

Oregon State wants Elliott State Forest for research

By JES BURNS AND DIRK VANDERHART
Oregon Public Broadcasting

SALEM — After years of struggling to figure out what to do with the Elliott State Forest, Oregon officials now have a proposal they like. Members of the State Land Board voted Tuesday to start work on a plan to transfer the 80,000-acre forest near Coos Bay to Oregon State University.

The university's idea is to create the "Elliott State Research Forest."

OSU President Ed Ray told Land Board members that the university's "unmatched" experts would be available to assist with Elliott regardless of who was tapped to own the forest.

"The question is, Do you want to stop there, or do you want to go further?" Ray added. "Do you want or do you aspire for Oregon, the nation and the world to have a leading research capability that helps all of us understand around this globe how to manage forest resources going forward?"

The plan would include a mix of uses on the forest including, Ray said, "active management." Other uses would reflect public values identified by the Land Board, like recreation, pub-

lic access and conservation.

"We envision this being the source of critical information that we use to inform conservation management now and as we work through the ongoing changes driven by our climate," OSU Interim Forestry Dean Anthony Davis told the board.

It would be one of the largest forests devoted to experimentation and research in the United States, and the size advantage would allow scientists to ask questions that couldn't be answered on smaller tracts of land.

"They see a strong research component that will inform the future of not only timber management, but of climate change adaptation and response," said Oregon Treasurer Tobias Read, who voiced enthusiastic support for the OSU plan. "(There would be) significant potential for tribal partnerships and of course, support for rural communities."

Gov. Kate Brown also voiced support for the research forest proposal.

"I do think we can move forward on this path and keep the forest for the benefit of Oregon school children. Probably in a different way — maybe less of a financial resource, and more of an educational resource



Amanda Loman/The World via AP, File

In this Oct. 27, 2016, file photo, Joe Metzler walks across a fallen log over a creek in the Silver Grove surrounded by some trees in the grove that are over 220 years old in Elliott State Forest near Reedsport.

for the next seven generations," Brown said. "This would be a unique opportunity for Oregon to lead the nation, if not the entire world."

The state has been considering what to do with the Elliott State Forest for years. It started when endangered species court rulings limited logging and the forest stopped generating money, as required, for Oregon schools through the Com-

mon School Fund.

Most recently the land board, comprised of Read, Brown and Secretary of State Dennis Richardson, asked for proposals that would keep the forest in public ownership.

Several other entities had expressed interest in the forest, including two local counties, two tribes, the Oregon Department of Forestry and a nonprofit Christian ministry group.

Last year, the Legislature approved \$100 million in bonds to hold the school fund over while a new forest owner could be found. And on Tuesday, the Land Board approved a declaration allowing the bonding to move forward.

But an additional \$121 million is needed to compensate the Common School Fund for the appraised value of the Elliott State Forest.

As with every applicant,

OSU's path to finding the necessary \$121 million is deeply uncertain. The university "can't foresee circumstances in which the university could purchase the forest outright," Ray told the Land Board.

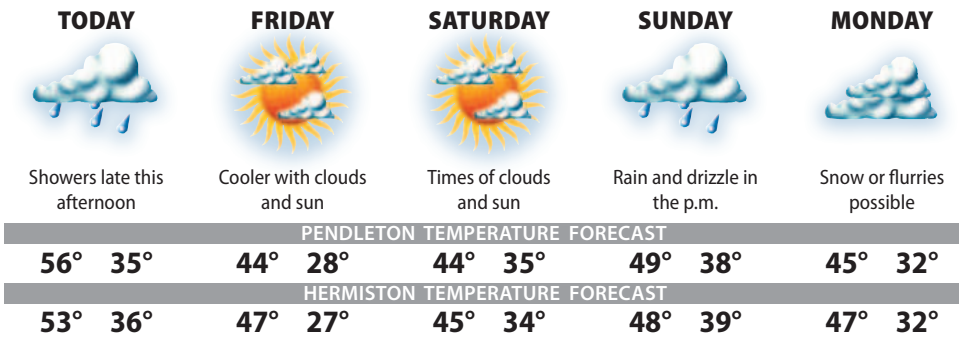
Part of that uncertainty, he noted, comes from the two-year budget Brown proposed earlier this month. The proposal would hold funding for state universities flat — effectively creating a budget cut as higher education costs rise. The governor has promised funding increases to universities if state lawmakers are able to find some \$2 billion in new funding for her education priorities.

"Under the currently proposed budget, OSU faces a funding challenge of budget reductions of perhaps \$20 million of operating funds," Ray said, noting that the university was unwilling to borrow against "forest harvesting that cannot be sustained, or add more controversy to the university."

That left a question of where funding might come from — something that will have to be answered in months to come.

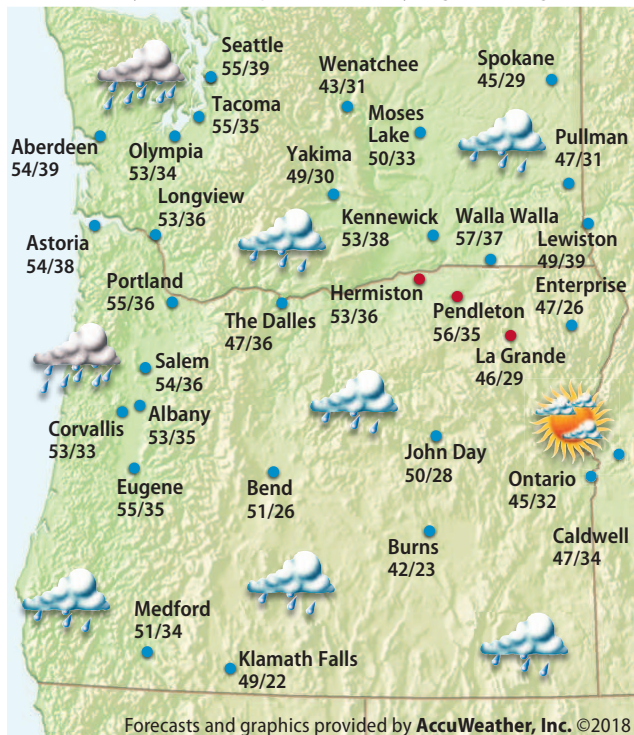
Both Ray and Read expressed a desire for details of the plan to be worked out by the end of 2019.

Forecast for Pendleton Area



OREGON FORECAST

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.



ALMANAC

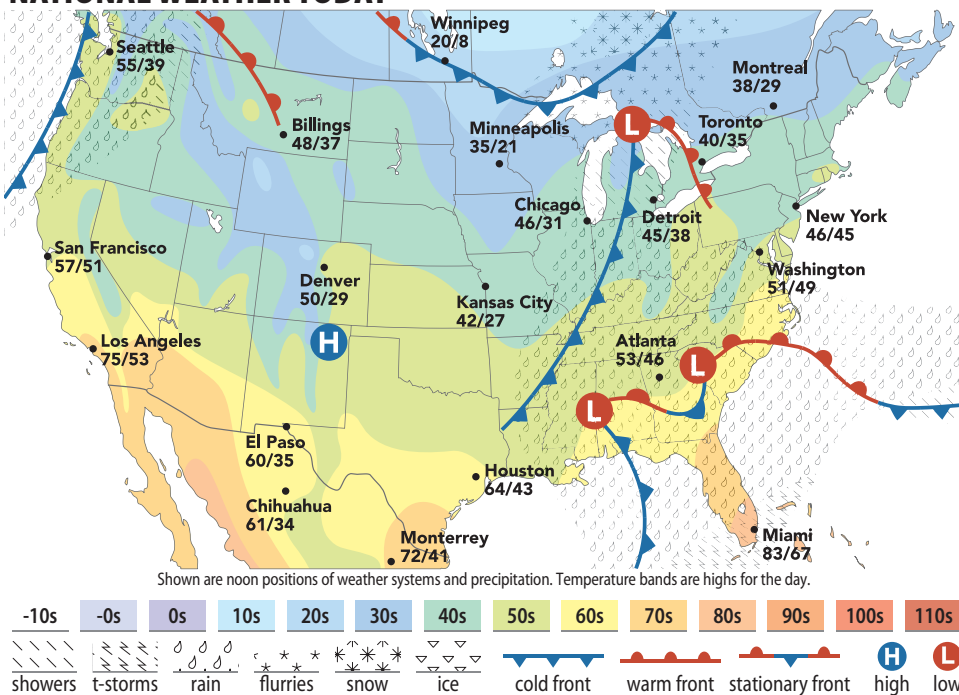
PENDLETON through 3 p.m. yest.		
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	50°	39°
Normals	39°	25°
Records	62° (2017)	-7° (1984)
PRECIPITATION		
24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"	
Month to date	0.61"	
Normal month to date	0.92"	
Year to date	9.48"	
Last year to date	15.45"	
Normal year to date	12.39"	
HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.		
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	50°	39°
Normals	39°	27°
Records	60° (1933)	-5° (1984)
PRECIPITATION		
24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"	
Month to date	0.36"	
Normal month to date	0.94"	
Year to date	7.32"	
Last year to date	8.90"	
Normal year to date	9.41"	
WINDS (in mph)		
	Today	Fri.
Boardman	SW 6-12	WSW 6-12
Pendleton	S 10-20	WSW 7-14
SUN AND MOON		
Sunrise today	7:32 a.m.	
Sunset tonight	4:13 p.m.	
Moonrise today	3:00 p.m.	
Moonset today	4:55 a.m.	
Full	Dec 22	
Last	Dec 29	
New	Jan 5	
First	Jan 13	

NATIONAL EXTREMES

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)

High 83° in Marathon, Fla. Low -1° in Saranac Lake, N.Y.

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



Apple pledges nearly \$9M to help Oregon town store water

PRINEVILLE (AP) — Apple has pledged to spend nearly \$9 million to help the city of Prineville build an underground water storage facility to help meet the demands of the company's two data storage centers there.

Apple is Prineville's largest water user and takes huge volumes of water to cool their facilities, where computers are in constant danger of overheating, *The Oregonian*/OregonLive reported Wednesday.

It's Apple's second water conservation project in Prineville.

Its first data center consumed 27 million gallons of water in 2016, based on the most recent data available, and the company has added a second large facility since then.

Prineville, with just over 10,000 residents, produces 600 million gallons annually. City officials could not

say Wednesday how much water Apple used last year, but suggested it could be approaching 10 percent of Prineville's total production.

The project will collect water in natural underground geologic formations during cool periods and when river levels are high, and then tap into it when needed. It will serve both Apple data centers and Prineville's general needs.

Lisa Jackson, the Apple vice president who runs the company's environmental initiatives, said the Prineville project will support the company's own needs "while increasing the availability of clean, sustainable water as the community prepares for the impacts of climate change."

Prineville currently gets all its water from deep wells; this project will bring water up from shallow wells, too, storing them in an aquifer near Apple's data cen-

ter when demand is low and tapping them when demand rises in the summer heat.

The new aquifers will be available beginning in 2021. Prineville said it has been studying the project for five years and believes it could store as much as 180 million gallons initially, and up to 400 million gallons with additional wells.

In 2016, Apple financed construction of a water treatment facility designed to save 5 million gallons annually by recycling water from the city's sewage treatment system and using it in the data center.

Apple has spent \$1 billion building its 660,000-square-foot Prineville facilities and is in the process of expanding by 50 percent. Its data centers employ 100 people altogether, according to Apple, which has said it offsets the effects of its power use with nearby solar and wind projects.

The family of Brent Fife would like to thank Coree Lerjesen for organizing the fund raising, contribution for items and decorating of the beautiful Brent Fife memorial tree for this years Winterfest Gala. We would also like to thank all of you that donated money and items for the tree. It was so touching for our family to find out so many contributed to this wonderful cause in honor of Brent.

Not only was the memorial tree a wonderful tribute to Brent's life, the money raised from the event will go to benefit so many in our community. This year the proceeds go to support Cason's Place, Pioneer Relief Nursery and the St Anthony Hospital Foundation.

In the spirit of Christmas giving, our hearts are warmed by the generosity of those who helped to make the memorial tree and the entire Winterfest Gala happen.

We are truly blessed to live in such a wonderful community.

With gratitude,
Fran Fife, Sarah Sahl and Tucker Fife.

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