

Big Fires, The Elkhorn Ranch  
and  
The Elliott State Forest

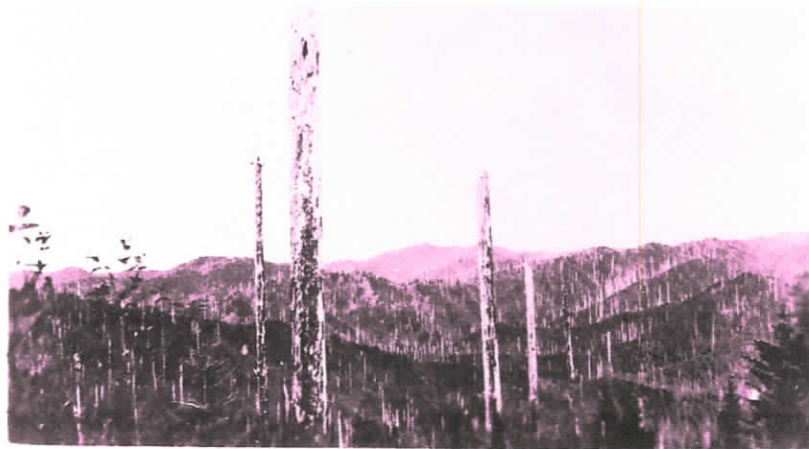


Photo: George A Gould, © 1890

David G. Gould

History of Oregon and the South Coast

History 240

Winter Term 2013

Throughout unrecorded history, natural events such as fires, floods, volcanoes, earthquakes, and slides have occurred in this region. Even since written history in the Southern Oregon Coast Region, there are records of events that have affected the landscape. During the past 40-50 years, groups and individuals have stepped forward, attempting to sway the public to cease using the land and natural resource by litigating and protesting against a balanced use.

The Pacific Northwest has had a long history of fires caused by lightning strike and ones that were deliberately set by the Native American tribes. The Indians used fire in the Willamette Valley and Coast Range to clear brush and trees to improve food for wild life, and to encourage berry growth and camas fields for their own use. Burning has been used historically to stimulate new growth. (Robbins, W.G., 4)

The first recorded events in the history of Coos County, Oregon were by Alexander R. McLeod, 1826; Jedediah Smith, 1828; and W. H. Harris, in 1853. Harris selected a site for Empire City, which is located just inland of the mouth of Coos Bay.(Douthit,8) He was told by Indians that a large fire had consumed the forest in places, so that the ash colored the tributary streams to the bay, and it was supposed that the lye had destroyed the oysters.(Dodge, 131) These were the Big Burns of 1765 and 1840 that had started near Loon Lake and were pushed by an east wind all the way to the north shore of the Coos Bay estuary.

An 1868 settler's fire near Scottsburg, pushed by an east wind across the Umpqua River, burned toward Coos Bay through much of the previously burned

area. By the 1870's, homesteaders and settlers were setting fires behind Ten Mile Lakes, North Slough and Coos Bay, in much the same way as the Indians had done earlier.

In 1885, George Albert Gould, who had traveled as a boy by wagon train from Iowa to central California in 1862, built a small house from split cedar and moved by horse from Elkton 30 miles to the east, into "the Burn". (Rickard, 36) With his family, who arrived in 1886, they improved an elk trail of 15 miles to hike to Allegany. For the next 30 years the family lived off the land. During this time they set up a small, water-powered sawmill. They made a butter churn, washing machine, lathe, rip saw, and planer, all driven by water.

With the water-powered machinery, they built a bridge and modern home, plus all the outbuildings needed to operate a cattle ranch and farm. They cut cedar snags, floated them down river, and used the wood to manufacture what was needed. This was the first logging by white settlers in what was to become the Elliott State Forest.

Aunt Mabel O. "Oelo" McClay home schooled the nine children at the ranch. She also tended the bees, selling a ton of honey per year. Surplus that was raised, caught or harvested was traded in Allegany or Marshfield for supplies that could not be produced on Elkhorn Ranch.

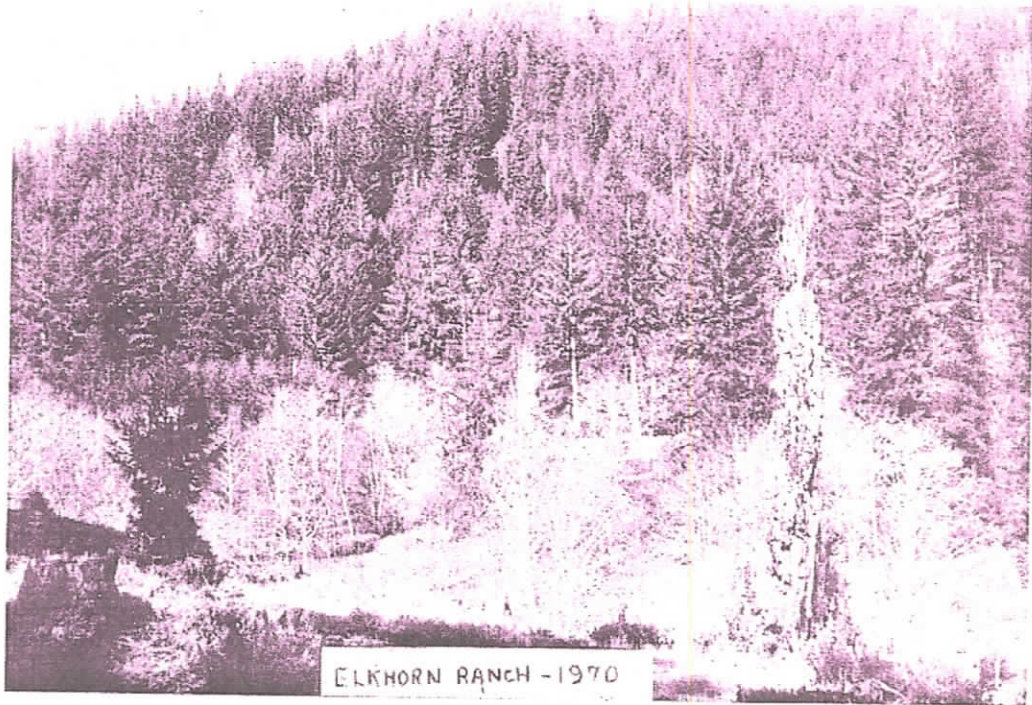
In 1905, George Gould's son, Albert N. (Bert) Gould surveyed T23S, R11W Willamette Meridian; designating the Elkhorn 160 acre homestead and the other three homestead claims of family members. By 1916, the ranch was overtaken by brush, the younger family members had married or gone on to other careers,

and George and wife, Hattie, sold the property and left for California. (Rickard, 108)



Photo: Slattery Collection, Coos Historical and Maritime Museum  
1890 view of Elkhorn Ranch. Photo taken from ridge west of the ranch and the West Fork Millicoma River.

Glae Gould, George Gould's grandson, purchased the property in 1954, with the deed recorded with the Coos County Recorder's office, Volume 235, page 90, Deed #85514 on July 2, 1954. In 1963, Glae, with his sons David and Norman, built four miles of road into the ranch site along the west side of the Millicoma River, beginning at the juncture where Trout Creek enters from the west and Beaver Creek joins the Millicoma from the east.



*The Elkhorn Ranch, located on what is today the Elliott State Forest near Coos Bay, was within the Millicoma Burn. Around the turn of the century (left) the ranch was surrounded by a forest of bleached snags. Eighty years later (above) the same area is shown as a renewed forest.*

Photo: Zybach, Bob, Forest Log, 7

The above photo shows a similar view to the photo of 1890, although the above caption indicated it was on the left in the printed article. The leafless alder are in the back of the area cleared of trees and brush by Glae Gould. The smaller timber in the right background grew after about 1900, when George Gould was still clearing the land.

The photo on the title page taken by George Gould © 1890, was taken from Trail Butte lookout peak looking northeast to the Dean Mountain lookout sight, a distance of seven miles.



Coos Historical & Maritime Museum  
1320 Sherman Avenue  
North Bend, OR 97149  
503-868-0036

Photo: Slattery Collection: Coos Historical & Maritime Museum

(Copy received from museum printed in reverse of ranch layout.)

This view of the ranch is taken from a similar view as the Zybach photo, showing the Elkhorn Ranch, its' many barns and outbuildings, and surrounded by the snags of burned trees. Small alder are visible in both pictures. The home burned in 1935. (McClay, David C., Int.) A number of the trees from the old orchard are still standing to this day. Others have died, provided food and dam material for beaver, or been used for campfires by hunters and campers.

Nature had been at work for many years, in what came to be known as the Elliott State Forest. Including the four known fires (Devine, Delos, Int.), there is record of a naturally occurring land slide in 1894 that created Gould's Lake along Elk Creek.



**1894 Slide on Elk Creek that formed Goulds Lake  
(Elk Lake)**

Photo: Gould, George A. (family archives)

A land slide on Elk Creek in 1894 formed Gould's Lake. The noise from the slide and the family's exploration of the site is noted in Rickard's book sourcing the diary of Oelo McClay while living at Elkhorn. (Rickard, 74)

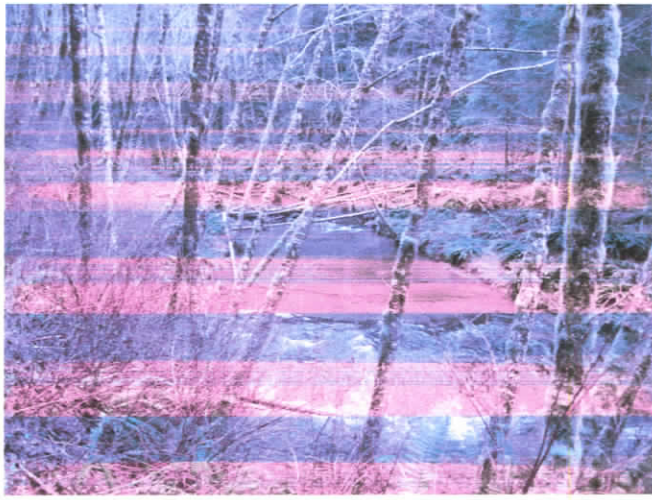
Note the burned snags, downed logs, 40 old year trees, and 6 foot tall naturally occurring reprod. The bigger trees that grew after the fire in 1840 were missed by the fire 1868; and the smaller reprod grew after both fires occurred. Most of the snags are smaller than the snags on the previous photo take in 1890.



Photo: Gould, David, 1/23/2013

From a similar view of the picture taken before 1900, showing the top of the slide has moved upward on the hillside, Elk Creek has filled in with vegetation and brush that survives with "wet roots." Gravel continues to slough into Elk Creek.



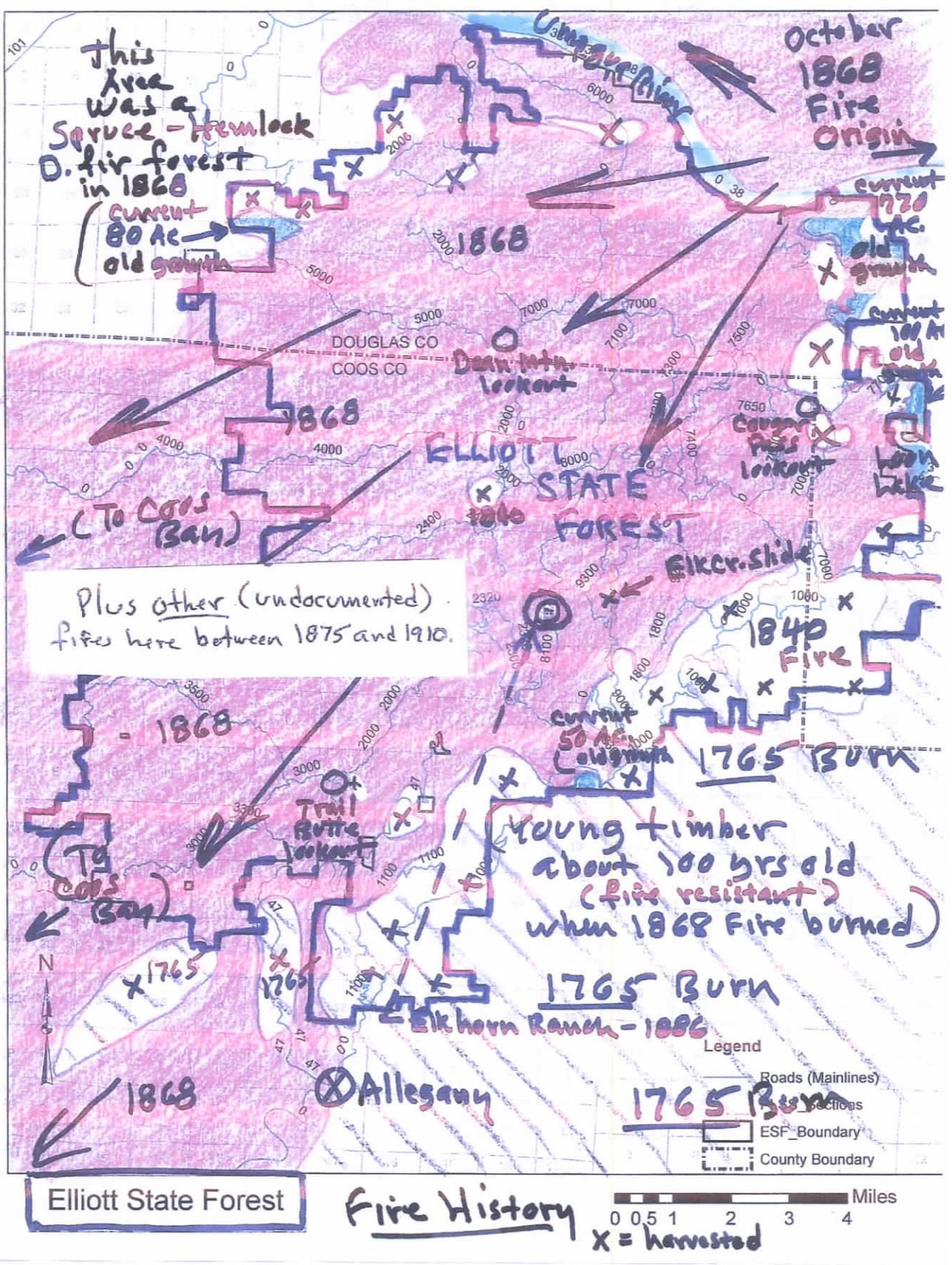


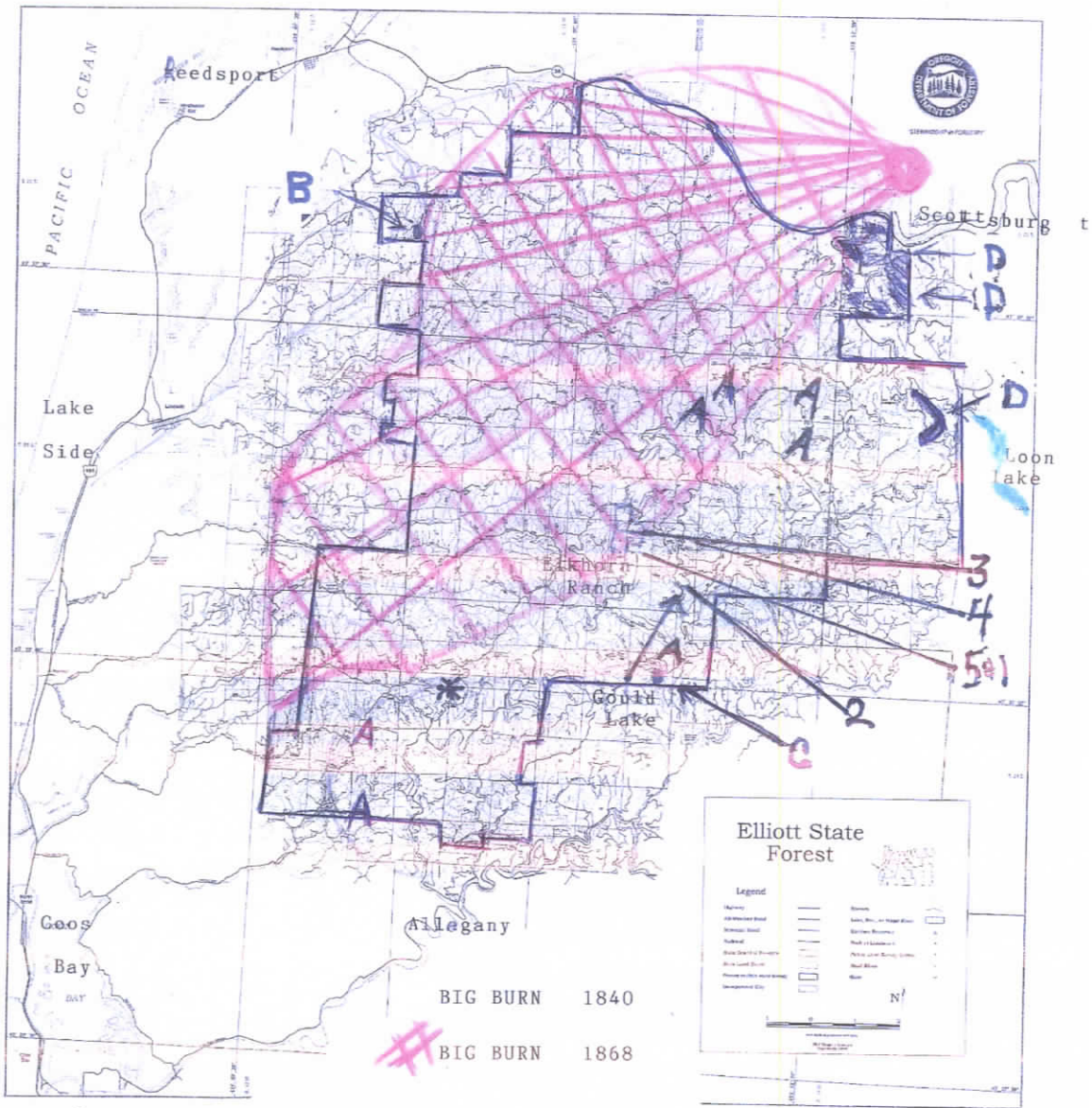
Photos: Gould, David G. 1/23/2013 (above and below)



This natural land slide on upper Elk Creek provides sandstone gravel for the fish spawning beds. The ongoing flow of Elk Creek moves the rock and fine material down river, creating other deposits in the Millicoma River, and the main Coos River as the river carries it into the Pacific Ocean.

This first map of the fires was created by Jerry Phillips, former head forester of the Elliott State Forest.



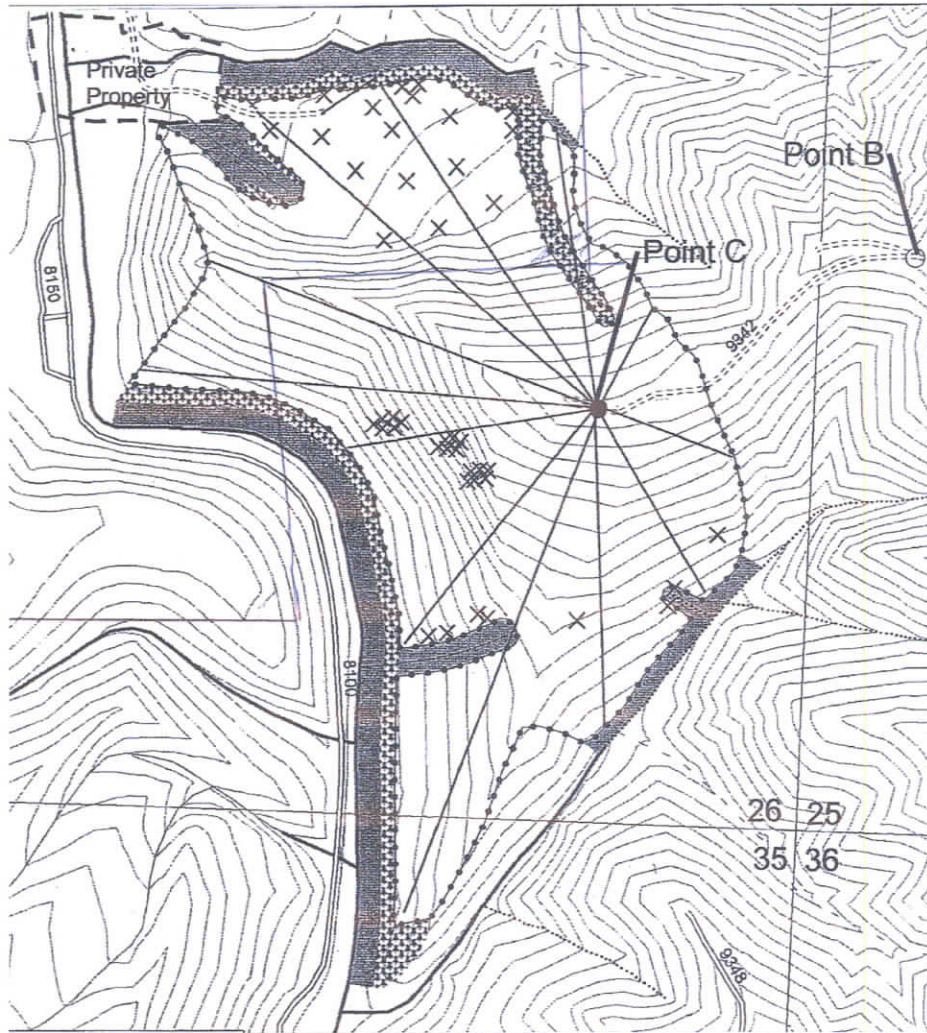


A	OldGrowth Scattered	1	Elkhorn Ranch	1887
B	Old Growth	60 acceas	2 Elk Cr. Slide	1894
C	Old Growth	60 acreas	3 Elkhorn Ranch	1890
D	Old Growth	100 acreas	4 Elkhorn Ranch	1930
*	Old Growth	650 ac.	5 ELKHORN RANCH TIMBER SALE Trail Butte-Title Page photo looking North	2012

Combination SW Oregon Regional Map, Elliott State Forest and area of fires.

Prior to the fires of 1840 (yellow on the map) and 1868 (red ###), there are two other known fires that occurred in the region. In about 1440, a presumed fire on upper Glenn Creek (above Golden and Silver Falls) left few living trees and many old snags. In 1770 a large fire from the east of Glenn Creek burned most of the timber that was standing at that time. (Youst, 184)

The burns of 1840 and 1865 covered approximately 300,000 acres. Jerry Phillips assisted with providing information to create this combination regional/location/fire map. Jerry, who retired from the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) in May 1989 after nineteen years as District Forester of the Elliot State Forest, began working on the Elliot in July of 1956, starting with the first inventory crew following creation of the Elliot State Forest. The 1962 Columbus Day storm was the trigger that put logging in the Elliott State Forest into full speed, as there was so much blow down that needed to be harvested before a bark beetle infestation spread or rot ruined the wood. The Elliott was named for Francis Elliot, State Forester 1911-1930. (Phillips, ii)  
(David Gould; Phillips, Int; Phillips, 7)



LOGGING PLAN  
 OF TIMBER SALE NO.  
 341-10-28  
 ELKHORN RANCH  
 PORTIONS OF SECTIONS  
 26, and 35  
 T23S, R11W, W.M.  
 COOS COUNTY, OREGON

Approx. 94 net acres



The information shown on this map depicts approximate location. Exact locations of features represented by map symbols shall be determined on site and shall depend upon the conditions that exist on site. Activities will be conducted based upon features determined on site rather than features shown on this map.

Site and Logging Plan for the Elkhorn Ranch Timber Sale of 2011.  
 Upper left corner, Private Property, 5 acres owned by Gould Family.  
 Area marked "8150" meadow on West side of Millicoma where Cascadia  
 Forest Defenders campsite was set up.  
 Timber sale boundary outlined by •-•-

This Elkhorn Ranch timber sale was sold to Roseburg Forest Products/Scott Timber. The building and rocking of required roads and landings, was subcontracted by Coos Bay Timber Operators, Inc, a company still owned and controlled by the Gould family. The road, marked with a double-dashed line, numbered the "9342", terminated at the landing (Point C) on the Timber Sale map. The work had been signed off by the engineers who work for the Oregon Department of Forestry, the state agency which manages the Elliott State Forest. The sale was ready for the loggers to move in equipment in the summer of 2011.



Photo: Gould, David G., 2/11/2013

After the logging, this photo was taken from Point C on the map, looking toward the 5 acre Elkhorn Ranch. Newly planted trees, leave trees, and downed woody debris are all visible in this view.

One of many environmental groups, The Cascadia Forest Defenders (CDF) defines themselves on their blog site at “Who Are We?”...as “a grassroots environmental organization committed to stopping the destruction of our sacred and living earth. We organized collective, nonviolent actions to disrupt the ecologically exploitative industrial timber industry and the 1%. We also offer training and resources to other groups working for environmental and social justice.” (Source: <http://www.forestdefensenow.com/p/what-is-cfd.mtml>)

If only they approached their activities from the same standpoint as Matt Kennedy, professor in Animal and Rangeland Sciences at Oregon State University, who teaches a course in Contentious Social Issues in Animal Agriculture. “We educate them (students) to look at the facts before the emotions,” says Kennedy. (Terra, 33)

Some in the Cascadia Forest Defenders group may understand the facts, but many appear to have been told that some of the wild life that live there only live in old growth/ancient forests/or native forests. Earlier published photos, diaries, and records from the past 150 years demonstrate clearly that what is now the Elliott State Forest is a relatively new forest. And if there were no trees from the 1840 to 1900 era, there would have been no trees for said wildlife to live in.

During the summer of 2011, this writer was informed by an employee at the Coos Bay office of the Department of Forestry, which monitors activities of known “Environmental” groups, that protesters were scheduling a gathering on family owned property July 22 through 25, 2011.



The event was no secret. As printed in the Portland Independent Media Center, headlines read “**Directions to Cascadia Forest Defenders Action Camp.**” “This July activists are invited to to (sic) support direct action in defense of a beloved, ancient coastal rainforest, the Elliott State Forest. Under the watchful mismanagement of the Oregon Department of Forestry, timber barons are actively razing this rare, 93,000 acre cathedral of previously untouched wilderness. It’s time for friends of Cascadia to take a stand against the dozens of clearcuts on the table for 2011-2012. Cascadia Forest Defenders Action Camp July 22<sup>nd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> 2011 ... workshops will include: climb trainings, backwoods stealth and evasion, know your rights, and anti-oppression. ...Please come self-sufficient for camping with food and water/water filtration system.”

And the article went on to include specific directions from Eugene, Roseburg or South, and from Coos Bay. Participants were encouraged to ride share, and given contact names and numbers. ([http:// Portland.indy...](http://Portland.indy...))

The CFD writers use a mixed variety of terms to incite support for their causes, but not always accurately. Terms such as old growth, cathedral forest, native forest, ancient coastal rainforest, untouched wilderness, sacred and living earth are sprinkled through their writings, as if they all have the same meaning.

This writer visited the property on Sunday, July 24, 2011, and saw two groups of 25-40 individuals each. The first group, which was gathered at the site marked “8150” on the timber sale map, was asked to clean up any messes when they left and to not bother equipment nearby. During the conversations, it only

seemed to be the few leaders who knew the history of the Elliott; the others appeared to just be there for the camping trip and to learn how to protest.



**ATTENTION**

This is property managed by the Oregon Department of Forestry. You are in an area of an active harvesting operation. This area is not open to the public. Harvesting activities by their nature are dangerous activities and for your safety and the safety of the logging crews, you are not allowed in this area during the period of harvesting activity.

Oregon Department of Forestry  
District: Coos  
Date: 8/4/2011

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The Department of Forestry posted copies of this 8 1/2 x 11" sign along the border of the sale and on Elliott roads nearby.



Law enforcement officers march into the Elliott State Forest to arrest protestors perched in trees. Three were taken into custody this summer including one from Bandon, Emmalynn Lorraine Garrent, age 26.

Photo: Bay Area Police Gazette, Jarvis Communications, September 2011

### 3 arrested in protest of logging

By WINSTON ROSS  
The Register-Guard

COOS BAY — Three people, perched on aerial platforms in two trees, were taken into custody by Oregon State Police troopers and Coos County deputies Thursday afternoon at a logging protest on the Elkhorn Ranch timber sale site, which is part of the Elliott State Forest northeast of Coos Bay.

Arrested were 23-year-old Grace Warner Pettygrove of Eugene, 18-year-old Robert Petersmeyer Oliver of Seattle and 26-year-old Emmalynn Lorraine Garrent of Bandon, police said. Pettygrove was alone on one platform, and Oliver and Garrent were together on a second platform, police said.

The three are affiliated with Cascadia Forest Defenders, said Jason Gonzales, a spokesman for the group. About two dozen protesters blockaded roads and climbed trees to protest what they say amounts to a clear-cut at the Elkhorn site, Gonzales said.

About 20 state police

Turn to PROTEST, Page B3

## Protest: Group says logging is a threat to endangered species

Continued from Page B1

troopers and detectives and 10 Coos County deputies arrived on the scene about noon Thursday, state police said in a statement. Law officers arrived after delivery of a letter Wednesday night from the Department of State Lands advising the protesters that their actions were illegal and that they were to clear the area by noon Thursday, police said.

The three arrested Thursday afternoon were given another opportunity to come down and leave voluntarily, and they agreed to do so about 3:30 p.m., police said.

A boom platform vehicle was used by police to reach the aerial platforms, which were between 70 and 90 feet in the air, police said. The three protesters all climbed higher into their respective trees before they surrendered, police said.

Sheriff's deputies with special training in high-angle rope rescues helped secure one of the platforms, police said. Lakeside Fire & Rescue personnel were waiting near the site in case anyone needed medical care, and a U.S. Coast Guard helicopter was on standby, police said.

The three protesters were interviewed by state police and taken to Coos County Jail on charges of second-degree trespass. No other people were believed to be in the area at that time, police said.

A backhoe was contracted by the state Department of Forestry and brought to

the site to repair roadway damage and clear debris positioned to block access to the protest site.

Unknown individuals dug a trench about 3 feet deep and 2 feet across the width of the roadway, damaging a culvert, police said. Debris left at three protester-constructed road barricades consisted of downed trees, large rocks, dirt and barbed wire, police said.

Gonzales, of Cascadia Forest Defenders, said protesters believe that the proposed logging over 86 acres is a threat to endangered species, including the marbled murrelet and northern spotted owl. The State Land Board is considering a management plan for the forest that Gonzales said would increase the number of acres to be clear-cut from 500 to 850. Some of the trees are in parts of a native forest that have never been logged, he said.

In July 2009, protesters affiliated with the same group blockaded roads to the Elliott State Forest, halting logging for about five days.

In all, 27 people were arrested in connection with that event and 22 were charged with crimes including criminal trespass; many paid small fines or agreed to do community service.

"That's really one of our goals, to get people to bring attention to these issues," Gonzales said. "We're trying to put pressure on the state now, specifically the Oregon Department of Forestry."

News Story: Eugene Register Guard: Ross, Winston, July 29, 2011

Immediately following the action camp of the CFD, their participants went into the forest to practice their climb trainings and backwoods stealth and evasion, as evidenced by a few of the news photos and stories above.

Cascadia Forest Defenders utilizes manipulative and inflammatory information to mislead and misinform the public about the “defense of a beloved, ancient, coastal rainforest,” or the “...acre cathedral of previously untouched wilderness.” They seem to change the definition of what they are defending to suit their needs or the time. Their definitions do not match what exists.

To quote from their website, “What do you mean by a ‘native’ forest?” “We use the term “native forest to describe wild lands that have never been logged, mined or developed. Other folks may use the terms ‘virgin,’ ‘original,’ ‘ancient,’ or ‘intact.’ The coast has been even harder hit by industrial logging than other regions of the Pacific Northwest. By some estimates, less than three percent of the coast range is native.”

(<http://www.forestdefensenow.com/p/elliott-rainforest.html>).

This quote is contrary to what is known to be true about the history of the Elliott. A species of tree that is replanted in the area where it once grew, or any other tree that grows there naturally, becomes “native.” After the fires burned the “virgin” timber, the forest reseeded and grew again. An “intact” forest would never have a limb break from wind, have leaves eaten by animals, or tree roots washed out by flooding rain storms.



Photo: website: ibid

The photo above was being arranged when this author arrived at work. The man at the far end of the log was standing down slope and in a depression while the photographer was very close to the butt of the log. Their writer claims the tree is old growth, when in fact the tree is only 30" in diameter and no more than 125 years old. The standard definition of old growth used to be 300 plus years old and 6 feet or more in diameter.



Photo: Glae Gould © 1952

Clarence Gould with Grandson, David Gould (age 10), standing in front of an old growth fir tree, felled in the low saddle draw at the head of Kentucky Creek. The tracked logging arch is currently in the Oregon Coast Historical Railroad Museum yard in Coos Bay.

The following newspaper editorial that appeared in THE WORLD presents a concise summary of the activities of the Cascadia Forest Defenders during the one to two weeks their members were visiting the south coast. As a result of these protests, the ODF gated off several roads in the Elliott over the Labor Day weekend, requiring campers to hike and transport their gear nearly five miles into the Elkhorn Ranch area. Although there were camping areas next to the Millicoma River that were easily accessible by hiking, their preferred sites were the sunny meadow and the private land further up river.

ODF issued a news release that “temporary road gating restrictions within the Elliott State Forest starting September 2, 2011,” were “to improve public safety for all forest users within the Elliott..., and to ensure the State’s ability to meet contractual obligations for timber sale harvests”. ...and for “reducing potential conflicts from vehicles encountering heavy equipment, log trucks and other traffic associated with timber sale activities on narrow forest roads. (<http://mgx.com/blogs/2011/09/03/labor-day-campers-locked-out-of-the-elliott-forest-by-odf/>)

# OPINION

## Forest protesters play risky games

### Our view

Blame radical protesters, not state officials, for inconvenient road closures.

### What do you think?

The World welcomes letters. E-mail us at [letters@theworldink.com](mailto:letters@theworldink.com).

### Editorial board

**Publisher and Editor**  
Clark Walworth  
**News Editor**  
Ron Jackimowicz

The radical anti-logging crowd won a small, pointless skirmish last week, using obstructionist tactics designed to taunt and embarrass state forestry officials. Officials can only grit their teeth and stay focused on serving taxpayers.

The Cascadia Forest Defenders is a fringe environmental group dedicated to juvenile, publicity-generating misbehavior. Though they portray themselves as peaceful protesters, they're more like sanctimonious bullies. They impede other people's livelihoods by

perching in trees, damaging roads and stringing cables in logging areas. Then they howl indignantly when authorities make them leave.

Heaven forbid their risky antics get one of them killed. Loggers and state officials will be branded as assassins.

Cascadia's small victory involved some overreaching by the state Department of Forestry. Officials had served protesters with "cease and desist" orders, evicting them from certain logging areas in the Elliott State Forest. But the woods belong to all Oregonians, and the state

can't arbitrarily kick certain Oregonians out.

Chided by the state Justice Department, forestry officials retreated, briefly. They found a new approach on Friday, closing nearly a fifth of the Elliott's roads to vehicle traffic. A Cascadia spokeswoman predictably decried the closures as an attack on free speech and public access. Don't be surprised if some sort of legal challenge follows.

Roping off big chunks of state forest is regrettable. But let's be clear about who brought the rope.

The Elliott's legal mission is to generate timber revenue for Oregon schools. To carry out that mission, state officials must conduct timber sales and make sure they're carried out safely. Closing roads is a necessary response to the protesters' reckless gamesmanship.

Hunters and other recreationists who are inconvenienced by the closure should blame Cascadia, not the state. If Cascadia's leaders want their fellow citizens' support, they should understand this nonsense isn't helping.

Editorial: THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore, Sept. 5, 2011

The Oregon Department of Forestry manages The Elliott State Forest, with proceeds from it designated for the common school funds. The department has biologists, engineers, foresters, archaeologists, silviculturists, fire protection employees and many other department staff, all highly trained to do their jobs. They hire contractors to pre-thin, thin, and rotate areas of cutting. They issue sales only after each listed species has been inventoried. They follow the Oregon Forest Practices Act of 1972, alternating cutting areas, saving a certain number of trees and downed logs for habitat enhancement. They won't allow tree cutting within 50 feet of streams and stagger cutting areas near roads

and highways. Every timber sale is required to be reforested within three years with at least 300 seedlings per acre survival rate, five years post harvest. With over a half million dollars spent yearly tracking and protecting the Marbled Murrelet and the Northern Spotted Owl, the Department of Forestry also is engaged in administering the Federal Endangered Species Act of 1992.

Further research concerning the Marbled Murrelet indicates that in Alaska, the seabird is found to nest in great numbers on tundra and on the ground. They nest in large trees in northern California; and in trees and on rock outcrops where the two areas blend together in the Coast Range of Washington and Oregon. (Marbled Murrelet, Wikipedia)

The extent of the four forest fires over the 400 year period would have devastated the habitat of the Marbled Murrelet on a regular basis. It is only to be assumed that the birds would have nested on the ground or somewhere else after each forest fire.

Several categories of watershed restoration projects have been coordinated in the Elliott. Riparian, instream, upland, road, and fish passage projects have all been conducted in the forest since the mid-1990's. "During the period of 1995-2011, approximately \$3.7 million was spent on 255 projects on the Elliott. Of this total, approximately 1.3 million was in grants from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, 1.3 million was from ODF cash funding and 1.1 million was from in-kind services or materials (non-cash)." (Smith,Randy, Feb. 2013)





Photo: Gould, David G., 1/13/2013

The fish ladder on Elk Creek was constructed in the early 1970's.

“Fish Passage Improvement projects involved upgrading culverts to larger sizes and in some cases adding weirs and/or internal baffles to facilitate passage; in two cases, a culvert was replaced with a bridge. Four fish culverts that presented passage barrier were also removed during two road decommissionings. Two projects consisted of improvements to the Elk Creek fish ladder.” (Smith, Randy, Feb. 2013)

Coos Forest Protective Association, a private non-profit organization funded by forest landowners in the district, has been actively involved in prevention and control of forest and wild-land fires in this region since 1920. During the Depression era of the 1930's, members of the Civilian Conservation Corps (the CCC's) built many of the fire trails, truck roads and look-out towers in the Elliott.

Environmental groups only look at what they don't like about clear cuts (harvesting all the timber on a tract). (Beckham, 186) What many fail to recognize is that a clear cut provides similar benefits to a controlled burn, except there is no fire to go beyond the boundaries of the clear cut and the wood products may be utilized at a profit. By studying previous fires, their causes, and the types of forest they burned in, foresters found that clear cuts break up the canopy of the forest, preventing a crown fire and deterring an east wind that pushes the fires great distances,

The Elliott State Forest is currently being held hostage by groups trying to protect endangered species, and stop any logging for their personal reasons. Their goals have become a manifesto of demands for the State Land Board and the Oregon Department of Forestry as outlined in their web page at (<http://www.forestdefensenow.com>)

- “1. Cease all logging of native forests on public land in Oregon.
2. Put a moratorium on all logging and road construction in the Elliott State Forest.
3. Halt the export of raw logs from all Oregon forest, public or private.
4. Reject the Oregon Department of Forestry's 2011 Implementation Plan for the Elliott State Forest.
5. Stop the use of herbicides and the slaughter of the native mountain beaver.”

This author logged his own tree farm and hired Professional Reforestation

to trap mountain beaver before reforestation in 2008-09. During an eighteen month period, 377 mountain beaver (boomers) were caught in an area of 66 acres near the head of Kentuck Inlet valley.

Oregon agencies have been doing what they can to manage and to protect the environment and still produce school funds. They are mandated by law to generate school funds for the children of Oregon.

The Elkhorn Ranch timber sale provided a net of \$1,353,319.28 to the Common School Fund (public record), in addition to providing jobs for many local people.

Clear cutting is a logging method that has been used since the 1920's; but it was only since the 1970's that anyone observed or identified the Marbled Murrelet in the Elliott. Following enactment of the Federal Endangered Species Act, the state has monitored and worked around the birds nesting areas. Restricted operating hours and days in the woods has not decreased the number of birds counted.

Scientific fact and common sense must to be used to determine the best use of the forests. This paper begins and ends with fires and how the opinions of different groups sway policy moving forward. Commercially, the business opinion is that the forest is a place to be managed like a crop; emotionally, the environmentalists consider that all trees in the forest be treated as "native" and should never be touched, seen, or exploited. But by their own definitions, no one should ever be allowed to go into a forest to hike, take pictures, or experience the senses found in nature.

Fire was here before people. Whole populations have been forced to relocate due to catastrophic fires or other natural events. The very few remaining old growth (indicated on the map of the Elliott) survived the major fires of the 1840 and 1868 eras. To allow the Elliott to completely re-grow to a forest of fully mature trees could bring the area between the Umpqua and Coos Rivers full circle, creating conditions that would allow a random spark or lightning strike to burn the forest all the way to the Coos Bay estuary.

## NOTES

I am a fourth generation Gould family member of the Elkhorn Ranch. And the fifth and sixth generations are set to inherit the property.

In 1966, I graduated from Oregon State University with a B.S in the School of Science with a Major in Natural Resources and a Minor in Geology.

I began working beside my Grandfather Clarence Gould, and father, Glae Gould in the logging industry when I was ten years old; and have nearly sixty years of experience working in the woods operating heavy equipment, logging, lumber milling, mining and rock crushing and rock trucking. The company, Coos Bay Timber Operators, Inc. started by my father and uncle is now being run by my son.

I recommend that anyone interested in reading about forest fires, refer to this book in the Southwestern Oregon Community College library entitled "Fires in the Forest," by Peter A. Thomas and Robert S. McAlpine, published in 2010. It is a must read publication about fire, the causes, how they burn, fire ecology, fire suppression, and management.



Photo: Coos Historical and Maritime Museum

Pub: Lansing, William A.

- “The Kentuck School. Mr. Willis Neely was the teacher and is shown on the back left. He received his Oregon teaching certificate before his 16<sup>th</sup> birthday in June 1886.” Standing trees were spared by the fire of 1868; and bigger logs were burned and/or blown over following the 1868 fire. The young standing trees in the back grew after the fire.
- The original school was located at the juncture of the current Mettman and Kentuck Way Lanes, near the start of Schoolhouse Lane.
-



Photo: Coos Historical and Maritime Museum  
Published: Lansing, William A.

Picture taken in the early 1900's of the Templeton Schoolhouse, built southeast of Lakeside by farmers and loggers in the Templeton Valley. Snags in the background were killed by the fire of 1868.

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**MAPS and SIGNS**

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**PHOTOGRAPHS**

Title page	Forest © 1890	Gould, George A.
P. 4	Elkhorn Ranch © 1890	Slattery Collection: Coos Historical & Maritime Museum
P. 5	Elkhorn Ranch 1970	Zybach, Bob
P. 6	Elkhorn Ranch © 1900-1915	Slattery Collection: Coos Historical

- P. 7 Elk Creek landslide 1894 Gould, George A.
- P. 8 Elk Creek landslide 2013 Gould, David G.  
And Elk Creek salmon spawning area
- P. 9 Elk Creek salmon beds 2013 Gould, David G.
- P.13 Elkhorn Ranch sale 2013 Gould, David G.  
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- P. 19 anonymous. <http://www.forestdefensenow.com/p/elliott-rainforest.html>.
- P. 19 Old Growth, Clarence and David Gould © 1953  
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- P. 23 Elk Creek Fish Ladder 2013 David G. Gould
- P. 29 Kentuck Inlet School Coos Historical and Maritime Museum
- P. 30 Templeton School Coos Historical and Maritime Museum

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