

PUBLIC NOTICE

Oregon Department of State Lands Date posted: February 3, 2025

Comment Opportunity: Codifying the Forest Management Plan for the Elliott State Research Forest into Oregon Administrative Rules

The Oregon Department of State Lands (DSL) is seeking comments on the adoption, by reference, of the Forest Management Plan for the Elliott State Research Forest. The comment period is open from **February 3 – March 5, 2025.**

Forest Management Plan for the Elliott State Research Forest

The Elliott State Forest was established northeast of Coos Bay in 1930 as Oregon's first state forest. Today, about 83,000 acres are now a nationally important <u>center for forest science research and management</u> that also contributes to conservation, education, recreation, Indigenous culture, and local economies in Oregon.

The <u>Forest Management Plan for the Elliott</u> guides how the lands will be managed to sustain its diverse values, address fundamental research questions regarding working forests in the context of climate change, and achieve the specific ecosystem goods and service outcomes envisioned for the Elliott.

People of many different perspectives – including interests of conservation, timber, school funding, recreation, local government, and Tribes – came together to inform the development of a Forest Management Plan for the Elliott. Feedback was gathered from the public, local and federal partners, Tribal governments, and the Elliott State Research Forest Board. Opportunities included listening sessions, a public comment period that received over 400 comments, and board meetings. A summary of key themes and comments can be found in the Community Engagement Report.

What's Proposed

Adopt, by reference, the Forest Management Plan for the Elliott State Research Forest into Oregon Administrative Rules 141-079: At the October 2024 meeting of the State Land Board, the Board approved the 2024 Forest Management Plan with the intent to then incorporate the plan into Oregon's Administrative Rules. The adoption of the Forest Management Plan into rule further codifies it and advances public accountability with respect to the Elliott and related DSL management actions on the research forest.

How to Comment

Visit the DSL website at www.oregon.gov/dsl/Pages/rulemaking.aspx to see a draft of the proposed rule and related materials. Comments may be submitted in writing by online form, emailed to dsl.oregon.gov or mailed to DSL at 775 Summer Street NE, Suite 100, Salem, OR 97301.

The comment deadline is **Wednesday, March 5, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.** (Pacific). After the comment period is concluded and comments addressed, this proposed rule will be presented at a future <u>meeting of the Land Board</u> for a decision.

Stay Updated

For the latest news on this draft rule, proposed changes to other administrative rules, or to subscribe to email updates visit: www.oregon.gov/dsl/Pages/rulemaking.aspx

About the State Land Board and DSL: The State Land Board consists of Governor Tina Kotek, Secretary of State Tobias Read, and State Treasurer Elizabeth Steiner. Established by the Oregon Constitution in 1859, the Land Board oversees the state's Common School Fund. The Department of State Lands is the Land Board's administrative agency, managing the lands and resources that help fund Oregon's public schools and protecting the state's waterways and wetlands for the many benefits they provide.