



Oregon State University
College of Forestry

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TO: STAKEHOLDERS

FROM: ANTHONY S. DAVIS, INTERIM DEAN

RE: Establishing Elliott State Research Forest, Science Advisory Panel

There is great potential for an Elliott State Research Forest to guide the stewardship of Oregon's forests in the future, especially as we seek to understand how forests will change over time. The Elliott's rich history of biodiversity, providing forest products, cultural significance, and countless recreation opportunities, enables us to dedicate this forest to multi-generational discovery. In the December 2019 remarks to the State Land Board, we said:

We strongly believe that with dedicated effort, broad partnership, and a focus on the long-term needs of Oregonians and Oregon's forests, we could see an Elliott State Research Forest address synergies and tradeoffs for conservation, production, and livelihood objectives. That we can implement the studies needed to chart a course for achieving conservation and carbon sequestration while producing fiber on a forested landscape within a changing world. That we can identify ways to ameliorate the effects of climate change through our management and conserving actions.

Recognizing the scale of commitment to, and investment in, forest ecosystem research that the establishment of an Elliott State Research Forest would require, we are convening an external Science Advisory Panel. This panel will support the College in developing an inclusive vision for the Elliott State Research Forest that emphasizes long-term discovery and transformation of research capacity in forest ecosystems. The panel will complement the expertise of faculty within the College of Forestry, Oregon State University, and our associated partners, as well as the stakeholder advisory board convened in 2019 by the State Land Board. The panel will advise the Dean of the College of Forestry on the scientific and operational opportunities and challenges that emerge as we work to develop a comprehensive proposal that articulates the research charter, governance, and the Land Board's desire for integration of key public values into the stated objectives for a research forest.

Charged by the Dean of the College of Forestry, this group will work to ensure the vision and goals of the research charter, and associated research design, will position the Elliott State Research Forest as a world-leading source of scientific knowledge and discovery to advance the study and practice of forestry. The work will require the panel to offer direct feedback and input on the research design and its intersection with the many values emphasized by the University, the Land Board stakeholder advisory committee, and all Oregonians. The panel will also advise on how to ensure the research charter and governance structure, along with proposed conservation and research actions, emphasize scientific integrity while balancing multiple perspectives.

While the Science Advisory Panel will not be writing our proposal to be delivered to the Land Board, we are asking they provide a critical level of review, and offer comments and advice prior to its final submission. The Science Advisory Panel will significantly enhance Oregon State University's capacity in capturing the viewpoint of scientists of multiple institutions and disciplines. Doing so will potentially enable the Elliott to address forest ecosystem research needs that will benefit public and private land management in Oregon and across the west now and long into the future. As stated to the Land Board in December 2019:

As we look at how the practice of forestry has evolved, we can't help but see this as an immense opportunity to define what Oregon can do to sustainably provide the materials needed to build and renew our towns and cities. To maintain the rural economies that produce those materials, and ensure our forests are most effectively deployed as agents of carbon storage and providers of habitat, recreation, and cultural values.

In offering this vision for the Elliott State Research Forest, Oregon State University is stepping forward to rise to the challenges we face and lead in the discovery needed to bring forest conservation and management practices to a level that meet society's sustainability goals. We seek to do so as collaborators and conveners, recognizing the myriad viewpoints and objectives that must be reconciled, and being fully aware that this will be anything but easy. But it is critical, and there is a moral imperative that we get to work in addressing these challenges.

Forests are the source of incalculable value, no matter how the word is defined. They deliver recreation opportunities, provide forest products, and influence where people choose to live. They support our rural communities and provide access to living and stable wages. They house a diversity of species and processes important to healthy ecosystems, inspire the most cherished stories, and evolve in response to shifts in land use and a changing climate. Forests drive the provision of clean air, water, and jobs, and support carbon balance. The practice of forestry is driven by renewal and a view towards the future, enhanced by a commitment to continuous improvement and meeting changing needs and values: we have an opportunity to apply this approach to the next iteration of the Elliott State Forest.

I appreciate the efforts of all of those involved in the process to date and look forward to providing updates on research, governance, logistics, and more over the coming months.

Encl.

Enclosure: Elliott State Research Forest Exploratory Project - External Science Advisory Panel *(initial membership)*

Member	Area of Expertise	Bio
Jennifer Allen (Chair)	Environmental and natural resources public policy	Jennifer Allen is an Associate Professor at the Hatfield School of Government at Portland State University, focusing on environmental and natural resources policy and sustainable development. Jennifer directed PSU's Institute for Sustainable Solutions from 2012-2015, and has previously worked for the World Bank, Ecotrust, and the State of Oregon Economic and Community Development Department. She currently serves as Vice Chair of the Oregon State Parks Commission and is a board member of the World Forestry Center. Jennifer holds a Ph.D. in Environmental Science and Public Policy from George Mason University, a Master of Environmental Management from Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, and a B.A. in American studies from Yale University.
Cassandra Moseley	Community-based forestry, federal forest management, and rural development	Cassandra Moseley is a research professor and senior associate vice president for research and innovation at the University of Oregon. Dr. Moseley directs the Ecosystem Workforce Program at the UO and is a past chair of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forestry Research Advisory Council. She has developed applied research and policy education programs focusing on community-based forestry, federal forest management, and sustainable rural development. She has testified before Congress about rural green jobs, rural development, and the working conditions of forest workers. Dr. Moseley received her M.A., M.Phil, and Ph.D. from Yale University in political science, and her B.A. in mathematics and government from Cornell University.
Eric White	Forest recreation and economic development	Eric M. White is a Research Social Scientist with the Pacific Northwest Research Station of the USDA Forest Service. His research is focused on understanding recreation use on public lands and the economic effects on local communities, the social and economic outcomes from forest collaboration and restoration, and the ecological and social outcomes from collaborative natural resource management across landscapes of public and private ownerships. He received his B.S. and M.S. in forestry from Southern Illinois University and his Ph.D in natural resource policy and economics from Michigan State University.
Gwen Busby	Natural resource economics	Gwen Busby is Managing Director and Head of Economic Research and Strategic Development at GreenWood, a Portland-based timberland investment management firm. Prior to joining GreenWood, Gwen worked as an assistant professor of natural resource economics and quantitative methods at Virginia Tech and as a senior scientist at the University of Virginia. Gwen received a B.A. in economics from Middlebury College, an MEd from Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, and a Ph.D in natural resource economics from Oregon State University.

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Linda Nagel	Silviculture and climate change	Linda Nagel is Professor of Silviculture and Department Head of Forest and Rangeland Stewardship at Colorado State University. She was previously on the faculty at the University of Minnesota and Michigan Tech where she taught intensive modules as part of the National Advanced Silviculture Program. She served as Director of Operations for the Cloquet Forestry Center and the Hubachek Wilderness Research Center while at the University of Minnesota. She is the national lead for the Adaptive Silviculture for Climate Change Network which has seven experimental sites in different forest ecosystems in the United States and Canada. Dr. Nagel holds a Ph.D in forestry from University of Montana, a M.S. in natural resource sciences from Washington State University, and B.S. in biology from South Dakota State University.
Mark Swanson	Landscape ecology, silviculture, and early seral forest development	Mark Swanson is Associate Professor of Landscape Ecology and Silviculture in the School of the Environment at Washington State University, where he teaches forest and arid lands ecology and management. His primary research interest in the early seral pre-forest stage of forest development and values associated with early seral conditions. Dr. Swanson consults in forest inventory and silviculture. Mark holds a Ph.D in forest ecosystem analysis from the University of Washington and a B.S. in forest management from the University of Washington.
Matt Sloat	Watershed ecology, pacific salmon	Matthew Sloat is the Science Director at Wild Salmon Center, where he specializes in the ecology of Pacific salmon watersheds. Dr. Sloat sits on the International Union for Conservation of Nature Salmonid Specialist Group. He holds bachelor's degrees in Wildlife Biology and in English from the University of Montana, a master's in fish management from Montana State University, and a Ph.D. in fisheries science from Oregon State University.
Ryan Haugo	Conservation science, forest ecology	Ryan Haugo is the Director of Conservation Science for The Nature Conservancy in Oregon and an affiliate professor at the University of Washington's School of Environmental and Forest Science. Ryan earned a M.S. and Ph.D from the University of Washington and served as a plant ecologist with the Washington Natural Heritage Program.
Serra Hoagland	Tribal relations, spotted owl habitat	Serra Hoagland (Laguna Pueblo) serves as the Liaison Officer/Biologist for the USDA Rocky Mountain Research Station Fire Lab to Salish Kootenai College in Pablo, Montana. Prior to joining the RMRS Serra worked as a Biological Scientist and as the Tribal Relations co-point of contact for the USDA Southern Research Station in Asheville, North Carolina. As the first Native American to graduate from Northern Arizona University with a PhD in forestry, Serra studied Mexican spotted owl habitat on tribal and non-tribal lands in south-central New Mexico. She is heavily involved with the Intertribal Timber Council, the American Indian Science & Engineering Society, and the Native American Fish & Wildlife Society. She holds a Ph.D. in forestry from Northern Arizona University, master's in environmental science & management conservation planning and coastal marine resources management from University of California, and bachelor's in ecology & systematic biology from Cal Poly.