

Forest committee seeks representatives

The Daily Astorian

A committee advising the state Department of Forestry on forest operations, projects and activities is looking to fill five vacancies.

The five new members will help provide insights and perspectives on how the state implements forest management plans in western Oregon.

Formed in 2001, the State Forests Advisory Committee is comprised of representatives from timber, environmental and recreation groups and serves as a forum to discuss agency opportunities for achieving forest management goals. The committee specifically covers issues related to annual operation plans, balancing a range of forest benefits, improving public outreach and participation and other management topics.

The five new members will serve three-year terms beginning in February. The committee is looking for two nonaffiliated representatives, one representing the motorized recreation community, one watershed council rep-

resentative and one timber industry position.

"This is an opportunity for Oregonians to take a seat at the table of today's forestry conversation and provide insight and perspectives on how we are implementing forest management plans," said Andy White, director of the state Department of Forestry's Northwest Oregon Area, in a release. "We look forward to hosting a diverse and experienced committee in the coming months."

Members attend three meetings per year and a summer field tour. Agendas are usually scheduled from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. New members attend an additional orientation meeting in February.

To apply, complete a questionnaire located on the right side of the web page at <http://tinyurl.com/zbt3yuv> by Dec. 9. Submit the questionnaire by email or mail to April Davis at the Oregon Department of Forestry at april.r.davis@oregon.gov or 503-359-7426. For specific questions about the committee, contact White at 503-359-7496 or andrew.t.white@oregon.gov

Seaside cannabis sites to see city inspection

Councilors seek to prevent processing accidents

By R.J. MARX
The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — Safety first — that was the message in a city code amendment that will allow the inspection of retail marijuana grow sites and processing facilities.

The City Council unanimously approved the code amendment Monday. The city already can inspect medical marijuana facilities.

"This allows us to cover retail activities in an industrial zone and it also puts in some safety factors as well," City Planner Kevin Cupples said.

At a previous meeting, city councilors expressed concern that recreational growing and processing facilities would be properly monitored for safety — including extracts, oils and ether — to prevent incidents like the October explosion and fire at an Astoria processing facility.

The investigation into the explosion at Higher Level



R.J. Marx/The Daily Astorian

Seaside City Attorney Dan Van Thiel reads the cannabis processing amendment before the council vote.

Concentrates continues, Astoria Fire Chief Ted Ames said this week.

Seaside councilors were especially concerned about the use of butane canisters found

in the aftermath of the Astoria blaze. A highly flammable and colorless gas, butane is commonly used to extract THC, the main psychoactive component in marijuana, to create

hash oil and other marijuana concentrates.

The rules in Seaside include operational requirements that all facilities are subject to periodic inspection by the fire marshal to ensure they remain in compliance with fire and life safety regulations. Licenses will be valid for one year and a new application may be submitted each year. Licensed facilities will be reviewed every year, and a license may be revoked at any time if a facility is not in compliance.

The fire chief, fire marshal and building official will scrutinize "what they are doing and how they are doing it," Cupples said.

Violations need not lead to a conviction, according to the rules, "but must establish a reasonable doubt about the licensee's ability to perform the licensed activity without danger to property, public health or safety."

Without an amendment to include recreational processing and production, Seaside would have been ineligible for a share of state marijuana tax revenues. A ballot measure to impose a 3 percent local tax on marijuana sales was approved by Seaside voters last week.

One proposal submitted to buy the Elliott State Forest

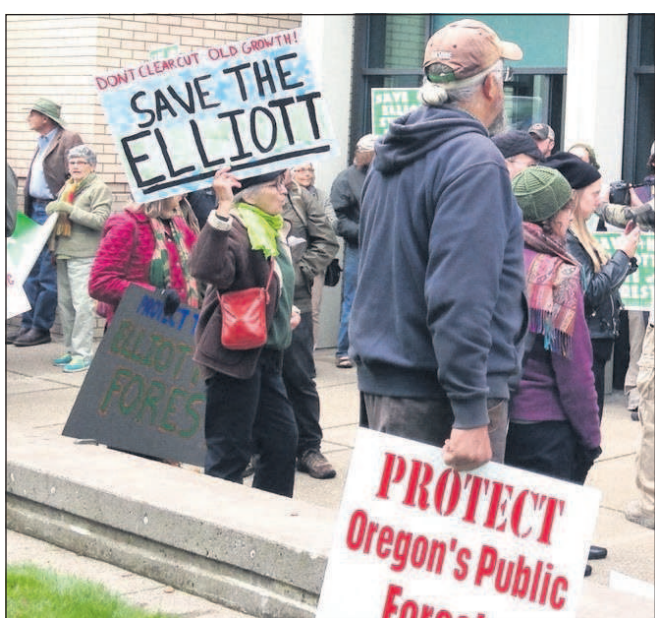
Timber company, tribe show interest

By CLAIRE WITHYCOMBE
Capital Bureau

SALEM — The sole proposal to purchase a large swath of state forest in Douglas and Coos counties was submitted jointly by a Roseburg-based timber company, Lone Rock Resources, and the Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Tribe of Indians, according to the Department of State Lands.

An 82,500-acre parcel of the Elliott State Forest is up for sale for \$220.8 million, and although more than 40 groups had previously expressed interest in the land, only one acquisition plan was submitted to the state by its Tuesday evening deadline.

Jake Gibbs, a spokesman for Lone Rock Resources, said that the company plans to take on 83 percent of the



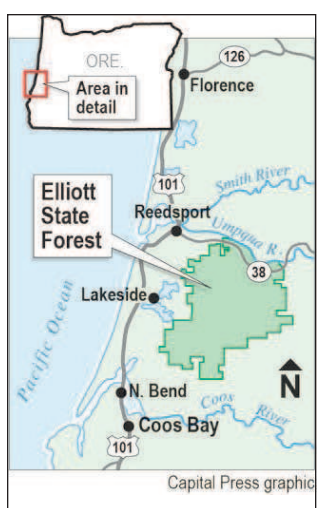
EO Media Group

Demonstrators protest the sale of the Elliott State Forest at a recent State Land Board meeting. Only one proposal to purchase the forest was received by the state.

costs of acquiring the land, while the Cow Creek Band will incur 17 percent.

Under the proposal, The Conservation Fund — a conservation group based in

Arlington, Virginia — and the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, would hold conservation easement agreements to enforce the state's public ben-



Capital Press graphic

with Lone Rock "unique" and said it advanced the tribe's goal of restoring land "for the community and tribe's future generations."

Courtney also said the sale would help provide a more predictable revenue stream for state schools while preserving public benefits.

The Department of State Lands is required under the state's constitution to maximize revenue from natural resources on state trust lands for the benefit of public schools through the Common School Fund.

However, that fund has lost about \$4 million since 2013, after new limitations to the state's logging on the Elliott Forest were imposed, the department says. Environmental groups had sued the state challenging its logging

in areas home to the marbled murrelet, which is protected under the Endangered Species Act.

Proceeds from the sale will be invested in the Common School Fund.

The department is next expected to evaluate the plan for responsiveness to its transfer criteria, and the State Land Board — which includes the governor, secretary of state and treasurer — is scheduled to meet Dec. 13. The board has the final say in whether the sale goes forward.

Many environmental groups and activists have opposed the sale of the Elliott to private interests and wish to see it stay in public hands.

The Capital Bureau is a collaboration between EO Media Group and Pamplin Media Group.

Free admission to parks on Black Friday

The Daily Astorian

The state Parks and Recreation Department is offering free admission to 26 state parks on Nov. 25.

"We invite you to join a new tradition: Green Friday," state Parks Director Lisa Sumption said in a statement. "Why not skip the mall, and instead come out to play with your family and friends at your favorite state park?"

The nonprofit Oregon State Parks Foundation is hosting special events at L.L. Stubb Stewart State Park, Tryon Creek State Natural Area, Champoeg State Heritage Area and Silver

Falls State Park from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nov. 25.

Parking is free year-round at almost all state parks. The waiver applies to the 26 parks that charge a \$5 fee for

daily parking. The waiver applies from open to close on Nov. 25. Find a list of parks that require day-use parking permits at <http://bit.ly/OregonStateParksParking>

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