



December 15, 2015

Mr. John Potter  
Elliott Project Manager  
Oregon Department of State Lands  
775 Summer Street NE Suite 100  
Salem, OR 97301-1279

Dear Mr. Potter:

Cascadia Wildlands submits this letter as an Expression of Interest under the State Land Board "Protocol" for continued participation in the Elliott Opportunity. This letter is not intended to commit Cascadia Wildlands to any specific action, instead it is intended to guarantee continued involvement in the Elliott Ownership Transfer Opportunity.

**(1) Who we are:**

Cascadia Wildlands is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and represents approximately 10,000 members and supporters in the region. Cascadia Wildlands' mission is to educate, agitate, and inspire a movement to protect and restore Cascadia's wild ecosystems. We envision vast old-growth forests, rivers full of wild salmon, wolves howling in the backcountry, and vibrant communities sustained by the unique landscapes of the Cascadia bioregion. Cascadia Wildlands was founded in 1998 and has grown into a regional conservation leader through grassroots organizing, policy work and litigation. Since our founding we have protected tens of thousands of acres of once-threatened wild forests and rivers. Safeguarding the Elliott State Forest from irresponsible forest management has been a focal conservation campaign of ours for over 10 years.

**(2) The nature of our interest:**

Cascadia Wildlands is interested in participating in the Elliott Opportunity to ensure that the Elliott Property remains in public ownership and primarily serves recreational and ecological values. We expect to participate throughout the process to educate the State and potential buyers on the public values of the Elliott Property. We are opposed to privatization of the Elliott, and believe it will only shift the problem of "logging to fund school children" to "logging to fund equity investors." The older forest-dependent species of the Elliott will continue to lose under either arrangement. We believe a future arrangement exists for the Elliott that keeps it in public ownership and does not jeopardize imperiled species and older forest ecosystems.

**(3) Our level of experience with activities relevant to the opportunity:**

Cascadia Wildlands has been actively engaged with the State on the management of the Elliott Property for nearly 15 years. We have legal, biological, ecological, and economic expertise within our

membership, Board, and staff that would be invaluable to every participant in the Elliott Opportunity. Cascadia Wildlands is highly familiar with the landscapes of the Elliott Property due to regular trips to the forest, consistent review and commenting on annual operations plans, and strong relationships with the multiple stakeholders on the Elliott. Our staff has been in conversations with lawmakers, conservations groups, land trusts, hunting and fishing groups, school associations, private benefactors, impacted communities and various other stakeholders to explore the ways to ensure maintained public ownership and has become highly attuned to the requirements to make that happen.

**(4) Particular interests we have in the Elliott Property:**

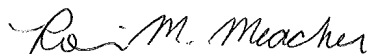
Cascadia Wildlands' foremost interest is in maintaining the Elliott Property in public ownership and managed for recreation and conservation values. The Elliott Property contains incredibly valuable habitat for imperiled salmon and wildlife, and we are interested in finding an outcome that permanently protects and enhances those values on the Property. We also recognize that approximately half of the Elliott has been clearcut over the past 50 years and provides a unique opportunity to advance restoration-driven forestry, where commercially viable, even-age tree farms could be restoratively thinned, thereby employing a workforce in the woods, sustaining local mills with small diameter logs, and introducing heterogeneity back into the simplified stands. The Elliott also functions as an incomparable carbon sink, and could greatly assist in the statewide and global effort to confront runaway climate change. We believe an untapped opportunity exists to leverage the Elliott's ability to sequester and store carbon as well as other ecosystem services.

**(5) Attributes that may make us a good partner for inclusion in a consortium, joint venture or partnership submitting a proposed acquisition plan:**

Cascadia Wildlands has expansive knowledge and expertise regarding the legal, ecological, economic and recreational history of the Elliott Property. We have developed relationships with many stakeholders that position us to help bring parties together that have shared interests and goals. Our knowledge of the laws governing the management of the forest makes us an asset to any potential purchaser and the State to guarantee that the legal requirements for species and habitat are met.

Thank you for the opportunity to continue to participate in the Elliott Ownership Transfer Opportunity. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at [robin@cascwild.org](mailto:robin@cascwild.org) or 541.434.1463.

Sincerely,



Robin Meacher  
Umpqua Regional Director