

SB 161 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Natural Resources

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Meeting Dates: 3/20, 3/22

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Department of State Lands to study matters relating to management of the Elliott State Forest. Requires the department to submit a report that may include legislative recommendations to the natural resources-related interim legislative committees by September 15, 2024.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 Replaces the measure. Changes the date by which certain tasks must be accomplished from July 1, 2023 to November 1, 2023 for the Elliott State Research Forest provisions to become operative on January 1, 2024. Changes the requirement that the National Marine Fisheries Service and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) jointly publish a notice of the availability of a final habitat conservation plan for the Elliott State Research Forest and a final environmental impact statement to a requirement that the Department of State Lands submits a habitat conservation plan for the Elliott State Forest to the federal agencies, and that the USFWS initiates preparation of final environmental impact statement. Changes the State Land Board reporting date from September 15, 2023 to February 15, 2024. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

BACKGROUND:

The Elliott State Forest is a 91,000 acre forest located in Coos and Douglas Counties in the central Oregon Coast Range. It was established in 1930 as Oregon's first state forest and has been overseen by the State Land Board and managed by the Department of State Lands (DSL) as a Common School Fund land asset since its inception.

In 2022, the legislature enacted Senate Bill 1546, which officially established the Elliott State Research Forest from lands formerly constituting the Elliott State Forest, established the Elliott State Research Forest Authority as an independent state agency to govern the forest, and established the mission and management policies for the forest. The law requires that several tasks be accomplished by or before July 1, 2023 for the Elliott State Research Forest provisions to become operative on January 1, 2024.

Senate Bill 161 would direct the Department of State Lands to study matters relating to management of the Elliott State Forest and to submit a report to the legislature by September 15, 2024.