

# Native Beavers Join Oregon Wild Coho Recovery Work

## *Project in the Nehalem River Valley encourages a return to historic conditions*

This summer marked a flurry of coho salmon habitat restoration work in the headwaters of the Nehalem watershed, with beavers at the heart of the work. Over the past several weeks, 27 beaver dam analogs were constructed in four high priority reaches for coho, steelhead, and cutthroat trout. Beaver have already found their way to the newly built analogs, which are like footholds for the beaver to build out into full-fledged dams using their advanced engineering skills.

Beavers and coho restoration go hand-in-hand. According to Mark Trenholm with the Wild Salmon Center, “Bringing beaver back to selected locations in the Upper Nehalem will help restore some key tributaries to better reflect historic conditions that once made the Nehalem a coho stronghold.” By damming up small tributaries, beavers provide shallow, cold water pools where coho can find food and cover from predators. These types of off-channel habitats are essential for juvenile coho to survive and grow during the year they spend in freshwater before migrating downstream to the ocean.

The health of Oregon’s coast coho populations is a vital indicator of the health of our coastal watersheds. These fish are threatened after 150 years of land use on the coast that has altered watersheds and degraded critical coho habitats. Loss of watershed health has impacted local communities through increased flooding, impaired water quality, and less economic activity from commercial and recreational fishing. Extensive watershed restoration is underway on Oregon’s north coast—a key step for coho

recovery.

This summer’s restoration work is the result of several years of cooperative conservation planning by a local partnership convened by the Upper and Lower Nehalem Watershed Councils and facilitated by Wild Salmon Center. This partnership is part of a broader coastwide coho recovery strategy involving several state, federal, and NGO partners. The local Nehalem team relied on science and local on-the-ground expertise to determine a suite of watershed restoration strategies and to pick the specific places where new projects will have the greatest benefit for coho. Restoration work will ramp up next year with \$500,000 going to work in



the Nehalem watershed.

“We are creating the foundation to let nature take its course,” says Maggie Peyton, Upper Nehalem Watershed Council’s co-founder and Executive Director. “We have our work cut out for us, and the beaver need to be a part of our workforce.”

Partners in these projects include: Upper Nehalem Watershed Council, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Restoration Center, Wild Salmon Center, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Bio-Surveys. Construction took place primarily on public lands managed by the Oregon Department of Forestry. Private landowner Stimson Lumber Company, a locally owned timber company, allowed the construction of large woody debris structures on a section of its timberland and donated wood to the project.

## On the Shelves

### By Shannon Romtvedt

The Vernonia Library is hosting our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Community Helper Storytimes series this October and November. Local business owners, instructors, public safety officers, and individuals representing local organizations are invited to share with young people their role in the community. The Community Helper series is organized by Library Assistant Brandi Fennell. This year we have a great line-up including Vernonia’s Ballet Instructor, EMT/Fire Department, 4-H, and Jack’s Hobo Bakery. Storytimes are held at 10:30 am on No School Fridays. See the schedule below for dates. Thank you to all our special guests for sharing with us what you do for Vernonia!

In addition to a special storytime with Jack from Jack’s Hobo Bakery, kids will have the opportunity to decorate Halloween cookies with Jack and his crew at the Library Halloween Party. Come to the Library in costume on Saturday, October 27, 2 pm, for cookie decorating, crafts, a short classic film, and treat bags.

We live in a great community where local businesses and organizations go above and beyond to support local activities. If you pay attention to the list of contributors, you’ll see business names that appear on lists for many different events. Local businesses and organizations have been a leading support for our children’s programs, and have even volunteered work crews for major projects. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

### Upcoming Events

#### Movie Night

Monday, October 22, 5 pm

Come to the Library for a free movie and popcorn. Featuring *Cheaper by the Dozen* (1950s version), 1 hr. 26 min.

#### Library Halloween Party!

Saturday, October 27, 2 pm

Featuring the short film, *It’s a Great Pumpkin*

*Charlie Brown*, followed by spooky cookie decorating with Jack’s Hobo Bakery, crafts, and a goodie bag for participants. Costumes encouraged!

#### Mad Science: Spin! Pop! Boom!

Saturday, November 10, 1 pm

Learn about crazy chemical reactions, the amazing properties of acids and bases, and the greatness of gravity! Mad Science is a leading science enrichment provider, delivering unique, hands-on science experiences for children. Don’t miss it!

### Ongoing Programs

#### Writer’s Group

Thursday, October 18, 6-7:30 pm

3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month. For writers with all levels of experience.

#### Book Discussion Group

Last Monday of every month, 5:30 pm. Discussion for October 29: *A Cup of Light* by Nicole Mones.

### Storytimes

#### Community Helpers Storytime Series!

No School Fridays in October and November, 10:30 am

October 19: EMT or Fire Dept.

November 2: 4-H

November 16: Jack’s Hobo Bakery

Stories read by a special guest, show and tell of their role in the community, and a craft.

#### Baby and Toddler Time

Mondays, 10:30 - 11:15 am

Songs, short stories, toys, and bubbles for 0-3.

#### Preschool Storytime

Fridays, 10:30 - 11:15 am

Stories and a craft/activity for up to age 5. Older siblings welcome!

### Did You Know? Library Services

The Library often gets questions about computers, printing, and copying. When your

computer or printer breaks down or you need to scan or fax ASAP, it’s helpful to know what we have to offer.

5 public computers with internet

Printing and Copying (\$.10 a page B&W, \$.25 a page, Color)

Faxing (\$1.00 plus \$.25 per page)

Scanning (no charge, but please bring a flash drive)

Laminating (\$1.00 per page)

Free WiFi (ask at the desk for the password)

#### Featured Titles: Christina M. Abt

The Vernonia Library was fortunate to have a visit by New York author, Christina M. Abt, on Monday, October 8. Abt talked about the process of researching and writing her latest book, *Beauty & Grace*. She is an amazing storyteller and held the attention of the audience for over an hour talking about how *Beauty & Grace* came to be. *Beauty & Grace* is a work of historical fiction, centering on two women brought together in the “haunting confines of Midland’s Wood Haven asylum.” The book was written based on reasons women (and men) were institutionalized, and the startling process of deinstitutionalization in 1978. Two of Christina M. Abt’s books are available at the Library for check-out: *Crown Hill* and *Beauty & Grace*.

### Library Closures

Monday, November 12, in observance of Veterans Day

Thursday and Friday, November 22 and 23, for the Thanksgiving Holiday

### Hours & Contact Info

Mon, Wed, Fri 10 am - 5 pm

Tues & Thurs 1 pm - 7 pm

Sat 10 am - 4 pm

Closed Sundays

Phone: (503) 429-1818

E-mail: library@vernonia-or.gov