

August 4, 2021

Dear Elliott State Research Forest Advisory Committee Members:

We have been working together with the shared belief that an Elliott State Research Forest represents a great opportunity for the State of Oregon. To date, we have worked from the premise that transferring ownership and management of the Elliott to Oregon State University is the best way to realize that opportunity.

Both the Oregon Department of State Lands and Oregon State University remain fully committed to the State Land Board's vision for an Elliott State Research Forest. But we agree, and it reflects individual conversations with State Land Board assistants, that we are more likely to achieve that vision with an alternative ownership and management model.

In relaying this information, we want to stress the following:

1. DSL and OSU will work collaboratively to explore and evaluate alternatives for ownership and management models, and to plan for a publicly owned, accessible, state research forest.
2. Continued engagement of the Advisory Committee and the public is critical to framing the future of the forest and its ongoing management.
3. Decoupling the forest from its Common School Fund obligations is important to the success of the Elliott State Research Forest vision, and is a priority.

We anticipate holding an Advisory Committee meeting the week of August 16 to discuss the details associated with pursuing this new path, and to talk with you about next steps forward.

As ever, DSL and OSU are committed to working with the Advisory Committee to ensure the future Elliott State Research Forest will be worthy of the committee's enthusiastic endorsement, and achieve the State Land Board's vision.

Sincerely,

**Vicki L. Walker, Director**  
*Oregon Department of State Lands*

**Thomas H. DeLuca, Dean**  
*Oregon State University College of Forestry*