

## Protecting the coho salmon

Environmentalists want more restrictions

By DAVID STEVES  
Oregon Public Broadcasting

Twenty environmental groups are calling on Oregon to protect imperiled coho salmon with more restrictions on logging and roadbuilding in coastal forests.

The groups delivered a rule-making petition last week to the Oregon Board of Forestry. It calls for designated resource sites for coho salmon on state and private forestlands.

Nick Cady, legal counsel with one of the petitioners, Cascadia Wildlands, said the Board of Forestry needs to address the impacts of logging on habitat for a species at risk of extinction.

"There are major ongoing conflicts between logging practices and coho salmon habitat that need to be resolved," he said.

Oregon coho are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Their numbers are thought to have ranged between 1 million and 2 million in Oregon before white settlement. But periods of poor ocean conditions, logging, agriculture, dams and road culverts are blamed for reducing their numbers to about 30,000 in Oregon coastal rivers by the 1990s.

In their petition, environmental and fishing groups say these activities have degraded water quality, blocked fish passage and led to the loss of favorable habitat, such as rivers with large wood debris, deep pools and connections to off-channel waters that rearing salmon need, such as beaver ponds, lakes and wetlands.

Advocates argue for the protection of cold water and more salmon habitat by designating resource sites for coho. Forests would be left in place within 150 feet of coho-accessible waters and 100 feet of non-coho-bearing headwaters.

The proposal is expected to draw opposition from the timber industry, since it would restrict logging and roadbuilding in these protected resource sites.

## Farmland declines in Oregon

Census conducted every five years

By GEORGE PLAVERN  
Capital Press

From his 56-acre family farm in rural West Linn, Richard Fiala has observed a worrisome trend.

Land that Fiala, 62, remembers haying 30 years ago is now crowded with houses, or awaiting development at the hands of investors as the region's cities plan for urban growth.

Figures from the newly released 2017 Census of Agriculture reveal that Oregon,

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Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Eric Anderson, the new owner of the Hughes-Ransom Mortuary & Crematory in Astoria, talks about his plans for enlivening the historic structure.

## Astoria funeral home under new ownership



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Urns sit on a shelf in a showroom at the Hughes-Ransom Mortuary & Crematory.

Anderson plans rentals, events at Hughes-Ransom

By EDWARD STRATTON  
The Daily Astorian

The former upstairs showrooms of Hughes-Ransom Mortuary & Crematory are filled with caskets, display shelves and other general storage. New owner Eric Anderson, who's taking up residence above the mortuary, has also laid down blue tape to mark the two apartment rentals he plans to add by fall.

Anderson recently closed the sale on Hughes-Ransom's Astoria and Seaside locations from Todd and Joy Slack. He is hoping the new apartments and opening the chapel to weddings and other community gatherings will help enliven the historic building.

Originally from Minnesota, Anderson has a bachelor's in mortuary science and 20 years in the business. He moved to Oregon and mostly worked in the Eugene-Springfield area, including for the Slacks, the owners of Hughes-Ransom since 2013. Used to small, Scandinavian-tinged towns growing up, he jumped at the opportunity to buy them out of Hughes-Ransom.

E.B. Hughes established the mortuary in 1913 and moved into the Harvey and Mary Pike residence at the corner of 12th Street and Franklin Avenue in 1923, remodeling the building to its brick facade in the 1930s. The mortuary added a smaller Seaside chapel in 1933.

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Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

Hughes-Ransom Mortuary & Crematory has been located in the former Harvey and Mary Pike residence at 576 12th St. since 1923.

## Astoria grad finds Capitol job

An intern for Rep. Mitchell

By EDWARD STRATTON  
The Daily Astorian

As a high schooler, Jacob Hulti had been to one or two Astoria City Council meetings.

Now the junior political science major at Willamette University in Salem and legislative intern for state Rep. Tiffany Mitchell, D-Astoria, has more than 120 hours of experience working in the state Capitol.

Hulti, who graduated from Astoria High School



in 2016, wasn't sure what he'd major in at Willamette. But he said political science appealed to him after a few classes and some reading of political philosophy and economic theory.

For one of his classes, Hulti applied to be an intern for Mitchell, who this year replaced Deborah Boone representing state House District 32.

"That was one reason

why I applied for Mitchell's office," he said. "She's my representative, so I thought it would be cool."

Hulti helps Mitchell's office research and write summaries for bills, tracks and ensures she responds to constituent inquiries and sits in on committee hearings.

He's helped research bills that would tweak commercial clamming regulations and seek greater funding for education. Sitting in on contentious hearings, such as one to ban Styrofoam, have been the most educational, he said.

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Jacob Hulti, right, is a legislative intern for state Rep. Tiffany Mitchell, D-Astoria, center, along with fellow Willamette University student Jake Procino.

