

SB 147 A -A4 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Prepared By: Katie Bannikov, Budget Analyst

Meeting Dates: 4/30, 5/9

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Renames the Elliott State Forest to the Elliott State Research Forest (ESRF) and transfers management responsibilities from the State Board of Forestry to the State Land Board. Clarifies the expansion and exchange of lands and limits the ability to sell parts of the forest.

Establishes the Elliott State Research Forest Account separate and distinct from the General Fund.

Expands the definition of financing on capital projects related to ESRF. Decouples the ESRF from the Common School Fund forestland.

Exempts the procurement of goods and services related to the management of the forest from the Public Contracting Code.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Fiscal Impact of the measure
- Proposed amendment

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-A4 The amendment makes the following technical changes:

- Changes the Elliott State Research Forest Account to be continuously appropriated to the Department of State Lands instead of the State Land Board.
- Removes the authority for transfers into the fund.

BACKGROUND:

The Elliott State Forest was established as the first state forest in 1930 and is located in Coos and Douglas Counties in the central Oregon Coast Range. The Elliott has been overseen by the State Land Board and managed as a Common School Fund asset since inception. With the observation of endangered species in the forest, timber harvest was limited thereby reducing revenue. SB 1546 (2022) provided a path to decoupling the Elliott from the Common School Fund and establishing a research forest, however the provisions to become operative were not met.