



Oregon State University
College of Forestry

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December 1, 2023

Vicki Walker
Director
Department of State Lands

Dear Director Walker:

In fulfillment of Intergovernmental Agreement #19-145 between Oregon State University (OSU) and the Department of State Lands, the final draft of the Elliott State Research Forest (ESRF) [Forest Management Plan \(FMP\)](#) is hereby delivered along with the supplemental [watershed atlas](#). This plan represents years of work by Oregon State University working in partnership with Department of State Lands, the Elliott State Forest Advisory Committee, the prospective ESRFA Board, and a host of other partners and stakeholders. We are proud of what we accomplished as a group over the last five years, culminating in the production of this comprehensive FMP for the Elliott State Research Forest.

The ESRF presents the opportunity to address some of the most pressing issues facing forest and habitat management. OSU remains a committed partner and interested in the potential for OSU leading research on the ESRF. However, our involvement remains unclear given the response to recent developments. For the reasons outlined in OSU President Murthy's November 8th, 2023 letter, the president has decided to refrain from asking the OSU Board of Trustees to consider our participation in the ESRF at this time. It is important to note that the Board of Trustees has not said "no" to OSU involvement. As referenced in her [letter of November 13](#), President Murthy has chosen not to ask the Board of Trustees to authorize OSU participation in management of the forest at this time due to Tribal and other concerns about the current strategy, including the increasing constraints being placed on the forest's management and research activities that we believe will compromise achieving the mutually agreed goals.

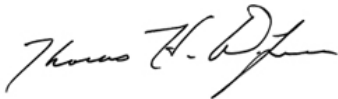
This attached FMP is a direct outgrowth of the research proposal that was approved by the State Land Board in April 2021 and fully supported by the ESRF Advisory Committee. Therefore, the plan is based on the overarching research design from the ERSF Research Proposal, the content of the Draft Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), and from a perspective of OSU managing the forest. At the time of completion of this ESRF FMP, the ESRF Draft HCP had not been finalized. Any subsequent adjustments in the HCP will need to be incorporated into this FMP document so that the documents can remain aligned.

Oregon State remains committed to the mission and vision of a world class research forest, and would like to provide leadership in the research conducted on the forest. We hope that this is clearly

reflected in the attached FMP. We remain hopeful that the state is also truly committed to creating a world class research forest and works with OSU, Tribal partners, and a range of stakeholders to advance elements of some version of this plan to create what we all have agreed is so important to the state, our region, and the World.

Thank you for accepting this plan. Please feel free to contact me by phone or email (tom.deluca@oregonstate.edu) should you have any questions or concerns regarding this letter or the plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Thomas H. DeLuca".

Thomas H. DeLuca
Cheryl Ramberg-Ford Allyn C. Ford Dean of the College of Forestry

Cc: Ed Feser
Paul Odenthal
Shannon Murray