

# Triage: 550,000 visitors come to Ecola State Park annually

**Continued from Page 1C**  
 another large landslide brought down several more trees and cut more than 50 feet out of the Tillamook Head trail, leaving hikers to make their own route around the destruction.

Ensign said keeping the park operating is a little like triage, making the short-term fixes to keep it open and also understanding that parts of the park will always be sliding. Once staff had access to Indian Beach, he said, they could start to take stock of the wreckage on Tillamook Head.

The park used gravel fill to keep Ecola Park Road passable. Just before the entrance to Indian Beach, the state installed a large culvert topped with gravel and rock, to open the road and ensure fish passage on Canyon Creek below. Ensign said the state will decide in the next year or two whether to keep a culvert or put in a bridge.

Park staff are getting everything up and running before the weather gets sunny and the crowds start showing up. Ecola State Park alone averages more than 550,000 annual visitors.

Ecola falls under the Nehalem Management Unit, which also includes Oswald West, Nehalem Bay, Hug Point, Arcadia, Tolovana and Saddle Mountain state parks. Combined, they average more than 3 million day use and overnight visits.

"There's as much visitation to the North Coast ... (as) there is for other entire state park systems," Ensign said.



Photos by Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian  
**TOP:** A 10-man crew from the South Fork Forest Camp chainsawed, mowed and raked their way over Tillamook Head, clearing the trail for the state Parks and Recreation Department.

**LEFT:** The state Department of Parks and Recreation installed a culvert topped by rock and gravel to open a storm-damaged portion of Ecola Park Road. The road was closed until last month because of multiple slides.

**BELOW:** A large landslide over the winter forced a detour along the Tillamook Head trail near Seaside.



**'There's as much visitation to the North Coast ... (as) there is for other entire state park systems.'**

**Bo Ensign**  
 park ranger

Landslides forced the state Parks and Recreation Department to remove a popular viewing deck at Ecola Point overlooking Haystack Rock and Cannon Beach.



**our coast**  
 M A G A Z I N E



**3 WAYS TO GET YOUR COPY TODAY!**

**ORDER ONLINE**  
[www.DiscoverOurCoast.com/order](http://www.DiscoverOurCoast.com/order)  
**STOP BY ONE OF OUR 3 LOCATIONS**  
 Astoria • 949 Exchange St.  
 Seaside • 1555 N. Roosevelt Dr.  
 Long Beach • 205 Bolstad Ave. E. #2  
 or **CALL HOLLY LARKINS**  
 at 503-325-3211, x227  
 Email: [hlarkins@dailyastorian.com](mailto:hlarkins@dailyastorian.com)