives that would better meet Land Board trust obligations to generate the greatest economic benefit over time for this Common School Fund asset.

The Department of State Lands developed a range of feasible ownership and management models for the Elliott State Forest. The findings of this project were presented to the Land Board on December 9. The Land Board directed DSL on how to proceed and spoke to resources needed to implement the direction set by the Land Board. These outcomes will be reported to the Board of Forestry.

RECOMMENDATION

Information only.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1) Elliott State Forest Alternatives Project Summary
- 2) Elliott State Forest Alternatives Project Final Report
- 3) Elliott State Forest – Analysis of Alternatives ([link to web](#), hardcopy upon request)
http://www.oregon.gov/dsl/Common_School_Fund_Property/Documents/Elliott%20State%20Forest%20Project/Elliott_Final_111914.pdf