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designated the Tillamook State Forest by Gov. Tom McCall in 1973. Hiking in the area ranges from leisurely walks along Gales Creek to steep, 2,000-plus-foot ascents of Elk and Kings Mountain adopted by the Mazamas, a nonprofit mountaineering education group.

The next section of hikes visits the Trask and Tualatin rivers in Washington and Tillamook counties, starting with routes around the expansive reservoir Henry Hagg Lake and moving to the Trask River and Valley east of Tillamook. The focus on Tillamook Bay finishes with several hikes along the Miami and Kilchis rivers, two other feeders.

The guide then moves to the drainages of the Nehalem and Salmonberry rivers running into Nehalem Bay and accessed from U.S. Highway 26, before finishing to the north in the Clatsop State Forest, 154,000 acres largely deeded by county residents to the state and designated a forest in 1973.

While some of the hikes are near Oregon highways 26 and 6, many start on some of the more than 1,000 miles of forest roads snaking through northwest Oregon. The Sierra Club recommends buying a printed version of the Northwest Oregon Protection District Map produced by the Oregon Department of Forestry before driving in.

The book also cautions visitors to be mindful of active logging operations, off-road vehicles and horses sharing some of the trails, along with target shooters and hunters in the fall.

### Staying vigilant

The book appears in part a call to action after the near-sale of the Elliott State Forest, an 82,500-acre tract in the southern Coast Range, and the general angst over threats to public lands



EDWARD STRATTON PHOTO

Elliott Creek tumbles down University Falls on its way to meet the Wilson River in the Tillamook State Forest. A rugged 8-mile loop and easy 2-mile jaunt to the falls are accessed from forest roads off Oregon Highway 6 and featured in the Sierra Club's upcoming forest guide.

in the American West. In May, the Oregon State Land Board voted to retain public ownership of the Elliott after proposing several months earlier to sell the forest. The decision came after a cascade of support for keeping the lands public.

"The Elliott is not alone in facing the threat of privatization," Chris Smith, a former conservation program coordinator with the Sierra Club, said in a message to readers in the book. "Even before the nationwide fear of losing public lands heated up, the Tillamook and Clatsop quietly encountered this possibility."

Smith, the former coordinator of North Coast State Forest Coalition (now the Oregon Forest Conservation Coalition), details a proposal by a representative of a logging company in 2013 to sell the forests. "The idea

was never seriously considered, but there is clearly an interest in seeing these forests logged at the highest possible rate," he said.

The Sierra Club's book is being published by Ooligan Press, a nonprofit staffed by graduate students at Portland State University.

"We publish a lot of books that have to do with the Pacific Northwest, specifically," said T.J. Carter, an editor with Ooligan. "We decided this would be a fun project. We're a nonprofit, and Sierra is a nonprofit."

Carter said advanced copies of the book have been sent to local bookstores in Astoria and another in Cannon Beach. The book will be available at regional bookstores and online in an electronic format after March 1. It is also available for preorder online at Amazon. 