

# LIFE ON THE EDGE

A newsletter concerning all inhabitants of the south coast of Oregon

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

SEPTEMBER 24, 2022

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## Tell OSU/State of Oregon how you picture Recreation in the Elliott State Forest

Until 10/15/22, there's an opportunity to share our perspectives about "current and future" recreation and education in the Elliott State Research Forest, one of the only areas of old growth forest left in the southern Oregon coastal region. The survey, from managers of the forest at OSU, asks about how we currently use the forest, its value, and our concerns and ideas around recreation and education.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ESRFRecreationEducation> Only 4 questions

## Re-starting the Native Plant Society South Coast Chapter

This Native Plant Society of Oregon (NPSO) chapter covers both Curry and Coos counties. This first meeting is in person, a meet and greet, though future meetings may be on Zoom. Once established, this chapter can join other chapters on hikes/walks and other social events. Location of first meeting is as close to a halfway drive for everyone as possible. It is in Port Orford at the Mormon church located at 2000 Jackson Street. Date is **Saturday, October 8th. Time is at 1:30 – 3:00 pm.**

Nominations of Board members; President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer will be accepted at this meeting and there will be a vote. Nominations can be by self or by another member present.

## "In Search of Wild Pollinators", a photo journal essay by Tatiana

Regarding the Elliott Recreational Survey, after a highly educational and beautiful day trip to the Elliott this summer, I'd like to share some thoughts and photographs in response to these questions asked in the OSU Survey, above.

From the widest vantage points, the Elliott is a patchwork of forested and clear cut landscape, including both "tree farms," (dense plantations of Douglas Fir) and "forest," (seen to have a healthy diversity in age and species, of tree, shrub, and plants).

(Search for Wild Pollinators cont'd on page 2)



"I took a walk in the woods and came out taller than the trees."

– Henry David Thoreau

"Life on the Edge" is a monthly newsletter, written by local people and hosted by STILLWATER NATIVES NURSERY in Bandon, Oregon

Contact: [Stellaray60@yahoo.com](mailto:Stellaray60@yahoo.com)

We accept submissions of news that relates to our natural local world - cite sources as we are only dealing with real events and factual information.

To unsubscribe from this newsletter just click reply and type "No".

## COMING IN NOVEMBER, GREEN FRIDAY

In Bandon, along Johnson Creek, a community planting on the day after Thanksgiving will take place, November 25th from 10 am-3 pm as a way of giving thanks to the Earth. Parking is limited so people are asked to sign up for a time slot if they want to plant one of the donated native species plants.

Contact Darcy at Stillwater Natives Nursery for more information—[info@stillwaternativesnursery.com](mailto:info@stillwaternativesnursery.com) or 541-260-2182.

Johnson Creek Greenway was purchased several years by the City of Bandon. Previously a cow pasture, since 1927 it was used as a golf course up until a few years ago. This 37-acre site is a nature escape located off Beach Loop south of Best Western Motel. The land features numerous examples of vegetation, habitats and environments including wetlands, a creek, ponds, meadows and large trees. Walking among the tall trees, one can spot an eagle taking flight as one of us did one day as we walked through the tall grass. The Greenway now gives our community an opportunity to restore habitat to a more natural state.

- Cont'd **“In Search of Wild Pollinators”**, a photo journal essay by Tatiana

### **Reproduction Forest also known as a Tree Plantation**

Driving through the Elliott, the tree farm and the forest may seem to blend together, but looking closer and using all the senses to observe, the difference is stark. The tree farm is dark, audibly void of many typical forest wildlife sounds. Its understory is uniform and one dimensional, uninhabitable to most plants other than sword fern.



**Search for Wild Pollinators** cont'd on p 3



In contrast, the stands of healthy forest feel open and lush. Giant trees tower quietly above. Underneath, the younger trees, various shrubs, and lush plants of different sizes and ages grow together in complex layers. Patches of dappled sunlight reveal woodland flowers that survive only with support of the specific mycorrhizae fungi found in the rich duff of the forest floor.



Monkeyflower, rattlesnake orchid, purslane, rhododendron, pipsissewa, and more are visited by various pollinators both big and small. The balance is delicate between enormous trees, gracefully reaching shrubs, intricately tiny flowers, buzzing pollinators, and all the other creatures and fungi that make up this complex ecosystem.



Cont'd **“In Search of Wild Pollinators”**, a photo journal essay by Tatiana



Steep downhill roads reveal the shady banks of the Millicoma river, cool enough to protect delicate young fish, including increasingly threatened species of salmon. This area of the river may not be easily accessible to humans looking to fish or paddle, but the wild mess of branches and leaves provide a crucial place for the native plants and wildlife to thrive.

(**“Search for Wild Pollinators”** cont'd on page 5)



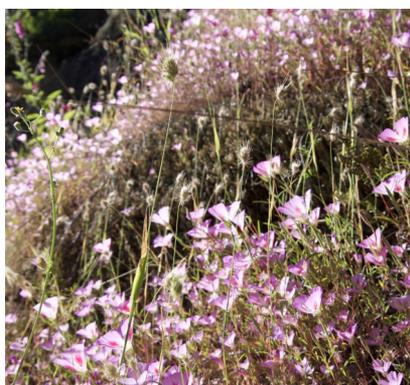
“The Elliott state forest has approximately 40 large fish streams and a river. The west fork of the Millicoma River is the largest waterway in the forest, running north up the center of the forest. Aside from the West Fork of the Millicoma River there are 6 other basins that have large fish streams and small streams”  
2018 SWOCC Elliott State Forest Draft Recreation Plan



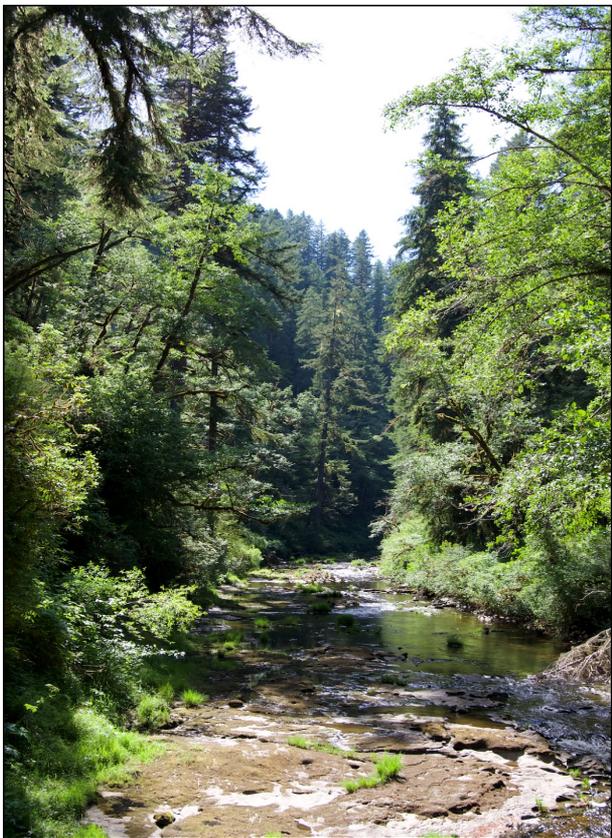
Development means disturbance of habitat. On the side of the roads where the sunlight reaches, key species of native flowers grow and thrive in healthy populations. Shade loving native plants hug the edge of the forest, needing protection from full sun. More development of recreation sites means potentially harming these easily accessed roadside wildflower attractions.



"Farewell-to-Spring" or *Clarkia amoena*, photos below. A spectacular annual flower, native to our region. And yet, when was the last time you saw an abundant explosion of wild *Clarkia* cascading down the sunny hillside? Along another twisting uphill road, this *Clarkia* has not been overtaken by the common non-native plants that dominate most ditches where roads have been widened and paved. (Cont'd on page 6)



Cont'd on page 6

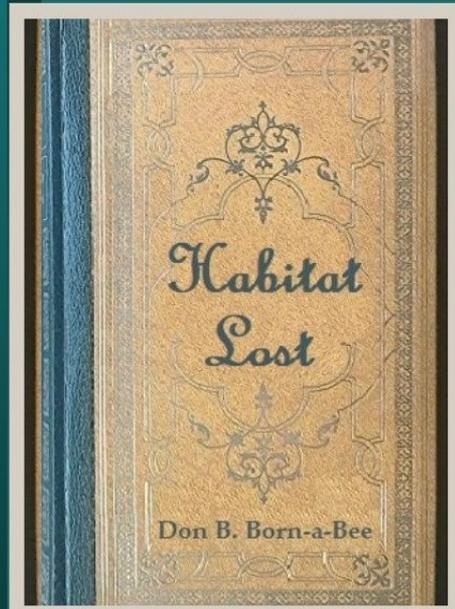


Despite deep scars that decades of logging has left, parts of the Elliott still contain pockets of rich biodiversity and precious habitat. The wildflowers, insects, birds, and mammals native to this specific and unique ecosystem have been largely destroyed by the timber industry and development. It is my opinion that what is left must be protected and valued.



I am Tatiana and I'm joining others in our community to oppose extensive development of the Elliott State Research forest in the name of recreation. We stand for preserving what wild is left, encouraging lower-impact educational activities like nature walks, scenic drives, or leave-no-trace visits to relax in the beautiful areas of the Elliott that are already accessible.

Please answer the 4 survey OSU questions looking for you, the Public, to weigh in on how the Elliott Forest should be used for Recreation and Education Click on the link, **top of page 1** in this issue to see the OSU survey..



Would this book be banned by current political zealots? Too factual?