



Courtesy of Borton Fruit

From left, Eric Borton, Andy Birley, Bill Borton, Byron Borton and John Borton in a company orchard on Oct. 12, 2015. Borton Fruit is merging its marketing operations with Chelan Fresh Marketing.

Chelan Fresh, Borton Fruit combine marketing efforts

By DAN WHEAT
Capital Press

CHELAN, Wash. — Borton Fruit of Yakima will merge its marketing division with Chelan Fresh Marketing in Chelan on Sept. 1 to provide greater combined volume and better year-round fruit access for retailers.

Chelan Fresh Marketing will remain the company name and most of the fruit will be sold under Trout and Chelan Fresh labels with some export markets still receiving Borton-labeled fruit, said Mac Riggan, vice president of marketing at Chelan Fresh.

Borton sells about 7 million boxes of apples, pears and cherries annually and Chelan Fresh sells 18 million, so the combined total will be about 25 million boxes, making the company one of the largest marketers of Washington fruit, Riggan said.

Fewer than half a dozen other tree fruit companies in the state are at similar volume levels.

"It's just formalizing what's been an informal working arrangement the last several years," Riggan said. "We're doing it simply

for customers to have more one-stop shopping. I hope it makes us No. 1 in customer service. That's the goal.

"Most people didn't see this coming because we kept it quiet. It's a good deal for us, and Borton and growers benefit, too. The Bortons are great people to work with. They have a great culture. It's exciting."

His brother, Tom Riggan, is president and CEO of Chelan Fresh.

With the merger, Chelan Fresh will be a leading marketer of Honeycrisp apples. It's member companies operate more than 13,000 acres of young, high-density orchards with modern trellis systems and have recently invested more than \$235 million in state-of-the-art packing facilities and technologies and new storage and production efficiencies.

The Borton Fruit marketing staff will remain in Yakima under Chelan Fresh direction.

Established in 2004, Chelan Fresh is the marketing company for Chelan Fruit Cooperative, Chelan; Gebbers Farms, Brewster; Crane & Crane, Brewster; and Apple House, Pateros.

Borton Fruit was begun by Byron S. Borton as a 20-acre orchard in Yakima in 1912. The company owns orchards in Yakima, Grant, Benton, Franklin and Walla Walla counties.

Land Board votes to stop sale of Elliott State Forest

By CLAIRE WITHYCOMBE
Capital Bureau

SALEM — The proposed sale of an expanse of state forest near the western Oregon coast was halted unanimously Tuesday by the State Land Board.

With Tuesday's decision, the governor, secretary of state and treasurer rejected a planned partnership between a Native American tribe and a Roseburg timber company to purchase the Elliott State Forest in Coos and Douglas counties for \$220.8 million.

That proposal had elicited significant opposition from environmental groups, and in the process raised questions about the state's stewardship of public lands.

The offer from Lone Rock Resources and the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians was rejected Tuesday in favor of continued public ownership, though the details of how that will work have yet to be determined.

The board initially considered selling the 82,500-acre swath of coastal forest in 2015 because timber harvests that provided money for education were declining after environmental lawsuits challenged them.

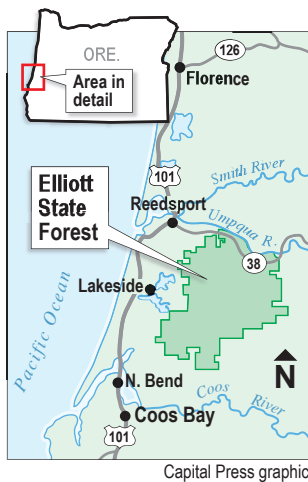
The Elliott State Forest is a state trust land and constitutionally required to provide revenues for the Common School Fund, which helps pay for public education.

Oregon Secretary of State Dennis Richardson and Treasurer Tobias Read, each of whom took office this year, initially supported moving forward with the sale at their first land board meeting in February. That changed Tuesday when they both opposed it.

The governor, secretary of state and treasurer are not out



The Elliott State Forest is a state trust land and constitutionally required to provide revenues for the Common School Fund, which helps pay for public education.



Capital Press graphic

of the woods yet: They now need to find a way to finance public ownership of the forest and generate money for education.

Gov. Kate Brown has proposed using \$100 million in bonds to buy a portion of the most ecologically sensitive areas of the forest — some estimates say that amount could be used to pay for about half of the total acreage — and negotiating what's called a habitat conservation plan with federal land management agencies for the remainder.

Read last week announced a proposal that would build on the governor's planned use of bond funds and have Oregon State University pay the remaining \$120.8 million of the forest's assessed value to turn the land into a research forest.

The idea is that foresters at OSU would study the relationship between active forest management and conserving endangered species.

Brown directed the department to consider Read's research forest proposal, as well as work with tribal governments to "explore ownership or additional forest management opportunities."

Doug Moore, executive director of the Oregon League of Conservation Voters, called the decision "a huge win for all and a reaffirmation of Oregon values."

Although environmental groups, along with Brown and Read, struck a victorious tone Tuesday, the Oregon School Boards Association said last week that its member school districts may sue the board unless the full assessed value of the forest is paid to the Common School Fund.

Jim Green, executive director of the association, said after the meeting that his group would "continue to monitor these proposals very closely."

"Any solution has to provide full value to the Common School Fund," Green said. "That is what we owe our kids."

Richardson suggested swapping the Elliott State Forest for land owned by federal agencies such as the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management.

During the meeting, Richardson indicated his displeasure with the fact that the state was backing away from the sale proposal, and said he thought it was likely that the state would face litigation, but said it was "obvious" that the sale was not going to proceed.

The Department of State Lands had begun talks with Lone Rock Resources and the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, which had proposed forming a corporation to buy the forest. Now that the board has ended the sale, those negotiations will cease.

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NOTICE OF THE OREGON HAZELNUT COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

June 7, 2017
Notice is hereby given that a public meeting will be held pursuant to ORS Chapter 576.416(5), Oregon Laws 2003, at the North Willamette Experiment Station, 15210 NE Mileley Rd., Aurora, Oregon, on June 7th, 2017 at 8 a.m. The meeting will be held regarding the proposed budget for the operation of the Oregon Hazelnut Commission during the fiscal year July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018.

At this meeting any producer of hazelnuts in Oregon has a right to be heard with respect to the proposed budget, a copy of which is available for public inspection at the industry office at the right. Any producer unable to attend the public meeting may submit written comments to Meredith Nagely at the address below by June 7, 2017.

For further information contact: Oregon Hazelnut Commission 25195-A Dolores Way NE Aurora, OR 97002 Phone 503.678.6823 Fax 503.678.6825 email meredith@oregonhazelnuts.org

This meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities. Please make any requests for an interpreter for the hearing impaired or for other accommodation for persons with disabilities at least 48 hours before the meeting by contacting staff at the location above.

19-1/#4

LEGAL

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION - RFI #167169 TO PROVIDE

Biosolids Storage and Reuse Services
Closing Date: June 2, 2017 at 4:00 PM

The City of Salem ("City") is seeking information of potential opportunities to partner with qualified agricultural entities in a municipal biosolids storage and reuse program. The intent of the program is to store biosolids during the winter wet period, October through June, for subsequent application as a fertilizer and soil amendment during the June through October period. The City would expect the interested parties to provide storage facilities, application services, and suitable land for the program. The City of Salem produces Class B biosolids cake.

Questions or to request a Request for Information packet email: sself@cityofsalem.net. Shawna Self, CPPB, Contracts & Procurement Manager.

legal-19-2-1/#T1D

Wright named COO of Capital Press parent company

Heidi Wright has been named chief operating officer of EO Media Group, which owns the Capital Press. Wright succeeds John S. Perry, who is retiring after 44 years in the newspaper industry, including the last 12 with EO Media Group.

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The Oregon Orchard Seed Producers Commission will hold a public hearing on the Commission's proposed 2017-18 budget on June 1, 2017, 7:30 a.m. at the Elmer's Restaurant, 2802 Santiam Highway SE, Albany, Oregon. Any person wishing to comment on the budget is welcome to do so either orally or in writing. A copy of the proposed budget is available for public inspection during normal business hours at the commission office located at 6745 SW Hampton Street, Suite 101, Portland, Oregon.

19-4/#4

Wright comes to EO Media Group from Western Communications, owner of the Bend Bulletin and other newspapers in Oregon and California. She is Wescom's chief financial officer and human resources director. She will join EO Media Group on June 1.

Steve Forrester, president and CEO of EO Media Group, announced Wright's hiring: "Our executive committee — composed of Kathryn Brown, Susan Forrester Rana and me — is pleased to find a successor to Perry with the leadership capabilities to help our company prosper in the digital age. Her prior experience with family-owned companies in our region is especially relevant."

Prior to joining Wescom, Wright was publisher of the Klamath Falls Herald and News, owned by Pioneer



Heidi Wright

News Group. She also worked as a publisher in Montana for Lee Enterprises. She has an undergraduate degree and an MBA from the University of Montana.

19-4/#4

"Heidi has a lifetime of experience in the West," noted Kathryn Brown. "Her experience at newspapers in Butte, Klamath Falls and Bend make her well-suited to understand the communities that EO Media Group serves in rural Oregon and Washington — as well as the extraordinary reach of the Capital Press, our agricultural weekly."

As chief operating officer, Wright will direct the business operations of EO Media Group

and supervise publishers and corporate staff. The company's headquarters are in Salem.

"It's an honor and privilege to be joining EO Media Group," said Wright. "While I will miss my friends and colleagues at Western Communications, I am excited to become a part of the EO Media Group family. My husband, Richard Schuurman, and I are looking forward to calling Salem home in the near future."

EO Media Group publications include: Capital Press, The Blue Mountain Eagle of John Day, Cannon Beach Gazette, Chinook Observer, Coast River Business Journal, The Daily Astorian, East Oregonian, Hermiston Herald, Oregon Coast Today, Seaside Signal and Walla Walla County Chieftain.

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