

# 2018 ELLIOTT STATE FOREST RECREATION PLAN W/RECOMMENDATIONS

## April 17, 2018 Elliott History Field Trip

Jerry Phillips and David Gould will host this introductory “Elliott Forest History” tour, with topics including land ownership, forest management, fire history, road and trail maintenance costs, seasonal camping opportunities, etc. This is one of the two (of six total) planned tours which are primarily “windshield cruises” of the Forest’s landscape, its history, and access and egress conditions and locations affecting local recreational opportunities.

The 4-hour tour is comprised of 10 locations, seven of which are “rolling stops” and map orientation at key roadway locations, and three are “brief stops” at potential recreational developments (marked with an \*):

**1. Entrance to Elliott Forest from Larson Slough:** Note Weyerhaeuser lands to the south, and again between Stops 8 and 9 on North Marlow (“1000”) Road. Aesthetics? Interpretation?

**2. Trail Butte:** Ancient, historical, and current road and trail crossroads; note wildflowers.

**3. Elkhorn Ranch Pack Trail:** Road and trail routes to Loon Lake, Scottsburg, Elkton, Tenmile, Winchester Bay, and Allegany.

**\*4. Fishing Camp:** Popular West Fork Millicoma seasonal fishing location, Douglas fir plantation. *[2:30/90 minute arrival from SWOCC?]*

**\*5. Elkhorn Ranch:** Private property, “mud runners,” elk hunters, and Forest history. *[20 minutes to Stop 6]*

**\*6. Heritage Grove:** Land ownership, name, fire history; Silver Creek Falls trail; landscape maintenance. *[Leave 3:45 to 4:00 for 5:00 SWOCC arrival]*

**7. Indian Trail Spring:** Ancient camping spot and trail use, modern opportunities.

**8. North Marlow Ridge Clearcut:** Old cat roads for recreation? Aesthetics?

**9. Marlow Creek Channel Cut:** Fish enhancement? Access road condition, economics (maintenance vs. repair).

**10. Boehner Logging Camp:** Pre-WW II railroad logging community. Interpretation?

**1868 Coos Fire:** [http://www.orww.org/Elliott\\_Forest/History/Plummer\\_19121023.pdf](http://www.orww.org/Elliott_Forest/History/Plummer_19121023.pdf)

**Elliott History:** [http://www.orww.org/Elliott\\_Forest/History/Phillips/Phillips\\_1998-201.pdf](http://www.orww.org/Elliott_Forest/History/Phillips/Phillips_1998-201.pdf)

**Elkhorn Ranch:** [http://www.orww.org/Elliott\\_Forest/History/Gould/Rickard\\_19820402.pdf](http://www.orww.org/Elliott_Forest/History/Gould/Rickard_19820402.pdf)





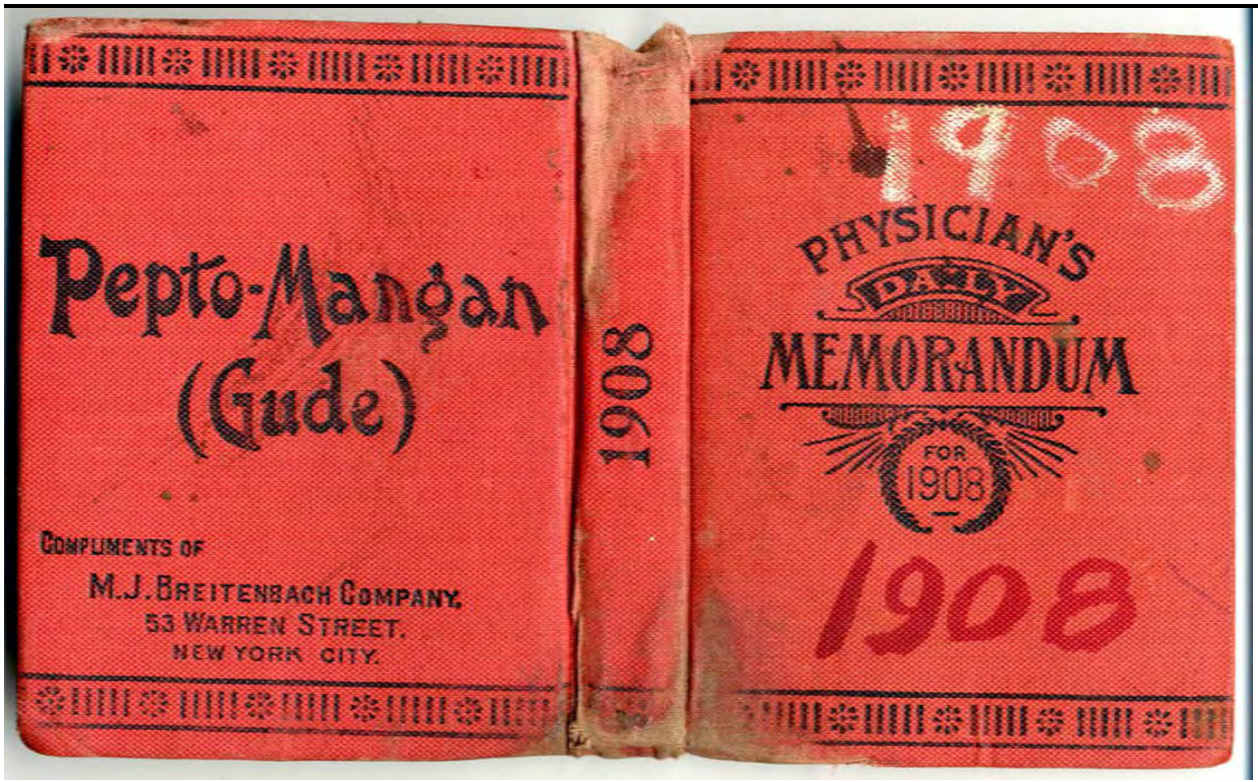




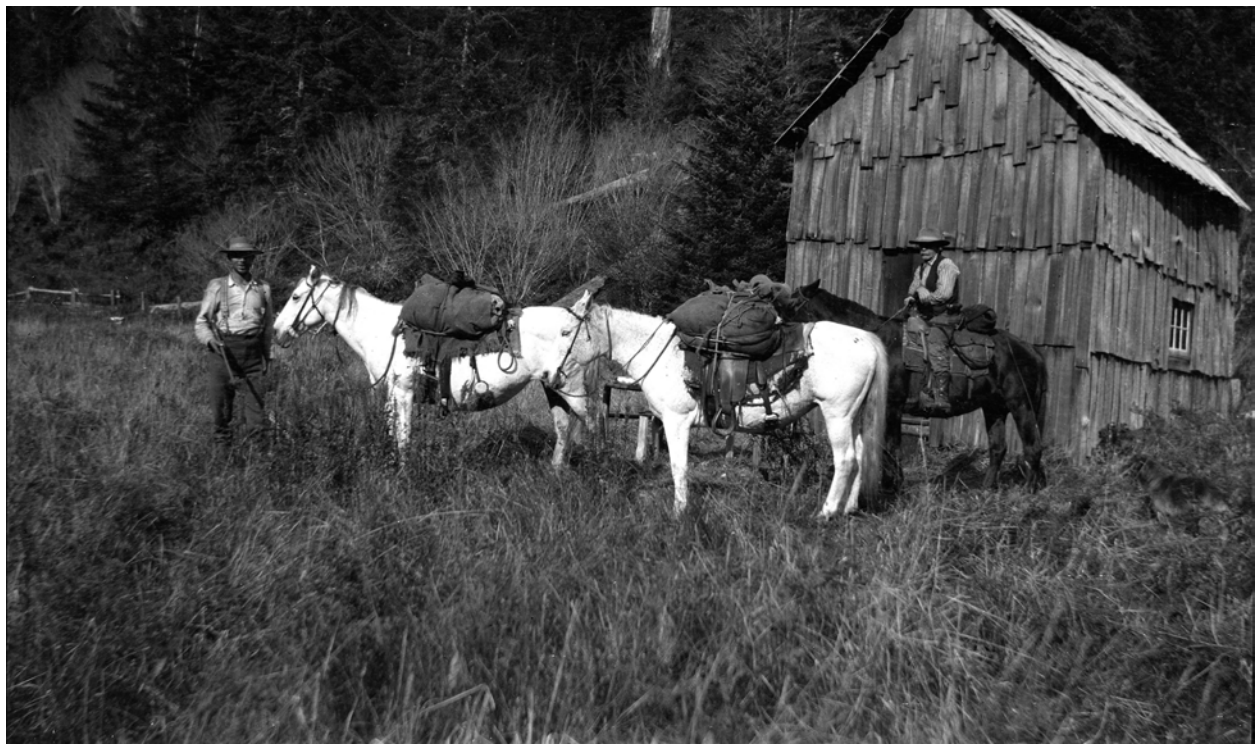




Gould Family, Front of old-house 1886 Elkhorn









*One of our land exchanges with Weyerhaeuser gave us the opportunity to enlarge our 10 acres of old-growth fir remaining in the NE 1/4 of Sec. 12, 24/11 to 50 acres, and to create what we called the Silver Creek Heritage Grove — with a beautiful stand of 220-year-old Douglas-fir and a hemlock understory. It lies at the end of our 1440 Road, a rockied public access. As I write this, the 50 acres has a value of about \$4 million, but we have classified it as for scenic values only and have withdrawn it from the Elliott Forest production land base. —Photos by Author, 1988.*



junction with the Coos River State Highway. With a Columbia River Scaling Bureau scaler working there, and with our Department having a man on the Bureau's Board of Directors, we could feel pretty secure in the accountability of the log flow.

And so it was that we **did** sell on recovery, although the Department's basic concerns prevented any other sale from being sold that way on the Forest until 1963, when the disastrous Columbus Day Windstorm damage forced us to convert to that system nearly everywhere. (And, because of its inherent advantages, the Elliott Forest continued with that system for the following 27 years, for almost all clear-cut sales.)

Fortunately, one company did decide to take the risk, and bought North Marlow Ridge No. 1 — for the appraised price of \$8.05/Mbf for the Douglas fir, and \$2.00/Mbf for the hemlock. If one assumes a road project cost of around \$93,000 (I'm guessing) that would come out to about \$6.20/M against all of the Douglas fir — and work out to a value of some \$14.25/M for the fir before road costs. Actual appraisal costs showed a **negative** value for the hemlock, but we simply "assigned" a value of \$2.00/M for it, and required it to be removed. This was standard practice in those days.

The buyer was the Al Peirce Company, which had a fine sawmill and planer, and was blessed with high caliber management and contractors. With Jim Whitty, Sr. as the Company's chief official and with Boyd Arnot as its Logging Manager, we had an excellent partner in the accomplishment of that large timber sale project.



*View of North Marlow Ridge Sale No. 1 in 1961 following a slash burn. Note heavy tractor yarding, which would not be permitted today. Aerial seeding followed. —Photo by Author.*



Boyd Arnot built the road pretty much by himself during 1958, and then brought in the logging partnership of “Dugan” Harrington and Mike Ray, from the Bandon area, to do the logging — in 1959 and 1960. 1959 was just prior to the advent of steel yarding towers in Coos County, and so each high-lead spartree had to be topped and rigged. At least one (for the middle landing on top) had to also be dragged into place and raised prior to rigging. But “Dugan” enjoyed the topping of spartrees very much; it was almost fun for him.



*This is the same sale area from the same photo point (as the picture on the preceding page) 27 years later. Interplanting and pre-commercial thinning both occurred in some places, during those 27 years.  
—Photo taken author in 1988.*

When one looks at this sale area today, and realizes that nearly half of it was **cat logged**, it seems amazing. Today we would not permit that much soil to be disturbed, but we were still learning then, and allowed the seven landings to be yarded pretty much as the operator wished.

For many years, the North Marlow Ridge No. 1 sale area was the first one viewed by all touring groups, and each would stop and comment on its appearance. Following a general slash burn, we had aerial seeded the 230 acres, then followed up some years later with a little interplanting in some “skip” spots. But the seed we used was not “certified.” (In those days, none of it was.) By that, I mean that we could not be sure of its source. From the slow rate of growth by the seedlings I feel sure that it was, to some degree, “off site” seed. No doubt, over the years, some “naturals” also came to grow in the sale unit, owing to the abundant nearby seed sources on high ground.



employee in Coos County and who passed away in about 1994, told me that early in his career — when the Buehner firm started to work on Marlow Creek — his job was to go on up the Creek, ahead of the logging, and arrange to buy the timber for them. In so doing, he visited many property corners and had a good memory for them. He was the man I went to in order to certify an affidavit for our restoration of the quarter corner between Sections 32 and 33 (24/11). He had been there when the logging was done, and remembered the spot for that corner!

Buehner's first camp was approximately in the center of the NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 33, and the photo of that camp is on the next page. Somewhere around forty men, plus the women cooks, worked out of that camp. The railroad ran down to near the Allegany Store, where they splashed the logs into the river.

Much of the logging was done by means of various "inclines" — which were short rail spurs running up the steep side slopes, with the loaded rail cars being let down by cable from steam-powered equipment. Our "Y" Creek in Section 21 actually should be spelled "Wye" Creek, from the railroad wye that ran a spur up that side draw to a landing at the foot of an "incline."

The company was also known later as Buehner and Stout.



*Buehner Lumber Company's first logging camp on Marlow Creek.  
Location approximately SW  $\frac{1}{4}$  NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 33 24/11 — date circa 1917.  
(Kinsey photo, by permission, Douglas County Museum)*