

“Water is the most critical resource of our lifetime and our children’s lifetime.
The health of our waters is the principal measure of how we live on the land” —Luna Leopold

Great News on the Future of Nedonna Marsh and Woods



Nurse logs in the driftwood graveyard, one of Nedonna Marsh's unique areas.

Mr. Loren Parks has donated his portion of the Nedonna Marsh to the Tillamook County Pioneer Museum. Friends of Nedonna Marsh (FNM) has been working with Gary Albright, director of the museum, to develop a plan for acquiring the Parks donation and assuring its preservation. FNM will continue to work with him to develop a long-term stewardship strategy. This achievement is the result of the dedication of a number of people. The future of the Marsh will depend on the commitment and generosity of its friends.

This donation preserves for public access this special part of Oregon adjacent to the Nehalem Bay south jetty. It's an intact remnant representative of the Coast before widespread development. Within this area is a saltwater marsh, a spruce and willow wetland, and a dune area with many native plants. Coyotes, river otters, deer, and other wildlife make this area home, and migratory birds use it to rest and refuel. Two salmon-bearing creeks, Jetty and McMillan, flow through the estuary into Nehalem Bay.

The Pioneer Museum and FNM will host a party to celebrate! We hope you can attend.

Get involved to keep Nedonna Marsh wild.

Visit: www.friendsofnedonnamarsh.org | Email: nedonnamarsh@gmail.com

When the Fish Can't Breathe — *by Gwendolyn Endicott*

I have always had a creek in my life. It seems like a soul necessity. Everyday life then becomes woven with the life of the creek and conversations are interspersed with creek references: “the creek is high,” or “let’s go down to the creek” or “the salmon are running.”

When I was a child, the creek in my life was “the Old House Creek” on my grandfather’s land. I can still remember how it smelled--the sweetness of Cottonwoods and the damp green smell of fish. It amuses me how creeks get their names—bits of history fixed in time. That creek was, of course, named after an old house that used to be there, but no one I knew could actually remember seeing it. For the past 30 years I have lived with a creek in the Upper Nehalem Watershed called West Coal Creek because of the shiny bits of coal that were found among the cobble. At one time, in the early thirties, there was speculation about developing a coal mine on the main stem of Coal Creek to fuel the logging trains that were then hauling huge old growth trees out of the Coal Creek Valley.

When I first started walking along the creek, I made a trail along its edge. In the spring, a proliferation of wildflowers—yellow violets, lily of the valley, trillium, bugbane grew along the bank. Alder and large conifer lined the creek; some were 2 or 3 feet in diameter. Often I would see schools of cut throat trout, multitudes of crawdads, and, in the spring and fall, runs of coho and chum salmon. The creek was alive but always changing.

In the past few years as the clear cuts in the hills above me increase leaving nothing to absorb the rain and slow the flow of water, the

velocity of the water rushing through my land has also increased. The wildflower banks disappeared; next the trees near the stream were uprooted; more banks disappeared.

A yurt we optimistically put creekside had a fifteen foot buffer; this year we closed off the entrance path which is now straight over the edge and a ten foot drop. One section of the creek simply blew out from the force and the debris. It became a standing, brown lake in high water. In low water, large islands of silt were formed.

The coastal watersheds are very soft and erosion is part of the natural change we live with. Still as I have walked the creek these last few years and witnessed the erosion and siltation, I have also witnessed the disappearance of life. I have not seen crawdads for several years; there are no more schools of cut throat trout; this year, I saw no salmon. The fine gravel of their spawning beds is covered in silt. The silt and debris, of course, travel on down to the Nehalem and people have discussions about what can be done about a river filling with silt.



Silt beds within Coal Creek.

Clearcutting Impacts Water Quantity, Not Just Quality — by Victoria Stoppiello

A 2016 Oregon State University study suggests that, due to current forest practices, we cannot count on ample water for agriculture, fisheries, household use, and recreation in the future here on the Oregon coast. The study, "Summer Streamflow Deficits from Regenerating Douglas Fir Forest in the Pacific Northwest, USA," by Timothy D. Perry and Julia A. Jones, looked at 60-year records and states that "the conversion of old growth forest to Douglas fir plantations had a major effect on summer streamflow." In this context, "regenerating" means tree farms or plantations re-growing young trees after clearcutting. Basins and headwaters studied were all 425 to 1190 feet in elevation, so highly relevant in the Coast Range.

The study concludes that "in basins with 34 to 43 year-old plantations of Douglas fir (typical of coast range industrial forestry now), streamflow was 50% lower than streamflow from basins with 150 to 500 year-old forests dominated by Douglas fir, western hemlock, and other conifers." This implies

that coast range industrial forests, currently being clearcut in 30-40 year rotations and then replanted typically in mono-crop Douglas fir, will lead to half the water quantity we experienced when older trees prevailed. Due to growing characteristics, young Doug firs are less able to hold moisture in their bodies than mature or old growth trees; they dry out faster and must draw more water from soil to survive and grow, meaning less water flows into a drainage.



Victoria Stoppiello

Herbicide use to eradicate competing natives such as salmonberry, huckleberry and salal exacerbates the problem, due to more bare soil which heats up faster, releases moisture to the atmosphere more quickly, and contributes to global warming, climate change and less water overall.

Information quoted above is from the study's abstract (an academic summary). [Read the full report](#)

FERNS Training

"On June 13th, RBCWP hosted an online pesticide monitoring workshop in Nehalem. Jason Gonzales from Oregon Wild presented this workshop to thirty enthusiastic citizens who are now ready to help protect their local water sources by using Oregon Department of Forestry's online FERNS system. This event showed the opposition from the public to having their watersheds and communities sprayed by timber companies, as well as the frustration of citizens having to monitor private business practices that negatively affect human and environmental health. Stay tuned for more public educational events from RBCWP and contact us if you are interested in learning how to use FERNS.



Volunteer Opportunities

RBCWP has been around for six years and continues to gain momentum, demand watershed health, and grab the attention of citizens and policymakers alike. Our members have diverse backgrounds, interests, and talents to offer our citizens group. Although we value new projects and opportunities, we often find ourselves without the capacity to start up something new. If you are interested in volunteering to make a difference in your community, please contact us.

We are looking for tech-savvy people willing to help monitor timber activities by using online systems. We need photographers who can help capture the beauty of our watersheds and beaches. We are searching for energetic superheroes who can set up and take down events, as well as strategic media teams who can prepare press releases and distribute posters to different businesses.

Articulate researchers who can dive into current issues and help create reports to keep fellow citizens up-to-date and keep policymakers accountable are needed. Social butterflies who enjoy event planning and public outreach are more than welcome to join our group. Any individual who wants to ensure future generations have a chance to enjoy a healthy environment should contact us

Aerial Spraying Update — by Carl Whiting, PhD



Weyerhaeuser is spraying chemicals above **Short Sands** again. As a recent subscriber to the Oregon Department of Forestry's FERNS NOAP notification system, I received email notifications for two clear-cut parcels of private timberland, Necarney Falls and Necarney Flats. Both parcels abut Necarney Creek, which runs into Short Sands and is classified as a Type-F fish-bearing stream. Both parcels are multi-acre clear-cuts owned by Weyerhaeuser, and are situated mere walking distance up Necarney Creek from Oswald West State Park. Necarney Flats was aerially sprayed with glyphosate, imazapyr, sulfameturon methyl, and metsulferon methyl last September. Weyerhaeuser aerially sprayed the parcel again earlier this month with a new cocktail of chemicals, including copryalid, sulfometuron methyl, and indaziflam. EPA labeling for Indaziflam specifically prohibits aerial spraying of this chemical due to its extreme toxicity to fish, invertebrates, and aquatic plants, an increased risk of drift, and the high likelihood of transport in ground and surface water. This is particularly concerning because Necarney Flats ends in a long, very steep slope directly into Necarney Creek.

A request for more information on Weyerhaeuser's planned aerial application of this chemical was met with the statement that the applicator (Western Helicopter Services) was using Indaziflam as brand-named Esplanade F, produced by Bayer Chemical. The EPA label for this brand-name of the chemical does not carry the aerial spray prohibition, despite the fact that Indaziflam is its only active ingredient (19.05 percent). All other Indaziflam/Esplanade products (for example, Esplanade 200SC) with the exact same active ingredient (19.05% Indaziflam) are prohibited by the EPA from being sprayed aerially. How one specific brand-name of this same chemical is exempted from aerial prohibitions designed to protect fish and other wildlife is not explained in any literature discovered to date. Further research into the granting of this exemption or omission is needed.

In addition to the risk of aerial drift, Esplanade F EPA labeling contains the following run-off warnings:

"Surface Water Advisory: This pesticide may impact surface water quality due to runoff of rainwater. This is especially true for poorly draining soils with shallow groundwater. This product is classified as having high potential for reaching surface water via runoff for several months or more after application."

"Groundwater Advisory: This pesticide has properties and characteristics associated with chemicals detected in groundwater. This chemical may leach into groundwater if used in areas where soils are permeable, particularly where the water table is shallow."

The FERNS NOAP application makes no mention of Necarney Creek, nor any written plan to protect it, despite the fact that previous NOAP applications for this exact parcel — including the aerial spray plan for last fall — were required to list the creek as a natural resource, and contained detailed written plans approved by the forester to mitigate the risk of contaminating this resource, including: "The presence of seasonal waters will be field verified prior to application by walking all stream channels."

Necarney Creek hasn't moved since last Fall. Where did the written plan requirements go?

Read about FERNS Summary Last Fall: <https://ferns.odf.oregon.gov/E-Notification/noap/58882?View=Summary>

Read about FERNS Summary earlier this month: <https://ferns.odf.oregon.gov/E-Notification/noap/71620?View=Summary>



Necarney Falls clearcut near Short Sands.

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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