

Sierra Club's '50 Hikes' gets an upgrade

Book urges exploration of Clatsop, Tillamook forests

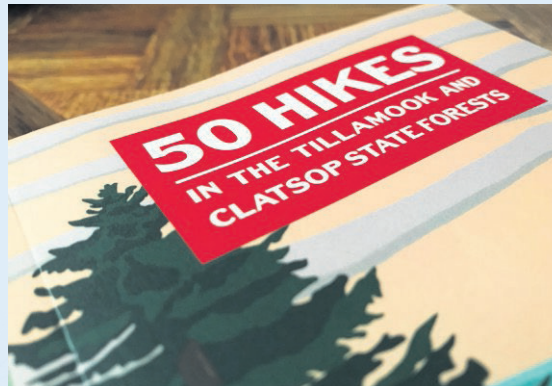
By EDWARD STRATTON
FOR COAST WEEKEND

Between the North Coast and Portland metro area are more than 500,000 lush, rugged acres of the 44-year-old Clatsop and Tillamook state forests, nearly two-thirds of the forestland managed by the state.

The Oregon Chapter of the Sierra Club is urging public exploration and protection of the forests in "50 Hikes in the Clatsop and Tillamook State Forests," coming out early next year online and in local bookstores.

The book is largely an update of the Sierra Club's 2001 publication "50 Hikes in the Tillamook State Forest."

"We want future generations to be able to stand in awe of the towering trees," the book's introduc-



EDWARD STRATTON PHOTO

The Sierra Club's new hiking and forest guide, "50 Hikes in the Tillamook and Clatsop State Forests," is slated to hit bookstores and online March 1.

tion says. "Hence this second edition of 50 Hikes, which now includes the beautiful, yet heavily logged, Clatsop State Forest. If you love your local

forests, use the hikes in this book to remind yourself of Oregon's innate majesty, to discover new favorite trails, and, most importantly, to find the inspiration it takes to preserve a forest ecosystem as threatened and fragile as the Clatsop and Tillamook woods."

Hiking the rivers

The Sierra Club takes readers through the geological and cultural history of the region, formed by subduction of the Juan de Fuca Plate under North America, inhabited for about 10,000 years by Native Americans and first explored by Europeans starting in the 16th century, before launching into a series of hikes based around river drainages emptying into Tillamook, Nehalem and Youngs bays.

The guide starts along the Wilson River, running through 355,000 rugged acres burned in a series of massive forest fires between 1933 and 1951, and

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JOSHUA BESSEX PHOTO

A new hiking guide by the Oregon chapter of the Sierra Club features hikes along the Nehalem River in southern Clatsop County.