

## **2018 ELLIOTT STATE FOREST RECREATIONAL PLAN W/RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Introductions & Strategy: April 9, 2018**

**Introductions:** Bob Zybach, OSU PhD Environmental Sciences, BS Forest Recreation, Program Manager Oregon Websites & Watersheds Project, Inc. (ORWW) since 1997.

**Project Summary:** Create first formal recreation plan with recommendations for the Elliott State Forest. Basis for research will be: class presentations by -- and six field trips with -- local experts; focused consultations and networking with other knowledgeable individuals; and available online materials.

**Field Trip Schedules:** Mondays, 11:00 AM - Noon, Room #11, Sitkum Hall.  
Tuesdays, 1:00 PM - 5:00, meeting at SWOCC Motor Pool for four-hour field trip.

#1 April 16/17: Jerry Phillips and David Gould will host Elliott Forest History tour: land ownership, management, and fire histories; cultural resources.

#2 April 23/24: Antonio Salgado will host STEP Millicoma Hatchery and Boy Scout campground tour: enhanced recreational fisheries, camping opportunities.

#5 May 21/22: Bob Mahaffey will host Golden and Silver Falls and Mahaffey Tree Farm tour: local attractions, private property limitations and opportunities.

Remaining field trips and themes -- **Dates are interchangeable, depending on schedules of trip hosts:**

**#3 Tuesday, May 1 1:00 PM 4-hour:** Roads & Trails: Indian Trails, elk trails, early pack trails, CCC roads, Columbus Day Storm roads, 1700-1968.

**#4 Tuesday, May 15 1:00 PM 4-hour:** Loon Lake, BLM commercial camping, Mill Creek splash dams, exotic fish management, riparian vegetation control, Huckleberry Point, Indian Point, ethnobotany.

**#6 Tuesday, May 29 1:00 PM 4-hour:** Tenmile Lakes and Elliott tributaries, tideland channeling, hatchery, Elliott lakefront property, exotic fish management, native fisheries (including eels), commercial recreation opportunities, old-growth drive (access and aesthetics).

**Elliott Recreation Plan Topics & Experts:** confirmed and possible project consultants, classroom speakers, and/or field trip guides.

1) Birders: None identified yet. Audubon Society being contacted.

2) Camping: Jerry Phillips; Norma Kline; David Gould. Loon Lake BLM; Millicoma Hatchery campground; Elliott camping history and future opportunities.

3) Cultural Resources: Amber Ross (willing to be speaker); Jerry Phillips; David Gould; Norma Kline.

4) Elliott Forest History: Jerry Phillips; Lionel Youst; David Gould.

5) Ethnobotany: Patty Whereat Phillips; Bob Mahaffey; Lionel Youst.

6) Fish Habitat & Recreational Access: Gary Vonderohe; Bruce Bertrand; Bob Jacobson; David Gould; Antonio Salgado.

7) Forest Recreation Economics: None identified yet. Local businesses and/or agencies? Personal job opportunities for interested students?

8) Hatcheries & Fisheries: Antonio Salgado; Bruce Bertrand; Bob Jacobson; Gary Vonderohe.

9) Hunting & Trapping: ODF&W contact being made. Elk, deer, bear, grouse, furs, boomer, beaver.

10) Local Recreational Opportunities: Tasha Livingstone; Bob Mahaffey; Cassie Bouska suggested networking with local business and government land managers for identifying and coordinating recreational options for regional visitors to the Elliott.

11) Sightseeing & Photography (Aesthetics): Jerry Phillips, Lionel Youst, David Gould, Bob Mahaffey. Golden and Silver Falls; Millicoma River; Loon Lake; Deans Mountain L.O.

12) Roads & Trails (Commercial, Historical, Bikes, Hikers, Horses, Off-road): Amber Ross; David Gould; Jerry Phillips; Norma Kline.

## **Recreation Plan Outline: Background & Objectives**

### **1) Creation & Purpose of Elliott State Forest, 1859-1930.** (Phillips 1998: 1-15)

Jerry Phillips is the widely and rightly regarded expert on the history and management of the Elliott State Forest and his 414-page history of the Elliott, *Caulked Boots and Cheese Sandwiches*, is the recognized authority on these topics:

[http://www.orww.org/Elliott\\_Forest/History/Phillips/Phillips\\_1998-201.pdf](http://www.orww.org/Elliott_Forest/History/Phillips/Phillips_1998-201.pdf)

Pages 1 to 15 provide an excellent understanding of the initial forming of Oregon's 1st State Forest: The Elliott. Jerry will be hosting one or more of the Elliott field trips and will also occasionally be available for student consultations for this project. He attended Oregon State College Forestry program in the late 1940s, following WW II, and his career on the Elliott spanned from 1952 until his retirement in 1989.

*I'd been vaguely aware of the Forest's existence since attending Oregon State College, where it was described in college literature as an undeveloped State-owned forest of young timber lying between Coos and Umpqua Rivers, dedicated to educational purposes.*

Now -- more than 20 years after writing the history of the Elliott -- Jerry's book, his recently recorded oral history tours, and his knowledge and enthusiasm, are key factors in the development of this project, "dedicated to educational purposes." During the 19 years in which he managed the Forest, Phillips recently noted he "had been specifically instructed to limit and discourage recreational uses of the Forest so resources could be concentrated on profitable timber production." Recent history, though, has greatly affected educational use and need opportunities for the Elliott, and this plan is recognition of those changes.

### **2) Land Ownership History: School Trust Land Obligations** (Bird 2016: 1-4)

Key historical information for Jerry Phillips' pre-1930 history of the Elliott was provided by members of the pioneer Gould family, who settled in the middle of the "Great Burn" (today's Elliott State Forest) in the early 1880s and kept good written and photographic records of their remarkable time living on the "Elkhorn Ranch." Aileen Rickard wrote a definitive history of the family that will be used as written and/or photo documentation of a number of the field trips.

Another Gould family descendant, David Gould, has been instrumental in providing family historical materials for the use of this project and for their educational value to other interested members of the public. David is also a staunch and outspoken supporter of the Elliott's status as a State School Trust Land. This status, which may be changing in the near future, has a direct effect on the management of the Elliott Forest and its resources. Probably the most succinct summary of State Trust obligations in managing the Elliott was written in 2016 by Margaret Bird, retired founder of the national Advocates for School Trust Lands organization:

[http://www.orww.org/Elliott\\_Forest/History/Bird\\_20161025.pdf](http://www.orww.org/Elliott_Forest/History/Bird_20161025.pdf)

### 3) 2011 Elliott State Forest Management Plan: (ODSL-ODF 2011)

The most recent recreation planning for the Elliott was the “Final Plan” issued by the Department of Forestry and the State Land Board in November, 2011. It was challenged in court and never adopted, however, it remains the most recent and most comprehensive document available for the management plan for the Forest, including managing its recreational resources:

[http://www.orww.org/Elliott\\_Forest/References/Agency/ODF/Decker et al 20111100.pdf](http://www.orww.org/Elliott_Forest/References/Agency/ODF/Decker_et_al_20111100.pdf)

The page numbering system for this plan is broken up into sections and appendices. The following index identifies the key portions of the document relating to recreational uses of the Forest, and the primary people who participated in their development. Many of these individuals remain available today for consultations, as public employees or engaged volunteers.

**Acronyms:** *iii-v*, E-124. Four (4) pages! e.g., FMP = [Elliott State] **F**orest **M**anagement **P**lan, SUV = “**S**teep, **U**nique and **V**isual, etc., etc. Never a good sign for non-technical readers.

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