

# 2018 SWOCC ELLIOTT STATE FOREST RECREATION PLAN W/RECOMMENDATIONS

## May 15, 2018 Loon Lake Field Trip

This field trip is being hosted by Marty Giles and Barbara Taylor, two birding experts affiliated with SWOCC and Wavecrest Discoveries, and by Peggy Croce, manager of Loon Lake Lodge and RV Resort. Topics will be birds, road and interpretive signage, history, cultural resources, aesthetics, fish habitat, boating, camping, ethnobotany, hunting, and economics. David and Jerry are also both planning to attend, if possible (we need Jerry at Stop B).

Field Trip #4 Loon Lake Tour. Stops and points of interest:

**A. BLM Dean Creek Elk Viewing Area.** Two 10-minute stops to: identify birds; inspect facilities; interpretive signs vs. historical markers; income and maintenance costs? Elliott School Trust asset as collaborator/local attraction?

**B. Oregon Parks Brandy Bar Umpqua Wayside.** One stop, 10 minutes. Birds, fish habitat, exotic fish, boating, aesthetics (ridgeline trees). Facilities maintenance costs? Income potential?

**C. BLM Loon Lake Lodge and Campsites.** 30-45 minutes. History of ownership; Elliott Forest access, operating income, recreational opportunities. Recommendations for Elliott?

**D. Huckleberry Point.** 5 minutes. Elliott Forest lake frontage, BLM campsite/porta-potty, huckleberry picking. Commercial development? Fishing? Camping?

**E. Indian Point Trail** (if time). 10-15 minutes, hiking, camping, fishing, huckleberries. Can become starting point of May 29 field trip if May 15 time is limited.

PDF Reference Files:

City of Lakeside 2016 “Wayfinding” (directional signage) Report:

[http://www.orww.org/Elliott\\_Forest/Recreation/Tenmile\\_Lakes/Oldson\\_20160415.pdf](http://www.orww.org/Elliott_Forest/Recreation/Tenmile_Lakes/Oldson_20160415.pdf)

Elliott Road Signs: Lionel Youst’s book, *Lost in Coos*, chapters 2, 5, 6, 8, 11, and 12 involve stories of people lost – and their rescuers -- in present-day Elliott Forest; good maps and photos.

[http://www.orww.org/Elliott\\_Forest/History/Youst/Youst\\_20110000.pdf](http://www.orww.org/Elliott_Forest/History/Youst/Youst_20110000.pdf)

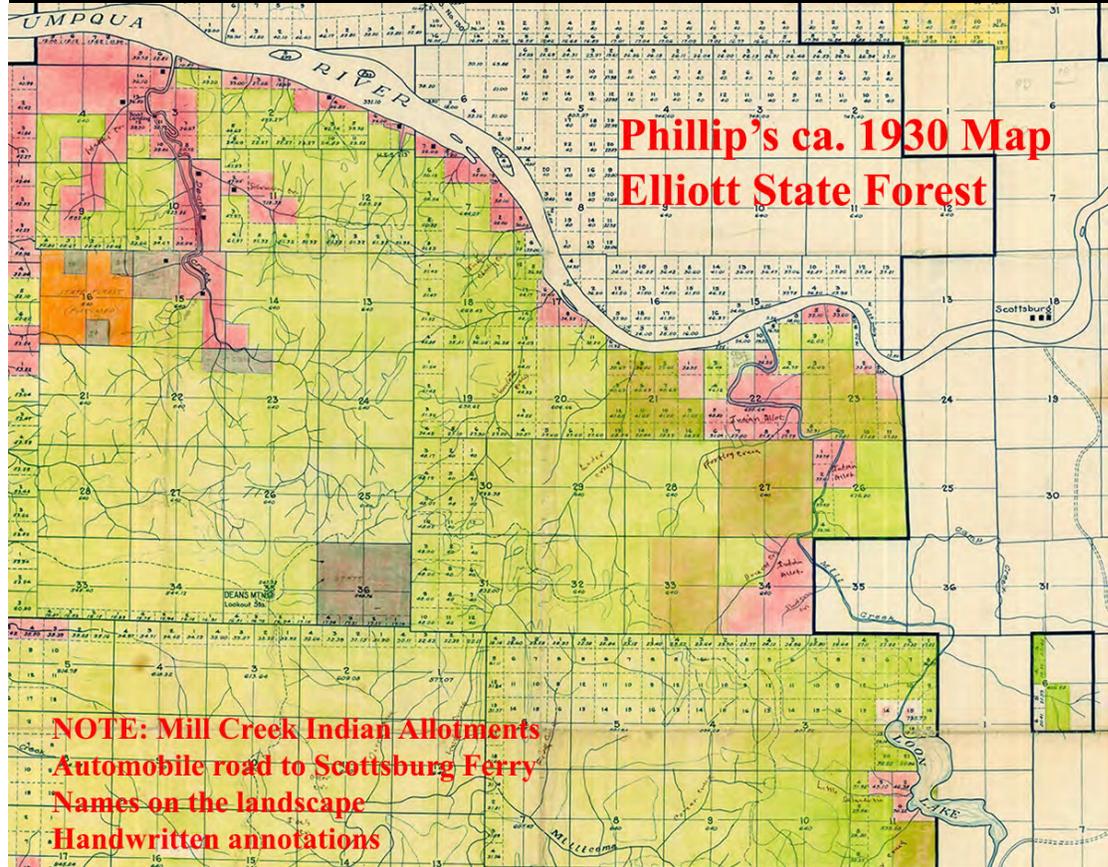
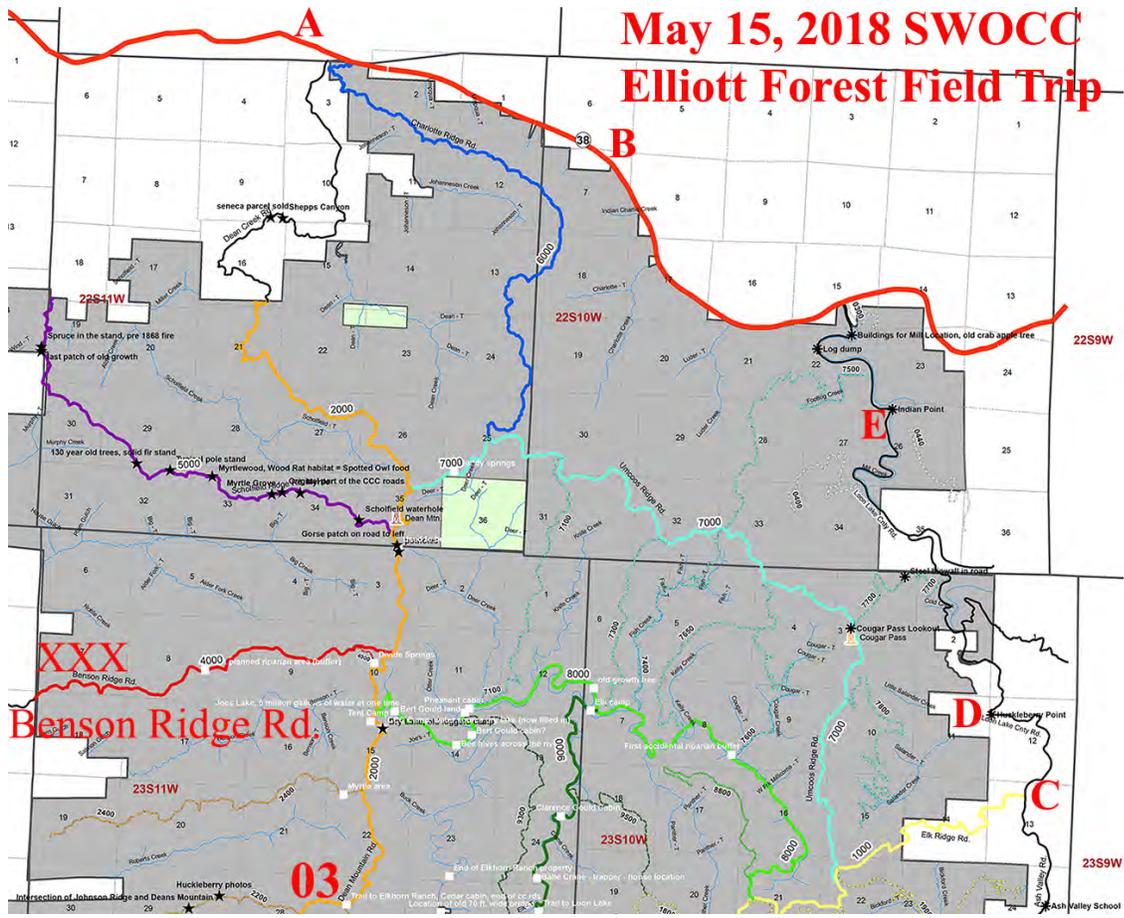
Recreation Economics: 2014 economic assessment, funded by conservative Oregon “think tank”:

[http://www.orww.org/Elliott\\_Forest/References/Academic/Cascade\\_Policy\\_Institute/Sims\\_et\\_al\\_201407.pdf](http://www.orww.org/Elliott_Forest/References/Academic/Cascade_Policy_Institute/Sims_et_al_201407.pdf)

Photographs:

Beckham, Dow 1990. *Swift Flows the River: Log Driving in Oregon*. Arago Books, Coos Bay, Oregon: 207 pp.

Noel, Linda, and others 1981. *Pictorial History of the Lower Umpqua*, 2nd Printing. Lower Umpqua Historical Society, Reedsport, Oregon: 106 pp.



# ***LOST IN COOS***

**“Heroic Deeds and Thilling Adventures” of Searches and Rescues on Coos River  
Coos County, Oregon 1871 to 2000**



*by Lionel Youst*

Golden Falls Publishing

## NAMING THE NAMES

By the time the Elliott State Forest was officially created, in 1929-30, most of the geographic entities had already been named. In many cases we have no knowledge of the source of those names, but we can safely assume that the George Gould family did assign most of them during their 1886-1910 occupancy of the center of the Forest.

Those likely named by the Goulds would include:

<b>The Elkhorn Ranch</b>	<b>Cougar Creek</b>	<b>Knife Creek</b>
<b>Deer Creek</b>	<b>Beaver Creek</b>	<b>Shake Creek</b>
<b>Otter Creek</b>	<b>Trout Creek</b>	<b>Strawberry Creek</b>
<b>Panther Creek</b>	<b>Elk Creek</b>	<b>Hidden Valley</b>
<b>Joe's Creek (for an Indian)</b>	<b>Buck Creek</b>	<b>Gould's Lake</b>

Gould's Lake went through being known as Elk Lake during later years, but a concerted effort by a descendant of the Gould family, Aileen Barker Rickard, with a small assist by myself, did finally result in the official restoration of the Gould's Lake name. This is as it appears in the 1985 U.S.G.S. Elk Peak Quadrangle (7.5 minute series) map. Geographic naming specialists always resist the adding on of the possessive "s" to any name, so Gould's Lake became Gould Lake.

Many other names reflect the original settlers around the edge of the Elliott. Examples are:

<b>Benson Creek</b>	<b>Glenn Creek</b>	<b>Larson Creek</b>
<b>Johnson Creek</b>	<b>Charlotte Creek</b>	<b>Sullivan Creek</b>
<b>Johannesson Creek</b>	(believed Indian)	<b>Daggett Creek</b>
<b>Dean's Creek</b>	<b>Salander Creek</b>	<b>Totten Creek</b>
(officially Dean Creek)	<b>Wilkins Creek</b>	<b>Indian Charley Creek</b>
<b>Hakki Creek</b>	<b>Miller Creek</b>	<b>Roberts Creek</b>
<b>Bickford Creek</b>	<b>Scholfield Creek</b>	<b>Noble Creek</b>
<b>Marlow Creek</b>	<b>Murphy Creek</b>	<b>Dean's Mountain</b>
(Indian Chief Marlow)	<b>Schumacher Creek</b>	(Dean Mountain)

Others, also quite old, are unique in their origin;

**Ramrod Mountain** (SE 1/4 Sec. 2, 24/11) — because it is on old GLO map.

**Trail Butte** — because the old Elkhorn Ranch trail passed over it.

**Henry's Falls** — for upstream homesteader, Henry Stull.

**Cougar Pass** — named by Ash Valley cougar hunter for his successes.

**Footlog Creek** — for the log crossing here on the old trail.

**Pheasant Cabin** — by Cle Wilkinson, the trapper who built it.

**Cleighton Creek** — this is a misspelling of the same "Leighton," an early settler along upper Glenn Creek.

**Silver Creek** — because it feeds Silver Falls.

**Indian Point** — because an Indian family lived at its foot.

**Elk Wallow** — presumably named by hunters; same for "Bear Wallow"

**Dry Ridge** — for its almost total absence of good springs.

**Stull's Falls** — for Henry Stull (homesteader of Vaughan's Ranch).

More names that are old, but whose origins seem obvious:

**Cedar Creek**  
**Frog Creek**  
**Salmon Creek**

Old names whose sources are unknown (to me):

**Luder Creek**  
**Kelly Creek** (A Kelly lived over on Loon Lake, but this stream on the West Fork of the Millicoma seems too far away.)  
**Puckett Creek**  
**Palouse Creek**  
**Big Creek**  
**Crystal Creek** (at the end of the BLM trail at Loon Lake; rumor says it was named by Kelly.)

And then there are the names we have created over time as we began to develop the Forest. Some of these are:

**Elliott State Forest** — named for Francis Elliott, Oregon's first State Forester, who passed away June 11, 1930, just as State's titles to the Forest were being received.  
**Eleven Creek** — named for fact that it drains Sec. 11, 24/11.  
**Cold Creek** — the old name for this had been Kelly Creek, but this was confusing because there was another Kelly Creek, over on the West Fork. So we renamed this one, flowing east from the Cougar Pass Lookout, for its unusually cold temperature.  
**Crane Creek** — named for its proximity to the cabin built by "Baldy" Crane on Elk Creek.  
**Basin Creek** (SW 1/4 Sec. 13, 23/11) — just an arbitrary name we assigned to it.  
**"Y" Creek** — this was named by us for its historic location of a wye in the old logging railroad at this point. We should have called it Wye Creek, instead of "Y" Creek.  
**Goody Ridge** — lying northwest of the Dean's Mountain Lookout, this ridge produced a reliable harvest of elk over many years for Norm Boyd, the Coos Forest Protective Ass'n Forest Supervisor, and was so-named by him.

And, finally, there are the names of the **ridges** on the Forest, most of which come from the Elliott Forest's first manager, Bob Mounteer. He decided that it would make good systematic sense to name all ridges which had no preexisting names, for the creeks near them. All ridges lying **west** of a north-south oriented creek, or **north** of an east-west oriented creek would receive the name of that stream., Hence, Benson Ridge is north of Benson Creek, and Dean's Ridge is west of Dean's Creek. The system worked out fine.

Human beings have always wanted to name things. Goes back to the Book of Genesis, I guess.

**Know Before You Go**

Restrooms are available and all of the facilities are disabled accessible. There is no fee to visit and the site is open year-round from sunrise to sunset. Hunting is prohibited.

**Watchable Wildlife**

The Dean Creek Elk Viewing Area is the year-round residence for a herd of about 100 Roosevelt elk. A mild winter climate and abundant food allow the Roosevelt elk to remain at the Dean Creek Elk Viewing Area all year.



Roosevelt elk are Oregon's largest land mammals, weighing up to 1,100 pounds and standing as tall as five feet at the shoulder. Antlers of the Roosevelt elk, which are status symbols during the fall rut, can reach spreads of nearly three feet.

The Roosevelt elk are not the only animals that call this area home – the wetlands and the creek hum with life. Beaver, muskrat, mallards, and Canada geese all spend some time here. Visitors may spot a coyote, a great blue heron, or a red-legged frog. Migrating ducks use the Dean Creek Elk Viewing Area as a rest stop on their long journeys between winter and summer homes, and resident waterfowl raise their young here during the summer.

**Sightseeing**

Come to the Dean Creek Elk Viewing Area to enjoy wildlife viewing and photography. The Dean Creek Elk Viewing Area stretches along a 3-mile section of

Oregon Highway 38, with two designated viewing areas and several observation pull-outs. There is an outdoor interpretive center where you can learn more about the Roosevelt elk, other wildlife, and the area. Spotting scopes near the interpretive center allow for close viewing opportunities. The Roosevelt elk are most active during the morning and late afternoon hours, making these the most likely times for viewings.

**History and Management**

Before Dean Creek became an elk viewing area, and before Highway 38 was built, marshes and wetlands made up the landscape along the Umpqua River. From the late 1800s to the 1960s, various dikes and roads made it possible for families to farm and graze dairy cows in the pastures of Dean Creek.

The Bureau of Land Management, in partnership with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, took over management of the site in 1991. Ongoing projects, such as haying and field burns, enhance Dean Creek's pastures and keep forage quality high.

**Directions to the Site**

From Reedsport, Oregon, and U.S. Highway 101, travel about three miles east on Highway 38 until you see the Dean Creek Elk Viewing Area signs. From Interstate 5, Highways 38 and 138, head west to Reedsport and the Dean Creek Elk Viewing Area. Travel time from Roseburg or Eugene, Oregon, is approximately 1 to 1.5 hours.

**District Contact Information**

**Coos Bay District**  
Bureau of Land Management  
1300 Airport Lane  
North Bend, OR 97459

(541) 756-0100

[www.or.blm.gov/coosbay](http://www.or.blm.gov/coosbay)

BLM/OR/WA/GI-05/033+1122.32 Rev. 2006

*Welcome to  
Dean Creek Elk  
Viewing Area*



*This mosaic of mountains, meadows, and marshes is home to many animals. Enjoy watching the Roosevelt elk and other animals found here.*





# Art, Literature, Photography, Events



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## Umpqua Wayside State Park and Brandy Bar

A small state park which was more of a pull-off while heading east along Oregon Route 38. The park included a boat launch ramp and a concrete restroom building.



### Stop Oregon's Invaders!

(1 of 7) (879 views)

Umpqua Wayside State Park [LINK](#)

and Brandy Bar

Oregon Route 38 [LINK](#)

In west Oregon [LINK](#)

(Date Photographed:

13:08:40 Thursday 8

September 2016)

(Date Published: Tuesday

21 March 2017)

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#C16\_9679

A sign next to the boat launch ramp described the ways to clean, drain and dry your boat to prevent its launch from



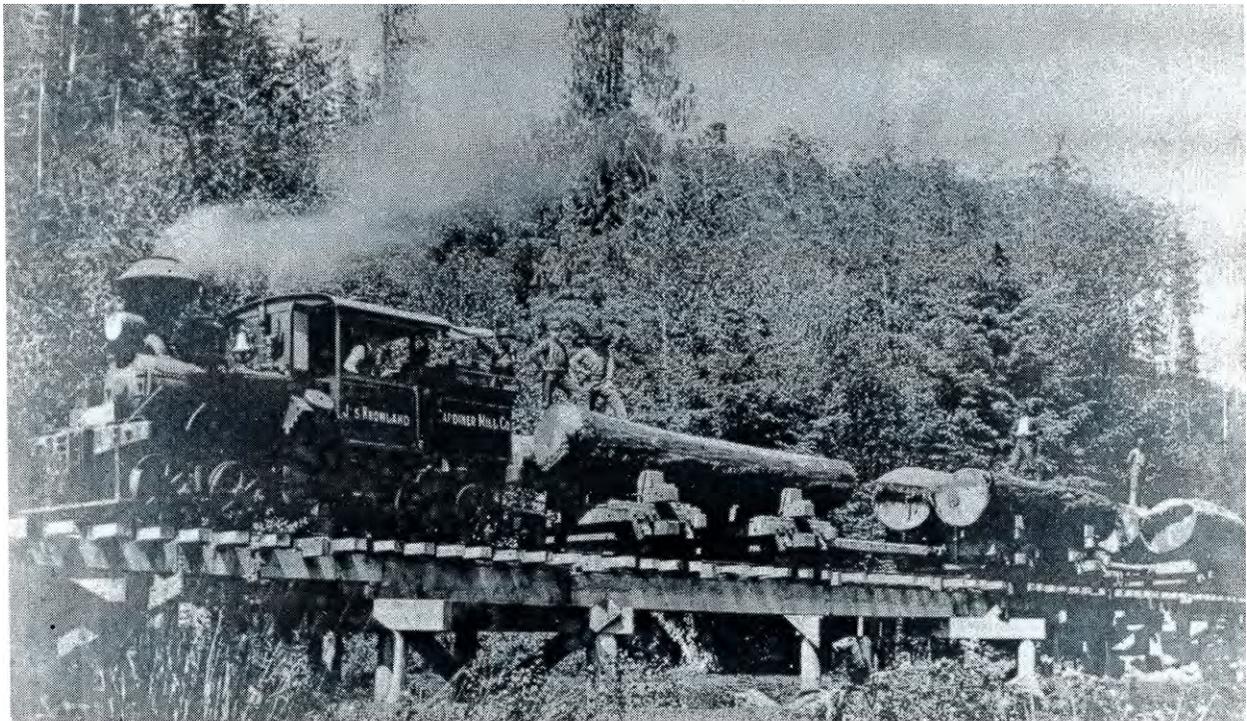
The Umpqua River highway was constructed in the late 1920's. This car stopped under the overhanging ledge for a rest on its way to California. J. Weiss Coll.



Covered bridge across Mill Creek east of Reedsport on Umpqua River highway 38 - built about 1928. W. A. Burdick Coll.



Asa "Ace" Henderson's bull team pulling (snaking) logs over a skid road.



"Jos. Knowland" logging train headed for the log dump with a load from the woods about 1902.



*Above. Constructed of log cribs, this self-tripping dam on Mill Creek spanned the stream deep in the forest. Opposite. Workmen for the Gardiner Mill Company constructed a series of crib splash dams on Mill Creek near Loon Lake in the lower Umpqua River region.*



2018 Elliott Forest Recreation Plan: 20180515 Field Trip

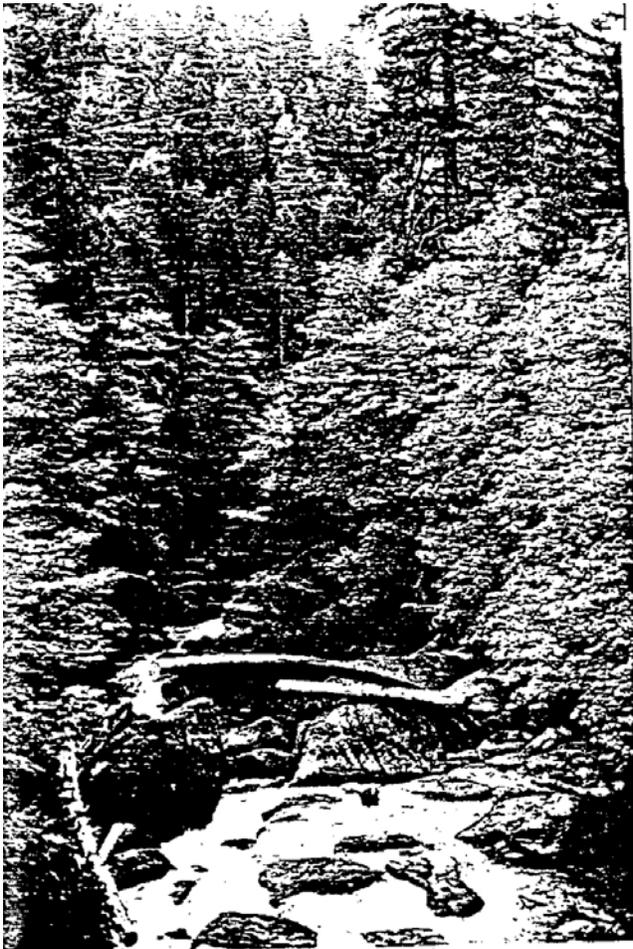


Fig. 43a. Mill Creek at outlet of Loon Lake blasted by Gardiner Mill Company. May 9, 1981

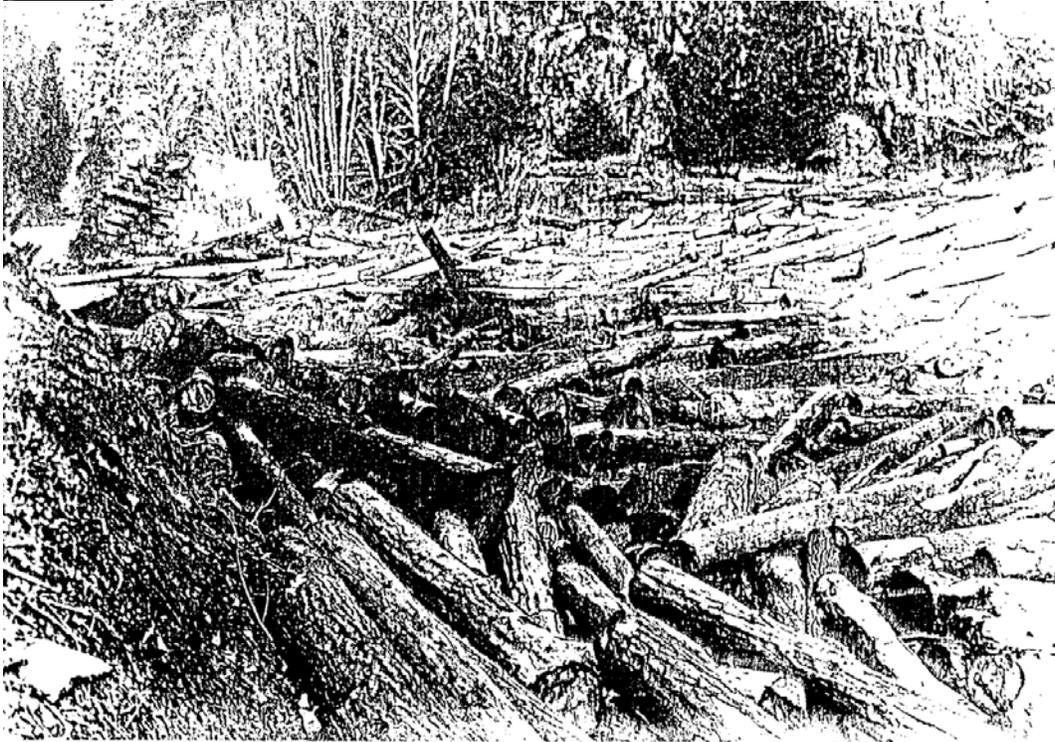


Fig. 45. Log jam at mouth of Loon Lake. Douglas County Museum.



# History of Loon Lake



Witness what total relaxation can truly be.  
**PARADISE - A LITTLE BIT OF HEAVEN**

Lake elevation is approximately 340 ft. above sea level with a maximum depth of 150 ft.  
It has an approximate maximum width of 1/2 mile and is approximately 2 1/2 miles long.

About 1400 years ago a major landslide in the coast range of western Oregon sent a mountainside of debris and house-size boulders down into and across a deep and narrow river canyon. The resulting dam combined with the annual rainfall formed Loon Lake. At its outlet, Mill Creek drops over 120 feet in less than 1/4 mile of spectacular waterfalls and pools.

Several hundred years ago, the first inhabitants were Indians who traveled on foot from the coast and from inland valleys. They came mostly to Ash Valley to camp, gather huckleberries and hunt elk. In the year 1850, when Scottsburg was becoming an important commercial trade center, two men were following Indian trails when they discovered the lake and named it after the common Loon duck which they had seen nesting. Early settlers lived in Ash Valley where they farmed, trapped, hunted and traded for a living. Not until the 1930s did Loon Lake receive significant attention when it was used for storing logs before transporting them by truck to the mill in Gardiner on the coast of Oregon. The logging road into the north end of the lake provided the first access by automobile. By the early 1960s the site where logs were loaded onto trucks became a popular recreation area for the whole family.

## RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Protected from coastal winds, fog, and milder temperatures than the coast and inland areas, Loon Lake is ideal for camping, RVing, lodging, picnicking, hunting, fishing, watersports, sunbathing, swimming and hiking. The natural setting among the large Douglas-Fir, Western Hemlock and Red Cedar trees, along with a sand beach, boating access and developed recreational facilities have made **Loon Lake Lodge** a popular scenic recreation area during the spring, summer, fall and winter months. The fishing is the best in the coastal parts of Oregon with Large Mouth Bass, Trout, and many other varieties.

## SERVICES

Services include camping, RV sites, tent sites, motel rooms, cottages, cabins and yurts. Store, gas, propane, boat launch and boat rentals, ice and firewood are available at Loon Lake Lodge. The resort and its facilities are a great get-a-way for the whole family. Spend your vacation, weekend, or enjoy a one-day visit to the resort. The drive and areas around the lake are beautiful, offering opportunities to see wildlife, nature and a hidden valley that looks a little bit like Switzerland or Austria. The lake setting at the resort is breathtaking, summer, fall, winter and spring.

## TV CHANNELS & WI-FI HOOKUP INSTRUCTIONS

02 - CBS	10 - USA
03 - NBC	11 - Nickelodeon
04 - ABC	12 - Fox News
05 - FOX	13 - Discovery
06 - Disney	14 - CNN
07 - TCM	15 - AMC
08 - TBS	16 - ESPNU
09 - TNT	17 - Park Channel

**When you access our WIFI, please take the following steps to connect:**

1. Click on your Internet Browser
  2. A page will come up that say "Loon Lake lodge & RV Resort".
  3. Click on the New User button.
  4. Page will change and in the middle of the next page it will say "CONNECT TO THE INTERNET".
  5. Click on this and it will take you to the internet.
- Our WIFI is not password protected so therefore you should be able to connect with no password. If you find that it is insistent... Make one up.  
Happy Surfing!!!!



Ash Valley Creamery and Cheese Company processed milk from the fine dairy herds of the Loon Lake area for many years.

KEN SIM MS  
Strata Policy

JORDAN LOFTHOUSE BS  
Strata Policy

RYAN M. YONK PH.D  
Utah State University

RANDY T SIMMONS PH.D  
Utah State University

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# OPTIONS FOR THE MONETIZATION OF THE ELLIOTT STATE FOREST

FINAL REPORT | JULY 2014



The intent of the 2011 Forest Management Plan was to increase harvests on the ESF, but that goal is not close to being met. Under the status quo, the ESF will continue to siphon money away from the Common School Fund instead of generating money for it. The current management system does not seem like it will generate substantially more money anytime in the near future, meaning that the State of Oregon will need to pursue other options or risk losing millions of dollars from the Common School Fund for the next several years.

## RECREATION

Recreation opportunities in the ESF will not significantly provide more revenue than the status quo of limited logging. First, the population of the area surrounding the ESF is relatively small. Second, the ESF has no unique or special attractions that would bring in a significant number of tourists to produce any substantial profit for the Common School Fund (Figure 4).

Coos County, in which the ESF is partially located, has a population of about 62,000 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2014(a)). Douglas County contains the other portion of the ESF, and its population as of 2013 was approximately 107,000 people (U.S. Census Bureau, 2014(b)). Coos Bay, one of the ESF's nearest significant towns, has a population close to 16,000 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2014(c)). Roseburg, another town near the ESF, has only 22,000 people (U.S. Census Bureau, 2014(d)). The relatively small population likely makes recreation an unviable option to support the Common School Fund.

Some of the explored options were hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, and constructing cabins. According to Ryan Greco, the assistant district forester for the Coos District, there is some hunting and fishing, but the amount is insignificant. In order to monetize through these means, a large increase in traffic would be necessary (Greco, 2014). Given the population, it is simply not feasible.

Currently, the ESF does not require any entry fees. The campsites that are available are used on a first-come, first-served basis. Any hiking trails are used the same as the campsites. The logging roads serve as trails for ATVs, but the small population does not allow for any substantial, revenue-producing activities.

Another possibility for monetization is selling lots for the purpose of constructing cabins. However, the selling of parcels of land has been controversial and any attempt to do so has been met with resistance from various environmental groups.

The ESF is surrounded by other forests and parks with many similar opportunities, but these other areas have a much stronger appeal for tourists. Areas relatively close to the ESF contain more desirable include Crater Lake National Park and the Oregon Coast. Without unique sites or attractions, and given the small population in the area, monetizing the ESF through entrance fees for hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, and other recreational activities is not a viable, revenue-producing option on its own.

However, increasing entrance fees for recreational opportunities may be one way to generate addition money for the Common School Fund. If the State of Oregon increased

or established fees for ESF recreation, it must ensure that increased prices do not drive away the visitors who would have come to the ESF.

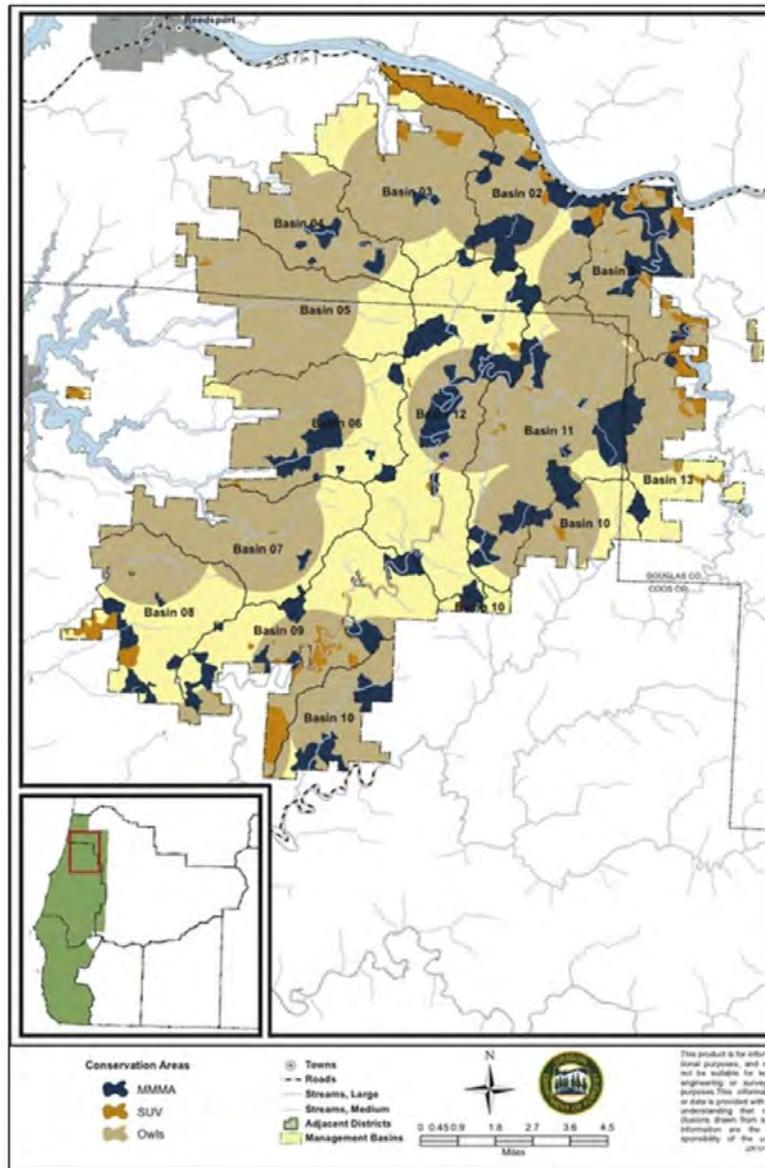


Figure 4. Map showing listed species habitat and lack of recreation potential.