

Common Sense & The Elliott: The Giesy Plan Option

By Dr. Bob Zybach
March 19, 2024 DRAFT

Aristotle is among the first to be credited with the idea that "the problem with common sense is that it is so uncommon." In more recent times the French writer Voltaire, Mark Twain, and cowboy philosopher Will Rogers have been credited with this sentiment.

When Albany-based journalist Hasso Hering coined the phrase "Giesy Plan" in a 2003 newspaper editorial, he noted that it "sounds visionary because it is based on common sense and assumes that obstacles can be overcome." He also added: "That's the way most Americans used to think. Would that more of us did so now."

Hering has defined the paradox. Giesy's commonsensical approaches to forest management problems have always been uncommon -- "most Americans" never actually "used to think that way," either; just a few of them, here and there. That's why we know who Will Rogers and Aristotle were.



Jim Petersen, *Evergreen Magazine*, interviewing Wayne Giesy regarding forest management philosophies at OSU Research Forests office at Peavy Arboretum, near Corvallis, Oregon, April 8, 2018. Photo by Julia Petersen.

In the late 1980s timberman Ralph Hull hired his friend and former Benton County Representative, Wayne Giesy, to work full-time as a lobbyist on behalf of the forest industry in western Oregon. Ralph also paid for most of my PhD and contributed heavily to schools and missions in rural Africa and South America during his life.

One of Ralph's favorite sayings was "the further people get away from the land, the less common sense they have." He was talking about generations of people that grew up in cities, rather than on farms or near forests. It was important to Ralph that Wayne be heard in Salem, and that I get my PhD in Corvallis.

THE GIESY PLAN

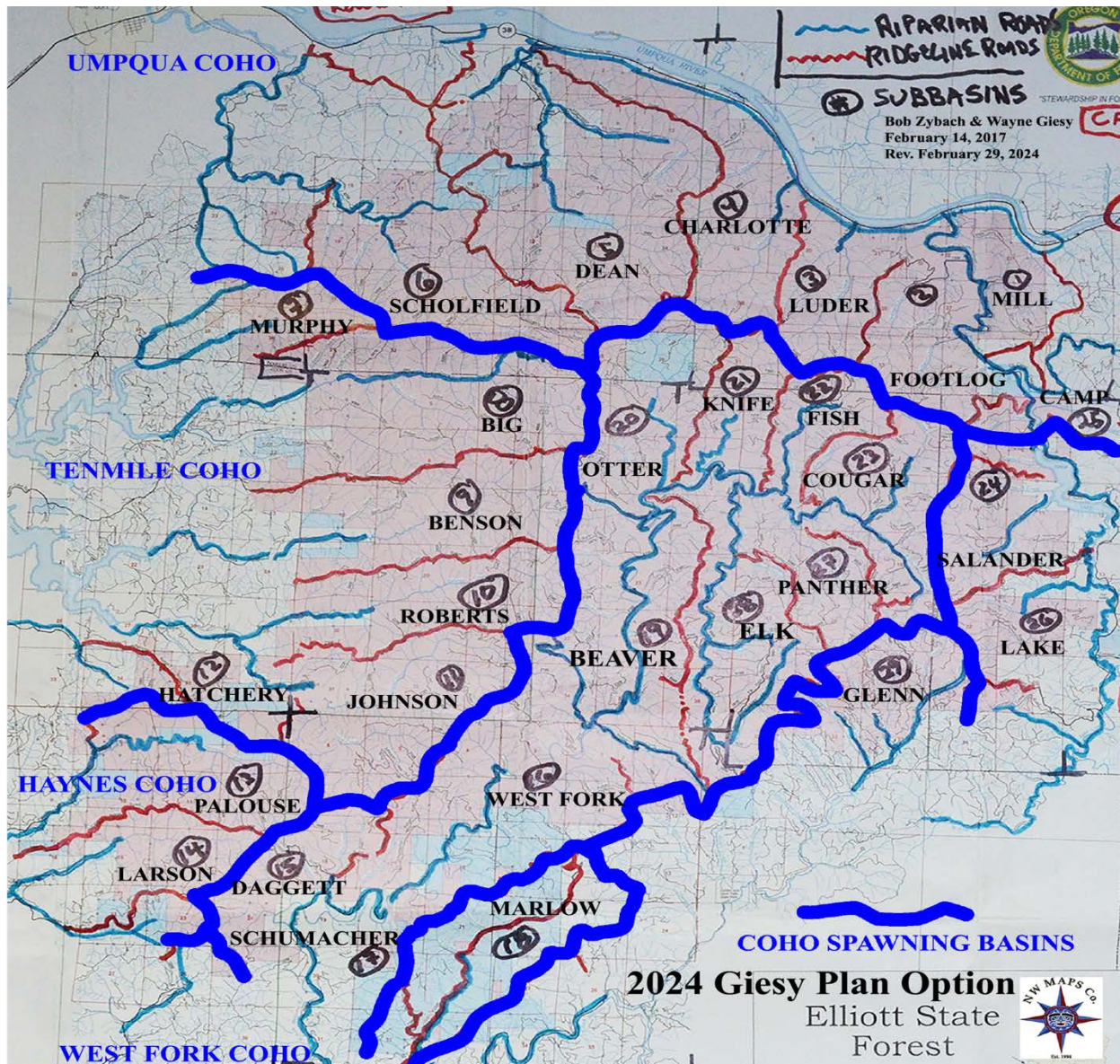
Wayne and I worked together from the late 1980s until a week or so before he died at age 99 in 2019. For the entire 30 years I heard him talk about his plan to end the "forest wars" with anyone and everyone that would listen and offer an opinion.

Wayne won state and national awards for this effort, but his real effect was with state and federal politicians and the planning processes of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), US Forest Service (USFS), and Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF). One of his recurring observations was that "you can get a lot done if you don't care who gets the credit."

Following Wayne's death, long-time friend and journalist, Jim Petersen, wrote a tribute to his memory for *Evergreen Magazine* titled "Another Giant Gone." This is the part he wrote about Wayne's plan:

"The so-called "Giesy Plan" first surfaced in the 1980s. Wayne preferred to call it the "Oregon Plan," but it became so closely tied to him that it became the Giesy Plan. Had it been adopted, it would have zoned federal forest lands for their highest and best use: riparian, reserve, and commodity production.

"Wayne's goal was to create employment, business opportunity, and tax revenue for rural communities that were economically devastated by the litigation-driven collapse of the federal timber sale program. Science-based modeling would have been used to flush out highest and best uses including old growth habitats for recreation and dependent species."



Map of named creek subbasins of the Elliott State Forest in relation to its four major runs of coho salmon: Umpqua River; Tenmile Creek; and the Haynes Inlet and West Fork Millicoma River runs of Coos Bay.

Wayne's initial focus was BLM's western Oregon O&C Lands, which are a checkerboard pattern of government and private square-mile ownerships. The proposal was to dedicate 1/2 of the government-owned forested squares to timber production and leave the other 1/2 for "old-growth habitat." Other politics in play at that time were trying to consolidate those ownerships into more easily managed blocks of timberland through land exchanges, so Wayne turned his focus to the USFS and the Siuslaw National Forest.

Because the Siuslaw was already a large block of forestland, a condition the proponents for the proposed O&C Lands exchange hoped to achieve, riparian habitats became more of a concern. After discussing in some detail with wildlife biologists, hydrologists, and environmental advocates, Wayne modified his proposal to include riparian areas as a third division. This allowed for the management units to be considered on the more practical biological basis of discrete subbasins rather than the strictly legal basis of square-mile sections.

Wayne continued to promote this modified proposal to Oregon's senators and representatives in Congress and got a receptive ear from Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber, who was considering presenting the Giesy Plan to the 2015 Western Governor's conference that he chaired. The idea was to use the Siuslaw as a model for addressing the conflict on other National Forests dealing with spotted owls, ESA lawsuits, and Wilderness wildfires.

Unfortunately, Kitzhaber became embroiled in some controversy and resigned before the 2015 Western Governor's meeting could take place. Secretary of State Kate Brown was then next in line of succession and became the new Governor of Oregon. Brown had no practical experience with resource management or rural Oregon populations, and no familiarity or understanding of Wayne's efforts.

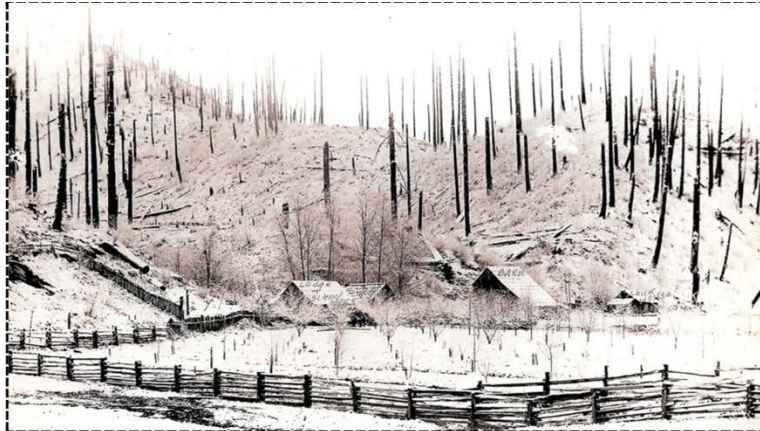
GIESY PLAN ALTERNATIVE

The story has been told a few times earlier in this series about the 2012 environmental lawsuit against the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) brought by Portland Audubon, Cascadia Wildlands, and Center for Biological Diversity that directly caused the shut-down of 28 State timber sales and almost all logging on State Forests by 2016.

The shut-downs included the Elliott State Forest, and it immediately began losing money to legal fees, fire insurance, and basic management costs. The Elliott was created in 1930 through trade for scattered parcels of Common School Lands granted by the federal government at the time of Oregon Statehood in 1859. It was almost entirely comprised of even-aged stands of precommercial Douglas fir trees dating to the fires of 1879 and 1868 and was projected as a steady future income for Oregon's K-12 schools and regular employment for hundreds of local residents.

Rather than appeal the lawsuit, Governor Brown and her advisors decided to sell the Elliott. At that time Ted Ferrioli, a personal friend and regular breakfast mate of Wayne's and Republican minority leader in the Oregon House, asked Wayne

and me to develop an alternative to selling the Elliott; one in which the Giesy Plan could scientifically demonstrate and document the economic, biological, and aesthetic differences between passive management of legally modeled wildlife habitats and active management for maximum school income and desired future conditions.



The Elkhorn Ranch, 1890-2017.
[top] The Gould-McClay family ranch ca. 1890. It was located along the West Fork Millicoma River in the center of present-day Elliott State Forest. The fenced orchard was planted on an old Indian prairie. Notice the relative sizes and spacing of old-growth snags on the bench and in the draw with the second-growth snags and burned stobs along the hill and ridgeline. All show evidence of at least two fires, likely 1868 and 1879.



[middle] The Elkhorn Ranch, ca. 1890, from the southwest. At that time, about 140 years ago, most of the rest of the Oregon Coast Range was also covered with snags and young even-aged Douglas fir trees --and most flat and sloping riparian areas were still open, sunny meadows, lawns, and pastures that had been created and maintained by people for thousands of years. Coho were documented in great numbers, but whether owls or seabirds had adapted or relocated is unknown.



[bottom] David Gould and apple tree from his great-grandparents' orchard. The fenced rose behind him was near the front porch of the family home. A few trees remain from their 1880s planting, and the Indian prairie is still in strong evidence. (November 8, 2017 photo by Bob Zybach)

In other words: How to manage the Elliott in such a way as to scientifically address the Forest Wars on federal forestlands while meeting legal commitments to the

Oregon Common School Fund and ethical commitments to local families and communities?

The desired results would be dependent on five conditions: 1) all existing ridgeline and riparian roads would remain open to public access; 2) more than 40% of the land would be dedicated to old-growth forest habitat; 3) more than 40% of the land would be managed for maximum short-term and long-term revenue to the Common School Fund; 4) all of the Forests' subbasins would be scientifically and transparently monitored so that all Oregonians could directly participate in considering the differing management approaches; and 5) litigation regarding the management of the Forest would be banned for 20 years, by legal and political agreement.

To address this strategy, Wayne and I first divided the Elliott's 80,000+ acres into 24-30 named forested subbasins of 1,000 to 5,000 acres each. We then outlined contiguous polygons that included fish-bearing streams, floodplains, and riparian roads and campsites as a separate consideration. The forested subbasins would be evenly divided into the two categories of "reserve" and "commodity production."

Riparian areas could be managed separately by local Tribes with a focus on fish populations, water quality, and recreation; commercial timberlands could be managed by local businesses and elected officials; and ESA wildlife habitat could be managed by the environmental organizations that had filed the lawsuits, or their assigns.

Each of these three divisions would be closely monitored by Oregon students and educators for the 20-year period, with specific focuses on economics, aesthetics, wildlife populations, water quality, recreational opportunities, and wildfire mitigation.

Field trips and student research project would be encouraged, and the entire forest and these topics would be closely monitored and documented by modern technical means -- with all observations and findings transparently shared via an Oregon Websites & Watersheds Project (ORWW) nonprofit educational website.

Wayne and I had co-founded ORWW in late 1996 and it has been continuously online and growing ever since; our proposal was being developed from that dual perspective of Internet-based public education and potential source of funding for our nonprofit.

Named Subbasins. In the Elliott, all named subbasins are called "creeks" and are tributary to the Umpqua River, Coos Bay, or Tenmile Creek basins; each of which has significant runs of coho, lamprey eel, and/or other anadromous fish. A subbasin includes all the water that flows between ridgelines until it reaches a mouth that joins with the next -- larger -- named river, creek, or lake.

Subbasins are an important consideration for many reasons, and particularly from a management perspective. Virtually all forest plants spend their entire existences in the subbasin in which they germinated -- including rare plants, old-growth, second-growth, wildflowers, berries, ferns, and mushrooms. The same is true for most fish, small mammals, insects, reptiles, and amphibians for reasons of high juvenile mortality and/or limited mobility. Larger mammals, fish, and birds, of course, can readily move between basins, subbasins, and even land and sea for many species.

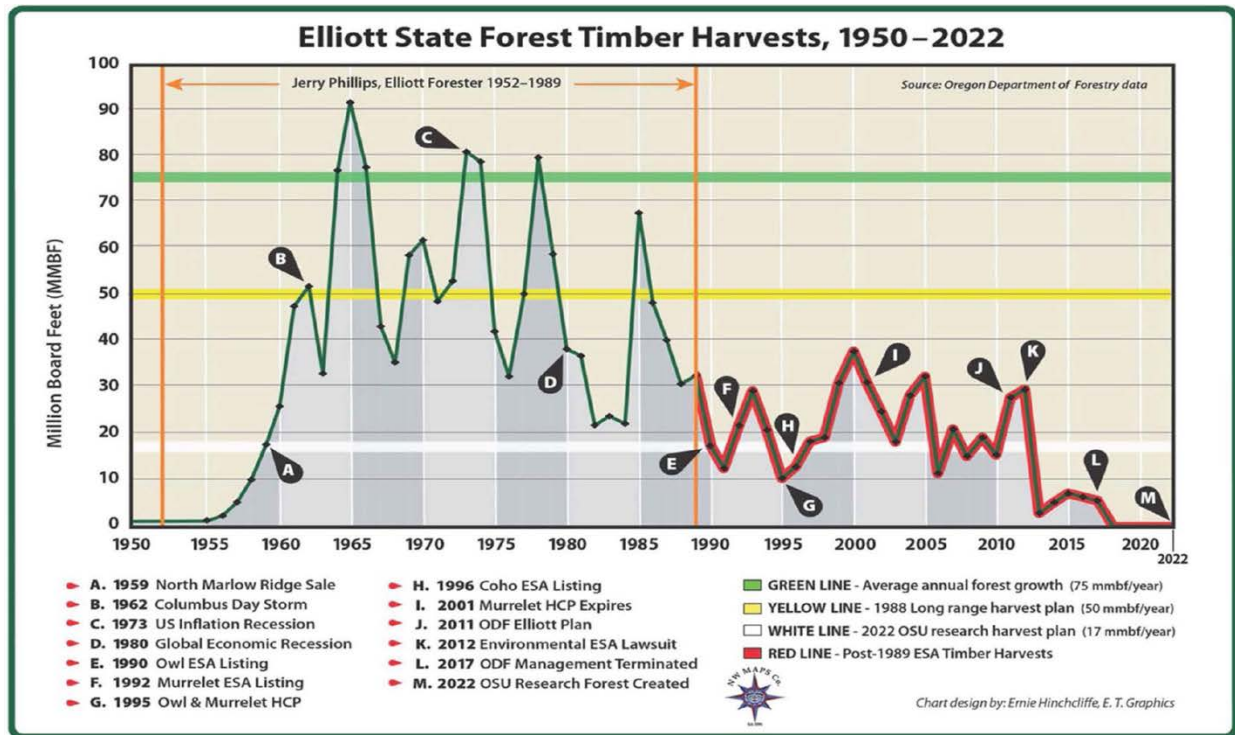
Subbasins are also useful considerations for purposes of access for work and recreation; researching and managing select plant and animal populations; and for implementing reforestation, fuel management, and wildfire mitigation strategies.

Forest Reserves. More than 40% of the Elliott would be dedicated to old-growth forest habitat for the 20-year period, and the entire Forest would be monitored for a wide range of native forest wildlife species. Litigation regarding the management of the Forest would be banned for this time by legal and political agreement, while this educational management experiment took place. Environmental organizations would make decisions on all possible thinning, salvage, or other management operations in lieu of filing lawsuits.

Working Forest. More than 40% of the Elliott would be managed for maximum short- and long-term revenue to the Common School Fund, with a planned harvest schedule of 50 million board feet of timber per year (50 mmbf/year) for 20 years; the same sustainable level that had been achieved for nearly 30 years, beginning in 1959, and given as the target figure in the 1988 ODF Elliott management plan. At that time, in 1988, the Elliott's trees had become 30 years older and contained significantly more volume than when logging had first started, so this was reasonably considered to be a conservative and sustainable harvest level.

According to State economists in 2017, the ORWW Giesy Plan Alternative would provide more than 430 full-time, family wage, blue collar jobs to Douglas and Coos counties and more than \$460 million to the Common School Fund during its 20-year existence. That would be in addition to the critical research findings it

would produce regarding marbled murrelet, spotted owl, coho, lamprey eel, and pine marten habitat, as well as significant carbon sequestration data.



The Green Line represents average annual amount of growth of Elliott State Forest trees;
 The Yellow Line represents average allowable cut for the Elliott in the 1988 harvest plan;
 The White Line represents OSU's planned annual harvest of the Elliott w/ no snag salvage;
 The Area between the Green Line and Red Line represents Elliott fuel increases since 1989.

This is the 3rd or 4th time this chart has been used in this series of articles, and each time the context is different. Here it is illustrating the predictable economic and political boondoggle resulting from the combination of ESA regulations, HCPs, and environmental lawsuits related to the Elliott's bird and fish populations.

In February 2019, the ORWW Giesy Plan Alternative "Elliott State Educational Forest" -- a proposed working forest that produced income to the Common School Fund while conducting meaningful research -- was transformed, literally overnight, by a DSL MOU with OSU creating the "Elliott State Research Forest" -- that predictably didn't work, conducted no research, and cost Oregon taxpayers millions of dollars.

GIESY PLAN OPTION

In 2019 Wayne died, OSU came out with its draft Elliott management and research plans, and I wrote an article/editorial for this series titled "Elliott Forest Boondoggle vs. The Giesy Plan Alternative." The article named names, called out

the DSL (Department of State Lands) for gross mismanagement of the Forest, warned OSU about the failed direction it was taking, and clearly predicted a political and economic boondoggle for years to follow if the stated course wasn't changed. And again suggested considering the Giesy Alternative ideas for jobs and research.

At that point I had mostly stopped paying attention to what DSL and OSU were doing regarding the Elliott. The pandemic in 2020 caused a dramatic change in how ORWW and the Southwest Oregon Community College (SWOCC) forestry student field trips to the Elliott were conducted for the next few years, but fortunately resulted in a videotaped "distance learning" library that is still in use. In 2022 the Oregon Legislature adopted Senate Bill (SB) 1546, which created a permanent arrangement based on the 2018 OSU-DSL MOU and an Elliott Board of Authority with a \$4 million budget to direct its implementation.

SB 1546 was scheduled to take effect on January 1, 2024 so long as six criteria were met -- including formal support of the OSU Board of Trustees. Then, in early November 2023, everything changed. OSU President Jayathi Murthy's letter to the Governor and DSL outlined her decision to extricate OSU from its Elliott agreements with DSL, and SB 1546 was not made into law.

One result of these changes is an opportunity to revisit and update the 2017 ORWW Giesy Plan Alternative for reconsideration. Since it was written, seven years of research, recreation, and education have taken place on the Elliott, largely spent with the two foremost experts on its history and management, Jerry Phillips and David Gould, and including six years with Tasha Livingstone Davison's spring-term SWOCC F256 Forest Recreation class and their field trips and reports.

The 2017 Giesy Alternative and the 2024 Giesy Option have the same goals: active management of the Elliott as a working forest for the continued benefit of the Common School Fund and Oregon' schoolchildren, while conducting meaningful forest management research for the benefit of current forest managers and future generations.

Roads & Trails. The 550 miles of roads and trails on the Elliott are among its most valuable cultural artifacts, as well as being critical for purposes of public access, research, recreation, forest management, wildfire mitigation, and education. Many of these routes also have national and local historical significance.

The steep ridges and narrow river and creek valleys of the Elliott make foot and vehicle access largely limited to the ridgelines and along riparian areas, with occasional connective links between the two. For thousands of years Indian foot trails followed these routes; then pack trails, sheep, and cattle trails in the 1880s; historic CCC roads in the 1930s; and historic logging roads and cat tracks from then until the 1980s.

A top priority for current management should be the mapping, clear signage, and regular maintenance of these 550 miles of roads and trails. When ORWW began developing educational Elliott field trips for SWOCC forestry students in 2018, a consistent theme of their reports and recommendations was the great need for better road and trail maintenance, and for directional signs.

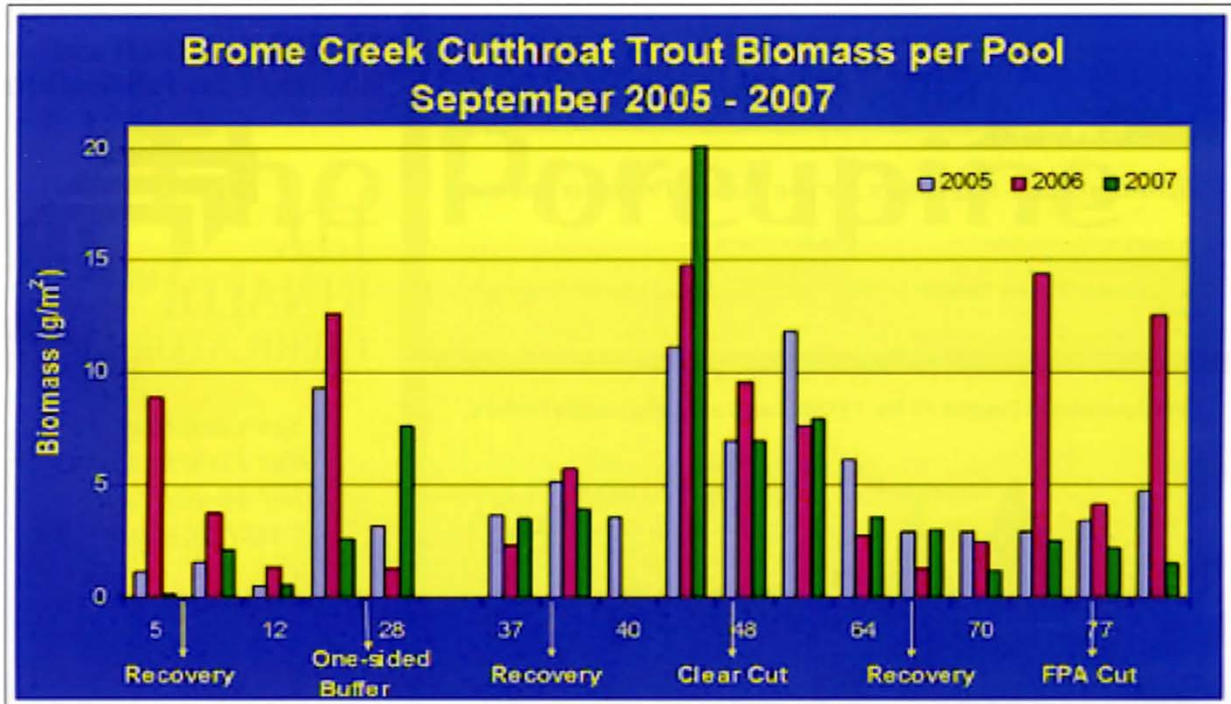
Monthly and annual maintenance schedules would create needed local jobs and greatly expand field research and educational opportunities, reduce harvest costs, improve fire management, and allow for greater dispersal of recreational visitors seeking solitude or privacy.

Research Design. The basic focus of the Giesy Plan was to illustrate the difference between passive management and active management of our federal forests without sacrificing local jobs. The 2017 ORWW Giesy Plan Alternative scientifically addressed those differences but focused on trees and terrestrial animals, and with a State Forest serving as a demonstration project for federal land managers.

Since the Giesy Alternative proposal was first written, Wayne has passed on, ORWW has continued to conduct historical research and education projects for its two Elliott websites, SWOCC forestry students have used the Forest for six years as the basis for educational field trips and student reports, NW Maps Co. has developed a library of Elliott "distance learning" videos for the ORWWmedia YouTube channel, and SB 1546 has sunsetted.

Things have changed. Given current circumstances and history of the past six years, this article is a first attempt to reconsider and update the 2017 proposal to a more refined and relevant 2024 "ORWW Giesy Plan Option." A key difference in the 2024 proposal from 2017 is the change from removing the riparian buffer from research consideration then, to making the buffer the focus on water quality and anadromous fish populations now.

The basic design would be the proven OSU 10-year research collaboration on the North Umpqua property of Roseburg Forest Products: the 2002-2012 "Hinkle Creek Paired Watershed Study." Whereas that research, and other paired watershed studies, primarily focused on the effects of logging on temperature and volume of similar streams, the proposed Giesy Option would focus more on the comparative effects of permanent buffers and ephemeral no-buffers to endemic and anadromous fish populations.



Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife histogram showing total weight of native cutthroat trout in pools along Brome Creek in the Hinkle Creek Paired Watershed Study. Measures were taken for three consecutive years following three different types of logging: clearcut, one-sided buffer, and Oregon Forest Practices Act ("FPA") regulation with a two-sided buffer. Each type of logging extended 1000 feet along the creek and was separated by 1000 feet of unlogged ("Recovery") stream length between designed logging methods. As shown, native trout sizes and numbers were greatest where there was the most sun.

Ideally, a systematic selection of two adjacent subbasins from each of the four principal Elliott coho runs would be chosen: one to be left "as is" — but with roads and trails maintained for public access, research, education, and recreational uses — and the other to be clearcut to the water's edge from ridgeline to ridgeline.

Almost all subbasins in the Elliott have been completely denuded of trees one or more times in history, through fire, grazing, and/or logging, but no measures have been made of the effects of these events on native fish, bird, and mammal

populations. Here is an opportunity to learn of such recurring conditions, and with more than a dozen nearby comparisons as controls.

One scenario might be to select Palouse and Larson Creeks on the Haynes Inlet coho run; Benson and Roberts Creeks on the Tenmile Creek coho; Luder and Charlotte Creeks on the Umpqua River coho; and Cougar and Panther Creeks on the West Fork Millicoma River coho. Logging would be focused on a single named subbasin in each of the four coho runs.

Perhaps Palouse, Benson, Luder, and Panther would be systematically clearcut from ridgeline to ridgeline -- excepting older native trees -- over a period of a few years, while the adjacent Larson, Roberts, Charlotte, and Cougar subbasins would remain untouched. Students and researchers would have access to current technical equipment and methods to monitor bird, mammal, and fish populations in all named subbasins, with particular focus on the eight paired creeks.

The Elliott was one of the very first forests to experiment with streamside buffers, balloon logging, and progeny test sites. In the 1950s thousands of trees had been systematically cored and aged by several young foresters, including Jerry Phillips. Perhaps a current research focus could be on relocating and updating those records and sites for immediate management considerations.

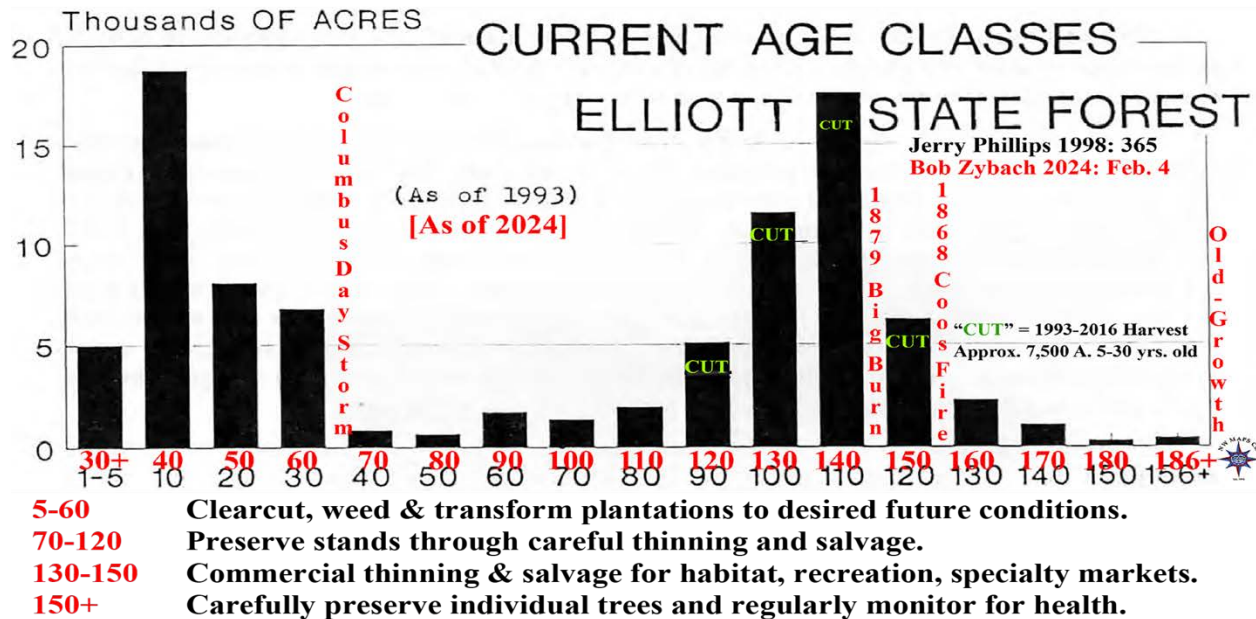
Careful measurements of plant and animal populations, water flow and stream temperatures, economics, recreational uses, and carbon sequestration would be made regularly for all 24 subbasins and transparently shared via Internet along with expert comparative analyses and discussions made before and after treatments and between adjacent treated and untreated subbasins.

Other useful (and independently funded?) research could involve testing of electric vehicles and equipment for management and logging operations; landslide, ephemeral lake, and salmon spawning gravel relations; video drone stream and trail monitoring; wildflower dormancy, etc. -- and then let the next generation of students and voters decide what to do with the Elliott, armed with this acquired knowledge and experience.

Logging Design. Given that the history of the Elliott is one of occasional and unpredictable catastrophic wildfires, major windstorms, and massive landslides, any logging plan must keep the continued likelihood of such events in mind.

The Giesy Plan Alternative called for a modest average of 50 mmbf/year timber

sales, which is less than the Forest grows on an annual basis. This level of harvest would create hundreds of local jobs, produce hundreds of millions for Oregon schools, and allow for salvage of occasional catastrophic deforestation, while still maintaining a sustainable level of income and employment.



The updated U-shape of Phillips' 1993 bar chart of forest age classes is typical of most native forests in western Oregon: young, even-aged stands following episodic catastrophic wildfires, windstorms, volcanic eruptions, logging, and landslides. The green "CUT" lines on the current 120- to 150-year-old age classes represents an approximate acreage figure for those groups. In the 22 years from 1994 to 2016 a total of 455 mmbf of timber was sold and harvested from the Elliott, and no sales were made after that date. Retired timberman and regional historian, Bill Lansing, estimates those sales principally took place in stands 90-130 years of age that likely averaged about 60 mmbf per acre, for about 350 acres logged per year; or 7500 total acres harvested for the unlisted 5–30-year age group.

The highest priority of annual log sales should be in maintaining cleared and safe roads, trails, and campsites. Next should be preservation and maintenance of all individual trees more than 145 years of age and stands of trees 65 to 120 years of age through regular salvage, judicious thinning, and removal of competing ladder fuels, weeds, and ground fuels.

The greatest volume of Elliott trees is in the 120- to 145-year-old mature second-growth age groups, and these stands can be commercially thinned on a regular basis for income, research, and recreational purposes, with a focus on the four paired watershed subbasins as highest priority.

Finally, all 65-year-old and younger plantations were created to produce jobs and

wood products and should be systematically clearcut for those purposes, beginning with the oldest stands and depending on market conditions. These areas can then be weeded and reforested with a focus on wildlife habitat, cultural landscape restoration, and/or future product income.

If enacted as suggested, this strategy would immediately create dozens and then hundreds of profitable tax-paying jobs in Coos, Douglas, and Benton counties -- including local students being paid to take measurements, clear trails, record interviews, and/or otherwise gather and universally share data while gaining credits toward their high school, college, and/or graduate degrees.

Reforestation Planning. An opportunity now exists to transform the Elliott into one of the most productive and arguably most beautiful working forests in history. This can be partly achieved through the purposeful management of its oldest trees and public access, but the transformation of the Forest's thousands of acres of outdated Douglas fir plantations to a more thoughtful desired future condition for the next generation of Oregonians would be a real gift of lasting value.

Following salvage of the 1962 Columbus Day Storm blowdown on the Elliott, dozens of miles of new road were built, and thousands of acres have been converted to industry-style Douglas fir plantations. To people familiar with planting Douglas fir seedlings on an 8-, 10-, or 12-foot grid, these creations soon turn into a contiguous "green hell" canopy of darkly shaded, silent, highly flammable trees.

This process is perhaps the most effective "biological control" of competing weeds, other tree species, wildflowers, songbirds, and large mammals in western Oregon. The deep shade produced by this method of reforestation blocks out most ground-level sunlight in a few years' time and replaces meadows, prairies, fields, and pioneer orchards with conifer poles and saplings planted in rows, with occasional mushrooms, fungi, or lichens among the fallen needles, twigs, and limbs.

Industrial plantations were established for the sole purpose of creating jobs and wood products over a given period of time -- typically following 40, 60, or 80 years of growth and depending on changing markets. They are the antithesis of biodiversity and habitat for most wildlife, and effectively erase cultural landscapes such as huckleberry fields, peavine ridgelines, and pioneer homesteads.

The systematic clearcutting of Elliott plantations not only serves the needs of local employment, wildfire mitigation, and the Common School Fund, but allows for

their replacement with a focus on desired future conditions based on evolving values and enhanced information and technologies. Optional futures might include cultural landscape patterns, wildlife habitat, and/or enhanced fiber production.

Oregon students and teachers would be encouraged to visit online or on field trips to view these methods and findings, as well as other “working forest” research and management operations that might be taking place on the Elliott.

Forestry Education. I have been corresponding with Sierra Club member and Coos Bay native, Fergus Mclean, for many years regarding the potential of the Elliott for educating Oregon’s schoolchildren — and adults — about forest management and forest science. We disagree on a few other topics but are in full agreement that the Elliott offers an ideal setting for educating Oregon's K-12 students about forestry and providing meaningful research and management jobs for college and university students.

June 22, 2022 Resolution of the Oregon State Grange

--Whereas: The Grange is a strong supporter of investment in public education benefitting rural timber economies; and
--Whereas: There is a severe workforce shortage in all segments of the forest economy, including a shortfall of 6,000 wildfire fighters in the last fire season; and
--Whereas: Recent forest studies show Oregon’s westside forests among the densest natural carbon sinks on the planet; and
--Whereas: New ecosystem-based forestry practices promise significant ecological, economic, and recreational benefits; and
--Whereas: These new developments in forest science promise creation of a significant number of new, well-paying forestry careers for Oregon schoolchildren; and
--Whereas: The Oregon Department of State Lands is in the process of creating our nation’s largest forest research institute in the Elliott State Forest,

Therefore, be it Resolved: That the Oregon State Grange urges Oregon’s Legislature to create a forestry academy in the Elliott State Forest to provide forest-related educational and research opportunities for school-aged children.

In late 2021 Fergus drafted a formal proposal for his local Lowell Grange regarding this idea. After discussion and some editing it was submitted to the Oregon State Grange at its annual meeting in June 2022, held in Talent and attended by 51 community Granges from around the state. Following more discussion and final editing, the resolution was adopted by majority vote and remains active for 10 years.


Fergus was also the first to promote Shutter Creek as an ideal facility for statewide educational purposes when Governor Brown ended its use for youth corrections in 2022. DSL acquired ownership of Shutter Creek in 2023 in anticipation of SB 1546 passing and the facility being adapted for use as an operating base for OSU researchers. It is an historic facility with a colorful past and could be readily and far more economically developed into a landmark forestry educational center for Oregon schoolchildren than as a research center for long-term academic operations.



Shutter Creek Correctional Institute is located along the western boundary of the Elliott State Forest. It was initially built as the North Bend Air Force radar station in 1953, closed in 1980, and transferred at no cost to Oregon taxpayers in 1990. At that time it was converted to a 280-bed minimum security prison. The prison was closed in January 2022 by Governor Kate Brown and transferred to DSL for forestry research in September 2023.

Student educational topics and field trips could include everything from electrical logging methods, wildlife habitat, and reforestation planning to carbon sequestration and forestry economics. Forest-related studies could be explored and communicated to the next generation of Oregonians from this base, with Internet communications keeping everyone else informed and updated on a near-daily basis.

In 20 years, the next generation of Oregonians could use this information and these work experiences with an opportunity to make a better plan for the Elliott for the next 20 years and following generations.



AMAZON BOOKS \$25

***The Elliott: An Anthology.* 22 articles by Dr. Zybach regarding the Elliott State Forest in western Oregon. Topics include fire history, forest management, wildlife, recreation & politics involving spotted owls, marbled murrelets, the Governor, OSU, HCPs, FMPs, Portland Audubon, schools, lawyers & environmental activists: Forest Science w/definite opinions: 120 pp. full color.**