

# Park: 'You can see it is paying dividends'

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LCNHP staff and volunteers hike to 68 plots around the park to record the presence and amount of elk feces.

"We go and crawl through the forest to collect elk pellets," Clatterbuck said.

Recording the pellets show where the elk are roaming. Data collected this year is still being processed. A four-year study completed last year showed the number of elk using the park land is possibly declining. The elk herds in the park are likely not the same as the ones often seen in Gearhart, officials say.

"There was a beginning of a trend, but it's not statistically significant," Clatterbuck said.

Two more years of data is expected to offer a more accurate trend line, according to the park.

The other national parks in the North Coast and Cascades Network — Olympic, North Cascades, Mount Rainier, San Juan Island, Fort Vancouver and Ebey's Landing In Washington — regularly send scientists to assist Lewis and Clark park with monitoring its other vital signs.

Without the Network's help, Tucker said, most of the monitoring would be impossible.

"It really leverages us," Tucker said. "On a national park scale, we are brand new. To employ scientists year-round is impossible with our budget."

Monitoring landscape dynamics is done primarily with Geographic Information Systems, or GIS, which is operated by the three large parks in the Network — Olympic, North Cascades and Mount Rainier.

For land-bird monitoring, trained scientists come to LCNHP and listen to the bird's morning calls.

"It's nice to be bundled with these larger parks for those shared resources," LCNHP Natural Resource Program Manager Carla Cole said.

The North Coast and Cascades Network is one of 32 Networks of national parks across the country formed in 2001 for the NPS Inventory and Monitoring Program.

The Network was the first one to get funded, according to the Network's I&M Program Manager Mark Huff.

"Stepping back and looking at the importance of national parks, these are our treasures that we are giving to the next generation. The important part the parks play here is we want to take the pulse on these vital systems," Huff said. "That is one of the



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**Lewis and Clark National Historical Park Chief of Resource Management Chris Clatterbuck pulls a marker out of a bush on the South Slough Trail. Sometimes the markers, which are used to track elk numbers, get kicked up by wildlife.**

underpinnings of why Congress wanted to fund this, first for inventory and then long-term monitoring to maintain the health of the ecosystem."

A recent success of the Network revolved around its marine intertidal monitoring.

Huff said marine scientists from Olympic National Park were the first to discover the sea star wasting disease that struck the West Coast last year. Sea star populations plummeted last year from the epidemic, which killed more than 90 percent during the 2014 beach season.

Through their monitoring, the Olympic National Park scientists were able to alert the problem to other sites along the coast, including LCNHP's intertidal monitoring site at Ecola State Park in Cannon Beach.

"By having a program where you are intentionally putting people out in force, you can see it is paying dividends," Huff said.

## 'We have a road map'

While trekking around the Fort Clatsop site to monitor vital signs, park staff believe they are carrying on Lewis and Clark's tradition of scientific observations.

More than two centuries ago, Lewis and Clark camped at the site for a winter season and took inventory of the species, made detailed weather reports and collected other data, similar to the work park staff does year-round.

Tucker said other park superintendents wish they had someone come through their park 200 years ago and document everything they saw. The local park is lucky in that way, he said, especially also considering the oral history passed down by the



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**A metal marker is seen along the South Slough Trail at Lewis and Clark National Historical Park. The marker is used with other flag markers to set up a perimeter in which park staff can estimate how many elk are in the area.**



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**Chris Clatterbuck, chief of resource management at Lewis and Clark National Historical Park, and Carla Cole, natural resources project manager, walk along the South Slough Trail.**

Chinook and Clatsop tribes.

"We have a road map of what those natural ecosystems were," Tucker said.

The park's recent focus is on restoring its forest and wetlands after years of logging operations. Consistent monitoring is an important piece of the restoration effort, Tucker said.

"We can control what comes out of the park," Tucker said. "And knowing our park, all of our vital signs are functioning."

# Hacked: 'No personally identifying information was compromised'

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Kitzhaber resigned Feb. 18 amid two criminal investigations into allegations he and Hayes used their public positions to benefit Hayes' consulting business. Jordan submitted his resignation to Brown March 5 without explanation.

Before Jordan resigned, he told The Oregonian that Rodgers and Wells were placed on leave during an internal investigation into a dispute over how to handle computers and phones used by the Kitzhaber administration.

"Oregonians should not have to worry that their personal information such as Social Security numbers, home addresses or health records held by state agencies could be accessed illegally," Brown said in a press release Thursday. "Although I have been assured that no personally identifying information was compromised, this incident causes me to have serious concerns about the integrity of state data."

Brown said the state will use an "expedited competitive process" to hire the independent expert to review manage-

ment and vulnerabilities at the data center.

Ironically, the governor's office revealed the data breach the same day Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum appeared before a legislative committee to testify in favor of a bill that would expand protections for consumers' personal data. The bill would also allow the state Department of Justice to pursue civil penalties against individuals and organizations that fail to comply.

*The Capital Bureau is a collaboration between EO Media Group and Pamplin Media Group.*

# Recall: 'There is no question as to how people have felt about this'

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"Because of her abuse of leadership, lack of transparency and strong personal bias, vote yes to recall Mayor Widdop."

"Restore honesty and trust to Gearhart's government," he added. After the election results came in, Widdop said she was glad there was a large margin.

"There is no question as to how people have felt about this," she said.

Her hope is that now Gearhart, which is a tight-knit, small community, can move forward and let the matter rest.

"We've got our goals, we have a really good City Council. Let's work together and move forward," she said, adding, "The voters have spoken and I'm glad they had a chance to. ... I hope the people who wanted me recalled will sit back and listen to what's been said tonight."

Gable said he and the others who supported Widdop's recall are "just going to keep on keeping on" and try to "keep people informed on what seems right from another perspective."

"What is, is what is," he said.

The vote showed that

Widdop has a lot of support, Gable said, but he doesn't think the people who voted yes thoroughly examined the history leading up to the recall.

Going forward he and the others who spearheaded the recall campaign will aim "to get people to be honest and to listen and to get things so there is a give-and-take, so there is a respect for things, so you don't have complaints that are just verbal" but have a physical record, he said. He feels ordinances are not applied equally to everyone in the city, and that's something he'd like changed in favor of "universal fairness," he said.

He said it is too early give details on how they will go about trying to achieve their goals.

"I think things will work out all right. It will just take a little longer," he said.

The city of Gearhart will incur the cost for the recall election. The elections office will send the city an invoice, but the final cost has not been estimated, according to Sweet and elections officials. The estimated cost is \$6,000 to \$8,000.

"I'm glad this election is over," Sweet said. "I'd like to get back to work for Gearhart."



KATHERINE LACAZE — EO Media Group

**A sign on offering support for Mayor Dianne Widdop.**

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## Pasture Management Workshop

Join us to hear from Regional Resource Conservationist Dean Moberg about coastal pasture management

**When: Monday, March 30th, 2015**

**Time: 5:30-7:30pm**

**Location: OSU Seafood Lab Conference Room  
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### Seminar topics include:

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- Re-seed or not to re-seed decisions
- Soil testing and managing nutrients
- Water quality and pasture management cost-share programs
- Forestry and stewardship cost-share programs