An Alternative for the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians

• Allows Cow Creek Band to acquire state timberland for tribal purposes nearer to where most tribal members historically and currently live;
• Consolidates ownership of Oregon Board of Forestry Lands for more efficient management; and
• enriches Common School Fund by transferring isolated CSF forestland parcels to public ownership under the Oregon Board of Forestry.

The Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Tribe of Indians (Cow Creek Band) was an investor in the Lone Rock Timber Company privatization proposal for the Elliott State Forest. The tribe has committed $28.6 million of the $220.8 million purchase price. Under the terms of their agreement with Lone Rock Resources, after seven years the tribe could purchase ~10,000 acres of the then-privatized Elliott State Forest.

Though the conservation community was unalterably opposed to the privatization or selling the Elliott State Forest to Lone Rock or any other non-public entity, it is proposed that:

• The Cow Creek Band be given the option to purchase, at appraised value, ~11,380 acres Oregon Department of State Lands (ODSL) scattered holdings and Oregon Board of Forestry lands (OBFL) holdings in and near southern Douglas County. The lands are generally clustered in and near the Cow Creek Watershed of the Umpqua Basin. The acreage consists of scattered holdings of ODSL (~940 acres in 6 parcels), OBFL (6,840 acres in 14 clustered parcels) in Douglas County and OBFL in Josephine County (~2,600 acres in 6 parcels of the same cluster). See Map 1.

• The Oregon Legislature direct that Oregon Board of Forestry to use all revenues from the sale of OBFL under this proposal to acquire scattered parcels of ODSL holdings that are intermingled with generally consolidated blocks of OBOF lands. Upon completion of the sale, the revenues would be deposited into the Common School Fund. See Maps 2 and 3 for examples of isolated CSF forestland parcels that are adjacent to OBFL.

• Receipts from the sale of scattered ODSL parcels be deposited into the Common School Fund.

Whether sold to the Cow Creek Band or to the Oregon Board of Forestry, all receipts from the sale of ODSL Common School Fund holdings would be deposited into the Common School Fund.

• The Oregon Legislature further direct that to the extent that a county is due any revenues from the sale of timber from OBFL that are acquired by the Cow Creek Band, that obligation would transfer to the new holdings acquired by OBOF irrespective of the counties the lands are located within.

In this way, the counties of Douglas and Josephine would remain whole by this transaction directed by the Oregon Legislature.

Map Note: Each little red thin-line red-square on the map grid is one section (one square-mile or 640 acres) and each red thick-line is a township (36 square miles).
Map 1. The medium blue lands are owned Oregon Board of Forestry and are generally clustered in and near the Cow Creek Watershed in the Umpqua Basin. The parcels of yellow are Oregon Department of State Lands holdings in the Common School Fund. Tan holdings are U.S. Bureau of Land Management, while non-colored holdings are private lands. These Oregon Board of Forestry Lands are quite disjunct from other lands administered by the agency. Source: Oregon Department of Forestry.
(Note: Public ownership and tribal ownership are quite different. Public ownership—held either the federal, state or local government—is generally owned and managed for the benefit of all. Tribal ownership—whether directly held by a tribe or held in trust for a tribe by the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs—are managed for the benefit of tribal members.)

Map 2. The medium blue lands are Oregon Board of Forestry Lands. The darker yellow (there is also a lighter yellow on the map) are Oregon Department of State Lands holdings in the Common School Fund. All the other colors (save for light green in the bottom-left, which is U.S. Forest Service) are major private timberland owners. Source: Oregon Department of Forestry. The ODSL parcels are within 30 miles from the Pacific Ocean, making marbled murrelets a potential conservation concern.
Map 3. The medium blue is Oregon Board of Forestry Lands (Tillamook and Clatsop State Forests. The dark yellow lands are Oregon Department of State Lands holdings in the Common School Fund. Source: Oregon Department of Forestry. The ODSL parcels are within 30 miles from the Pacific Ocean, making marbled murrelets a potential conservation concern.

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