



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Volunteers are briefed on the plan to plant trees at the Clear Lake property as part of a wetland restoration project.

## Wetland: ‘We need more of this primitive land kept in this condition’

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“This is a big wetland creation project, but in the future, it’s more passive restoration,” Owen said. He plans to step back and let natural plant succession occur, some of which is happening already.

He will come through again to do work such as pulling weeds and checking on native plant health, but, he said, “It’s a really good, healthy native plant community already.”

For this, the land conservancy can thank Gramson and his goats.

Gramson hadn’t planned to sell. He had been taking care of the property for many years and grazed goats on it, which helped take care of invasive brush. For the most part, it was

pretty pristine, he said.

Gramson had health problems and was looking at major heart surgery. He didn’t know what would happen, but he knew he didn’t want to see the property fill up with houses if he died. He decided to sell it to the land conservancy before his operation.

“I’m still alive, and I’m so happy I did it,” he said. “I made a good deal and, well, it was a good deal for both of us ... It’s not a huge piece (of land), but I think it’s an important piece.”

His house is on the lake and he had a recent reminder of how quickly a landscape can change. Several nearby lots are in the process of being developed, altering both the ambiance and the surrounding landscape.

“We need more of this primitive land kept in this condition,” he said. “It’s getting harder and harder for this kind of land to survive.”

Though the land conservancy’s Gardenia Wetland and Ridge Road Swamp habitat preserves are nearby, complementing Clear Lake and its restored wetlands, no properties directly abut the Clear Lake property. But similar wetlands overlap and spread out from it. The animals that frequent the area can’t tell the difference, Owen said. Adding Clear Lake as a protected site into the mix provides even more of a corridor for native animals and plants to survive and thrive.

The land conservancy maintains a mix of properties.

Some, like the large Circle Creek preserve near Seaside, are open to the public. Clear Lake is not, nor are there any plans to provide public access. The only access is across private property and the wetland habitat doesn’t lend itself to much human rambling. It may be included in a tour of stewardship lands in the future, but for now it is left to nature.

“Really the long-term benefit will just continue to be that the property will remain ‘as is’ in perpetuity,” said Jon Wickershaw, the land conservancy’s associate director.

The land conservancy plans to continue having discussions with adjacent and nearby landowners, but the organization has no immediate projects on the horizon in the area.

## Salmon: Army Corps will increase spill water today

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today at some dams on the Snake River and next week on some dams in the Columbia, one of the largest rivers in North America. The Snake is its largest tributary.

Conservation groups said it’s the fourth time since 2005 that increased spill has been mandated by the district court.

“It’s tragic that the federal agencies are still ignoring their own science in fighting spill at every step of the way,” said Glen Spain, Northwest regional director of the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen’s Associations.

Army Corps spokesman Matt Rabe declined comment on the litigation. He said the corps will follow the ruling and increase spill today.

Spilling water in the springtime over the tops of dams — rather than sending

it through turbine blades — is seen by conservation groups as an essential way to protect threatened and endangered salmon and steelhead.

Advocates say it allows juvenile salmon to quickly pass over dams, rather than sending them through the structures, which can cause traumatic damage to the fish as they head to sea.

“After more than 20 years of federal failure, salmon are in desperate need of help now,” Todd True, Earthjustice attorney representing conservation, fishing, and clean energy advocates in the case, said in a statement.

“The measures the court upheld will give salmon a fighting chance while the federal government catches up to the scale and urgency of what the law requires to protect these fish from extinction.”

Courtney Flatt of Northwest Public Broadcasting contributed to this report.

## Mitchell: Running grassroots campaign, faces uphill battle

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ble education funding and equal pay. She has received endorsements from a variety of labor, education, women’s and conservation groups.

“I believe that my vote will always fall on the side of the working-class person, because that’s who I am,” she said. “I have believed for a long time that we all deserve fairness in the way that we’re treated. We all deserve health care. We all deserve the things that are supposed to make our nation great.”

When she withdrew, Ousley said she was con-

cerned about splitting the vote among three Democratic candidates and that her base was not strong enough to prevail. Both Mitchell and Orr, running more grassroots campaigns, face an uphill battle against Josi. The former state representative has broader name recognition and more political contributions, including from a multitude of large companies, Boone, D-Cannon Beach, and state Sen. Betsy Johnson, D-Scappoose.

Seaside teacher Vineeta Lower has filed as a Republican, and Brian Halvorsen as an Independent.

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# ELECTION FORUM

WHEN:  
7 p.m. Tuesday, April 3

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### THE NUMBER TO KNOW

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the dispatch teams at Medix, Astoria,  
Seaside and Pacific County, WA 9-1-1 centers  
for their hard work.

## REMAIN CALM, BE PREPARED

- Try to stay calm, give information and follow all instructions.
- Professional call-takers are trained to get information from you. Listen very carefully and answer as concisely as possible.
- Remember that even if the dispatcher is still asking questions or giving instructions, help is on the way.
- You can save a life! Do not hang up until the call-taker does.

