



Rockaway Beach Citizens for Watershed Protection

March 2018

"We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect."
Aldo Leopold - A Sand County Almanac

Rockaway Beach Citizens for Watershed Protection Introduces First Newsletter

Rockaway Beach Citizens for Watershed Protection (RBCWP) is happy to introduce you to our first newsletter. Since 2012, RBCWP has been an active voice in Coast communities, advocating for clean air and water. We began as a group of citizens who were very concerned about clearcutting of forestland and, in particular, aerial spraying in the Jetty Creek Watershed, the source of surface drinking water for Rockaway Beach.

The Conservation Director of Oregon Wild, Steve Pedery, sent the following message: "On behalf of Oregon Wild, I would like to express my strong appreciation of, and support for, the Rockaway Beach Citizens for Watershed Protection (RBCWP). Their work to protect and restore Jetty Creek, to educate citizens about the connections between forest practices and drinking water, and to advocate for reforms in forest practices that protect fish, wildlife, and clean drinking water on the North Coast is vital both to ensuring healthy, sustainable human communities and to restoring and protecting Oregon's forests, salmon, and wildlife."



For 2018, RBCWP will focus on what we are best at : Educational events, being a "watchdog," and utilizing our partnerships with other organizations. Here are two upcoming events: 1. An educational hike this spring into the Jetty Creek Watershed with the foresters Trygve Steen and Ben Hayes; 2. A summer Weekend Community Educational Watershed Forum, pulling together citizens from all the Coast communities surrounding us.

Save Short Sands Campaign



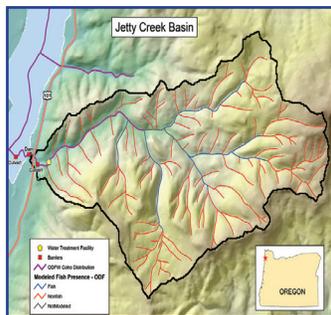
Rockaway Beach Citizens for Watershed Protection launched the Save Short Sands campaign after learning that the area surrounding Oswald West State Park and Short Sands Beach was scheduled to be clearcut and aerially sprayed with a mix of toxic herbicides. These herbicides, sprayed from a helicopter, can easily drift into the State park and wash into the streams that flow to Short Sands Beach, one of the most heavily used beaches in the entire state. While legal in Oregon, forest practices of clearcutting and spraying after each cut without notifying the public has significant negative impacts on coastal communities; exposing local residents and visitors to known carcinogens, damaging local drinking water, and destroying habitat for fish and other wildlife. The campaign is focused on raising awareness of impacts of Oregon's clearcut logging practices in an effort to require public notification of spraying events. There is community interest in the campaign. We look forward to continuing to engage with residents, businesses, and visitors. [Read more](#)

Forest Stewardship Council Certification (FSC)

FSC is an international non-profit working with social, environmental, and economic organizations the world over. FSC certification provides forest owners opportunity to build on a rigorous set of standards, which include the protection of source water areas. In many cases, the forest certification can help owners manage with an eye toward healthier forests, ecosystems, habitats, socially-responsible practices, and economic growth. This encourages responsible use of renewable resources.

In our region, we have a number of FSC-certified drinking watersheds, including the City of Astoria's Bear Creek Watershed. Consulting Forester Ben Hayes says that the FSC certification through the Northwest Natural Resources Group has been important in terms of setting forest practices and engaging with the public. [Read more](#)

Envisioning a New Future for Jetty Creek Watershed



In 2017, we began to dig deeper into some key questions about the future of Jetty Creek as a watershed. After extensive timber harvesting, is it still viable as a long-term supply of clean and abundant drinking water? Can all or part of the watershed become a community forest protected, restored, and managed

for values beyond industrial forestry? Can we create a coalition of partners to collaboratively finance and govern those protections? These are challenging, but exciting questions! We are in the early stages of exploring these and other questions with Sustainable Northwest and the owner of the lower half of the watershed ([GreenWood Resources](#)). We began meetings in 2017 and expect to continue throughout 2018. So far, we've started on a baseline watershed analysis and a feasibility study to weigh several options under a community forest model. Our thanks to Nancy Webster, Sharon Smith, and Steve Perry for leading this effort on behalf of RBCWP!

Sustainable Northwest & Northwest Community Forest Initiative

Sustainable Northwest received a grant from Meyer Memorial Trust to support the Northwest Community Forest Coalition and core partners. Our group, Rockaway Beach Citizens for Watershed Protection is one of the partners in the grant and will receive grant funding for 2018-2019. In addition to Sustainable Northwest, core partners in the grant include:



- Northwest Community Forest Coalition
- Ecotrust
- North Coast Land Conservancy
- The Climate Trust
- Pinchot Institute

RBCWP will work with partners to assess the conditions and vulnerability of the Jetty Creek Watershed, expand public awareness and outreach to local residents and partners, provide training and education in Rockaway Beach to develop community capacity, technical skills and management strategies to preserve the health and viability of the Jetty Creek watershed. Read more about [Sustainable Northwest](#).

For too long, Oregonians have tolerated shameful logging practices in our forests

Something has to change! Please sign [petition](#)

Upcoming Events in March

The work of [Oregon Wild](#) to reform the Oregon Forest Practices Act will be highly visible in the month of March including 3 Portland events. Contact Jason Gonzales JG@oregonwild.org

March 2018:

All aboard the [Clear-Cut](#) Express

Oregon Wild hopes its bold new ad campaign will remind Portlanders that clearcutting is still rampant in the state

Tuesday - March 20th - 5-7pm

Join Oregon Wild in Portland for a rally outside the Oregon Convention Center at the upcoming Mass Timber Conference

Wednesday - March 21st - 6-8pm

Responsible Forestry Forum - Ecologically and Socially Responsible Forestry and Why it Matters

Spirit of 77 | 500 NE Martin Luther King | Portland | 5:30pm

Upcoming Events in May

[Community Forest Forum](#) — Astoria May 2018

Rockaway Beach Citizens for Watershed Protection

Goals: To educate citizens about the connection between forest practices and the quality of their air and water
To advocate for forest practices that will ensure clean air and water. To support communities working to protect their watershed

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