



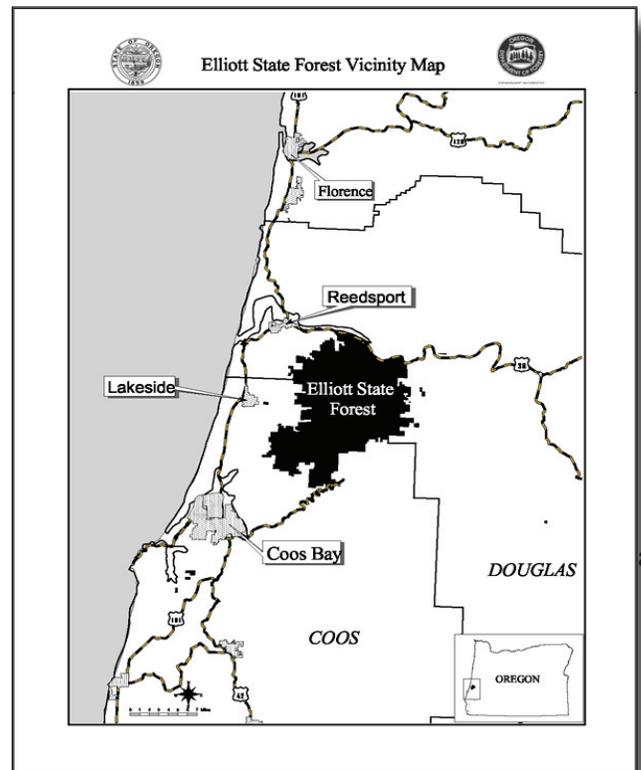
# Siuslaw National Forest Fun Facts

July 7, 2008

## Today's Elloitt State Forest ~ The Millacoma Tract Exchange

If you are a frequent traveler in Oregon and a fan of map and land ownership patterns you have probably noticed a State ownership pattern of sections 16 and 36 across much of our landscape. At the time the Oregon Territory became a state, the federal government granted two sections in every township to the state to finance schools. The term "School Section" is common among land surveyors, foresters and land management agencies.

By the early 1900's the state had sold many of the more valuable sections to build schools and hire teachers statewide. Two patterns developed, one of scattered school sections within the newly established National Forests in the uplands of Oregon and another of school sections scattered across the arid high desert of eastern Oregon. Forward thinkers in state government and the national forests devised a plan to create a land exchange to block up a manageable forest area for the state while eliminating the mixed ownership with the Oregon national forest boundaries. After much inventory and timber cruising work across the remote lands over several years (take a look at a 1920's map of Oregon's National Forests to see how access roads existed), block of the Siuslaw National Forest in Coos and Douglas counties commonly call the Millacoma Tract was determined to be of near equal value.



In April of 1927 the land exchange became reality and with a couple of minor exceptions all Siuslaw National Forest lands south of the Umpqua River were traded to the State for scattered sections 16 and 36 within several National Forests in Oregon. This exchange was about one-half the remaining school sections across Oregon. Most of the remaining lower valued sections are still in state ownership in eastern Oregon.



Francis Elliott  
State Forester 1911-1930

Elliott State Forest was named for Francis Elliott, State Forester, who was instrumental in the exchange. It took several years after the April 1927 presidential proclamation setting aside the Siuslaw lands for exchange to complete the title and deed transfers, unfortunately Francis Elliot did not live to see the final details completed in 1930.