

Land Board votes to stop sale of Elliott State Forest

Forest will stay in public hands

By **CLAIRE WITHYCOMBE**
Capital Bureau

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

The governor, secretary of state and treasurer, who make up the Land Board, 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.

The 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



Capital Press graphic

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.

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 Oregon State would study the relationship between active forest management and conserving endangered species.

of how that will work have yet to be determined.

The Land 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.

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.

Secretary of State Dennis Richardson and Treasurer

'Bullying' stirs up rec district race

Candidate steps aside after opponent harassed

By **R.J. MARX**
The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — A candidate for the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District has stepped aside from the May special district election after her opponent was subjected to harassing messages.

Kindwyn Hoge, a disabled stay-at-home mother, is asking voters to choose Veronica Russell, a development specialist and special events coordinator, for the recreation district's board, since the deadline to officially withdraw from the ballot was in March. Hoge said she would step down from the position if she were to win Tuesday.

Russell said in an email

that she had "received a piece of hateful/bullying mail at my home (referencing my running for a position on this board), and a couple of subsequent hateful messages from a supporter of hers that were not endorsed by Kindwyn."

"I prefer not to comment further on the content, however I did receive a very nice voicemail from Kindwyn letting me know that she was not responsible for the mail I received and that she is upset that someone who supports her could do something like that."

Hoge, who describes herself as legally blind, said her campaign should have been "something special."

"You want to make a positive contribution," she said.

"To me it's not that important to be on any board — what they did to her, they did to me. I feel like they violated me as well."

Russell said she chose to look at the incident as a teachable moment.

"It is this kind of behavior that I am working to protect kids from through my 'bully-free zone' work with Seaside Rotary's Peace Builders committee," Russell said. "In diffusing bullying, I have learned it's best to give it no unnecessary attention, and instead focus on more positive and productive things."

The Position 1 race between Russell and Hoge is the recreation district's only contested campaign. Other candidates are running unopposed.



Veronica Russell



Kindwyn Hoge

College hires new VP, dean in-house

Frimoth, Toyas named to posts

By **EDWARD STRATTON**
The Daily Astorian

Clatsop Community College has chosen Margaret Frimoth, director of the Lives in Transition program, as the new vice president of academic affairs.

Frimoth and physical education instructor Teena Toyas had been splitting the duties of vice president since Donna Larson, who joined the college in 2012, left for a position at Clackamas Community College in July. Toyas has been named dean of transfer education. The two start their new positions over the summer.



Submitted Photo
Clatsop Community College has named physical instructor Teena Toyas, left, the dean of transfer education and chosen Lives in Transition Director Margaret Frimoth, right, as vice president of academic affairs.

"We did not find a candidate that was the right fit for CCC during our searches," college President Christopher Breitmeyer said in a release. "During that time, Margaret and Teena served in the interim role, and I have seen only positive results from this duo. It was clear they are more than capable and there is no need to extend our search any longer."

Frimoth will oversee academic standards and prepare for the college's accreditation review in two years. Frimoth will step down from Lives in Transition, but will still be involved in the program as the college identifies the new leadership.

Toyas will focus on scheduling, curriculum and instruction, while teaching part time.

The college performed two unsuccessful national searches for a vice president. In the interim, Frimoth and Toyas had managed curriculum, class scheduling, faculty assistance and evaluations.

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