RETURN OF THE NATIVE

Coastal coho salmon have survived 150 dismal years, but barely. Now Oregon officials say coho are no longer threatened. Critics say that's wishful thinking

YACHATS — A walk through the woods with Paul Engelmeyer is like a trip both back and forward in time. Since the late 1980s, he has been fighting to protect coho salmon in watersheds along the Oregon Coast. He sees his work with government agencies and private land owners there as a model for future watershed recovery everywhere.

"It should be duplicated throughout the region," he says.

With a walking stick, the native of St. Louis, Mo., makes his way around the ancient forests near Cape Perpetua as though he's always lived there. Cape Perpetua, a rich forested environment just south of Yachats where mountains, forests, tidal pools and ocean meet, provides a tall promontory from which he paints the big picture.

Three watersheds near the Cape -- the Yachats River, Cummins Creek and Tenmile Creek -- are his classroom, and the property owners, politicians, scientists and volunteers who come for a visit are his students. "It's a working classroom on watershed recovery," he says.

Engelmeyer is at the forefront of the Oregon Coast's watershed restoration movement, which until recently had built momentum restoring coho salmon habitats and populations. Enthusiasm among Oregon's watershed volunteers exploded after voters approved massive new salmon funding with their overwhelming passage of Ballot Measure 66 in 1998. But for many volunteers interviewed for this article, the enthusiasm waned as the Legislature diverted millions in state and federal salmon dollars to other programs, such as a new research hatchery and pest control.

The work to restore the coho remains monumental, if you consider that the runs have fallen to 80 to 95 percent from where they were 150 years ago. But the state's commitment to bring the coho back that far has been questioned by numerous critics.

Instead, Engelmeyer and others say, the state aims to bring them back only so far as they can without placing any additional requirements on timber harvesters and agriculture. ""The state appears to be willing to set the bar for success as low as it can," Engelmeyer says.

The habitat for these runs has been devastated by more than a century of logging, diking, fishing and hatchery practices, as well as urban development. Many of the worst of these practices ended in the 1960s, but as recently as the 1980s the state was allowing fishers to kill up to 85 percent of the adult salmon before they could spawn. At the same time, the state was dumping 20 million hatchery-bred fish annually into their home streams. These actions killed many potential spawners while forcing the wild fish to compete with massive numbers of hatchery breeds for food and shelter.

As Engelmeyer tells it, success is still decades away. From his briefcase, he produces scientific report after scientific report showing that Oregon's forest practices allow logging to cause too much damage to salmon habitat. Without major reform, many scientists say, the recovery of coastal salmon cannot truly begin.

In today's political climate, that's a tall order. Oregon's forestry regulations offer far less protection for salmon than those in Washington and British Columbia, or on any National Forest in the region. A panel of scientists that reviews Oregon's salmon recovery plans, the Independent Multidisciplinary Science Team, has determined that Oregon's forest practices rules "are not adequate" to protect salmon.

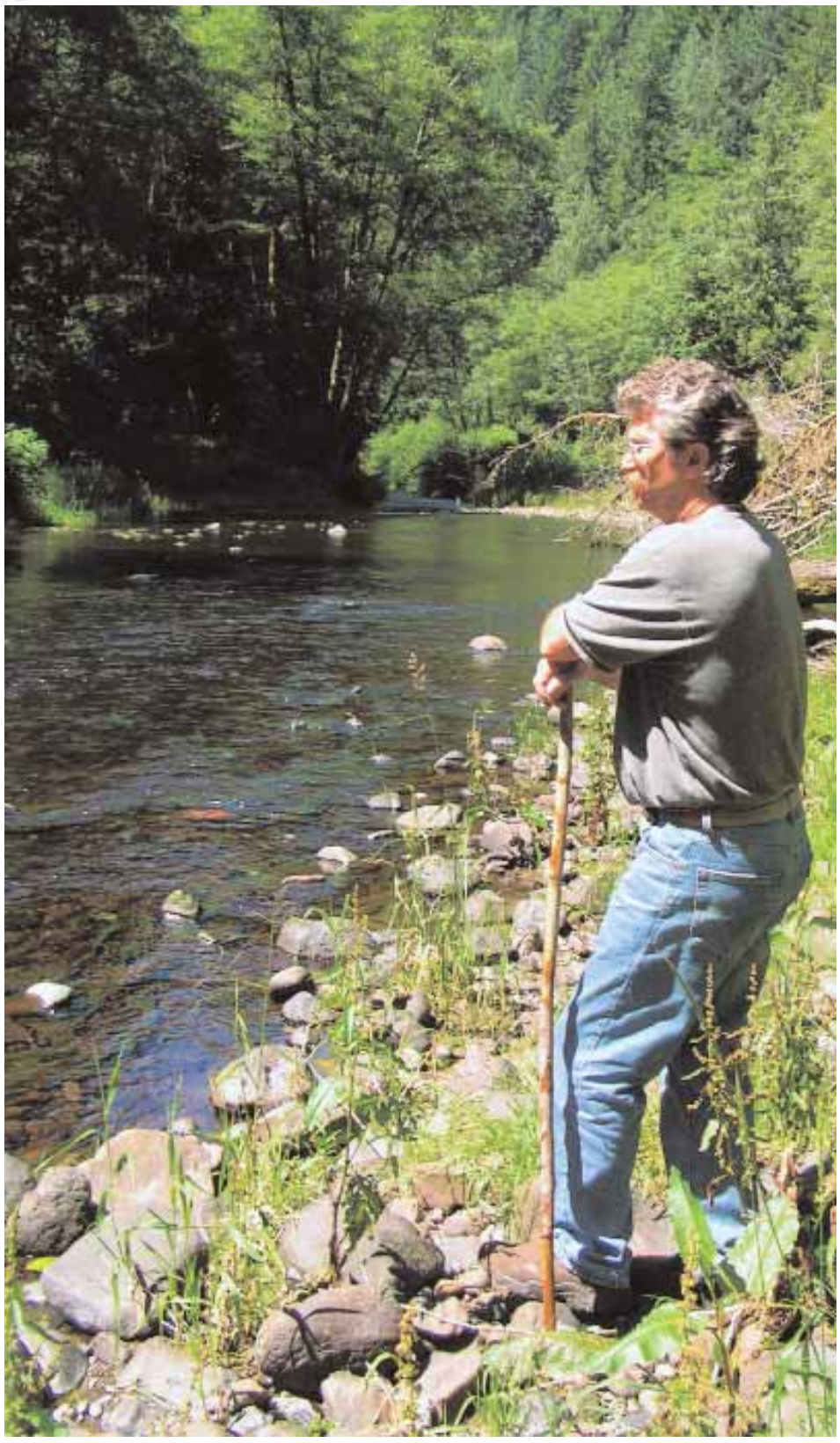
The panel has recommended numerous improvements to forestry practices, but they have been ignored. Meanwhile, federal regulations are being weakened by a Bush administration intent on seeing more logging on federal lands, especially in roadless areas that were supposed to be protected under Clinton.

And yet, political leaders in Salem and Washington, D.C., are prepared to trumpet their efforts on behalf of the coho as a glowing success. This year, they are expected to declare a major political victory by announcing the coho's recovery from the brink of extinction. The National Marine Fisheries Service is likely to strike the Oregon coastal coho salmon from the Endangered Species List, returning the job of managing the fish back to the state.

The state claims that the coastal coho are now proven to be "viable," given its rebound from low populations in the 1990s. They believe the coho are capable of surviving at a low population and are no longer threatened with extinction. However, critics say such claims are closer to fantasy than science, and they point out that numerous state, federal and nongovernmental scientific reports support their skepticism. They buttress their criticism by pointing to Oregon's inconsistent support for restoring the salmon.

The coho's decline began around 1850 when white settlers began altering coastal tidelands occupied by aboriginal peoples. That year, the estimated size of coho runs in 10 streams from Nehalem to Coquille exceeded 2.1 million fish a year.

The long decline bottommed out in



TENMILE CREEK IN RECOVERY — Paul Engelmeyer has been working on watershed issues in midcoast river basins like Tenmile Creek, home to a depressed run of coho, since the late 1980s. He says overfishing under the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the federal Pacific Fishery Management Council nearly destroyed the run. "We were fishing up to 85 percent of the run until the 1980s," he says. *Photo by Paul Koberstein*

COASTAL COHO SALMON

On the road to recovery? Runs on the Oregon Coast remain 80 to 95 percent below historical levels

MAP: THE COHO'S DECLINE, RIVER BY RIVER — The map at right compares the historic sizes of coho runs in 10 coastal streams and bays with the sizes of those runs today. The orange boxes show the location of hatcheries. *Sources: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board; Meengs, C.C., and R.T. Lackey (2005)*

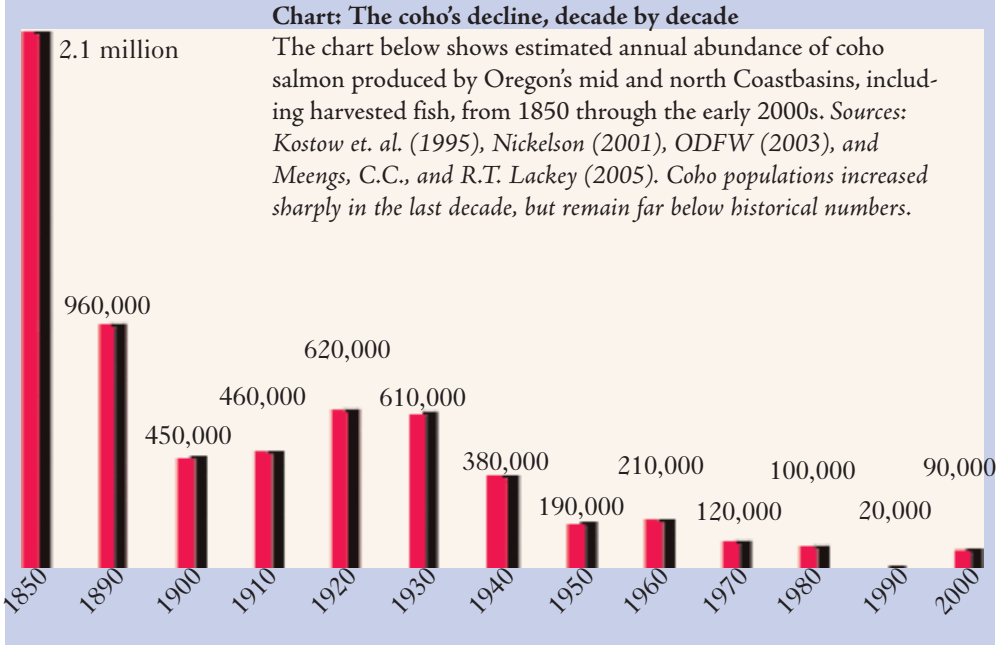
KEY

Large fish represent the relative size of 1850 coho populations in each river system

Small fish represent the relative size of 2003 coho populations in each river system (not to scale; actual proportional size is much smaller, but would be almost invisible)

Chart: The coho's decline, decade by decade

The chart below shows estimated annual abundance of coho salmon produced by Oregon's mid and north Coastbasins, including harvested fish, from 1850 through the early 2000s. *Sources: Kostow et. al. (1995), Nickelson (2001), ODFW (2003), and Meengs, C.C., and R.T. Lackey (2005). Coho populations increased sharply in the last decade, but remain far below historical numbers.*



the 1990s. The coho have rebounded a little since then, but new reports show that they may be tanking again.

The decline was largely the work of humans, though periodic episodes of poor ocean conditions associated with El Nino have been a factor. It didn't help that loggers devastated coastal streams by using them as highways to deliver logs to sawmills downstream until at least the late 1950s. They built so-called "splash dams" to raise river levels to speed the logs down the river, despite the fact that these small dams made it difficult if not impossible for salmon to pass through. Roads were built with no regard to how they might damage fish or water quality. A large number of road crossings over streams did not provide adequate passage for juvenile and adult fish.

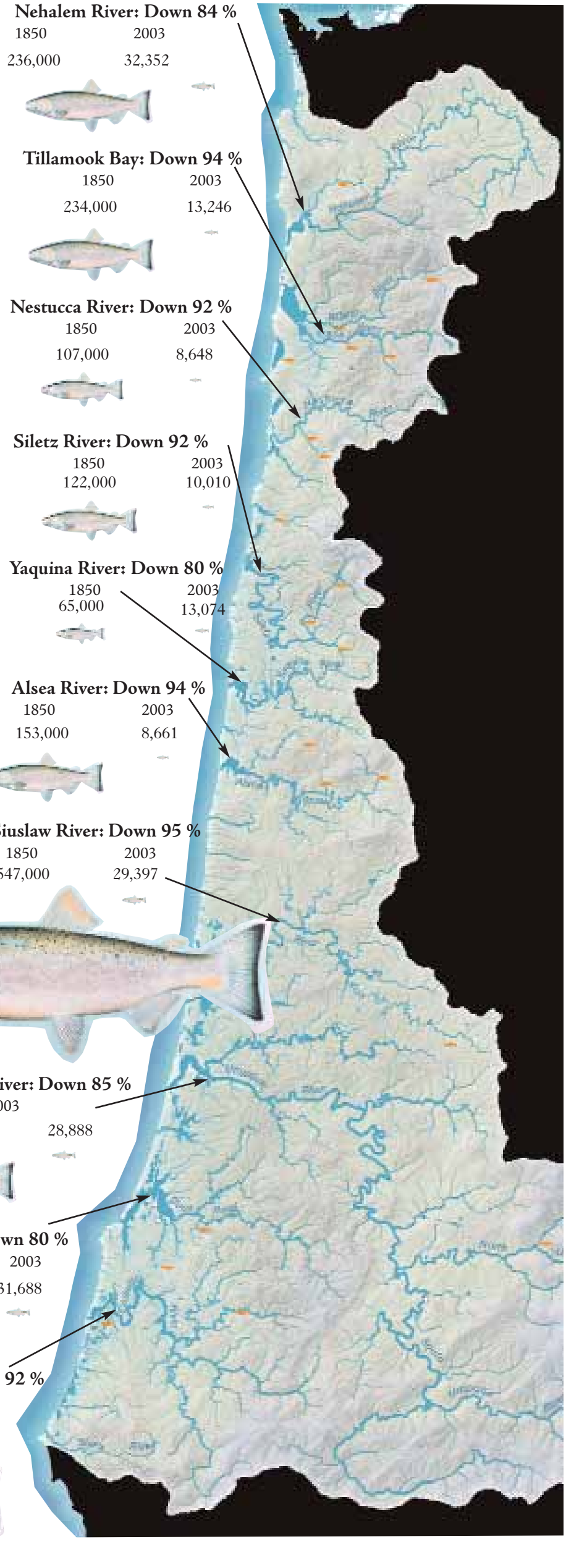
Beginning around 1880, tidelands, marshes and wetlands were diked, often with the encouragement of state and federal agencies. Riprap was placed along the rivers to armor streambanks, eliminating important wetland habitat along the shore. Today only about 32 percent of important wetland habitats remain on the Coast — and in the Coquille and Nestucca Basins, less than 10 percent are left (see chart on Page 11).

By the 1950s, the coho had already lost about 90 percent of its population. The estimated population was about 190,000, about the same as today.

But in the 1950s, a new phase in the coho's collapse was just starting. Stream conditions were bad, and getting worse. Woody debris in streams, which adds nutrients and provides cover for migrating fish, was being removed from streams, a practice that continued into the mid-1970s. Loggers were also removing all the trees next to streams, causing stream temperatures to increase to lethal levels during hot summer days. Most of the old growth timber on private lands was largely gone, and a period of rapacious logging on public lands had begun, fueled by the dictates of Congress.

Eventually, many state officials realized that their hatchery program was also helping to destroy the wild coho, and in the 1990s, they dramatically reduced hatchery production. Some state officials, however, still favor the easily produced hatchery fish over the hard work and often costly regulations necessary to nurture wild fish. They also reluctantly made dramatic cuts in sports and commercial harvests.

By 1990, little more than 30,000 were all that remained from the original 2.1 million coastal coho salmon, more than a 98 percent decline, according to a 2005 study published by Richard Lackey of the EPA's western ecology office and Chad Meengs of Oregon State



FILLING WETLANDS? — A dump truck deposits manure from a horse stable into wetlands and the flood plain next to Rock Creek, the major tributary of Devils Lake in Lincoln County. The photo was taken in February, 2005. Witnesses saw numerous truck loads being dumped. At right, an adult coho salmon leaps a 40-inch dam on Rock Creek as it returned last winter from the ocean to spawn. Nearby residents have asked Lincoln City to remove the dam.

University, both in Corvallis.

The most salmon rich basin on the Coast, the Siuslaw River, once had an estimated 547,000 adult coho. In 1990, the Siuslaw saw barely 2,000 fish. By 2003, the number jumped to almost 30,000.

Even with the recent increase, the coho remains 5 to 20 percent of their historical size, according to Meengs and Lackey.

The streams that provide coho habitat are still in poor condition, many scientists say. These streams still lack the habitat conditions generally understood as important to salmon survival. A recent state report acknowledges a "general scarcity of large instream wood, lack of large conifers in riparian areas, reduced interactions with off-channel habitat and the presence of fine sediment in gravels."

Still, state of Oregon officials claim that their methods for restoring salmon have succeeded. Some of the success, they say, can be a credit to good ocean conditions. But they also believe this rebound shows that the fish are just resilient enough to persist at low abundance no matter how bad ocean conditions get.

But other scientists are skeptical, including Lackey. "Many experts have concluded that wild salmon recovery efforts in western North America (especially California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and southern British Columbia), as earnest, expensive, and socially disruptive as they currently are, do not appear likely to sustain biologically significant populations of wild salmon through this century," Lackey said at a conference in February.

"Sustainability remains elusive," he says, "and it appears that other recovery strategies must be adopted if wild salmon are to survive in significant numbers through the century."

But Ray Beamesderfer, a private fisheries consultant, contends that over the last two decades new scientific insights and increased efforts to rescue salmon "have led to implementation of a variety of beneficial measures that have already began to reverse declining trajectories."

In sorting through the debate, it's worth noting that Beamesderfer's client is Douglas County in Southern Oregon, which has an economic stake in the issue. Tougher rules protecting salmon could affect logging, mining, agriculture and rural development.

Federal scientists with the National Marine Fisheries Service have been particularly vocal with their criticism. Oregon's plan "doesn't provide any sort of certainty that the populations will always prove to be that resilient in the future," says a report by fisheries biologist Robin Waples and others from the agency's Northwest Science Center.

For example, the Oregon plan "ignores the fact that the majority of tidelands are already degraded, particularly in areas important to coho salmon," the federal scientists say.

NMFS scientists also question Oregon's assumption that the coastal landscape will change little in coming decades.

"Assuming a static, non-changing landscape in the central Oregon Coastsubregion for the next century flies in the face of the virtual certainties of population growth and land use change over the next century," Waples and the other NMFS scientists wrote.

As for the coho's recent rebound since the late 1990s, the federal scientists urge caution to those ready to declare victory now. It's is "too short a time," they say, to reach any conclusion.

They also point out that Measure 37, the new law that eases land-use restrictions on some properties in Oregon, might have a significant negative impact on coho.

Then there's the Oregon Legislature, which in the 2005 session voted for more logging in the Tillamook State Forest, which contains important coho habitat. This will mean less protection for the coho, critics say.

A decision to take coho off the endangered species list would ease many of the strict federal regulations governing salmon habitat, harvest and hatchery production on the Oregon Coast. Timber owners will be cutting down more trees in salmon habitat. They could do so without being sued under the Endangered Species Act. Farmers and developers may also benefit.

But will de-listing help the coho? Not likely. The state of Oregon will take over the job

TINY SALMON — Tenmile Creek is home to a healthy run of coho salmon, thanks to restoration work done in the watershed over the last 15 years. These baby coho spend 18 months in the creek before swimming to the sea, where they live another 18 months before returning to spawn. *Photo by Paul Koberstein/Cascadia Times*

Coho run through the legal jungle

a chronology

1993 — The National Marine Fisheries Service decides against listing coho on the Oregon Coast under the Endangered Species Act. A lawsuit filed by the Oregon Natural Resources Council is denied.

1996 — Oregon Gov. John Kitzhaber launches his "Oregon Plan" to prevent the listing of coho and to build a citizen-based network of watershed councils working to restore salmon habitat.

1998 — NMFS decides to list the coho in Oregon rivers south of the Columbia River and north of Cape Blanco.

September 2001 — Federal court bounces the coho off the Endangered Species List. Ruling in *Alsea Valley Alliance v. Evans,* the court throws out the listing decision because NMFS had "arbitrarily" excluded hatchery-spawned coho from its decision.

November 2001 — A federal appeals court returns the coho to the Endangered Species List.

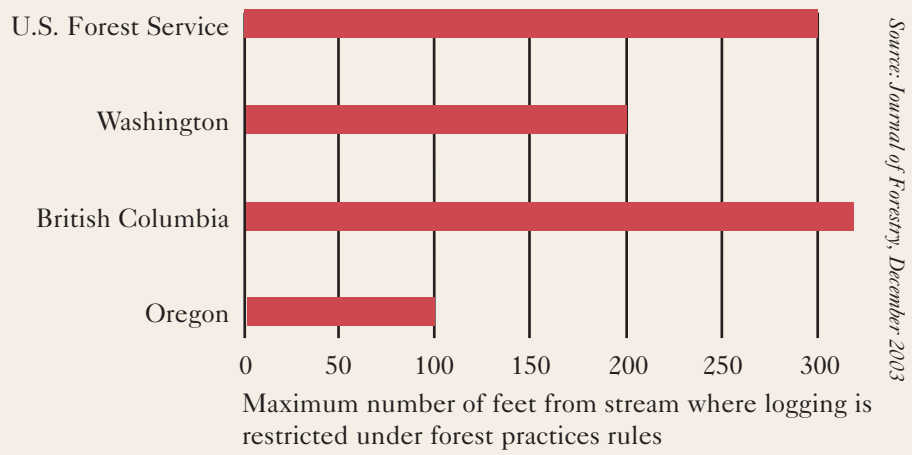
February 2002 — The Pacific Rivers Council sues under the Endangered Species Act to prevent logging in coastal Oregon from harming coho.

February 2004 — Ninth U.S. Court of Appeals reverses the Appeals Court and upholds the District Court's September 2001 opinion. And while the Ninth Circuit Court does not lift the stay, for all intents and purposes the Oregon coho are now no longer a "threatened" species under the ESA. The Pacific Rivers Council drops its lawsuit.

May 2004 — NMFS issues a new federal hatchery policy and once again proposes to list the Oregon coho as a threatened species. It is likely to decide whether to list the coho in late 2005.

OREGON'S FORESTRY RULES: **WEAKEST** IN THE NORTHWEST

Oregon allows logging close to fish-bearing streams, causing water temperatures dangerous to wild salmon



NEW FORESTRY... SAME OLD SILT — State lands logged along a salmon-bearing tributary of the Kilchis River. Left, a healthy stream before logging began. Second, after logging, the ground begins to give way. Third, the hillside crumbles. Fourth, sediment fills the stream, smothering coho salmon habitat. *Photos by Peter Bahls/Pacific Rivers Council*

In December 2003, the Journal of Forestry reported that Oregon lags far behind Washington, Alaska, British Columbia and the U.S. Forest Service when it comes to protecting salmon from the harmful impacts of logging. Logging next to a stream removes shade needed to keep the water cool enough for salmon. In many Oregon Coast streams, temperatures are often high enough to harm coho during the summer. Logging close to streams also removes the source of large woody debris that provide healthy habitat for salmon when trees fall into a stream. Unlike other government agencies in the Northwest, the Oregon Department of Forestry allows loggers to remove most of the trees close to most streams, and almost all the trees beyond 100 feet. Many scientists say that until Oregon strengthens its regulations, and improves the protection of coastal coho salmon from unsustainable forest practices, they will remain at risk of extinction.

of managing salmon from the feds. Leaders of the Oregon Legislature have been openly hostile to salmon protection. They have raided salmon recovery budgets, slowing down or scaling back numerous restoration projects. They fired an agency director, ostensibly for being too supportive of programs to restore coho habitat, and according to sources personally call staff members in natural resources agencies. Some see this as intimidation.

The effects of any intimidation could weaken the state's already toothless environmental agencies. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has lost its habitat protection division, and is divided over whether it's better to pursue tighter regulations protecting wild fish and their habitat, or rely on greater hatchery production. The agency retains its historic fondness for hatcheries, as is evident from its strong support for a new research hatchery in Alsea River basin where critics say the coho's greatest need is restoration of horrific habitat conditions. Millions of dollars worth of habitat work has been cancelled or delayed to build the hatchery, critics say.

The Oregon Department of Forestry, which regulates logging on state and private lands in Oregon, plans to harvest the Tillamook State Forest at levels its own experts say will further harm the coho.

Watershed groups on the Coast complain that the Oregon Department of Water Quality, the Water Resources Department and the Department of State Lands have been reluctant to enforce laws protecting water quality, instream water rights for fish and wetlands.

Kathereyn McKenzie of Lincoln City, a volunteer for the Salmon-Drift Creek Watershed Council, says she has called state lands officials repeatedly about the illegal dumping of manure into wetlands adjacent to salmon habitat.

She has taken several photographs documenting the dumping, including the one published on Page 18. At the time the pictures were taken in February 2005, she says, "there were numerous truck loads being dumped. As far as I am aware this practice continues to date. The material was not dumped straight into the creek but in wetlands and flood plain adjacent to the creek."

She registered her complaints with the Department of State Lands, the agency in charge of enforcing laws to protect wetlands. Coastal wetlands and marshes are 68 percent gone, and experts say it's imperative to retain the rest and restore some more. The agency says it investigates cases of illegal dumping or filling wetlands only when it receives complaints. However, she says the agency has yet to investigate any of her organization's complaints, McKenzie says, despite its promises to do so.

In Oregon, there are few ways to ensure that the water salmon need remains in the stream. Regulations enforced by the Water Resources Department give preference to out of stream users, like irrigators or cities. Lisa Brown, an attorney for the environmental group WaterWatch, notes that 28 percent of coastal streams fail to provide enough water for coho during the summer dry months. She said the state of Oregon has identified 175 streams on the Coastthat are badly in need of more water to support salmon. And yet, the state has restored only a relative trickle to these streams. Water demand from coastal streams will only increase as populations grow.

Some watershed council leaders say the state's commitment to funding watershed efforts is shaky at best. During the last several years, local watershed councils have been increasing in number while the amount of dollars has not kept pace. The Upper and lower Nehalem Watershed Councils have lost funding for planning, stream monitoring, education, and assessment, says Maggie Payton, the council coordinator. "We are still getting a lot done, but it has taken its toll on the volunteers. We are expected to do the same with less. We've hung in there, but it has hurt morale."

"Watershed staffing has been increasingly inadequate," says Wayne Hoffman, coordinator of the Mid-Coast Watershed Council based in Newport. The need is growing, he says, but the funding is not.

Hoffman says the state has set its goals for coho salmon too low. "The goal of my organization is not to get coho just above the magic line, so they don't need listing," he says. "The goal is to get coho really recovered — to the point where they can support healthy fisheries. The means a lot more fish than the minimum to get out from under the ESA."

The Oregon Plan for restoring coho is based on the work of these volunteer councils. "I know many volunteers that are out there trying to do the right thing," Engelmeyer says. "Timber land owners, small woodlot owners, rural residents, but until we get the big players on the landscape improving their management, we will not be successful at long-term recovery of our salmon populations. The state appears not to be willing to deal with the real issues, like improving habitat function, protecting uplands and improving habitat conditions in our lowlands."

(Continued on Page 23)

THE **POLITICS** OF SALMON GET PERSONAL IN SALEM

Right-wing attack dogs in Salem get their man. But what's their agenda?

It's all on tape. On April 9, 2004, Geoff Huntington waited patiently as three Republican leaders of the Oregon State Senate walked into a room in the state Capitol. Huntington, the executive director of the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, a state agency, was about to face a firing squad.

He had been caught in a battle for the heart and soul of the agency, which was created in 1999 to coordinate salmon recovery programs in Oregon. Some Republican leaders in the state Senate viewed the agency antagonistically as an advocate for salmon.

If he didn't vacate his office, the three senators vowed to slash OWEB's budget by $13.3 million, in effect crippling salmon programs and local watershed councils across the state. The Republicans said they would return the money to the federal agency from whence it came, the National Marine Fisheries Service, if Huntington failed to quit his job or if Gov. Ted Kulongoski refused to fire him.

But Kulongoski refused to find out if the Republicans were bluffing. He simply let Huntington take the hit. There would be no appeal, no escape. With no support from the governor, and not wanting to sacrifice salmon for his own job, Huntington resigned the next day.

For many in state environmental agencies, two messages were clear: take no risk that might make the Republicans angry, and don't expect the governor to watch your back.

Because the Republicans controlled the Senate, the three senators had the power to turn back those funds, although some conservation leaders doubted they would actually go through with it. Yet Ken Messerle, from Coos Bay; Steve Harper, from Klamath Falls; and Roger Beyer, from Mollala, hardly sounded like they were kidding around.

Messerle was first to speak. "I'm troubled by the direction where we're at with this program today," he said. "It does not reflect on the good work by the watershed councils. I am and have been concerned by the management of this agency and the direction it's taken in recent times."

In fact, the only trouble with the state's salmon program was that it had already been shorted money by the Legislature, which raided $55 million from the program for other uses (see box on opposite page).

Steve Harper spoke next. "We have worked very hard to keep the federal government out of our back yard," he said. "I would like either a confirmation vote on the director or have him resign or be removed."

Whatever terrible things the feds were doing in the backyard, Harper didn't say, and he wasn't about to change his mind. "That's the fix," Harper said.

With all their complaints of mismanagement, the senators produced no evidence whatsoever of wrongdoing. In fact, there never was any such evidence. Moreover, a recent audit of OWEB programs by the Oregon Secretary of State proved OWEB's management of salmon funds to have been fully acceptable.

Members of the conservation community applauded the work done by Huntington and OWEB. "OWEB has been very integral in getting restoration work done in non federal lands," Bruce Taylor of the Oregon Habitat Joint Venture said in an interview. "They are doing some great stuff up in the watersheds. But OWEB is viewed as a threat to the traditional interests out there."

That was the key. Huntington represented changes that made the timber and agricultural interests — key parts of the Republican base in Oregon — nervous.

This power play had nothing to do with Huntington, and everything to do with an anti-environmental agenda. OWEB was pursuing a strategy for salmon recovery that focused on restoring important habitat. Often that meant the purchase of land, rather than imposing tough new regulations on landowners. In doing so, OWEB was simply following the law -- in this case, Ballot Measure 66, which was approved by Oregon voters in 1998.

Messerle, Beyer and Harper did much to disrupt the salmon program. They engineered a plan to move more than $26 million in state and federal salmon restoration money to other areas of the state budget. This raid caught the attention of East Coast members of Congress who wondered why U.S. taxpayers were paying for items in Oregon's budget that had little or nothing to do with salmon recovery.

In Salem, some Democrats warned the Republicans there could be consequences with the way the Legislature was spending the money. "We knew the feds were not too happy with (the backfilling), and they have been watching us carefully," said Joan Dukes, then a Democrat state senator from Astoria.

At the April 9 hearing, Dukes mentioned that the National Marine Fisheries Service's inspector general had investigated the backfilling. "They know there are issues with how Oregon spends Pacific salmon money," Dukes said. "We could by this action today be putting in jeopardy future money. We are really cutting off our nose to spite our face here."

She said that Sen. Olympia Snowe, the Republican from Maine, was

UP ON CIRCLE CREEK — A herd of Roosevelt elk gather after dawn at Circle Creek, near the Necanicum River south of Seaside. The 300-acre site includes a 100-acre Sitka spruce swamp, one of the largest remaining blocks of a forested wetland type that has been largely eliminated from the Oregon Coast. This is a high-quality example of an ecological community that is considered "vulnerable" at the global level and "critically imperiled in Oregon, according to the Oregon Natural Heritage Program. Only about 3 percent of this habitat still exists in Oregon outside the Lower Columbia River region. *Photo courtesy Neal Maine/North Coast Land Trust*

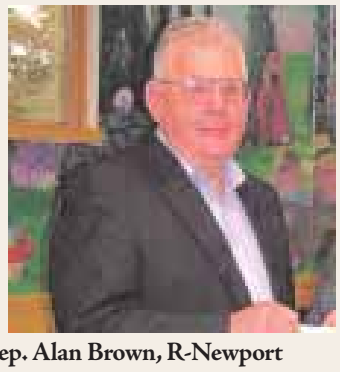
SALEM'S LOT

Four legislators openly hostile to conserving salmon habitat on the Oregon Coast

Sen. Roger Beyer, R-Mollala
Pushed bill to eliminate the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board. It failed to pass. 2003 OLCV Score: 0%

Sen. Steve Harper, R-Klamath Falls
Caught on tape: "That's the fix," he said as he worked to remove OWED director Geoff Huntington. 2003 OLCV Score: 0%

Sen. Ken Messerle, R-Coos Bay
Led crusade to oust Huntington. Also tried to block the use of federal funds to purchase salmon habitat on the Coast. He failed. 2003 OLCV Score: 0%. (Now retired.)



Rep. Alan Brown, R-Newport
Supported bills to double logging in state forests on the Coast. Studies show existing levels of logging will damage coastal coho salmon. He also supported bills to count hatchery-bred salmon as wild, and to spend salmon habitat restoration funds on a hatchery. 2003 OLCV Score: 4%.

Note: OLCV Score refers to the Oregon League of Conservation Voters' study of conservation votes in the Legislature. Zero is the least possible score; 100 is the best. Source: www.olcv.org

among members of Congress who was not happy with the way Oregon was misspending federal salmon money. She would have liked the salmon money to go to her state if Oregon was not willing to abide by the terms set by Congress, Dukes noted, adding that another $15 million in 2005 might also be at risk. A spokeswoman for Gov. Ted Kulongoski said Oregon's misuse of federal funds threatened not just the state's salmon program, but a chunk of salmon funding for all four Pacific Northwest states.

But Messerle said he saw no problems. "I am not concerned at this point we are in jeopardy," he said.

The National Marine Fisheries Service, however, was indeed concerned. In an August 2003, letter to OWEB, the federal agency said diverting federal funds was a "a significant departure" from its rules. The agency warned that Congressional support for the salmon program "will hinge on our ability to show clear accountability."

Though OWEB is a bit player in the grand scheme of things in Salem, the agency has become controversial among Republicans in Salem who fervently oppose its efforts to help purchase private land for salmon restoration.

Proposals to help salmon generally fall into three categories: new regulations to restrict activities that damage habitat, such as logging; projects that improve habitat, like restoring wetlands; and land purchases that protect areas that are important to salmon, such as estuaries. All three methods, however, have drawbacks. But without the authority to buy land, which was granted by voters under Measure 66, the state can do little to restore coastal wetlands that have been converted to agriculture. These potential wetlands are seen as crucial to salmon recovery by many scientists.

New regulations are tough to enact; the Legislature and state agencies like the Department of Forestry in recent years have favored less regulation, not more. And once approved, regulations can be reversed. The Clinton administration's regulations protecting roadless areas didn't survive Bush's first term.

Projects that improve habitat can benefit salmon, scientists say, but can be undermined by activities elsewhere in the watershed, like logging.

Land purchases offer lasting protection for habitat, but the benefits to fish and wildlife are usually limited to the site that's been acquired. They can also be controversial, even though all of OWEB's acquisitions have enjoyed road local support.

Since its creation in the 1999 by the Legislature, OWEB has helped several private land trusts buy land that was thought necessary for habitat conservation and watershed health.

The ability to purchase can be the single most important key to successful restoration, Taylor says, especially on the Coast.

"To restore tidal wetlands, you have to open up the dikes, and that usually makes the pasture unusable for livestock," Taylor says.

But land purchases are often viewed with disdain by private property ideologues. One such politician, Messerle led the fight against two land purchases coordinated by OWEB. He fought a proposed purchase of a 360-acre parcel known as Circle Creek, located next to the Necanicum River south of Seaside. The purchase was intended to protect a wild coho run and a rare Sitka spruce forest. It enjoyed strong support from the city of Seaside and Clatsop County. The North Coast Land Trust, headed by Neal Maine, a former Seaside High School science teacher, had won a $725,000 grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to complete the purchase.

Messerle, who was chairman of a Joint Ways and Means subcommittee that controlled funding for natural resource agencies, used a legislative maneuver that blocked the grant for nearly two years. He would have killed it if not for Maine's relentless pursuit of the property. The Circle Creek deal closed the second week of June 2004.

"Circle Creek is a rare example of a Sitka spruce ecosystem," Maine says. The creek provides rich rearing habitat for juvenile salmon near the Necanicum River. The 100 acres of Sitka spruce forest wetland, 300 acres of river delta and 64 acres of upland forest made the deal extremely attractive to conservationists.

Messerle also tried — and failed — to kill the purchase of 600 acres of tidal marshes in Yaquina Bay near Newport, despite a federal grant of $952,000 available to complete the deal. "You rarely have opportunities to buy pristine native habitat like that because there aren't that many out there any more," Taylor says.

As Messerle told the Newport News-Times, he was concerned about "using public money to purchase public property for a public purpose." The Yaquina land is located between Newport and Toledo. The purchase was supported by the Mid-Coast Watershed Council, Lincoln County and Simpson Lumber Co., the property owner.

But Messerle did manage to block the $1 million purchase and a restoration of more than 500 acres of tidal wetlands in the Siuslaw River estuary. He also blocked Oregon's participation in the U.S. Forest Service's "Forest Legacy" program that would have helped to protect and preserve rare Sitka spruce forests on the North Coast, among other vulnerable forest lands statewide.

"Land acquisition is difficult, expensive, and sometimes politically sensitive," Taylor says. "Organizations that buy land incur obligations for long-term management that dwarf initial acquisition costs. There are many more good acquisition opportunities than there is money to pay for them. We have no interest in entangling ourselves in controversial acquisitions that lack public support."

The Republicans' agenda went beyond stopping land deals. They raided a habitat restoration fund for a new $7 research hatchery near the Alsea River, even though hatcheries have nothing to do with habitat. The project was approved without a research plan. Critics say the Republicans believe that the more fish that are produced in hatcheries, the less need there will be for the state to protect or restore habitat for wild fish.

And as OWEB's budget has been slashed, the agency's effectiveness has been reduced, as the chart at left shows,.

For example, according to OWEB, the number of acres of wetlands restored, created or improved dropped from 166 in 1998 to zero in 2003. The number of projects designed to improve coho habitat in rivers and streams dropped from 216 to 50. In 1998, volunteers planted trees along 57 miles of streamside riparian areas, giving coho increased shade during the summer. In 2003, only 18 miles of riparian areas were planted.

The Oregon Habitat Joint Venture was also a target of the Republicans. The Conservancy and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife once produced a newsletter on wetlands restoration in the state. But after a newsletter described how Messerle tried to block a federal grant for wetland acquisitions, restoration work in the Yaquina River basin, state funding for the newsletter and other financial support for the organization were eliminated. Taylor, the joint venture's director, says the cuts came in retaliation for printing information that Messerle did not like.

Some local government officials on the Coast have also been hostile to salmon recovery efforts, most notably John Griffith, a county commissioner in Coos County. In 2000, the Coos Watershed Association received a $1 million grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to buy coastal wetlands from willing sellers and restore the land. No estuary on the Coast is in greater need of wetlands restoration than the Coquille River estuary of Coos County, which since the 19th Century has lost 94 percent of its wetlands.

The watershed council proposed to use a portion of that money to buy a parcel owned by a dairy farm that went out of business. At auction, they bid on the property. Griffith, then a reporter for a local newspaper, was also at the auction, but was running for county commissioner.

"He had thought this whole thing was outrageous," said Anne Donnelly of Charleston, who at the time was director of the group. "He began a big campaign to destroy the watershed association."

Once elected, Donnelly says, Griffith began using his position on the county commission "to stop the council from doing anything."

Griffith persuaded the county commissioners to pass an ordinance making it illegal to restore wetlands on land zoned for agriculture. Several state agencies thought that was illegal, and got a state attorney general's ruling saying so.

The group got a permit to restore the wetland. Donnelly says, "That put John over the edge. He made sure that the watershed association would no longer approve any acquisition, easement or fee title to any property."

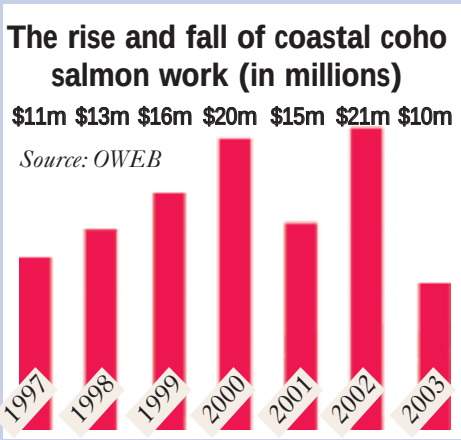
RAIDING THE SALMON FUND

Republican-led Legislature slashes salmon restoration programs after voters approve Ballot Measure 66 in 1998

In 1998, Oregon voters approved Ballot Measure 66 by 67 to 33 percent, showing overwhelming public support for restoring damaged salmon habitat. Measure 66 required the state to spend a percentage of lottery proceeds on state parks and habitat conservation for native fish and wildlife.

Over the next two years, the money spent on projects intended to improve salmon habitat increased substantially. In 2000, Oregon spent $20 million on improving salmon habitat, up from $13 million in 1998.

Since then, salmon recovery spending has been slashed by the Oregon Legislature, which diverted millions of dollars from restoration projects to other items in the state budget. In the 2003 legislative session alone, the legislature diverted $55 million in state and federal salmon restoration funds. As the chart here shows, the number of salmon restoration projects completed on the Coast has been generally declining since 2000.



The Legislature also grabbed $7 million for a new research hatchery, including $4 million from lottery dollars allocated by voters for habitat restoration. Critics say the hatchery has nothing to do with habitat restoration.

In 2005, the Legislature restored many of the cuts, but it may take years to make up for the lost ground, watershed coordinators on the Coast say.

SALMON PROJECTS ON THE COAST: 1998 vs 2003

Instream miles treated
1998: 101 2003: 27
Number of instream projects:
1998: 216 2003: 50
River miles newly accessible to salmon:
1998: 276 2003: 121
Stream crossings improved for fish:
1998: 234 2003: 107
Riparian miles fenced:
1998: 57 2003: 10
Riparian miles planted:
1998: 79 2003: 18
Miles of road closures:
1998: 62 2003: 48
Wetlands acres restored:
1998: 27 2003: 0
Wetlands acres improved:
1998: 16 2003: 0
Wetlands acres created:
1998: 123 2003: 0 *Source: OWEB*

PROTECTING OREGON'S OCEAN

Oregon group resumes work toward new marine reserves, while federal panel bans destructive bottom trawling in sensitive areas

This summer, for the first time since 2002, Oregon made progress toward protecting wild places under the sea.

It was meager progress. however. But the fact that they were even talking was enough to instill a buzz of optimism.

The group, known as the Oregon Ocean Policy Advisory Council, or OPAC, is considering various ideas for protecting sensitive habitats within the state's Territorial Sea, an area that extends out 3 miles along the entire Coast. When it last met, the council recommended a network of marine reserves be established, based on science as well as the need to protect the Coast's fishing industry.

"We see a process where all stakeholders are involved, including fishermen who have an in-depth knowledge of the Oregon Coast," said Samantha Murray of the Portland Audubon Society, a member of the Oregon Ocean, a coalition of conservation organizations dedicated to working for a healthy Pacific Ocean.

Numerous species of rockfish have been overfished off the Coast, and scientific studies show that marine protected areas can play an important role in rebuilding fish stocks. Within the boundaries of a protected area, female rockfish can reach an age when they are known to produce larger and more plentiful young. Without protection, these older, productive female fish are vulnerable to getting caught.

"Not only do the 'big old fat females' produce more plentiful young, but heartier young that are more resistant to stresses like starvation," Murray says. "Allowing more fish to grow up will allow better fishing to take place outside the marine reserve boundaries."

OPAC will also consider other concerns, including potential oil and gas development off the Coast. The new Federal Energy Bill contemplates exploration for offshore oil and natural gas for the first time in two decades. The potential for offshore salmon farming will also be discussed.

While Oregon's progress toward protecting marine areas has been slow, efforts to protect federal waters beyond the Territorial Sea have already produced results (see map, Page 5). The National Marine Fisheries Service, two federal fishery management councils and the conservation group Oceana have worked out plans to protect deep seas of California, Oregon, Washington and Alaska. This year, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council protected 370,000 square miles in the Aleutian Islands and Bering Sea, while the Pacific Fishery Management Council voted for a permanent ban on trawl fishing in nearly 250,000 square miles off the West Coast.

"This was the first major step in moving from fisheries management to ocean management," says Dave Allison of Oceana. "We've brought the industry to the table to recognize there are areas that are special and need to be protected."

Together, the two protected areas set a precedent for ocean protection that Allison expects to be applied on the East Coast and the Gulf of Mexico.

Though most of these areas have never been trawled, some have. And they include areas likely to enjoy broader protections in the future, such as Astoria Canyon, the submerged former mouth of the Columbia River, Heceta Bank off Yachats; and the Rogue Canyon west of Gold Beach.

Oceana's approach will protect deep sea coral and sponge, kelp forests, rocky reefs and sensitive habitats. It sets in place ongoing research and monitoring. The end result protects thousands of square miles of seafloor while still maintaining commercial fisheries, Allison says.

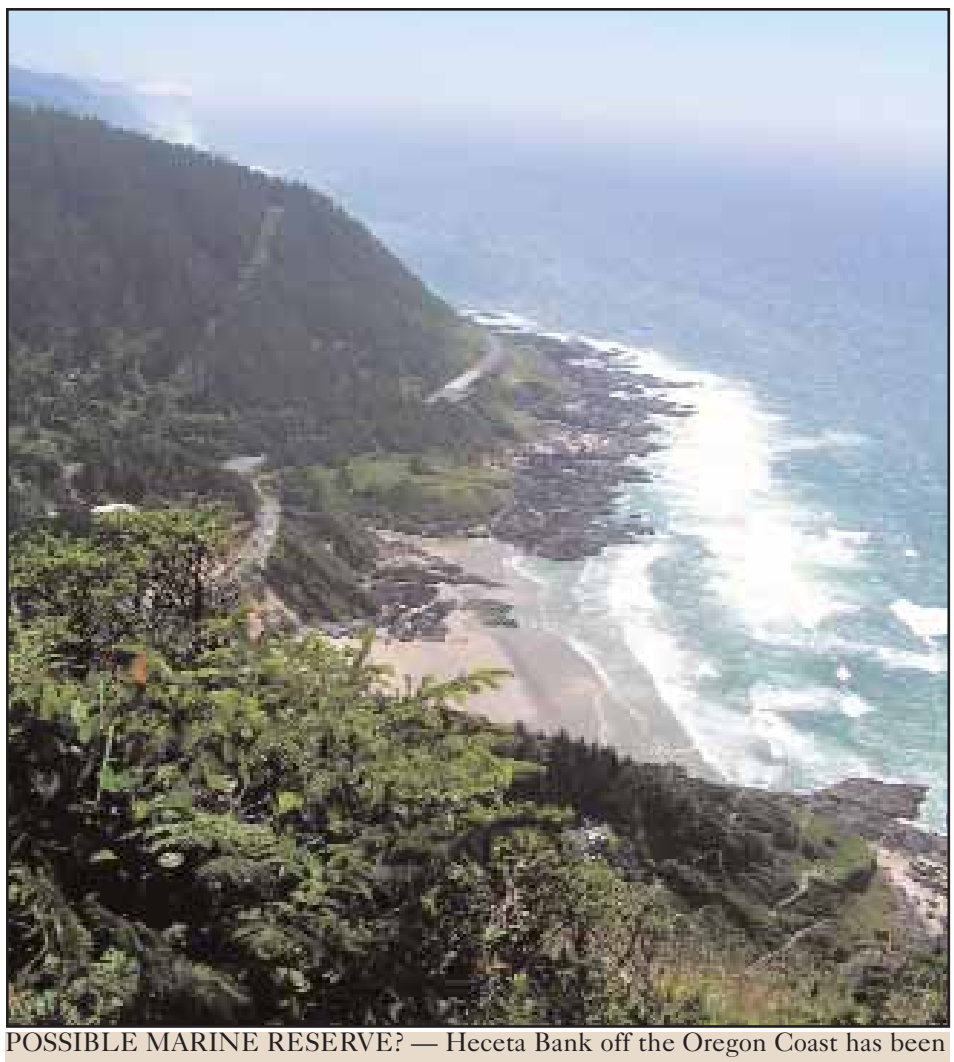
In Oregon, just having a meeting to discuss the issue is considered a victory. Since 2002, acrimony between the Gov. Ted Kulongoski's office and a Coos County commissioner led to a standoff. Kulongoski refused to appoint the commissioner, John Griffith, to the ocean policy panel because of disruptive behavior. At one point, Griffith circulated an email vilifying the governor. In the wake of the dispute, the Republican-dominated Legislature gutted the Ocean Policy Advisory Commission and killed, for a time, any further action on creating marine reserves.

"John Griffith has a history of not being ready to come to the table and have reasonable and rational conversations about these issues," Murray said. "He isn't capable or willing to work with others."

During the 2005 session, the Legislature gave some attention to a bill that would have directed the Oregon State Parks and the Department of State Lands to designate marine parks and reserves. The bill died in committee, but is expected to be considered again in future legislative sessions. Under the bill, State Parks would have the authority to designate marine parks next to already existing parks on land. The Department of State Lands would establish fully-protected marine reserves off the Coast to provide long-term ecological, economic and social benefits to Oregon.

In June, Kulongoski re-convened OPAC, directing it to continue work on developing a network of marine reserves.

"We envision these will be areas where extractive activities are not allowed," Murray says. "Acting as marine nurseries, reserves will give fish a chance to seek refuge from the constant fishing pressures they face now."



POSSIBLE MARINE RESERVE? — Heceta Bank off the Oregon Coast has been mentioned as a possible marine reserve. The Pacific Fishery Management Council recently barred destructive bottom trawling in the area. This view is from Cape Perpetua looking southwest toward Heceta Bank. *Photo by Paul Koberstein*

CONSERVING TREASURES OF THE DEEP

Efforts to create marine protected areas and reserves off Oregon will conserve rockfish, deep sea corals and sponges, and marine mammals

BOCACCIO — Declared overfished in 1999, the bocaccio has declined to just 7.4 percent of its former abundance. Its low productivity rates has left it extremely sensitive to overfishing.

YELLOWTAIL ROCKFISH — The center of yellowtail rockfish abundance is from Oregon to British Columbia. Off Heceta Bank, Oregon, they usually remain at midwater depths of 25-35 meters.

OCTOCORAL ON OREGON SEAFLOOR — This octocoral invertebrate is attached to substrate on the sea floor It is filter feeding in the strong currents that flow through Astoria Canyon. *Waldo Wakefield Photo*

SEA OTTER TO RETURN? — The Oregon Coast has been without sea otters since the last known otter was killed near Newport in 1907. Efforts to restore the otter to Oregon are led by the Elakha Alliance, an informal association of tribes, universities, agencies, organizations and individuals. *Waldo Wakefield Photo*

RETURN OF THE NATIVE

(Continued from Page 19)

The potential for recovery of coho salmon on the Oregon Coast is great, given the climate, the large amount of public lands in the watersheds and the lack of big concrete dams. "The potential for success goes way high if we deal with the factors of decline," Engelmeyer says.

Or at least they once were the best. The Yachats, the most northerly of the three, has very few salmon living in it. Much of the lower watershed has been converted to farms. The river channel, once a wanderer through the valley, has been straightened. Past clearcuts are starting to heal, but plans to log another 1,000 acres on private industry land are in the works. Logging operations such as this would be illegal on National Forests and in Washington and British Columbia, but quite legal in Oregon.

In summer, water temperatures within the first four miles of the Yachats exceed 64 degrees for weeks at a time. At above 64 degrees, the Oregon DEQ considers the water temperature to be dangerous for salmon. The DEQ is planning to address excessive river temperatures on the Coast, but funding to carry out the plans is uncertain. Other rivers are far warmer than the Yachats, such as the Alsea, which during extended periods gets as hot as 75 degrees as far as 20 miles upstream. The Alsea violates the state temperature standard at least for the first 50 miles.

Salmon in Cummins and Tenmile creeks have fared much better. Somehow, loggers left the Cummins watershed alone, and in 1984 Congress gave it permanent protection as Wilderness. Tenmile Creek valley, the next watershed down the Coast, didn't merit Wilderness protection because a road runs through it. When Engelmeyer arrived there, the U.S. Forest Service was getting ready to log.

Engelmeyer persuaded the National Audubon Society to buy 116 acres there, making the organization a player in efforts to preserve the forest and to create a model for watershed recovery. Every year, he has brings crews of volunteers into the watershed to plant trees and do other hard work. The creek is now as clear as bottled water, and on a hot July afternoon, baby coho were seen scampering about in the cool stream.

In the early 1990s, the neighboring Siuslaw National Forest began to embrace Engelmeyer's ideas of protecting and restoring watersheds, rather than continue with industrial scale logging. As a result, the Siuslaw is "further along in its salmon recovery strategy than anyone else," he says.

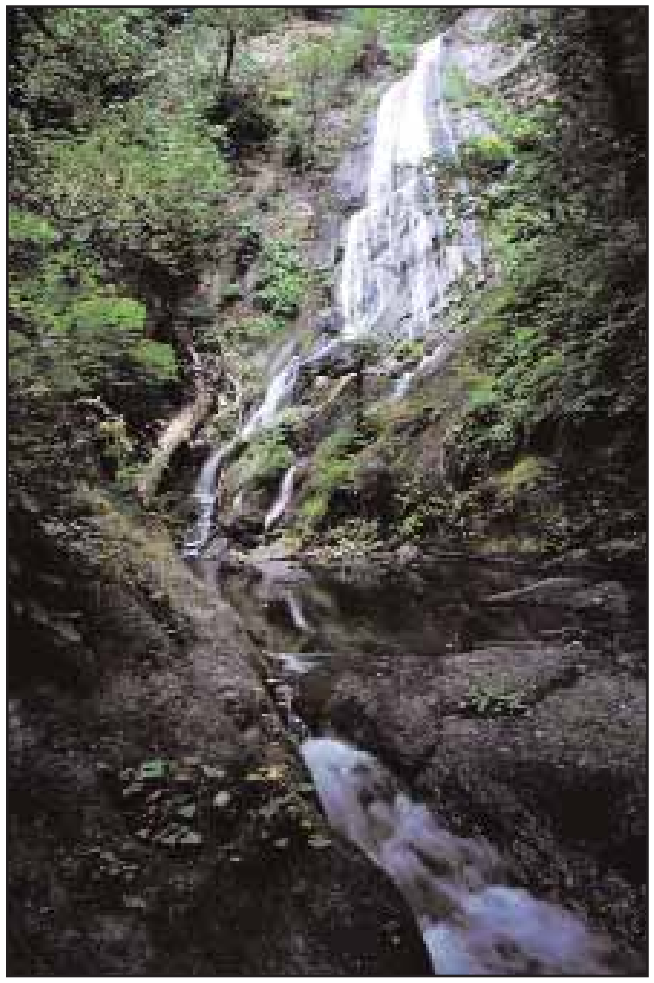
Tenmile Creek is where state and federal agencies, working with local communities, have developed a model for how to restore Cascadia. "ODFW and the Siuslaw National Forest have shown how river restoration is supposed to work," Engelmeyer says. The model calls for placing large, old trees in the stream, creating pools to increase high quality habitat; and planting Sitka spruce, alder and big leaf maple trees along the river. The trees add nutrients to the soils, while the spruce eventually become dominant, growing sometimes to 20 feet in diameter and living 500 years. He likes to see meadows for the elk to hang out.

The Yachats has gone a much different direction. Though the fish are few, the state allows anglers to catch them. And though the habitat has been compromised by heavy logging in the past that's not been friendly to fish, industrial timber owners are moving forward with clearcuts that will retard salmon recovery in the basin.

"Is the Oregon Plan working?" Engelmeyer is asked? "Yes and no," he says. "When you consider we have 80 watershed groups working to improve habitat for our salmon, this is a significant local effort. But if our larger industrial players, agriculture and timber, do not step t the plate and truly improve water quality n our streams, long term recovery of our coho salmon will not be realized." are not stepping up to the plate, and dealing with water quality in our streams.

Hoffman says the state appears determined to rely once again on hatcheries to bail out the salmon. Hatcheries may boost production for a while, but they are considered a threat to wild runs. By their sheer numbers, hatchery can outcompete their wild compadres for food. But hatchery fish have been proven to be less physically fit than wild fish, and interbreeding can increase the chances for extinction. Large hatchery production has deluded politicians into thinking it is not important to protect habitat.

If we can produce all the fish we want with hatcheries, then farmers, timber companies and industrial polluters won't have to worry about their impacts on salmon habitat. But, as numerous scientific studies have shown, hatcheries are not capable of sustaining the salmon over the long run. Relying on hatcheries is a sure recipe for failure.



The Copper Salmon proposed wilderness area would protect the upper reaches of the Elk River on the South Coast in Curry County. The Elk River, one of the most productive salmon stream in the U.S. outside of Alaska. It contains numerous some of the largest stands of ancient low-elevation coastal forests in the Northwest, including some of the last disease-free stands of old-growth Port Orford cedar. *Photo by Jim Rogers/Friends of Elk River.*

WHERE'D THEY PUT THE OCEAN?

(Continued from Page 13)

of Lincoln City, highway engineers worry that U.S. 101 will collapse into the surf. They proposed installing riprap to prevent erosion under the highway. However, after Oregon Shores, a conservation group, protested, the Oregon Department of Transportation decided to move the highway further away from the ocean.

The Oregon Coast around Newport is particularly vulnerable to landslides. Over time, researchers have determined bluffs recede by on average 6 inches per year and as much as 18 inches.

Protective shoreline structures, known as riprap, revetments, seawalls, and bulkheads can fend off ocean waves, stabilize cliffs, and retain the shoreland, and even prevent a house from falling into the sea. But there's a high price: they literally can destroy a beach. They lock up sand behind a wall or rocks, blocking a source of new sand for the beach. They also deflect wave action, causing further loss of sand.

To protect Oregon's beaches, state law bans riprap, seawalls and other beachfront structures in front of homes that were built after Jan. 1, 1977.

However, according to Dr. James Good of Oregon State University says property owners are pressuring local governments for exemptions to this law.

> "As soon as we get a new governor, a majority in the two houses in the legislature who are more private property rights oriented, I think (the ban on riprapping) is gone. The consequence would open the entire Coast to riprapping."
>
> *— Dr. James Good, Oregon State University*

As director of the Marine Resource Management Program in OSU's College of Oceanic and Atmospheric Sciences, he conducted a study in 1990 that found that half of Lincoln City's beach, or littoral cell, was protected by riprap. "By 2030 the entire cell will be riprapped," he says.

He found that in the year following every winter with major El Nino-related storms, there has been "a big uptick in the miles of shore protection put in on the Coast."

"All of a sudden they are in crisis and the owner asks the local government for a protection structure," he says. Eventually the entire Coast could be opened up to riprapping, "undermining or eliminating the 1977 law.

When he was governor, John Kitzhaber held the line against exemptions to the anti-riprap law. He especially angered residents of The Capes, who complained that Tillamook County approved their construction based on assurances from a geologist that they were in no danger.

Interestingly, riprap has been legally installed in front of Kitzhaber's Neskowin home. The work was legal because the home was built before 1977.

Good says he doubts the ban on riprap will survive forever. "As soon as we get a new governor, a majority in the two houses in the legislature who are more private property rights oriented, I think that's gone. The consequence would open the entire Coastto riprapping."

Everybody, it seems, wants their place next to the ocean.

They should know that if terra firma isn't firm enough, they shouldn't be building there.

How can Oregonians protect their rich coastal legacy?

12 ways to help make a difference

The Oregon Coast needs your help. Obstructed views, beach pollution, endless sprawl, failing salmon runs, snarled traffic, inadequate protection for estuaries and increasing water shortages are robbing Oregonians of this spectacular legacy. The good news is that opportunities abound for everyone to pitch in and help. Here are 15 ways Oregonians can reclaim their national treasure:

1. Join SOLV — Stop Oregon Litter and Vandalism — for its annual beach cleanups. This spring, under rainy skies, more than 4,100 hardy volunteers turned out to remove debris that had accumulated during the stormy winter months. **www.solv.org**

2, Join the Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition's "Coastwatch" program that assigns a volunteer to watch for local erosion hot spots and other problems as they arise for each of the 362 miles of Coast. **www.oregonshores.org**.

3. Join 1000 Friends of Oregon's Oregon Coastal Futures Project, a collaborative effort with Oregon Shores and the Oregon Downtown Development Association that is exploring ways to keep the Coast a great place to live and visit. **www.coastalfutures.org**

4. Get involved with the Portland Audubon Society's "Important Bird Areas" project that has identified 30 areas on the Oregon Coast that are outstanding for breeding, foraging, or resting birds, and encourages the continued productivity of these sites through awareness, conservation, monitoring, and research. **www.oregoniba.org**

5. Contact counties on the Coast to learn how to participate in the decisions they make every month that affect the quality of life and ecosystems on the coast. Get informed and involved.

Clatsop: **www.co.clatsop.or.us**
Tillamook: **www.co.tillamook.or.us**
Lincoln: **www.co.lincoln.or.us**
Lane: **www.co.lane.or.us**
Douglas: **www.co.douglas.or.us**
Coos: **www.co.coos.or.us**
Curry: **www.co.curry.or.us**

6. Help the coastal land trusts that are buying or leasing land on the coast, preserving it for fish and wildlife in perpetuity. They take donations:

Central Coast Land Conservancy
franrecht@newportnet.com
Elk River Land Trust
www.elkriverlandtrust.org
Lower Nehalem Community Trust
lnct@nehalemtel.net
North Coast Land Conservancy
nmaine@pacifier.com
South Coast Land Conservancy
hodbill@harborside.com
The Wetlands Conservancy
www.wetlandsconservancy.org
Trust for Public Land
www.tpl.org
The Nature Conservancy
nature.org/wherewework northamerica/states/oregon

7. Support the organizations working to restore coastal rivers, salmon and wildlife. They include:

Coast Range Association
www.coastrange.org
Friends of Elk River
www.foer.org
Friends of Living Oregon Waters (FLOW)
www.oregonwaters.org
Kalmiopsis Audubon
www.harborside.com/~pfandha/audubon/
Native Fish Society
www.nativefishsociety.org
Oregon Trout
www.ortrout.org
Pacific Rivers Council
www.pacrivers.org
Portland Audubon
www.audubonportland.org
Siletz Indian Tribe
ctsi.nsn.us
Tillamook Rainforest Coalition
www.tillamookrainforest.org
Trout Unlimited
www.tu.org
Umpqua Watersheds
www.umpqua-watersheds.org
WaterWatch of Oregon
www.waterwatch.org
Wild Salmon Center
www.wildsalmoncenter.org

8. Support marine reserves and protected areas off the, oregonocean.org, a coalition working to protect marine areas off the Oregon Coast.

Conservation Leaders Network
www.conservationleaders.com
NRDC
www.nrdc.org
Oceana
www.oceana.org
Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition
www.oregonshores.org.
OSPIRG
www.ospirg.org
Portland Audubon
www.audubonportland.org
Surfriders Foundation
www.surfrider.org/oregon

9. **Inform legislators who** who need to know your views on protecting the Coast's natural resources, including scenery, salmon, clean beaches. If they don't care about them, help find someone else to run who does. Or run your self. **www.olcv.org**

10. Join watershed councils, the volunteer organizations that do the hard work of restoring streams, wetlands and estuaries on the Coast.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
www.oregon.gov/oweb
Alsea Watershed Council
5rivers@pioneer.net
Clatsop Coordinating Council
www.clatsopwatersheds.org
Coos Watershed Association
www.cooswatershed.org
Coquille Watershed Association
www.coquillewatershed.org
Midcoast Watershed Council
www.midcoastwatershedcouncil.org
Nehalem Watershed Councils
www.nehalem.org
Salmon-Drfit Creek Watershed Council
(541) 994-8427
South Coast/Lower Rogue Watershed Council
www.currywatersheds.org

BEACH CLEANUP — Two of the 4,000 volunteers at the 2005 spring beach cleanup. An estimated 29 tons of garbage was collected in during the event sponsored by SOLV. *Photo by Lisa Skube.*

11. Demand that the Legislature fully fund salmon restoration programs in accordance with Ballot Measure 66, which Oregon voters overwhelmingly approved in 1998. Measure 66 dedicates a percentage of lottery funds for habitat restoration and parks. Since then, the Legislature has raided for a new hatchery without demonstrating a need for it. The Legislature hijacked millions more for other programs not related to salmon. These raids must stop.

12. Demand that local governments strengthen and enforce land-use regulations on the Coast, which are the weakest in the entire state. They must protect scenic views, estuaries, wetlands and forests from conversion to other uses. For more information contact 1000 Friends of Oregon: **www.friends.org**

The northern fur seal, featured in *Breaking Point in the Bering Sea*, Spring 2005

CASCADIA TIMES

An independent newspaper for the Pacific Northwest

2004 John B. Oakes Award for nation's best environmental journalism

1995 — 2005

Cascadia Times thanks all of our donors who helped us along the way as we celebrate our 10th anniversary

YES, I want to support Cascadia Times' award-winning environmental journalism. Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution to the non-profit Cascadia Times Research Fund.

- $1,000+ Denali Circle
- $500 Mount Rainier Circle
- $100 Mount Hood Circle
- $50 Mount Robson Circle
- $25 Mount Shasta Circle
- $15 Borah Peak Circle

Thanks for your support!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ZIP

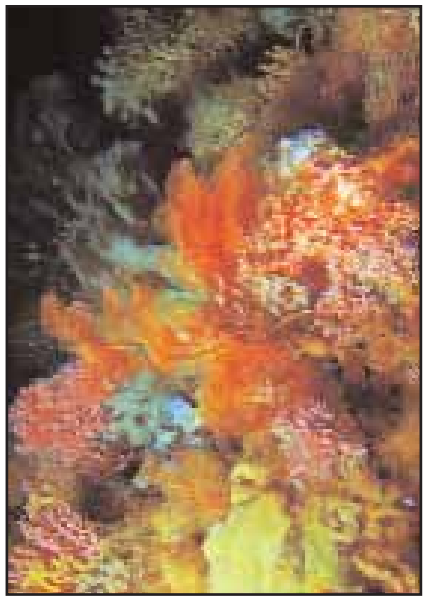
Email _____

Tel _____ FAX

Please mail this coupon to: CTRF, 25-6 NW 23td Place # 406 Portland OR 97210

CASCADIANS

Thank you for your **support** of deep sea coral protections in the Pacific. Your **calls, letters and emails** to the North Pacific and Pacific Fishery Management Councils helped them decide to protect **more than a half million square miles** of the Pacific Ocean from destructive bottom trawling. **Please help** the oceans one more time to make those protections permanent and extend them through **all of America's coastal waters.**



Write your Senators and Congressmen now to call on them to co-sponsor and support a national deep sea coral protection bill (S-xxxx in the Senate or HR-xxxx in the House). Join with Oceana and our ocean conservation partners in your state and around the country as we extend our efforts to conserve and protect our living ocean habitats and the fish and animals that depend on healthy oceans You can help again. **Please call or write today.**

Call the U.S. Capitol Switchboard: 202-224-3121 and ask to speak to the office of your Senator or Representative

Write to your Senator at US Senate, Washington, DC 20510 or your Representative at US House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515

OCEANA.ORG

Protecting The World's Oceans

Get WITH the Bus!

Join the Oregon Bus Project

FOUNDED IN 2001 to engage, educate, and elect, the Bus Project has mobilized thousands of volunteers and activists around the state of Oregon.

WE BRING VOTERS out of the woodwork. We create forums to learn about candidates and policy issues.

WE WORK TO ELECT the best progressive candidates in the state.

WE DO IT ALL, with one constant: combining fun and politics. Former Governor Barbara Roberts, who now serves on the Project's Advisory Council, has called the Bus Project "the most exciting thing in Oregon politics in the last 20 years."

THE OREGON BUS PROJECT
333 SE 2nd Ave | Portland | Oregon | 97214
www.busproject.org | info@busproject.org | 503.233.3018

RESOURCE GUIDE

OREGON

1000 Friends of Oregon

Audubon Society of Portland

CoastWatch

FLOW (Friends of Living Oregon Rivers

Grand Ronde Indian Tribe

Green Fire Productions
PO Box 14906, Portland, OR 97293
www.greenfireproductions.org
karen@greenfireproductions.org. Ph: (541) 486-4070. Fax 541-486-4010.
www.greenfireproductions.org
Creating communication tools for conservation, sustainability, & justice

---

Hanford Action of Oregon
25-6 NW 23rd Pl. #406, Portland, OR 97210
(503) 310-3050
hanfordaction@comcast.com
Working for an environment safe from the uncontained hazardous radioactive wastes stored at Hanford, the nation's largest high-level nuclear waste dumpsite, and the health of the Columbia River Basin.

Kalmiopsis Audubon

Native Fish Society

Oregon Environmental Council

Oregon League of Conservation Voters

Oregon Natural Desert Association
16 NW Kansas Ave., Bend, OR 97701. Ph: (541) 330-2638. Fax: (541) 385-3370
732 SW Third Ave., Suite 407, Portland, OR 97204
(503) 525-0193
onda@onda.org
www.onda.org

Oregon Natural Resources Council
5825 N Greeley, Portland, OR 97217. Ph: (503) 283-6343. Fax: (503) 283-0756
info@onrc.org
www.onrc.org

Oregon Trout

Oregon Wetlands Conservancy

Pacific Rivers Council
PO Box 10798, Eugene, OR 97440. Ph; (541) 345-0119
info@pacrivers.org
www.pacrivers.org

Rainbow Video and Film Productions
2217 NW Johnson
Portland OR 97210
dgenasci@teleport.com
www.rainbowvideoandfilm.com. Producing documentaries on threats to our air, water and forests. Working with citizen groups using videos as activist tools. Teaching production skills to young activists.

Siletz Indian Tribe

Siskiyou Regional Education Project

The Nature Conservancy

Tillamook Rainforest Coalition

Trout Unlimited
Western Conservation Office
213 SW Ash St., Suite 205
Portland OR 97204
(503) 827-5700
FAX (503) 827-5672
amoore@tu.org
www.tu.org

Umpqua Watersheds

Waterwatch of Oregon
213 SW Ash St., Suite 208, Portland OR 97204
(503) 295-4039
info@waterwatch.org
www.waterwatch.org
WaterWatch works to keep water in its natural course — thus protecting fish and wildlife.

Wild Salmon Center

ALASKA

Alaska Oceans Program
308 G Street, Suite 219
Anchorage, AK 99501
Ph: (907) 929-3553. Fax: (907) 929-1562
info@alaskaoceans.net
www.alaskaoceans.org
The Alaska Oceans Program (AOP) mission is to protect and restore the amazing diversity of the North Pacific's ocean ecology, including fish, wildlife, and seabirds and their habitat, while providing for sustainable human uses.

Alaska SeaLife Center
308 G Street, Suite 219
PO Box 1329 Seward AK 99664. Ph: 907-224-6311. Fax: 907-224-6320.
jason_wettstein@alaskasealife.org.
www.alaskasealife.org
The Alaska SeaLife Center is a non-profit marine science facility dedicated to understanding and maintaining the integrity of the marine ecosystem of Alaska.

Earthjustice
325 Fourth Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1145
(907) 586-2751
eajusak@earthjustice.org
www.earthjustice.org

Southeast Alaska Conservation Council
Ph: (907) 586-6942. Fax: (907) 463-3312
info@seacc.org
www.seacc.org
SEACC is devoted to protecting the prime old-growth forest of the Tongass — our biggest, wettest and wildest national forest.

Trustees for Alaska
1026 W. 4th Avenue, Suite 201, Anchorage, AK 99501
Ph: (907) 276.4244. Fax: (907) 276.7110
www.trustees.org
ecolaw@trustees.org (for general information)
Trustees is a non-profit, public interest environmental law firm. For thirty years, it has been on the front lines fighting to protect Alaska's natural and cultural resources.

Wilderness Society Alaska Region
430 West 7th Ave., Suite 210, Anchorage, AK 99501
Ph: (907) 272-9453. Fax: (907) 272-1670
www.wilderness.org
ak_office@tws.org

WASHINGTON

Columbia Riverkeeper
P.O. Box 912 · Bingen, WA 98605. Ph: (509) 493-2808
P.O. Box 1254 Hood River, OR 97031. Ph: (541) 387-3030
721 NW 9th, Suite 300, Portland, OR Portland, OR
877-252-6077
www.columbiariverkeeper.org

Tidepool

IDAHO

Idaho Conservation League
PO Box 844, Boise, Idaho 83701. Ph: (208) 345.6933
Fax: 208.344.0344
icl@wildidaho.org;
www.wildidaho.org

BRITISH COLUMBIA

NATIONAL

The Ocean Conservancy
425 G Street, Suite 400
Anchorage, AK 99501. Ph: (90) 258-9922. Fax: (907) 258-9933
We envision a world of healthy, protected oceans with wild and flourishing ecosystems, free of pollution, and filled with diverse and abundant marine wildlife.

Center for Biological Diversity
P.O. Box 710
Tucson AZ 85702-0710
Ph: 520.623.5252
Fax: 520.623.9797
www.biologicaldiversity.org
center@biologicaldiversity.org

Oceana

River Network

Moby Dick Hotel & Oyster Farm

Moby Dick is evolving.
Come and evolve with us.

The Moby Dick is the perfect place to go for a group retreat or workshop. Conservation groups, boards of directors, leadership councils and other organizations will find great food and terrific accommodations to suit your needs. During your stay, make sure you visit our world-class organic oyster beds in picturesque Willapa Bay.

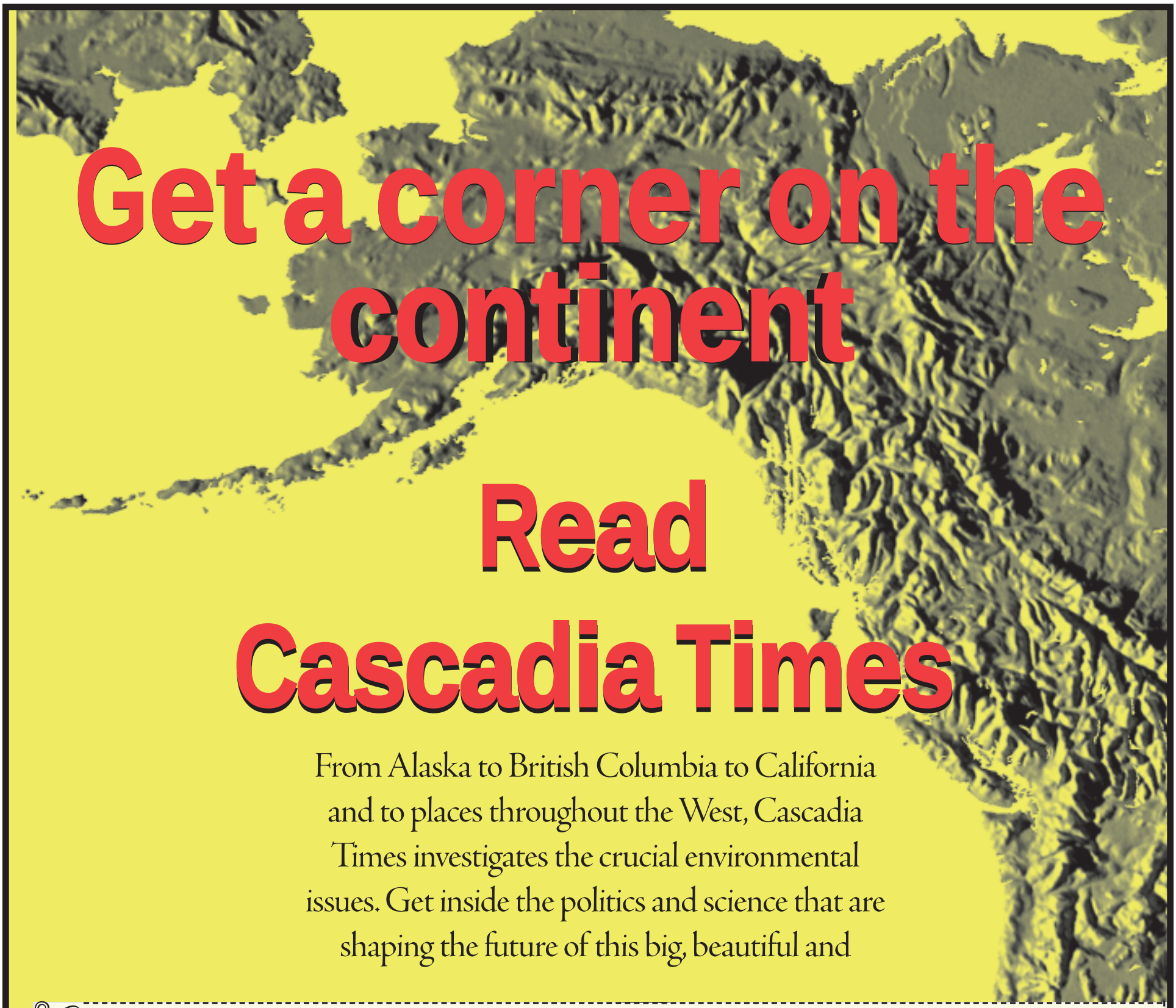
P.O. Box 82, Nahcotta, WA 98637
(360) 665-4543 • (360) 665-6887 (fax)
www.mobydickhotel.com
mobydickhotel@willapabay.org

Hotel Tabard Inn

1739 N Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20036

For Reservations or Information
(202) 785-1277 • Fax (202) 785-6173

When in Washington DC our sister
Hotel Tabard is the place to stay



Get a corner on the continent

Read Cascadia Times

From Alaska to British Columbia to California and to places throughout the West, Cascadia Times investigates the crucial environmental issues. Get inside the politics and science that are shaping the future of this big, beautiful and

CASCADIA TIMES

- ☐ Budget/Student (6 issues) $15
- ☐ 6 issues $30
- ☐ 12 issues $56
- ☐ Canadian Price . . . $40 6 issues; $70 12 issues

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

State,Postal Code _____ e-mail _____

I like what you're doing. I've enclosed a donation to support Cascadia Times.

Amount: _____

Total Enclosed: _____

Gift for:

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

State, Zip Code _____

CASCADIA TIMES is published at irregular intervals during the year. Our mission is to publish in-depth reports, some of which take longer to produce than others. Please contact us if you have questions about our publishing schedule.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO Cascadia Times

MAIL THIS FORM TO: Cascadia Times

25-6 NW 23rd Place, No. 406 Portland, OR 97210-3534

Phone: (503) 223-9036 Web: www.times.org Email: cascadia@spiritone.com

You can also subscribe online at www.times.org