

Fergus Mclean  
38574 Dexter Road  
Dexter, OR 97431  
(541) 937-3034

September 2017 update from the Forest Carbon Task Force: [WILLAMETTE DAMS@Q.COM](mailto:WILLAMETTE DAMS@Q.COM)  
[http://www.keeporegoncool.org/sites/default/files/meeting-supporting-files/September%202017%20Oregon%20Forest%20Carbon%20Picture revised.pdf](http://www.keeporegoncool.org/sites/default/files/meeting-supporting-files/September%202017%20Oregon%20Forest%20Carbon%20Picture%20revised.pdf)

2011 US Fish & Wildlife report on carbon stored in the Elliott:  
[http://archive.ecotrust.org/forests/Carbon Analysis of Elliott State Forest.pdf](http://archive.ecotrust.org/forests/Carbon%20Analysis%20of%20Elliott%20State%20Forest.pdf)

Background article by Fergus Mclean on this topic available on either the 350 Eugene or the Many Rivers Sierra Club websites.

*Suggested SB 1070 modifications to include forests in Oregon's carbon strategy:*

Section 7(1)

Add a representative of Global Warming Commission Forest Carbon Task Force to Environmental Quality Commission Advisory Committee.

Section 9(10)d

Certify the Elliott State (Educational and Experimental) Forest as a "General Market Participant" eligible to trade offsets in the carbon trading market.

Section 10(3)a

Qualify offset projects from the Elliott as described under Section 21 to participate in the carbon trading market.

Section 10(3)c

Exclude forest carbon offsets from the 8% limitation on their use in compliance, according to the *stringency* of those offsets.

**(New)** Section 21:

Establish the Elliott State Educational and Experimental Forest under the management of the Global Warming Commission Forest Carbon Task Force, eligible to sell forest carbon credits into the carbon trading market from carbon reserves established of the ESEEF.

Divide the forest into four equal 20,000+ acre parts, to be used for riparian reserves, purely commercial timber production, and expanded owl/murrelet large timber reserves, with the remaining one fourth of the forest to be devoted to conducting experimental commercial management practices designed to optimize both carbon production and ecological function, and to ongoing research designed to make carbon markets accessible for the sale of carbon credits from private timberland.

Establish the institutional capacity to thoroughly monitor the economic, carbon-related and ecological effects of all management practices on the forest on an ongoing basis, report their findings annually to the legislature, and to share this information with the general public, especially schoolchildren.

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## GUEST VIEWPOINT

# Make the Elliott a forest carbon research hub

By **FERGUS MCLEAN**  
For The Register-Guard

The Clean Energy Jobs bill, which will create jobs while reducing Oregon's carbon footprint from 60 million tons a year to 50 million tons by 2025, is percolating in Salem in preparation for the 2018 legislative session.

Work on the bill — Senate Bill 1070 — comes as new survey data reveal that Oregon's forests absorb 36 million tons of carbon dioxide annually, more than half the state's entire previously known carbon footprint. This new recognition of the workings of our forest carbon cycle has come as a wake-up call to policy-makers.

It's difficult to exaggerate the possible economic importance for Oregon of the amount of carbon we now know our forests sequester. A crude valuation of 36 million tons per year, based on the California price for

carbon offsets, would mean Oregon's forests absorb half a billion dollars' worth of carbon every year.

How can Oregon monetize this huge value? We have the experts, but they need support to lead us through the shift to a carbon-friendly forest policy.

The Giesy Plan for the Elliott State Forest promises one way that former adversaries can join forces to create a forest research institution in the Elliott and maximize forest revenue through a deeper understanding of the effects of management practices on the forest carbon cycle. Authorization of an Elliott Forest-based research institution can be included in SB 1070 — but that train leaves the station in mid-November, when the draft legislation goes to the Office of Legislative Counsel.

Wayne Giesy is an industry old-timer who first proposed his simple forest management strategy in the 1980s. It has found its

way into timber plans authored by Gov. John Kitzhaber, Rep. Peter Defazio and Sen. Ron Wyden. An updated Giesy Plan for the Elliott State Forest is gaining traction in Salem, and shares surprising similarities with ecologically based, carbon-oriented proposals for Elliott management policy.

The classic Giesy Plan formula first protects streams and waterways, then divides the remaining forest equally between protected reserves and areas devoted to industrial management.

A carbon-oriented Giesy Plan, after setting aside 20 percent of the Elliott for riparian reserves for coho salmon, would divide the remaining Elliott land into not two, but three 22,000-acre pieces: one for industrial-style logging and a second for expanded older timber reserves surrounding the nests of spotted owls and marbled murrelets, as Giesy suggested.

The third sector should be

dedicated to the study of forest management through the creation of a world-class forest carbon research institution to push the frontiers of understanding of the workings of forest carbon cycles, including production of the highest quality (and highest value) carbon credits, building on Oregon's overwhelming leadership in forest carbon production. This institute would manage the forest's carbon reserves, monitor ecological and economic effects of all management activities, and conduct public education and outreach.

Researchers would investigate job creation opportunities that arise when a forest is managed as a functional ecosystem rather than a single-purpose lumber factory, combine those with creating and monitoring a carbon reserve, and integrate both with a wildland forest fire training academy to create a new kind of forest workers' career path.

We can call the new institution the Elliott State Educational and Experimental Forest.

Income from logging could cover the annual obligation to the Common School Fund, while the sale of Elliott carbon credits can finance the building of a world-class Oregon forest carbon research institution and, over time, complete the \$120 million buyout of the forest from the Common School Fund.

By authorizing the trading of Elliott Forest carbon credits in the language of SB 1070, lawmakers can launch a brand-new economic paradigm for Oregon's forests.

*Fergus Mclean of Dexter, a retired forester, is a member of the Southwest Willamette Forestry Collaborative. A longer version of this essay can be found at <http://oregon2.sierra-club.org/many-rivers> and <http://world.350.org/eugene>.*