NORTH COAST COMMUNITIES for WATERSHED PROTECTION

Dear Clean Water Warriors

Hello and Welcome to the NCCWP October newsletter!

In this issue: Your input is needed for the Rockaway Beach Strategic Plan — Slash Burn Smoke Warning — Rodenticide Notice — Thank you Fort George — Community Meetings — Other Events — Coastal Futures 2027 Update — Wetlands Updates — Further Reading

Rockaway Beach Strategic Plan

On October 28, the City of Rockaway Beach is holding an open house to take community input on the city's five-year strategic plan, which was adopted in 2024. There is also an online survey that you can take in advance. Details, plus the survey and a link to the current Strategic Plan, can be found here: https://www.rockawaybeachoregon.gov/360/Strategic-Plan-Update-2026.

We will also be discussing this plan at our Rockaway Beach monthly meeting on Oct. 27, how it relates to the Comprehensive Plan and other planning documents that determine the city's priorities. We hope to have a good showing of citizens who are concerned about abundant/safe drinking water and clean air at this event! Let's make sure the city is using good maps and protecting zoned wetland.

Comments from member Ron Byers:

"Whether you are talking about Rockaway Beach's Strategic Plan, Comprehensive Plan, or the Jetty Creek Stewardship Plan, the single most important and common thread in all plans is the need for high quality, reliable drinking water. More needs to be done to understand the future of our water, and until that is done scientifically, with climate change in mind, there should be no other activities planned or scheduled in the

watershed. Let's deal with our top priority. We really need to know the true scope of our water future. This includes factual information about the amount of water the backup wells provide, and at what cost and quality? When we talk about spending money to increase housing and tourism, we need to ask, where does the water come from to support this growth today and tomorrow? It's so easy to take drinking water for granted. Turn on the tap and there it comes. But the times are changing, and the rich know how to be first in line. Drinking water should not be about wealth; it's a necessity we all need."

Wed. Oct. 28, 5-7 p.m., Rockaway Beach City Hall, 276 US-101, Rockaway Beach.

Slash Burns Planned – Air Quality Warning

L&C Tree Farms is planning slash burning operations on lands owned by both L&C Tree Farms and L&C TRS. These lands are managed by Nuveen Natural Capital. Slash is the woody debris left behind after saleable logs have been removed from a timber harvest. There are multiple better ways to manage this vegetation (see this OSU article.) Burning it in piles is cheap for the timber company, but takes a toll on the health of community members and the environment. The smoke contains toxic gases such as carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, other greenhouse gases, nitrogen oxides, hydrocarbons, and particulate matter that is small enough to enter the lungs and affect the respiratory system. These pollutants are especially of concern for the very young, the elderly and people with respiratory issues such as asthma and COPD. Carbon released from slash burns contributes to global climate change

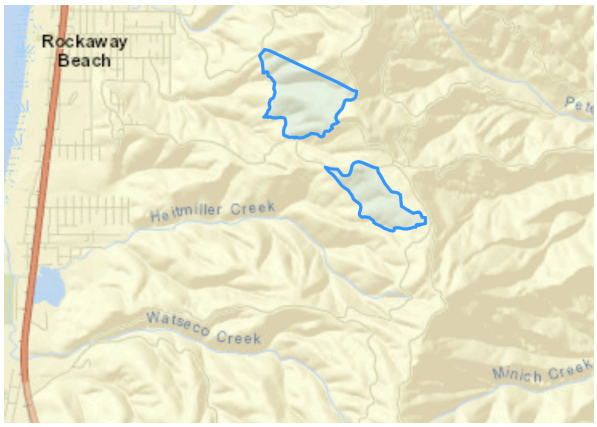
Slash burns can also ignite wildfires. Slash burns caused the Hug Point Complex fire in 2014 and multiple fires in Clatsop County in 2022.

These burns are within 100 feet of fish-bearing streams and wetlands.

LOCATION & SIZE: At least 100 acres near Rockaway Beach, 640 acres total in Tillamook County

DATES: November 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026





Contact the timber company, Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), and your local officials to ask them to use safer, healthier methods in managing slash:

- Notifier/ Operator for Nuveen Natural Capital: Fridtjof Kristian Fremstad 503-741-1214
- Tillamook Office of Oregon Department of Forestry: 503-842-2545
- ODF Forester: Mark Main, mark.r.main@oregon.gov
- Tillamook County Environmental Health: Jaime Craig at jaime.craig@tillamookcounty.gov

Keep up-to-date on logging, pesticide spraying, and slash burning and leave comments by signing up for notifications at the ODF's FERNS portal at https://ferns.odf.oregon.gov/e-notification.

Monitor air quality on the AirNow Fire and Smoke map: https://maps.wildlandfiresmoke.net/or-v4/#7/45.615/-123.932

Obtain your own air quality monitor and become part of the Purple Air Network here: www.purpleair.com

Wheeler Rodent Poison Warning

There is a new notice out about Rozol being applied on Stimson Timber-owned land to kill mountain beavers near Wheeler. This affects 50 acres of recently-logged land and is in addition to 246.8 acres in a previous notice. Rozol (active ingredient chlorophacinone) will be distributed in pellet form. Rozol is an anticoagulant, meaning it prevents blood clotting and causes internal bleeding and death. If ingested, it is highly toxic to humans. It persists in the bodies of dead animals and remains a secondary hazard for two weeks or longer.

NCCWP strongly opposes the killing of mountain beavers that have been native to these forests for millions of years.



Recent video of a mountain beaver and its den near Wheeler, courtesy of Neal McKinney: https://youtu.be/14fSpwIX8lw
Contact the Tillamook County Forester Erick Finnell at (503) 842-2545 and erick.r.finnell@oregon.gov and Stimson Lumber at (503) 357-2131

Thank You!

Successful Fundraising Event at Fort George Brewery on Sept. 29
A BIG THANK YOU to all the artists who donated their beautiful art, generously donated items from their small local businesses, and the volunteers who helped to run the silent auction, set up and tear down. This is what grassroots community looks like and we couldn't have done it without you!

Artists: Laura Janes, Jenny Rideout, Rachel Siegel, Lori LaBissoniere, Sherise Smith, Denise Monaghan, Chris Eagon, Patrick McGinnis, Anna Kaufman, Kim Warsheski, Ted Messing, Kurt Van Vlack, Carl Whiting, Susan Martindale, Carol Newman
Local Businesses: Civil, Fede, Daphne, Liberty Theatre, Kala, Gypsy Whimsy, Necessary Magic, FinnWare, Pat's Pantry, Alberta Co-op, Astoria Column Giftshop, Patti Smith West



Volunteers: Rachel Siegel, Cheryl Johnson, Elizabeth deReine

Davis Ridge Update

A group of local Brownsmead (Astoria) area residents, with the help of NCCWP, have successfully gotten the Oregon Department of Forestry to stop (re-evaluate) the planned herbicide/pesticide spraying operation that was scheduled for Davis Ridge in mid-September. Major thank yous to those who wrote letters, made calls, posted on Instagram and testified to the Board of Forestry. Unfortunately the logging on Davis Ridge is ongoing and we need to continue to pay attention and speak out. If you're on Instagram, follow the.davis.ridge.project for updates.

Mark your calendar

Community Meetings

All are welcome at our monthly meetings in Rockaway Beach and Astoria. Come learn, hear stories, join discussions, give input, plan and meet others working to ensure clean air and drinking water.

In Astoria: The Astoria monthly meeting for October has been cancelled. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, November 18, at 4 p.m. Meetings are at Kala, 1017 W. Marine Drive, Astoria.

In Rockaway Beach: Monthly meetings are held the last Tuesday of the month. The next meeting is Tuesday, October 27. We will discuss the city's upcoming strategic plan survey and open house on Oct. 28. We will also discuss our ongoing project to protect the Nedonna wetlands, and how to get permanent protection for our Foss Road members' drinking water source. St. Mary by the Sea Parish Hall, 275 S. Pacific Street, Rockaway Beach, 6 p.m.

Oceanside Event

Monday, November 2: Richard Felley will present his program showing aerial views of North Coast clearcuts, "The North Coast Temperate Rainforest Isn't Disappearing — It's Gone," at the Oceanside Community Club monthly potluck. Monday, Nov. 2, 6 p.m., Oceanside Community Club, 1550 Pacific Ave., Oceanside. All are welcome. https://www.oceansidefriends.org/

Coastal Futures 2027 Update — Sea Level Rise

On October 10, about 30 members of NCCWP and the Rockaway Beach community met with students and professors from the University of Oregon Department of Landscape Architecture. For the third year, Rockaway Beach will be the basis of a student project, Coastal Futures, that looks at the future of coastal towns facing environmental challenges. This meeting was the kick-off for Coastal Futures 2027. The finished project will be presented in Rockaway Beach this coming February.

Professor Ignacio López Busón introduced the students and spoke about the intersection of ecology and community. He focused on how a community chooses to respond (or ignore) the threat of sea level rise caused by global climate change, as well as the flooding caused by development and deforestation. We need to look at what our own activities are doing and talk about these issues now instead of waiting for disaster to strike.

There was a lively question and comment period between members of the community, Professor Busón, and his colleagues Robert Ribe and John O'Keefe.

We then heard from masters student Inanna Hencke, whose final MLA project focuses on the future of Jetty Creek. Her interactions with NCCWP and the City of Rockaway Beach will be ongoing during her project.



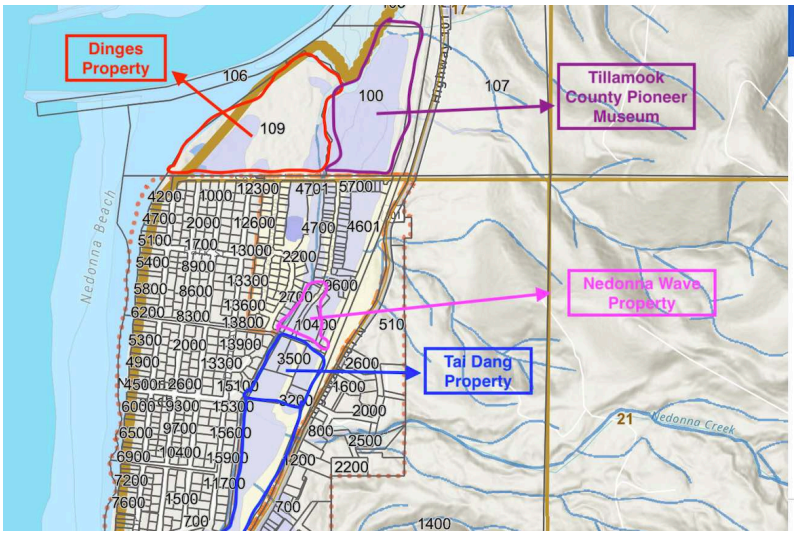
Photo courtesy of Bill Hassel

Wetlands Updates

On October 9, the Lower Nehalem Community Trust celebrated its restoration of McCoy Marsh with tree and seed planting. The marsh is now connected to tidal influence from the Nehalem River for the first time in almost a century, and already anchovies have appeared in the newly free flowing waters. This area should serve as an excellent salmon habitat as they feed and rest on their way to and from the ocean. You can see it on the west side of Highway 101 just north of Wheeler.



Nedonna Wetlands: We continue to monitor and work towards ways to permanently protect the wetlands in Nedonna Beach. We have recently learned that the newest zoning maps list the Tai Dang and Anna Song properties as Special Area (SA) wetlands, which would make them more difficult to build on. The land west of the Nedonna Marsh walking trail and along the jetty (Dinges property) is zoned for recreation, which makes it much more vulnerable to future development.



Year End Donations

Please consider a donation as part of your end-of-year tax planning. Donate HERE.

A reminder that donations made to NCCWP through our fiscal sponsor, Fulcrum Community Resources, are tax deductible. In order for your donation to be tax deductible, a check must be made out to Fulcrum Community Resources, with “for NCCWP” written in the memo line. If donating online from our website please enter “for NCCWP” in the memo box. (Fulcrum Community Resources retains 5% of the donation for their administrative purposes.

Links

Alex Brown at the Oregon Capital Chronicle reports on the removal of protections for endangered species that get in the way of developers and the timber industry: "Trump Administration Says Developers, Loggers, Can Kill Endangered Species."

Recent North Coast clear cuts are currently being treated with the anticoagulant rodent poison Rozol, to kill mountain beavers. NCCWP member Cara Mico writes about it in her blog: "A Crop or a Home?"

Water costs are skyrocketing. The Guardian reports "US households pay 62 percent more for water than they did a decade ago."

There are some new faces at the Oregon Department of Forestry and the Board of Forestry, including Kasey KC, who became the new Oregon State Forester in March.

Ways to Get Involved

Volunteers Needed

- Help hang posters for upcoming events! Contact Rhonda in Astoria or Anne Marie in Rockaway Beach if you can help hang flyers for spray notices, the aerial photography presentation, and/or the fundraiser at Fort George Brewery.
- Help with monitoring ongoing logging and pesticide applications in the North Coast drinking watersheds.
- Join our community meetings to help plan and strategize
- Help with finding relevant grants and grant writing

Contacts:

Pam in Astoria at pam.nccwp@gmail.com

Rhonda in Astoria at rhonda.nccwp@gmail.com,

Anne Marie in Rockaway at annemarie.nccwp@gmail.com or

Nancy at rockawaycitizen.water@gmail.com, if you can help out.

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/NCCWATERSHEDPROTECTION

For more information or to unsubscribe, contact rockawaycitizen.water@gmail.com

Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to NCCWP. You can donate by check or online via debit or credit card by visiting: https://healthywatershed.org/donate/.