

# DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF LANE COUNTY

## Platform Committee

2/16/2017

### RESOLUTION 2017.5

#### A resolution of the Democratic Party of Lane County

*Relating to the Elliot State Forest*

WHEREAS, the Elliott State Forest is a coastal temperate rainforest of particular global significance, and

WHEREAS, the Elliott State Forest contains 82,000 acres, about half of which are mature, unmanaged stands, unique in the coastal range, and

WHEREAS, the Elliott State Forest is home to at least 10 Endangered Species Act listed, proposed, and candidate species and over six dozen species of concern, and

WHEREAS, the Elliott State Forest is critical for the protection and recovery of Oregon coastal Coho Salmon, supporting close to a quarter of the State's wild population, and

WHEREAS, the Elliott State Forest includes irreplaceable near shore foraging area for migratory birds, spawning area for a multitude of fish species, essential habitat for owls and murrelets and abundant recreation opportunities for generations of Oregonians, and

WHEREAS, an economic analysis in 2014 estimates that recreation in the Elliot is responsible for close to \$390,000 in wages and about \$1.3 million in economic output. Given that the Elliot receives an annual budget of zero dollars for recreation, those numbers could be raised by investing in trails, interpretive centers and road signs; and

WHEREAS, the Elliott State Forest is owned by the people of Oregon; and

WHEREAS, the Elliott State Forest is Oregon's oldest State Forest and one of the last remnants of Oregon's old-growth forests, and

WHEREAS, the Elliott State Forest is invaluable from a public conservation and cultural resource perspective.

THEREFORE, the Democratic Party of Lane County Resolves:

SECTION 1. We support retaining the Elliott State Forest in the public ownership, in perpetuity.

SECTION 2. We support identifying the requisite funding sources to sustainably manage the forest land.

SECTION 3. We support Governor Kate Brown's \$100,000,000 bonding proposal made in December 2016.

SECTION 4. We support exploring the monetization of the carbon value of the forest.

SECTION 5. We support a management program that will preserve the unique ecological values of the Elliott.

SECTION 6. The DPLC will send this resolution to the members of the state land board and to the members of the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources.

**Resolved by the Central Committee of the Democratic Party of Lane County,  
Assembled in Eugene, Oregon, February 16, 2017**

Signed:

X \_\_\_\_\_ .                      X \_\_\_\_\_ .

Chris Wig

Celine Swenson-Harris

Chair

Secretary