Oregon Department of Forestry

Summary Comparison of the Elliott State Forest draft 2011 Forest Management Plan to the 1995 Habitat Conservation Plan

July 2011

You are invited to provide comments on the proposed forest management plan that will guide management of the Elliott State Forest. The Elliott State Forest is managed for the State Land Board with the object of obtaining the greatest benefit for the people of this state. Maximizing revenue to the Common School Fund is the standard for "greatest benefit," according to a 1992 State Attorney General opinion. This must be done in the context of environmentally sound management.

This forest management plan anticipates harvesting about 850 acres per year of the 95,273 acres included within the forest management plan, which covers the 93,000 acre Elliott State Forest and an additional 2,273 acres in southwest Oregon. This is expected to yield approximately 40 million board feet annually and between $9 to $13 million dollars in revenue annually. The management plan includes a mixture of conservation areas (where harvests are prevented or constrained) and areas from which harvests can be chosen.

Managing the forest this will way will result in about 10 to 20% of the forest being in very young open stands, 30 to 60% of the forest being in young stands where the trees fully cover the site (generally from 15 to 60 years old) and 30 to 50% of the forest being in older stands aged from 60 to over 140 years old.

Terrestrial listed endangered species (spotted owls and marbled murrelets) will be managed by surveying for these species and then managing the forest to maintain the habitat they are using. Water quality and fish habitat are protected by a system of stream buffers and other practices that are designed to maintain properly functioning aquatic conditions.

A summary of some of the specifics of this plan and how it compares to management under the previous plan is provided in this table. The complete plan is also available on this website:

www.oregon.gov/ODF/STATE_FORESTS/elliott.shtml

Subject	Draft 2011 Elliott Forest Management Plan	1995 Forest Management Plan
Acreage of Plan	95,273 acres	95,273 acres
Harvest Volume	40 million board feet per year	25 million board feet per year
Annual average harvest acres	850 clear cut / 250 partial cut	500 clear cut / 500 partial cut
Annual Net Revenue	Between $9 and $13 million depending on market conditions.	Between $6 and $8 million depending on market conditions.
Choosing Harvest Areas	No long rotation basins or basin targets for advanced structure. Harvest available if not constrained by Conservation Area.	About one-half of the forest in long rotation basins with limited harvest. Harvest concentrated in remaining half of forest.
Endangered Species Act compliance	Take-avoidance surveys for owls and murrelets for each proposed timber sale.	Habitat Conservation Plans for owls and take-avoidance surveys for murrelets for each proposed timber sale.
Non-Listed species	No specific species of concern strategy. Amount and arrangement of stand structures expected to provide biodiversity.	No specific species of concern strategy. Amount and arrangement of habitat expected to provide biodiversity.
Forest Structure	Replaced age-based habitat definitions with expected range of forest-wide stand types based on structural characteristics: • Advanced Structure 30-50% of forest • Intermediate Structure 30-60% of forest • Early Structure 10-20% of forest	Seventeen management basins representing three age classes: Late, Middle and Early successional. • Nine basins of 160-240 year harvest rotations • Eight basins of 80-135 year harvest rotations • Harvest units located to minimize fragmentation of larger blocks of mature forest. • Maintain 50% dispersal habitat by basin. • Maintain 43% of the forest in an 80+ year age class.

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Conservation Areas (Threatened & Endangered Species, Core areas, Riparian Management Areas, Steep-Unique-Visual)	Conservation Areas include owl circles, Marbled Murrelet Management Areas (MMMAs) , Riparian Management Areas and other designated areas. Acreage likely to increase overtime as new MMMA's are added. About 30% or 28,000 acres of forest unavailable to harvest over time.	Reserve Areas - Habitat Conservancy Areas for owls, Riparian Management Areas, Marbled Murrelet Management Areas (MMMAs) and other reserves in all management basins. Total reserve acres = 22,370
Arrangement of Stand Structure	No specific landscape design. A range of habitat conditions will exist that will contribute to maintaining or enhancing native wildlife populations at self-sustaining levels within a regional context; advance structure will be well distributed contributing to connectivity, however connectivity will not be specifically designed.	A balanced landscape approach. Balance the amount and distribution of owl habitat based on stand age across the landscape. Landscape balanced between long rotation basins and shorter rotation basins. Plan designed to create and maintain larger blocks of late succession habitat and provide harvest primarily in shorter rotation basins.
Legacy Components	Two to four live trees per acre, create one snag per two acres, create 300-600 cubic feet per acre of downed wood.	Three to five live trees per acre, create one snag per two acres, leave 3-4 downed logs of 1 foot x 16 foot each per acre.
Integrated Pest Management	Active management for forest health.	Active management for forest health.
Aquatic & Riparian Systems	All measurements are <u>horizontal</u> distance **Fish Streams** - No harvest within 25 feet, No harvest within 100 feet after mature condition. From 100-160 feet maintain 10-45 trees per acre. (Same for Large perennial N Streams) **Small Perennial Non-Fish/Not Drinking Water Streams and potential debris flow** – No harvest within 25 feet, from 25 to 100 feet back must have 15-25 trees per acre, 100 to 160 feet must have up to 10 trees per acre, and 80 percent of potential shade within 500 feet of fish streams. **Seasonal Non-Fish/Not Drinking Water Streams** - Protect channel integrity, within 25-100 feet have 10 trees per acre when operationally feasible.	All measurements are <u>slope</u> distance **Fish Streams** - No harvest within 100 feet. **Perennial Non-Fish/Not Drinking Water Streams** - No harvest within 50 feet. **Seasonal Non-Fish/Not Drinking Water Streams** - Protect channel integrity.