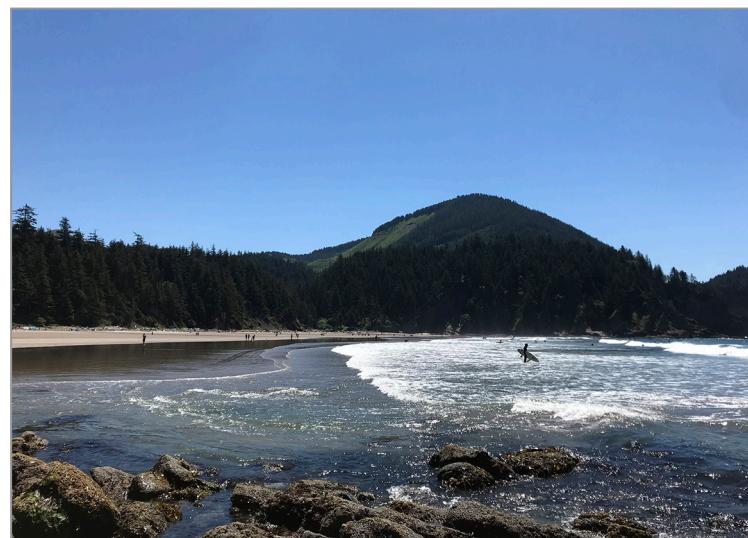


"The human juggernaut is permanently eroding Earth's ancient biosphere"—E. O. Wilson

Are You Interested In Volunteering To Help Save Short Sands Beach?

You may have heard of the Save Short Sands campaign or have seen the stylish stickers on people's cars, water bottles and laptops. But did you know this campaign is still ongoing? As long as aerial spraying of pesticides continues on neighboring Weyerhauser property and seeps into Necarney and Short Sands Creeks, Rockaway Beach Citizens for Watershed Protection will speak up for one of our favorite State Parks.

RBCWP members have started heading out on weekends to educate beachgoers and surfers about the timber activities taking place just behind the emerald curtain. On Saturday, September 22nd, RBCWP plans to head out as a group for a community BBQ and to conduct public education from noon to four. In addition to public education, there will also be time dedicated to asking people what they cherish about Short Sands and what makes it worth saving. If you are interested in volunteering for a couple hours during a weekend or want to help during the BBQ, contact Nancy Webster at rockawaycitizen.water@gmail.com



Clear-cut behind Short Sands - photo Carl Whiting

Rockaway Beach Citizens for Watershed Protection regularly-scheduled public meetings

Second Tuesday of the month | 6:00–8:00pm | North Coast Recreation District [NCRD] | Nehalem

Featuring guest speakers:

Sept 11—Jason Gonzales of Oregon Wild | October 9—Dr. Victoria Holt, epidemiologist



If The Forest Could Say... by Gwendolyn Endicott

In this time when there is much discussion of how to get the greatest "value" from the forest; in this time when even the word "forest" is being forgotten as it is divided into units and by percentages—its value judged by "timber production"—

If the forest had a voice to say what it means to be alive, trees moving in the wind, wind breathing the fragrance of cedar, hemlock, spruce...If the forest could say what it means to be alive with creatures-- the scurrying of animals and the calling of birds through branches and leaves...If the forest could say how the rain and mist filter through, saturating , until the forest itself is raining into mosses and creeks...if the forest could say how sun rays touch the plants and forest floor, transforming green into a world of rainbows, every breath fresh and clean...

If you could pause a moment to breathe her in; if you could pause for a moment to hear her sing—perhaps you would understand what true value is. Something we do not want to lose; something we are responsible for; something our children's children's children should be able to know.

Our Board Of Forestry or Turning Our Forests Into Boards *by Carl Whiting, PhD*

I feel fortunate to live along the rugged coast, and so I make a habit of saying hello to the Nehalem River every time I cross over it. Today I was on my way to Salem to offer testimony to our Oregon Board of Forestry. When I came around the curve into Wheeler, one channel of the Nehalem was a mere slick of silty mud. The US Geological Survey will soon be conducting a study on why our estuary is clogging with silt at a rate far higher than other bays in the region. This silt is not falling from the stars; it is washing off the denuded hills. Industrial foresters now employ fleets of feller-bunchers instead of people; machines with a single operator which chop up to 200 trees per hour, per machine, and leave nothing but the rutted soil in their wake.

Oregon's State Forester, Peter Daugherty, has said that there is no correlation between current forest practices and resulting silt and turbidity in community water sources. From the testimony dais in Salem, I read his own quote back to him. "None of us are children here," I continued. Mr. Daugherty stared back at me blankly. It may be, as Upton Sinclair has said, that it is very difficult to get a man to understand something that his paycheck depends on him not understanding. I read him that quote, too.

The clear-cuts are ugly, but at least they are visible. The layers of chemicals aerially sprayed onto the newly cleared hills and valleys are not. The vast majority of our communities border

private forest lands whose bald, brown slopes make up the bulk of our watersheds. Glyphosate and 24D drift downwind to mingle with the Indaziflam and Clopyralid flowing downstream. These chemicals are used to poison every fern, flower and berry bush until only a silent, ecological desert of farmed fir trees remains. "Well, that's a working forest," we are told. It's just that it no longer works to filter precipitation, sustain biodiversity, or shelter wildlife. And it's no longer a forest either, but a monoculture crop. Try explaining the concept of a working forest to a Marbled Murrelet. Try explaining it to my drinking water.

I left the public Board of Forestry meeting with a heavy heart. As a PhD researcher versed in the practice of fact-finding, it was odd to speak at a forum where pressing scientific data and the urging of an educated public have so utterly failed to impact policy.

Driving the two-and-a-half hours back home to Wheeler, I pulled into the parking-lot of a little church. Last time I came through, this little place of worship was surrounded by towering spruce and cedar. Today, a massive feller-buncher sat idle outside, and the forest was completely gone. The church building stood empty in the fading light, its hand-carved sign bleak against the torn stumps in the driveway. Community Church in the Wild Wood, it read. I got out of my car, kicked a few dirt clods, and left. What will they call their church now?

I'm not a religious man, but as I drove north through broken hills rutted with logging roads, I turned off the radio, looked up at the gathering darkness, and prayed.

Research Shows Forestry Practices Cause Erosion Which Causes Turbidity *by Nancy Webster*

On September 4, 2018, Bob Larson and I drove to Eugene to hear a talk about the ways Jetty Creek, current forestry practices, and economics intersect which was given by Dr. Ed Whitelaw at the University of Oregon Law School. Dr. Ed Whitelaw is an emeritus professor of economics at the U of O, as well as the founder of ECONorthwest. He is a leading Oregon economist and an expert in environmental issues who specializes in urban, labor, and environmental economics. In 2017, Dr. Whitelaw used as a research project in one of his classes (Economics of the Pacific Northwest) the Rockaway Beach experience as an example of the intersection of economics and the environment.

RBCWP helped with this research. The Jetty Creek watershed is the primary water source for Rockaway Beach and it lies within a private industrial forest. To me, having grown up in the Pacific Northwest, it completely makes sense that logging causes turbidity. I really appreciate Dr. Whitelaw's research which validates one of my concerns. Below is an opinion piece that Dr. Whitelaw and one of his graduate students, Winston Hovekamp, wrote which was published on May 10, 2018, in the Eugene Register-Guard.

"Turbid Waters Point To Need For Better Forest Practices"

Oregon Public Broadcasting reporter Tony Schick got our attention when he investigated a dispute over turbidity—muddy water—in Jetty Creek, the water source for Rockaway Beach. During 1999-2016, Google Timelapse shows logging cleared about 85 percent of the Jetty Creek watershed's forest. According to DOF records, Olympic Resource Management and Stimson owned the land and did the most recent logging, during 2013-16. [Read more](#)

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.
www.healthywatershed.org | rockawaycitizen.water@gmail.com | www.facebook.com/rockawaybeachcitizens | 503-355-2516