

'MISSION CONTINUES' AT OTTER POINT



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

Scott Whisler, a U.S. Marine veteran, works to plant trees with other volunteers during a restoration project at Otter Point on Saturday at Lewis and Clark National Historical Park. The project was organized by The Mission Continues — a nonprofit providing veterans with projects aimed at improving the community around them.

US veterans volunteer to serve at Lewis and Clark park

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Over the weekend, about 15 veterans and civilians traveled from as far away as Eugene and Seattle to slog through the muck for several hours at Otter Point in the Lewis and Clark National Historical Park, planting spruce and shrubs to improve salmon habitat.

The volunteers were deployed for the day by Seattle's 1st Service Platoon from nonprofit The Mission Continues, which connects veterans, friends and family with community service projects around the country.

Leading the group was Doug Pfeffer, a veteran with four years in the U.S. Navy and 20 in the U.S. Army as a forward observer. In his civilian life, Pfeffer is the Seattle city impact manager for the nonprofit, which connects returning post-9/11 veterans with community service projects.

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Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

Doug Pfeffer, with The Mission Continues, works with other volunteers on a restoration project at Otter Point at Lewis and Clark National Historical Park.

'We want to take veterans who have transitioned from the military, and we want to focus that leadership and that can-do attitude and that take-no-prisoners attitude, and refocus it from a military perspective to a community perspective.'

Doug Pfeffer

Seattle city impact manager for The Mission Continues, a nonprofit which connects returning post-9/11 veterans with community service projects

Land trust signs deal to conserve coast acres

Conservancy has five years to meet the costs

By R.J. MARX
The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — What could be the largest land preservation deal in western Oregon was signed Friday.

The Seaside-based North Coast Land Conservancy and private investment equity firm Onion Peak Holdings took the first steps toward the acquisition of 3,300 acres of timberland from Stimson Lumber Co. as the conservancy raises funds to meet the costs over a five-year period.

For the purchase price, "We're looking somewhere about \$10 million," Jon Wickershaw, board president of the North Coast Land Conservancy, said today.

Conservancy Executive Director Katie Voelke called the deal a "monumental act of preservation."

The property is in the heart of what the conservancy characterizes as the "Coastal Edge," an area between Tillamook Head and Nehalem Bay.

Together with Oswald West State Park and Cape Falcon Marine Reserve, the acquisition would create a conservation corridor of more than 29 square miles linking land and sea. According to the conservancy, the property will be the first place in

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Upkeep costs leave marker in question

Scandinavians want monument at park

By DERRICK DePLEDGE
The Daily Astorian

A Scandinavian monument at a downtown park is in doubt over maintenance costs.

Private donors want to create a monument at Peoples Park to mark the history of immigrants from Finland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Iceland to Astoria.

The city's Parks and Recreation Department estimates it will cost \$15,966 a year to maintain the monument and park, compared to the \$8,696 now devoted to upkeep at the park off Marine Drive between 15th and 16th streets.

The Astoria Scandinavian Heritage Association has offered to powerwash the monument twice a year for three years. The heritage association also promises to organize the Scandinavian community for an annual spring CHIP-in cleanup event, and work with community service groups that might want to adopt the park.

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Seaside native, Marine veteran now serves students

After 18 years in the U.S. Marine Corps, Billy Eddy got the chance to continue his family's tradition of public service on the North Coast.

Eddy was hired over the summer as the Astoria School District's new director of transportation, maintenance and safety. He replaced Ryan Hahn, who left to become transportation director of the Gresham-Barlow School District.

Eddy retired from the Marine Corps at the end of August, the same day as the district's new food service director, Michael Kelly, retired from the U.S. Coast



Guard. As an artilleryman, Eddy shot and transported howitzers on tours in the Helmand province of Afghanistan and Anbar in Iraq.

"Everything we did in the Marine Corps ... encompassed what I do here," Eddy said of his new job.

The Marines provided Eddy with some experience in transportation, albeit with more fireworks. He's overseen the movement of troops

between bases in California and Afghanistan, hundreds of vehicles between islands in the southern Pacific Ocean and Australia and convoys through war zones.

Managing school transportation involves fewer external pressures, such as getting shot at, he said, "but it has its own complications. It's making sure kids are safe."

The district transports more than 560 students to and from school on any given day, roughly one-third of enrollment. Eddy oversees more than 25 bus drivers, mechanics and groundskeepers.



Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

Billy Eddy is the Astoria School District's new director of transportation, maintenance and safety.

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