

Clatsop State Forest Land Exchange Plan Available For Comment

The Astoria District of the Department of Forestry has developed a land exchange plan for their lands in Clatsop County.

The plan came before the Board of Forestry for review in January, and will return to them in March. There is a brief window available to learn more about the plan and to provide comments to the Board and to the Department of Forestry (after Board review, the plans move to the Department for approval).

The plan identifies potential parcels to acquire and to trade away. None of the parcels identified are currently part of a proposed land exchange, but the plan does show a variety of potential parcels that the Department of Forestry could trade or acquire over time. An actual change would require various factors, including a willing negotiating partner and, depending on the transaction, availability of funding.

When a specific exchange is proposed, there will be other public processes before it could be completed.

Because the plan is a long-range look at the possibilities, it lists more exchanges than would likely occur within the next 10 years. Trading some of the parcels on the state forest would certainly draw controversy, especially if they were traded to private timber companies which often limit access, use more pesticides, and are required to follow lower environmental standards than state forest lands.

For example:

- Parcel 19 is 390 acres of uplands and tidelands along the Columbia River, including two bald eagle nests. It is described on page 19 with a map on page 64.
- Parcel 27 is over 1700 acres in size and includes a long section of riverfront along the Columbia River between Aldrich Point and Bradwood. The parcel is suggested for trade to a private timberland investment organization. The parcel is described on page 22 with a map on page 65.
- Parcel 127 is along Highway 101 and includes a Marbled Murrelet Management Area to protect older forest with habitat for a rare seabird, the murrelet, which is listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. The parcel is described on page 59 with a map on page 73.

[Click here to download the plan](#) and [click here to submit comments via email](#). *Comments can be submitted until March 5th.*

If you have questions, please contact:

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To contact the North Coast State Forest Coalition for more information, [email Chris Smith](#).

