



Oregon State
University

ELLIOTT STATE RESEARCH FOREST

Update to the Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Subcommittee On Natural Resources

February 1, 2023

ELLIOTT STATE FOREST: PAST AND FUTURE



SB 1546: ESTABLISHING THE ELLIOTT STATE RESEARCH FOREST



Senate Bill 1546 (2022) Key Elements

- Establishes the mission to create an enduring, publicly owned, world-class research forest
- Establishes independent public agency to own the research forest, managed in partnership with Oregon State University
- Ensures the forest is governed with transparency and public accountability
- Codifies commitments to conservation, recreation, education, support of local economies, and other public values
- Seeks active partnerships with Tribal governments
- **Requires six actions be completed before July 1, 2023**

SB 1546: TRACKING PROGRESS

Actions Required by July 1, 2023

Action	Status
1 Land Board Approval of Forest Management Plan	1 Anticipated – June 2023
2 DSL approval of Financial Plan for the Forest	2 Anticipated – May 2023
3 OSU Trustees Authorize University Participation	3 Anticipated – April 2023
4 Federal Agencies Publish Final HCP for Comment	4 Anticipated – June 2023
5 Financial obligations to Common School Fund met	5 Complete – April 2022
6 Land Board Votes to Decouple Forest from Common School Fund	6 Complete – December 2022

ELLIOTT STATE RESEARCH FOREST VISION

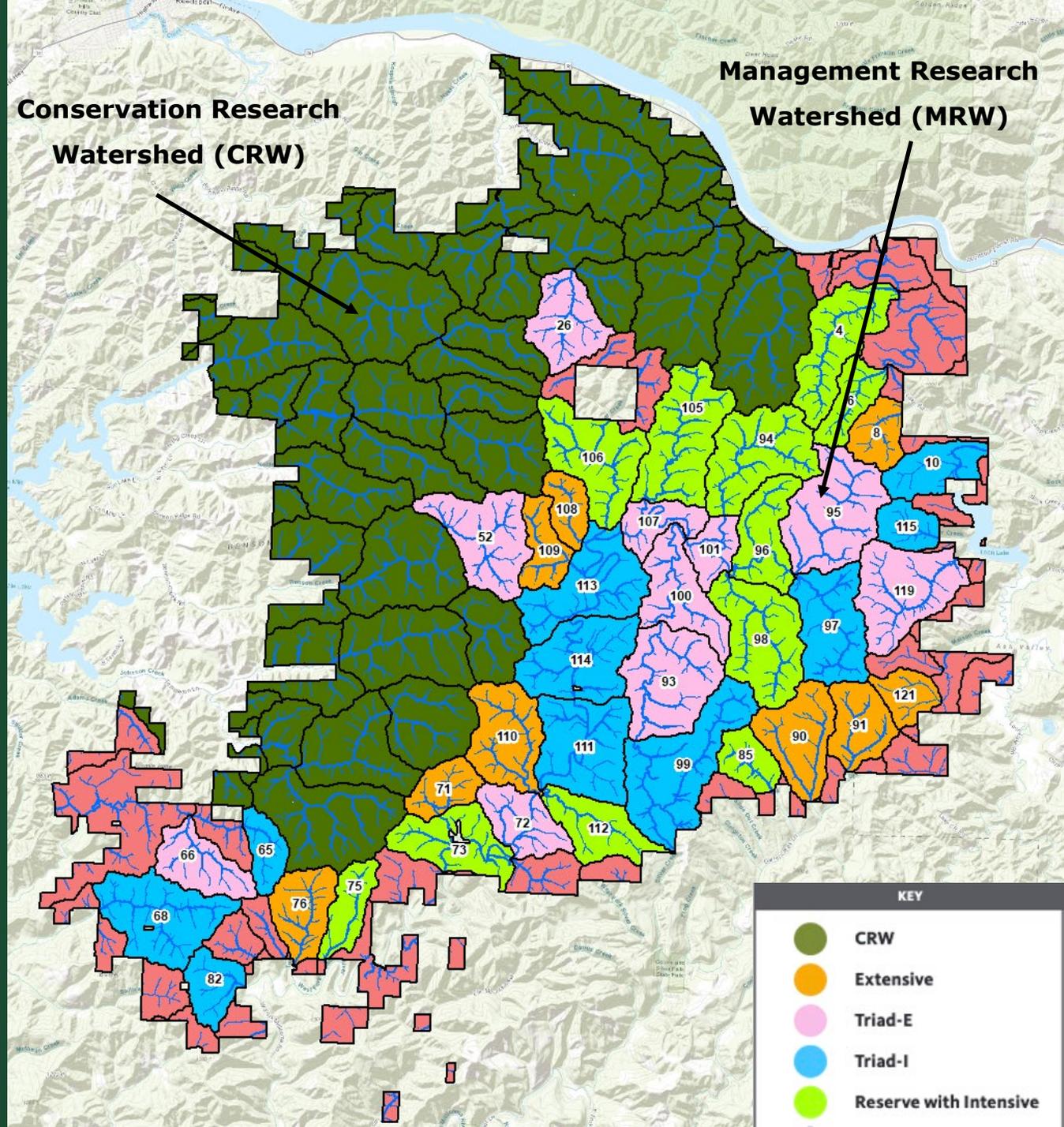
Establishing a world-class public research forest, supporting scientific collaboration to address critical questions related to forest ecosystems, management, and sustainability.

- Center for innovation
- Testing ideas and applying emerging technologies → forest management, restoration, resilience, and understanding ecosystem dynamics



RESEARCH DESIGN

- CRW: ~34,000-acre contiguous reserve
- MRW: ~45,000 acres. Combination of intensive, extensive, and reserve
 - 17% intensive
 - 16% extensive
 - Every acre of intensive balanced with an acre of reserve
- ~67% of forest in reserves and Riparian Conservation Areas (RCAs) across the CRW and MRW



Elliott State Research Forest Forest Management Plan

NOVEMBER 2022 WORKING DRAFT

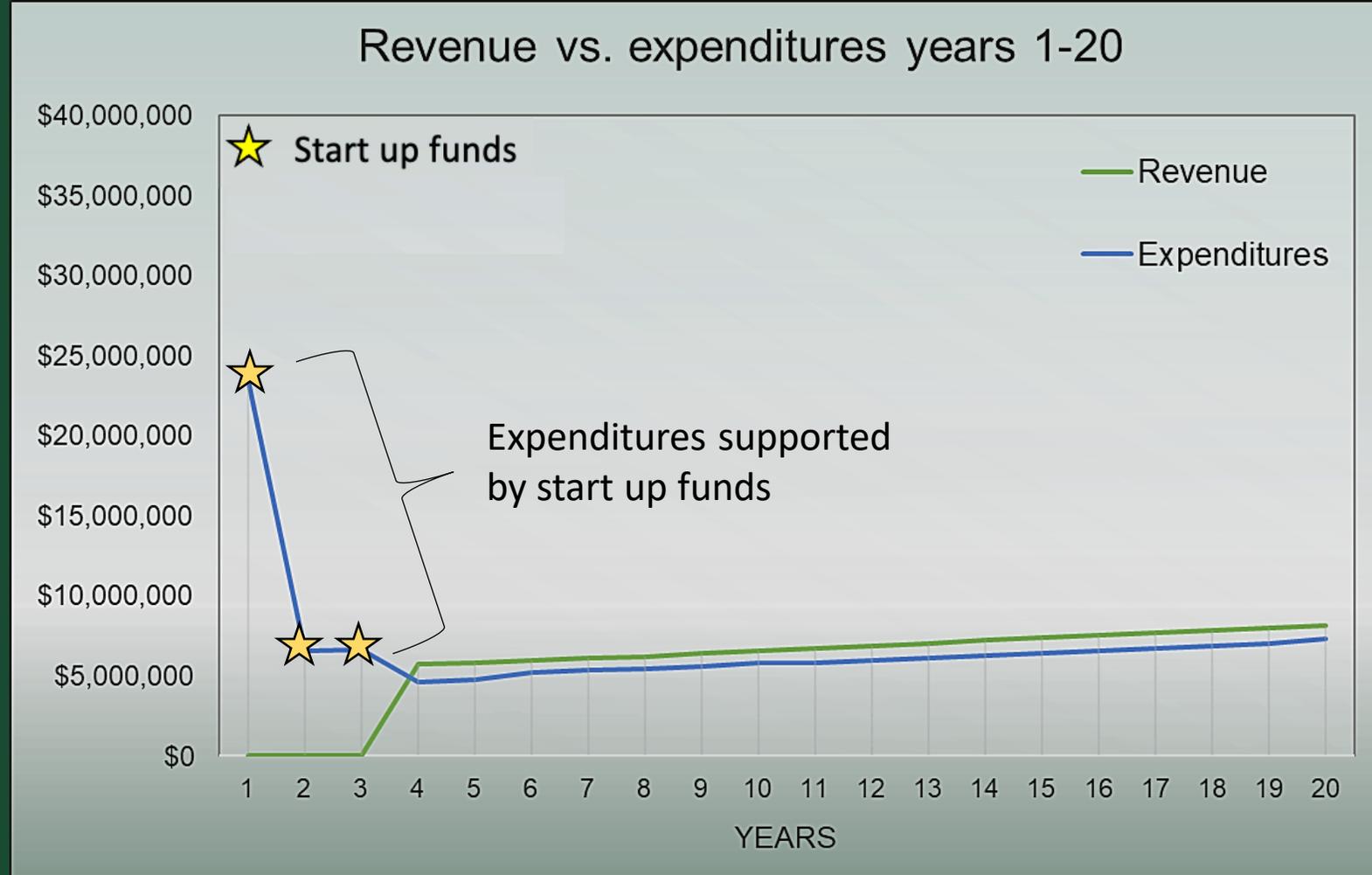


PROGRESS: FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

- 2022 field season pilot studies, data collection, and analysis
- Beginning to test emerging technology
- Input from researchers, local community members, and other experts
- Landscape analysis and modeling
- Public comment and listening sessions
- Coordination with OSU Research Proposal and HCP
- November 2022 Forest Management Plan Working Draft

ESRF Ramp-Up and Budget Estimates

- Start up funds to support first 3 years of operations
- Harvest revenue estimated beginning in year 4
- Long-term sustainability of the forest
- Revenue to support personnel, research program implementation, monitoring, daily operations



PROGRESS: FOREST FINANCIAL PLAN



2022: Independent Assessment of Financial Plan

- Evaluation identified need for further modeling and analysis
- OSU committed to new modeling that reflects forest mgmt. plan direction, refined cost estimates, adjustments in harvest assumptions, and other updated information

2023: New Modeling, Refined Plan

- Modelling complete in March 2023
- Both revenue and base-budget expenditures are being assessed
- DSL decision on financial plan viability in May 2023

Cost Overview

Initial Start-Up Costs

- Begin January 1, 2024
- Cover ramp-up of operations and research
- Other Fund sources
- Until receipt of timber harvest revenues (up to 3 years)
- Already received \$3.5 million in Federal Funds

Ongoing Operating Costs

- ESRF will be financially self-sufficient
- Both operations and research costs
- Estimated at \$5 million
- Revenue will drive budget, budget is living process

DSL Transition Costs

- 23-25 POP request
 - Custodial maintenance, management, and fire
 - Continues current support for completing SB 1546 actions, transition through June 30, 2024
 - \$1.576 million

LOOKING AHEAD: THE ELLIOTT STATE RESEARCH FOREST AUTHORITY



ESRF Authority Overview

Role: Forest Ownership & Oversight

- Independent state agency ensures transparency, accountability

Compact Agency

- ESRF Board of Directors: Governing body of publicly owned forest
- Small staff
- HR, IT, other operating functions through state enterprise services

ESRF Authority: Upcoming Work

Budget Development

- Complete Financial Plan with balanced budget before July 1
- Secure start up funds for January 1, 2024 operations

Engage Prospective Board and stakeholders

Finalize agreement with OSU for forest management services



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**THANK
YOU**