

# IN 2024, WE ARE GROWING ALDER AND WISER!





AFTER A FALL SEASON FULL OF ZOOM WEBINARS WITH EXPERT HYDROLOGIST [YOUNES ALILA](#) AND FOREST ECOLOGIST [HERB HAMMOND](#), NCCWP IS EXCITED TO HOST AND ATTEND MORE IN-PERSON HAPPENINGS IN THE NEW YEAR.

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LET'S GET CAUGHT UP!

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JANUARY

[NANCY AND NCCWP MEMBERS ATTENDED THE HCP PUBLIC LISTENING SESSION IN ASTORIA](#)

In January, there were three public listening sessions with Cal Mukumoto, the State Forester (Oregon Department of Forestry), regarding the **State Forest Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)**, including one in Eugene, one in Astoria, and one virtual meeting. Many NCCWP

members attended the Astoria listening session that occurred on the 31st to support the **passage of a strong HCP and its finalization without delay. NCCWP supports reinstating a timber harvest tax and requiring stronger drinking water protections.**



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## FEBRUARY

WE WELCOMED CHUCK WILLER TO DISCUSS THE FUTURE OF THE JETTY CREEK WATERSHED, BEFORE  
CELEBRATING OUR FORESTED WATERSHEDS THROUGH POETRY



In case you missed it, on February 3rd, longtime executive director of the Coast Range Association, **Chuck Willer**, gave a presentation on the **obstacles and opportunities for Jetty Creek to become a dedicated source for abundant, clean drinking water for Rockaway Beach**. Included was information on various options for land ownership and management.



Recently, Oregon Coast watersheds have experienced summer water shortages that are *not* due to a lack of rain alone. Logging and pesticide spraying in these watersheds can detrimentally affect the quality and quantity of drinking water. There are correlations between industrial logging, drought conditions, and increased turbidity and chemical contamination of the water. It was stated in *The Oregonian* on July 29, 2023 that “Scientists have long warned that climate change, driven by the burning of fossil fuels, by deforestation, and by certain agricultural practices will lead to more and prolonged bouts of extreme weather.”

Chuck Willer has worked for over 30 years to protect the forests of Western Oregon while also supporting rural economies by addressing climate change, and looking at long term, sustainable planning and solutions. He has worked with many grassroots groups faced with water quality issues due to industrial forestry practices.



Soon, you will be able to view the full Chuck Willer presentation at [Tillamook County TV Online](#) or on our [website](#).

## NCCWP ASTORIA CHAPTER TAPPED INTO THEIR CREATIVE ROOTS WITH OUR FEBRUARY 29 FOREST POETS EVENT

One of our first events in Astoria, this **Forest Poets** event showcased yet another reason why our forests and watersheds are so critical to our health and wellbeing. In addition to the clean air and water they provide, their carbon sequestration capabilities, and the abundance of local foods they contain, these places are special in their utter beauty, intricacy, and complexity.



The temperate rainforest ecosystem is much older and wiser than we are. **Its forested watersheds serve as a critical source of creative inspiration for many of us who live here, those who come to visit, and those who were here before us.**

The Forest Poets Event featured the works of local poets inspired by the forests and watersheds of the Pacific Northwest. These poets included the award-winning Robert Michael Pyle, Jim Dott, Jennifer Nightingale, Reba Owen, Logan Garner, and Lauren Mallett.

**You can listen to the full recorded Forest Poets event [here](#).**

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## MARCH

### IN MARCH, WE WENT TO PIELC AND ALSO WELCOMED UNIVERSITY OF PORTLAND STUDENTS!

Nancy attended the Public Interest Environmental Law Conference (PIELC) in Eugene to do a presentation about the **water crisis on the Oregon Coast**. She featured the Jetty Creek Watershed as a primary example of the mismanagement of forested coastal watersheds by large timber corporations. She discussed the importance of local grassroots groups, like NCCWP, in advocating for tighter logging regulations and improved water quality and quantity.

### NCCWP PARTNERED WITH WILD SALMON CENTER TO HOST UNIVERSITY OF PORTLAND STUDENTS AT GNAT CREEK

Several U of P students participated in a Spring Break Environmental Justice Immersion program, during which they connected with local environmental organizations and grassroots citizen groups in Oregon. NCCWP was honored to speak with these young folks about industrial logging on the coast, including its ramifications on water quality and quantity (as well as air quality), plus its detrimental health effects on people and wildlife. We also discussed the negative effects large timber corporations have on rural economies.



OUR VOICES WERE HEARD! CAL MUKUMOTO RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD OF FORESTRY MOVE FORWARD WITH THE HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN (HCP).

You can read more about Mukumoto's recommendation [here](#), or watch this [March 7th BoF meeting recording](#), in which Mukumoto makes his recommendation around minute 48:13.



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LOOKING FORWARD... *WHAT'S IN STORE?*

APRIL

IN APRIL, WE WILL BE PLANNING LATE SPRING AND SUMMER EVENTS, INCLUDING UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS, FILM SCREENINGS, AND FARMERS MARKET VENUES.

IN-PERSON MEETINGS TO RETURN!

Both NCCWP chapters in Rockaway Beach and Astoria have started to bring back **in-person meetings!**

Meetings in RB will take place on the last Thursday of the month at **St. Mary by the Sea**. We will begin these monthly meetings on **April 25th at 6:30 pm**. A Zoom option will be available.



# Rally to Protect Drinking Water and Foster Community Engagement

Regular Meetings on the *Last Thursday of the Month* Hosted by *North Coast Communities for Watershed Protection*

- Monthly grassroots meetings, open to all
- Learn about the harmful impacts of clearcutting and pesticide spraying practices on coastal drinking watersheds
- Increase citizen involvement regarding the future of the Jetty Creek Watershed and other coastal drinking watersheds
- Discuss concrete actions to help safeguard your drinking water source (both in quality and quantity)
- If you drink the water in Rockaway Beach, you should be concerned

This will be an in-person meeting that will also be made accessible on Zoom.

Questions?

Email [rockawaycitizen.water@gmail.com](mailto:rockawaycitizen.water@gmail.com)

Visit [healthywatershed.org](http://healthywatershed.org)

*Last Thursday of the Month*, starting  
**April 25 at 6:30 pm**

**St. Mary-by-the-Sea Parish Hall**  
*275 S. Pacific St.*  
*Rockaway Beach, Oregon*

In-person meetings in Astoria happen bimonthly on **Friday afternoons from 4:00 to 5:30**. If you are interested to learn more details about meetings in Astoria, please contact Astoria Coordinator Anna Kaufman at [anna.nccwp@gmail.com](mailto:anna.nccwp@gmail.com)

## APRIL 24TH: AOP FY25 COMMENT EVENT IN ASTORIA

**At this NCCWP Astoria Chapter gathering**, we invite the public to join us in writing comments to **ODF about their planned timber sales for 2025 in the Astoria District (Clatsop County)**. Say no to clearcutting and pesticide spraying on our public land. Help safeguard our drinking water, forested watersheds, and mitigate the impacts of climate change. This event will take place **April 24th from 5-7 pm** in the **Showroom at Fort George Brewery** (1483 Duane St, Astoria, OR, 97103). Postcards, stamps, envelopes to be provided. Come say hello!

## STAY TUNED:

- 1) If you're itching for some environmental action, **check out [SOLVE's upcoming Earth Day Beach Cleanup events](#)** on the North Coast (varying dates and locations in Oregon from **4/13 to 4/22**).
- 1) Want to keep on top of scheduled logging and pesticide applications near your home? **Please check out this [tutorial for the ODF FERNs application](#), which notifies of logging and pesticide spraying activities** in the area you choose to subscribe to.

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## MAY

In May we will have the privilege of co-hosting two upcoming film events with local Oregon documentarians who delve into issues of water contamination and scarcity.

### ROOTED TOGETHER

**May 2nd**

Join us at the Pine Grove Community House in Manzanita from **6-8:30 pm** for "Rooted Together," an event to kindle more connection and community around the conservation of our Pacific Northwest forests. During the event, you will see a screening of award-winning filmmaker **Jesse Clark's** new documentary short. "**Living Legacies**" is the first chapter of a series entitled *Forest Stories*.

**About "Living Legacies":** A movement is born when one community's drinking water source is threatened – and Washington State must weigh economic gain against the protection of their last tracts of carbon-sequestering mature forests.

At this event, there will also be a special reading by **Paul Koberstein** from his recent book, "[Canopy of Titans](#)," as well as a brief presentation by Coast Range Association's **Chuck Willer**. The evening will include a live Q+A with panelists including **NCCWP** and **LNCT** event sponsors. There will be plenty of time for wine, cheese, and *lots* of intermingling of citizens and grassroots environmental groups! You'll get to hear from **NCCWP**, Lower Nehalem Community



Trust, and Coast Range Association, among others, about what they've been up to. Stay tuned for more details closer to the date!

**Here's some more background on *Forest Stories*:**

For centuries, the Pacific Northwest has been the world's 'wood basket'. But for the first time in 50 years, Washington State – the 'Evergreen State' – is less than 50% forested. But a hopeful new classification of mature forest is now gaining momentum as a promising solution to help mitigate climate impacts worldwide. Dubbed 'Legacy Forests,' these naturally-regrown, non-industrial 2nd growth forests hold some of the biggest unprotected trees on the landscape with the most carbon storage potential– and they could be the next old growth forests, if left standing.

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources, responsible for funding schools, counties, and other services with money from cut timber, have set their sights on saving these patches of larger, diverse stands of evergreen trees. If logged, they would be converted to plantation "forests."

**ONCE A BRAIDED RIVER**

**May 31st**

On **May 31st at 7 pm**, head on down to the Columbian Theater in Astoria for a screening of ***Once a Braided River***, and Q+A with **Barbara Bernstein!** We will say a few words introducing and giving updates about NCCWP before introducing the film. Here's a description of what you will see:

*The north reach of the Willamette River is designated an industrial sanctuary, but the communities that were displaced or damaged by this so-called sanctuary see it as an industrial sacrifice zone. "Once a Braided River" tells the story of the river before it was transformed into a Superfund Site and features community groups and activists working to replace the current Industrial Sanctuary with a green working waterfront defined by good jobs, clean energy, and healthy ecosystems. The documentary explores their vision to reclaim this stretch of river as a place where people and wildlife who depend upon the river for their homes, jobs and migration*

routes can thrive.

**ONCE A BRAIDED RIVER**  
*How Portland Abused and Degraded the River that Runs Through it*

A Documentary by Barbara Bernstein



**COLUMBIAN THEATER**  
1102 Marine Drive, Astoria, OR  
Friday, May 31 at 7 pm

*The presentation will be followed by a panel discussion with the filmmaker and community activists.*

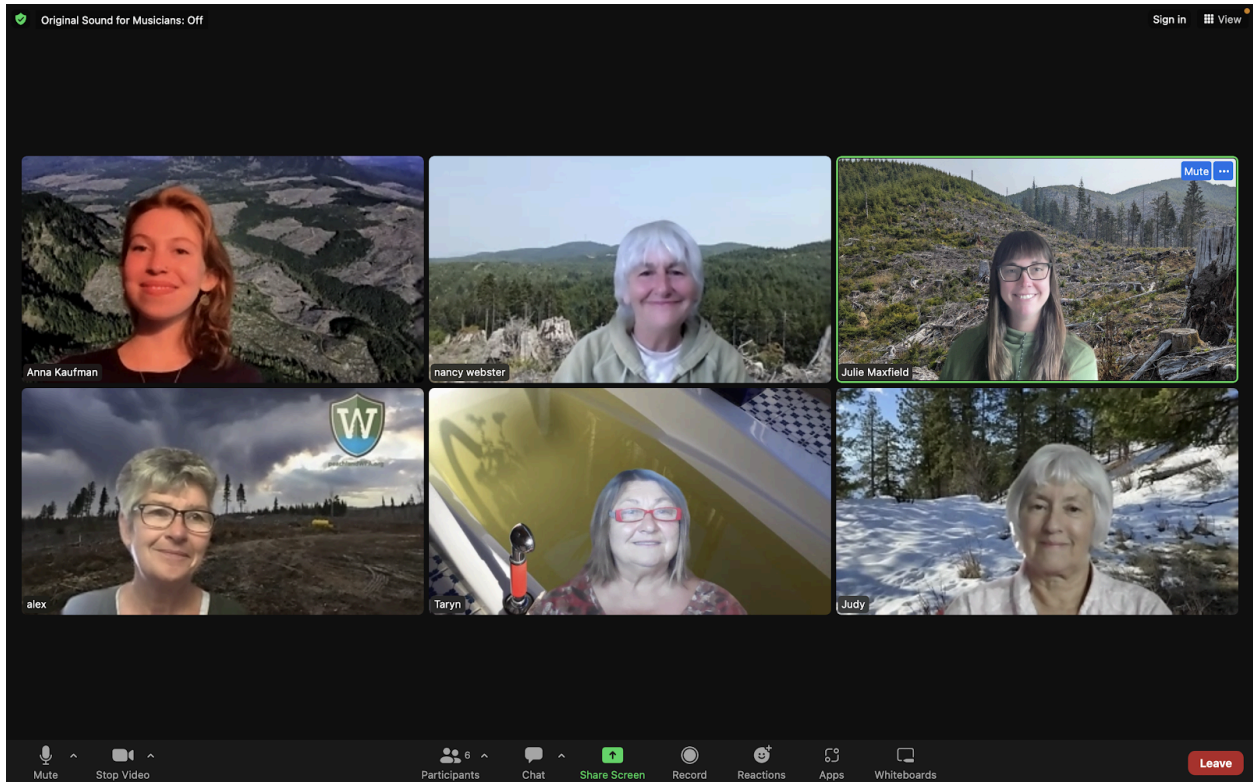
Funded by the Regional Arts & Culture Council and Stand up to Oil

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JUNE

IN JUNE WE ARE GEARING UP TO HAVE ANOTHER IN-PERSON PRESENTATION ON THE IMPORTANCE OF BIODIVERSITY IN MAINTAINING HEALTHY FORESTS AND DRINKING WATERSHEDS.

This event will be one of a three part series co-hosted with our Peachland Sister Watershed up in British Columbia. The first will take place on **June 22nd (2-3:30 pm)** at [St. Mary by the Sea in Rockaway Beach](#)! You will get to hear from expert toxicologist **Deke Gundersen** and [Stop the Spray BC](#) activist and deciduous tree advocate **James Steidle**. More details to come your way as we solidify the event schedule and finalize presentation topics.



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## GET INVOLVED

There are countless ways to get involved with NCCWP. We recommend you start by filling out our [Volunteer form](#), so that we can reach out to you, having a little more information about who you are, as well as what kinds and level of involvement you'd like to have.

NCCWP VOLUNTEERS RANGE IN EXPERIENCE AND INTEREST. SOME EXAMPLES OF WAYS TO BE INVOLVED INCLUDE:

- Postering
- Tabling at events
- Letter writing and editing
- Creating graphics and posters
- Setting up & cleaning up events
- Monitoring relevant information
- Bridging connections between NCCWP and like-minded groups





## DONATE

**Your donations make our work possible.** As a small non-profit, we rely on financial contributions, no matter how small, from members like you in order to continue our efforts to protect our drinking water sources. **We want to continue advocating for the end of logging, slash burning, and pesticide usage in Oregon’s drinking watersheds, regardless of land ownership.** Any donation you make will aid us in hosting educational events, workshops, and activities, and in pursuing our mission to protect the quality and quantity of our drinking water for the generations to come.

### HERE’S HOW YOU CAN DONATE:

You can make a tax deductible donation to NCCWP by writing your check payable to our fiscal sponsor, *Fulcrum Community Resources*, and write NCCWP on the memo line.

Mail to NCCWP; Attention: Sharon Smith  
PO Box 345  
Wheeler, OR 97147

Fulcrum Community Resources is a local 501(c)3 organization created to support local non-profit organizations such as North Coast Communities for Watershed Protection. **For more information, visit the [Fulcrum Community Resources](#) website.**

**You can find out more about how your donations support our work by clicking [here](#).**

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

IF YOU ARE AN AVID READER, YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN SOME OF THESE ARTICLES (OF VARYING SUBJECT MATTER, BUT ALL APPROPRIATE TO NCCWP'S MISSION AND INTERESTS):

### **Big Trees and Impacts on Water Quantity**

- a) [Clear-cutting forests near watersheds could threaten drinking water supplies, conservationists warn](#)
- b) [Perry & Jones - H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest - Oregon State University](#)
- c) [Advisory Report: State Leadership Must Take Action to Protect Water ...](#)

### **Old, Diverse Forests and their Carbon Sequestration Capabilities**

- a) [Forests Key to Climate Fight Along With Cutting Fossil Fuels](#)
- b) [Forests with multiple tree species are 70% more effective as carbon sinks](#)
- c) [Soils in old-growth treetops can store more carbon than soils under ...](#)

- d) [Mapping the irrecoverable carbon in Earth's ecosystems - Nature](#)
- e) [\(PDF\) The exceptional value of intact forest ecosystems](#)
- f) [Scientists 'gobsmacked' after discovering how powerful moss is](#)

### **Indigenous American Forest Management and Their Rights to Native Plants**

- a) [Native American Tribes Gaining Recognition For Timber ... - KLCC](#)
- b) [The Pacific Northwest trees shaped by generations of people](#)
- c) [First Foods: How Native people are preserving the natural ...](#)
- d) [Indigenous food security threatened by glyphosate spraying of forest ...](#)

### **Pesticides — Everywhere**

- a) [US pesticide regulation is failing the hardest-hit communities.](#)
- b) [Glyphosate: Cancer and other health concerns - USRTK.org](#)
- c) [Forest pesticides found downstream in coastal Oregon waters - OPB](#)

### **View Dr. Trygve Steen's Visual Timeline of the Jetty Creek Watershed from 1994-2022**

- a) [JETTY CREEK 1994-2022](#)

### **Read Peter Hayes' Letter Concerning the HCP**

- a) [Peter Hayes' Letter](#)

### **Younes Alila, PhD is getting lots of recognition for his forest hydrology work!**

- a) [Sustainable logging will safeguard against flood risks - Global News](#)
- b) [Is it time for a rethink of B.C.'s forest practices and policies?](#)



Comments or questions?

Nancy Webster [Rockawaycitizen.water@gmail.com](mailto:Rockawaycitizen.water@gmail.com)

Anna Kaufman, Astoria Coordinator [Anna.nccwp@gmail.com](mailto:Anna.nccwp@gmail.com)

**As a matter of necessity, and regardless of who owns the land, *NCCWP demands no more logging and no more pesticide spraying within our drinking-watersheds.* Safe drinking water and clean air are part of the public trust that we all are entitled to have. Please help North Coast Communities for Watershed Protection safeguard and restore our drinking watersheds.**

**[www.healthywatershed.org](http://www.healthywatershed.org) | [www.facebook.com/NCCWATERSHEDPROTECTION](https://www.facebook.com/NCCWATERSHEDPROTECTION)**