

Tillamook Head Gains Ground

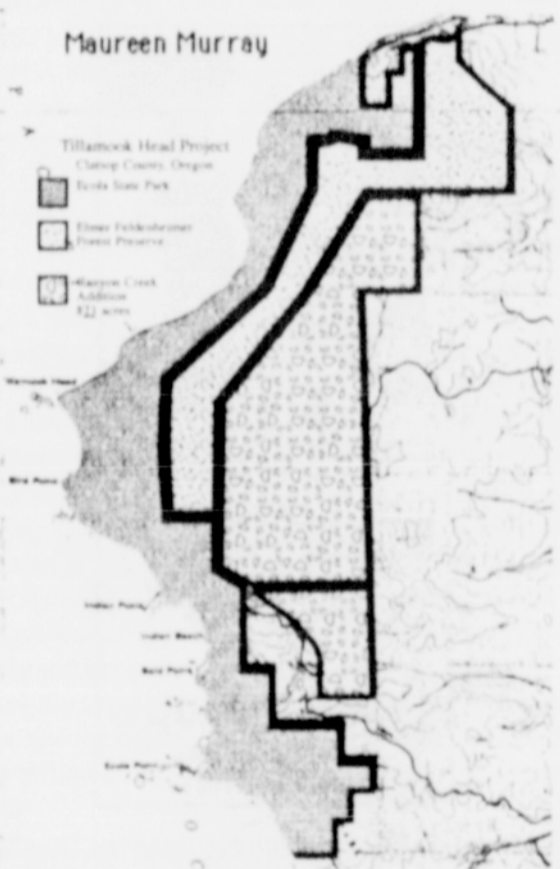
Maureen Murray

While Cavenham Forest Industries is slated to begin clear cutting hills to the east of Cannon Beach, the news from the north is a lot brighter. The vision of Marie Louise Feldenheimer, a Portland sculptor and sister of Elmer Feldenheimer, is finally coming to fruition. Her persistence and generosity have led to the acquisition of an additional 761 acre parcel of the timbered land to be managed for old growth forest on Tillamook Head. The purchase, which encompasses the entire Canyon Creek Watershed, will increase the existing Elmer Feldenheimer Forest Preserve two-fold to the applaudable sum of 1,476 acres.

Wrangling land from private industry has been neither quick nor easy for Ms. Feldenheimer. In 1977, at the age of eighty-three, Marie Louise began a sixteen year crusade to acquire enough land on Tillamook Head suitable as a memorial to her "outdoorsman" brother, Elmer. The newest parcel of land was purchased from Cavenham through the Nature Conservancy, and upon her death last October at the age of ninety-nine, was sold to the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department for the same amount as purchased. The preserve will be co-managed by both the Nature Conservancy and the OSPRD. The goals of the plan include old growth restoration, guidelines for research and public education.

To me this represents the true meaning of land stewardship. I congratulate Cavenham for expressing a desire at the July 2nd Homeowners' Association meeting to open communication with the community of Cannon Beach. However, when the variety of land values are addressed, I hope these go beyond just monetary and aesthetic values (i.e. we will try not to clear cut too much land visible from the City) and include ecological values as well. Some of my main concerns are the effects of erosion on Ecola Creek and the use of herbicide campaigns. If our neighbors to the east are in need of inspiration I recommend they look to the north.

Maureen Murray



Everybody is ignorant, only on different subjects.
Will Rodgers

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Sahalie Update

Almost a year has passed since the Seaside Planning Commission approved a proposal to build 70 condominium units on the Necanicum estuary near Gearhart. Over 700 tides have flowed in and around the land and marsh slated for the Sahalie project since that time. Herons continue to nest, successfully hatch and raise their young. Bald Eagles roost in the spruce trees, this year more than in recent memory. During the time the voices and support of many, such as you, have called for careful consideration before devoting this rich, biological resource to housing and recreation. Thank you.

In late May Oregon Natural Resources Council had a motion for Stay upheld by the Oregon Land Use Board of Appeals. This ruling will prevent the developers from performing bridge construction until legal issues are argued and resolved at L.U.B.A. This has taken a great deal of time to instrument and has created further demands for funds that must be met to effectively carry on.

To the credit of the Gearhart City Council, \$5,000 was provided to finance the bond necessary for the Stay. This is unprecedented. Peggy Hennessy, attorney representing the O.N.R.C. in this matter, is equally impressive. The developers have done their level best to stop this Stay as well as other objections.

Oral arguments are anticipated to be heard at L.U.B.A. in mid-August barring unforeseen delays. The appropriate Native American tribes will be represented as well during this session. Many coastal cities in Oregon will be watching the outcome. Development pressures and land-use are creating factions looking for insights.

We are hoping to raise \$3,000 to carry this process to L.U.B.A. The arguments against the Sahalie development are substantial. The erroneous zoning of this area is a key issue as well as the recommendations of the Government Wildlife Services. Please help support the upcoming appeal. There is more at stake than just birds and fish.

Thank you.

Mail to: Oregon Natural Resources Council
522 SW 5th
Suite 1050
Portland, OR 97204
Attn: Coastal Threats

Wetlands Progress

Shelley Majors

Over the past year, due to rising public concerns, the Cannon Beach Planning Commission, with the help of a wetlands Sub-committee and other expert resources, has been preparing the Cannon Beach Wetland Study. The study will be brought before the City Council Tuesday, August 2nd as recommended by the Planning Commission. The study is an inventory of the city's wetlands and a wetlands protection plan for the city and its urban growth boundary.

The study is available at the Cannon Beach City Hall for those who are interested. It is divided into four sections: Part 1: Local Wetlands Inventory, Part 2: Conflicting Uses, Part 3: Economic, Social, Environmental, and Energy (ESEE) Analysis, and Part 4: Standards, Overlay Zone, and Related Amendments. The sections follow the procedures for the Oregon Statewide Planning Goal 5. Goal 5 is to conserve open space and protect natural and scenic resources, of which wetlands are included.

Wetlands were determined to be either significant or insignificant based on ten wetland functions. Those that were determined significant were further rated as being of high, medium, or low value.

The Planning Commission's proposed Wetlands Overlay Zone will limit the uses and activities in an identified wetland area. It is part of the implementing procedure for the Wetlands Study. The Planning Commission is recommending to the City Council that all identified wetland areas be subject to the provisions of the Wetlands Overlay Zone. It is also recommending that the city adopt stream corridor standards limiting development within 10 feet of either side of a stream (the distance for Logan Creek is 15 feet).

The Planning Commission held two public hearings on the proposed Wetlands Overlay Zone and stream corridor protection standards. Many property owners raised concerns about the proposal because it limits construction within an identified wetland area to a maximum of one piling supported single-family dwelling per property owner. One proposal to solve part of this problem was to negate the low value wetlands from the Overlay Zone. This idea raised a mixture of support and concern. Out of 52 wetland sites inventoried this would eliminate 26 of them. In the end it was decided that the low value wetlands were significant, still, and that they should be included in the proposal.

Hail to the Planning Commission and their support for our natural areas. If we're to protect our wetlands let's do it right. The push is not over. Show your support for Cannon Beach's wetlands at the City Council meeting, August 2nd. Get your buns involved! Development is not progress, preservation is!

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