

NORTH COAST COMMUNITIES FOR WATERSHED PROTECTION

March & April 2022 Newsletter

Meeting: Is Your Drinking Water Safe? | Hazards of Hand Spraying | Volunteers Needed!



Happy Spring, North Coast Community!

An exciting upswell of momentum is building around Oregon's forests and drinking watersheds right now. It is the perfect time to reinvigorate our shared efforts to protect our drinking watersheds from the corporate logging and spraying practices that threaten them.

No more clearcutting and pesticide spraying in our drinking water sources, *regardless of land ownership.*

As we shared in our [February newsletter](#), NCCWP's primary focus in 2022 and beyond is the safeguarding of *all* drinking water sources originating on forestlands. We have some exciting opportunities to get more actively involved with our efforts over the coming months.



Momentum Is Building for Oregon's Forest Watersheds!

This is an important time for our efforts to protect drinking watersheds, as there is significant energy building right now across the state and country to protect Oregon's forests and waterways.

It was [recently reported](#) that Oregon has the most polluted or impaired waterways in the U.S.

OPB released a [report](#) on March 16 detailing "How big business took over Oregon's first protected aquifer" in Eastern Oregon's Malheur County.



Our local [Hipfish Monthly](#) published a [two part article](#) by photographer, writer and forest activist, and NCCWP member Roger Dorband, "Sawed and Gone: The Disappearance of the Great Pacific Northwest Rainforest" in their March and April 2022 issues.

The article is the first in a two-part series, excerpted from a longer writing project. Both articles offer context and details about [SB 1546](#), now before the Oregon legislature, which describes the management plan for the recently designated [Elliott State Research Forest](#).

For the first time in NCCWP's history, we are hearing elected officials begin to acknowledge the importance of *drinking water* in their discussions of coastal forestry and water issues. There also seems to be more awareness by the general public of the importance of protecting the quality and quantity of drinking water.



People across the state are taking note of the destruction happening to our coastal forests and watersheds. The Portland climate action group [350 PDX](#) has launched a [campaign](#) against the corporate interests managing forestry in Oregon, which aims to “Get Wall Street Out of Oregon’s Forests.”

Here is a comic by [Jules Rivero](#) about clearcut logging in Oregon, which appeared in the Sunday, April 10 issue of the *Oregonian*:



NCCWP Is Speaking Up for Coastal Drinking Water and Forests

NCCWP continues to be invited to participate in various water forums including those sponsored by non-profit organizations, public agencies, governmental



bodies and educational institutions. Our goal is to bring attention to the evolving coastal drinking water crisis—quality and quantity—resulting from industrial forestry practices and aspects of climate change (heat domes and the drought, for example).

We are advocating for the critical need to prioritize
DRINKING WATER FIRST!

Below are descriptions of three of the Zoom meetings we've participated in, some of which are ongoing.

1. Starting in 2021, ongoing Oregon Department of Forestry Conservation Collaborative Meetings provide an opportunity for an exchange of policy positions between environmentalists and the ODF management and policy staff. NCCWP has regularly been submitting a question to ODF for the meetings. As an example, here's the question that was posed on Friday, April 1, 2022:

"Rural communities in coastal Oregon rely on surface and ground drinking water sources, the majority of which are sourced in forestlands.

(According to the North Coast State Forest Coalition, forty-six percent of the people in Tillamook County rely on drinking water sourced in the Tillamook State Forest.)

Ongoing climate change, including heat domes and drought, and industrial forestry practices, can have significant detrimental effects on drinking water sources.

Given these factors, what steps are ODF planning to implement on State forestlands to ensure safe and abundant drinking water for today and the future?"

2. Starting in March 2022, NCCWP started to participate in a series of weekly Tillamook County Water Forum Steering Committee meetings. Here's the official description of the intended goals of the meetings:



"This Community Water Knowledge Exchange will help connect us to each other as well as to available resources (data, knowledge, expertise, information, funding) to build a more secure and sustainable water future for Tillamook County."

3. On February 28, 2022, Nancy Webster from NCCWP met by Zoom with faculty and students from the University of Portland Environmental Justice Immersion program. Tyler Wagner, Moreau Center for Service and Justice Program Manager, facilitated the meeting.



(Originally a field trip to a large clearcut area near Netarts was intended to take place that day, to show students firsthand the devastation industrial forestry practices such as clearcut logging followed by pesticide spraying have on the land and water. Due to a severe storm, the meeting took place using Zoom.)

During the Zoom meeting, Nancy talked about industrial forestry practices and the detrimental effects it has on drinking water sources. She talked about the



importance of providing protections for all drinking water sources in Oregon that would be similar to what Portlanders have for their Bull Run watershed.

Nancy and the others talked about how people from local communities can become involved in stopping clearcutting and pesticide use in watersheds that provide drinking water.

About a month later, Nancy received a thank you card from the folks at the U of P for meeting with them. This acknowledgement was very heartening. Here are the comments that she received:

"I am grateful to you for providing insight into the environmental issues impacting your community. The nuance of clearcutting, watershed sanctuaries, and inter-governmental and business lobbying was especially impactful." -Sara

"Thank you for bringing more awareness to the issues within logging. It was very informational and your drive to make a change is inspiring." -Karla R.

"Thank you for all you taught me on clearcutting and watersheds." -Jenner

"Thanks for teaching us all about logging. I had no clue so much logging is in our backyard!" -Pierce

*"I really enjoyed hearing about your nonprofit! Please save the forests. I'll look for petitions!"
-Kristina*

"I really appreciated hearing about logging and the negative effects it has on the environment and watersheds. I learned so much!" -Veronica

With your help, we know we can make an unprecedented push forward for the protection of our forests and drinking watersheds in 2022!



Join Our Upcoming Meeting: Is Your Drinking Water Safe? A Free Zoom Workshop

You're invited to our [upcoming community meeting](#), May 9 at 5:30pm via Zoom.



At the meeting, Monday, May 9, we will update you on our efforts and offer a workshop that will teach you mapping tools. Find out exactly where your water comes from and empower yourself (and your neighbors) with tools to track clear-cuts and pesticide sprays in your area. We'll also discuss upcoming **volunteer opportunities** and direct actions you can take to protect our forests and watersheds. We look forward to seeing you there!

REGISTER FOR THE MEETING [HERE](#).

Professor Mary Wood's Powerful Lecture Mentions Jetty Creek



We're excited to pass along the [recording of a brilliant lecture](#), *Nature's Trust: Protecting An Ecological Endowment for Posterity*, by [Mary Wood](#), a Philip H. Knight Professor of Law of the University of Oregon.

"The fact is there can be no world peace without ecological peace, and there can be no prosperity without ecological prosperity," she says near the opening of the talk, which took place March 16 at an event hosted by Lewis and Clark College.

Professor Wood offers a realistic and refreshing take on the issues facing our planet at this time, and mentions NCCWP's work to protect Jetty Creek as an example during her talk. Wood frames the ecological

nightmares on our planet in the context of war and emergency, and shows that the climate realities are the number one threat facing our planet and livelihoods today—and the dysfunctions of our government that make it near-impossible to tackle environmental disasters.



“Actions that might well be described as assaults against the community or theft against future generations are defined by our antiseptic regulatory system as fully legal exploits,” she says in the talk. “Citizens are doing the best they can to challenge the government case by case, but they are losing the battle by not getting at the systemic forces that drive our agencies to make really devastating decisions to access the board.”

Professor Wood is faculty Director of the university’s nationally acclaimed Environmental and Natural Resources Law Center. She is an award-winning professor and the co-author of leading textbooks on public trust law and natural resources law. Her book, [*Nature's Trust: Environmental Law for a New Ecological Age*](#) (Cambridge University Press), sets forth a new paradigm of global ecological responsibility.

She originated the legal approach called [Atmospheric Trust Litigation](#), which is now used in cases brought on behalf of youth throughout the world, seeking to hold governments accountable to reduce carbon pollution within their jurisdictions.

She also developed a corresponding approach called, [Atmospheric Recovery Litigation](#) which would hold fossil fuel companies responsible for funding an Atmospheric Recovery Plan to draw down excess carbon dioxide in the atmosphere using natural climate solutions.

Professor Wood is a frequent speaker on climate issues and has received national and international attention for her sovereign trust approach to global climate policy.

Listen to Professor Mary Wood’s talk [here](#).

NCCWP Participating in Secretary of State Audit on April 19

NCCWP is participating in a performance audit on rural water supplies being conducted by the Oregon Secretary of State. This audit is focusing on how well state agencies are addressing rural water needs.



We are highlighting safe drinking water, given decreasing water on our coast in the summer, increased visitor demand, and forest practices that are polluting coastal water sources.

We've gathered several local people from across the coast to share their stories, in order to illustrate why we believe we are in a water crisis that is worsening. We will continue to update our members as the Secretary of State audit progresses.

Hazards of Hand-Spraying in Industrial Forests

North Coast Communities for Watershed Protection (NCCWP) is increasingly concerned about the impacts of pesticide spraying on the health of both workers and neighboring communities—even when pesticide chemicals are not applied aerially but, rather, by hand at ground level.

In 2020, NCCWP followed three separate hand-spraying projects in the Nehalem and Wheeler area. Our own Nancy Webster and Bob Larson recently wrote an [article](#) detailing these concerns and NCCWP's observations. Read the full article on the [NCCWP blog here](#).

Volunteers Needed!

In the spirit of fresh energy and spring, NCCWP is currently gearing up to launch a broad public awareness campaign along the coast, aimed at educating more people in our communities on where their water comes from and how logging and pesticide spraying practices directly relate to the health and safety of coastal drinking water. We can use all the help we can get in getting the word out!

We could especially use volunteers at this time to help with:

Distributing Materials: We are hoping to gather a team of people up and down the coast, as well as in Portland, to help us distribute flyers, posters, lawn signs etc. as part of our widespread awareness campaign over the next few months.



Writing Letters to the Editor: We've had success in the past with our members writing letters to the editor to help raise awareness and get more people involved. We have many resources to help you put together a letter to your local paper, and we'd love you to join us in spreading the word about what's happening on the coast. Please reach out if you are interested in writing a letter to the editor to your local newspaper(s).

Petitioning Your Neighbors: We are putting together a petition aimed at getting more people in our communities engaged and talking about our drinking water and forest health. We are looking for volunteers to commit to speaking with neighbors and gathering signatures in the coming months. If this is something that interests you, please reach out!

Growing Our Social Media: If you have experience with social media, we'd love your help expanding our social media presence. We hope to get more young families, students and individuals engaged around coastal forests and drinking water. If you're social media savvy and interested in an important role to grow our audiences on Facebook and Instagram, please let us know!

If you are interested in helping with any or all of the above volunteer priorities, please email us directly: rockawaycitizen.water@gmail.com.

As the weather warms, let's roll up our sleeves and raise consciousness together, to protect our beautiful forested home and the drinking waters that are our life-force!

With love and gratitude,
NCCWP

North Coast Communities for Watershed Protection (formerly Rockaway Beach Citizens for Watershed Protection) is a grassroots group working, through education and advocacy, for better protections of the water we drink, the air we breathe, and the forests that sustain us.

healthywatershed.org | [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/nccwp)

Comments or questions? Contact Nancy Webster:
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