

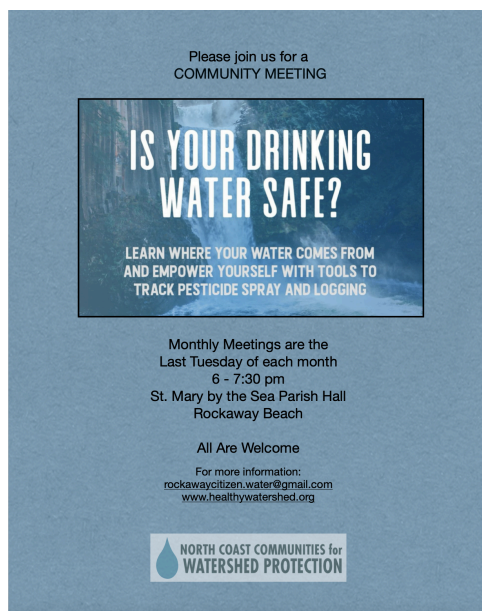


Good News, Defenders of Clean Water

NCCWP has some great news! — On February 6, the Oregon Land Use Board of Appeals ruled to uphold Rockaway Beach City Council's denial of a permit for a 22-unit housing development in Nedonna Beach. LUBA agreed with our argument that the developer had not adequately challenged each of the city's bases for denial. This is a victory for local wetlands, clean drinking water, and grassroots organizing!

It's one more step forward in protecting our watershed, thanks to the persistence and hard work of North Coast Communities for Watershed Protection, Oregon Shores, and the citizens of Rockaway Beach. And special thanks to Crag Law Center for handling this case. The developer has one more option to appeal, so stay tuned.

Please consider attending the next NCCWP Rockaway Beach general membership meeting at 6:00 p.m. this Tuesday, February 24, at the St. Mary by the Sea Parish Hall - 275 S. Pacific Street in Rockaway Beach, Oregon. The meeting will focus on the following topics:



1. AGENDA ITEMS

- Save our wetlands: - hear about our LUBA win
- New Library Exhibit on "What is a Wetland?"
- Foster community engagement

The Astoria Chapter holds it's monthly meetings at 4pm on the third Wednesday of the month at Kala, 1017 Marine Drive in Astoria. However, next month (March 2026) our meeting will be a day earlier due to a conflicting event at our venue. So we will meet at 4pm on Tuesday, March 17. All are welcome to attend.

We have a new Oregon State Forester, Kasey KC, the first female to hold that position. She is currently the State Forester of Nevada and her term here will start on March 1, 2026. Previously the Board of Forestry had appointed the State Forester but now the Governor has that task.

Pam Birmingham from NCCWP's Astoria Chapter attended Kasey's confirmation hearing at the Capitol and got to meet her. Kasey has expressed an interest in coming to the area for an orientation to learn more about how forestry practices affect our drinking water on the coast. While at the Capitol, NCCWP was invited to the Governor's reception for our new State Forester. Pam was also able to advocate here for coastal residents and communities expressing concern regarding how forestry practices affect our drinking water.

HB 4105, the really bad forestry bill, passed the hearing even though opposition comments outnumber supportive comments by 10-1. Even though it passed that hearing, hopefully it will be defeated in the Ways and Means committee hearing due to its large fiscal impact. The bill would give the timber industry the right to sue the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) if it didn't cut enough timber to fund the counties.



Mark your calendar!

Rockaway Beach Public Library and NCCWP will present an exhibit, “What is a Wetland?” The display offers maps, illustrations, and explains the importance of wetlands for environmental health and clean drinking water. The exhibit will open this coming Wednesday, February 25 at 120 N. Coral St. in Rockaway and continue until April 7th.



Public Interest Environmental Law Conference in Eugene, Oregon: March 12-15, 2026. North Coast Communities for Watershed Protection is honored to present at this year's Public Interest Environmental Law Conference (PIELC). The panel presentation, "Speaking Truth to Power: Standing up for Safe Drinking Water and Clean Air through Community Grassroots Advocacy," is on Sunday, March 15, from 9 to 10:30 a.m. PIELC is in its 44th year and is the oldest and largest public interest environmental law conference in the world. It takes place at the University of Oregon in Eugene from March 12-15. The conference is open to the public and free with advance registration at www.pielc.org.

NCCWP is excited to showcase once again the work of Assistant Professor Ignacio López Busón and Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA) students from the University of Oregon. Last year, the group's presentation "Coastal Futures," focused on climate change adaptation strategies for coastal communities in Oregon and



won an international award. This year the group will present "Fall 2025 Coastal Natures Booklet". Save the Date: Saturday April 18th, doors open at 10am, St. Mary by the Sea Parish Hall - 275 S. Pacific Street in Rockaway Beach, Oregon. FREE

On March 15, NCCWP will be tabling at Ft. George in support of the Wild Arts Film Festival happening that weekend at the Columbian Theatre. Stop by and chat with us about our coastal drinking water 11:30am - 1pm.

On April 20, at 5pm-7pm NCCWP will host a letter writing session at KALA in Astoria to address drinking water concerns related to the Department of Forestry's Annual Operating Plans (AOPs). We will be commenting on land sales that will affect our coastal drinking water. The event will include a mapping presentation from Jennifer Eisele of Beyond Toxics. This new mapping tool was created using data

from the FERN system. It is a user-friendly tool to navigate and locate spraying locations across the state of Oregon.

Links

<https://phys.org/news/2026-02-widely-method-underestimates-forests-ability.html>

Widely used method underestimates forests' ability to prevent major floods, researchers argued by [University of British Columbia](#)

"When studies focus only on peak flows from individual events, it overlooks how forests influence the broader distribution of flood risk over time," said Dr. Alila. "Our synthesis shows forests can alter the frequency and probability of floods, including major events. This doesn't mean forests alone will stop catastrophic floods—but they can reduce flood risk at the source, making floods not only smaller but also rarer in cities and communities downstream." Provided by Ernie Niemi.

This gives a good summary of many reasons to stop the industrial killing of Oregon's trees. Forests don't just store carbon. They keep people alive, scientists say.

https://news.mongabay.com/2026/02/forests-dont-just-store-carbon-they-keep-people-alive-scientists-say/?utm_source=flipboard&utm_content=user/Mongabay2021

NCCWP supports our friends in Lane County, Yes on Measure 20-373! [Why We Need a Watersheds Bill of Rights...](#)

[ProtectLaneCountyWatersheds.org](#) is a political arm of Community Rights Lane County and created to move forward an ordinance — **measure 20-373** — to secure Right of Waters and Watersheds to sustainable recharge". We are a group of dedicated Lane County residents that believes our right to protect our watersheds is inherently more important than corporate bottom lines

Ways to Get Involved

- Summer tabling events (locations in Tillamook, Rockaway Beach, Seaside, Astoria)
- Help with monitoring ongoing logging and pesticide applications
- Hanging posters for upcoming events

About us

NCCWP wants no more logging and pesticide use in community water sources regardless of who owns the land, and wants an end to pesticide applications near where people live, work, and recreate. 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 | [www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/NCCWatershedProtection)

NCCWATERSHEDPROTECTION

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