



A BREATH OF FRESH AIR

Coastal Forest Loop trail offers outdoor adventure

BY CAITLIN SEYFRIED

“Nice, we’ve got the first trillium of the year here,” said Aaron Webster, interpretive specialist with Washington State Parks. He pointed down beside the trail to soft white petals spread above wide leaves. “This is a plant whose seeds are dependent on ants. Without ants, the seeds don’t germinate. It’s a relatively rare plant.”

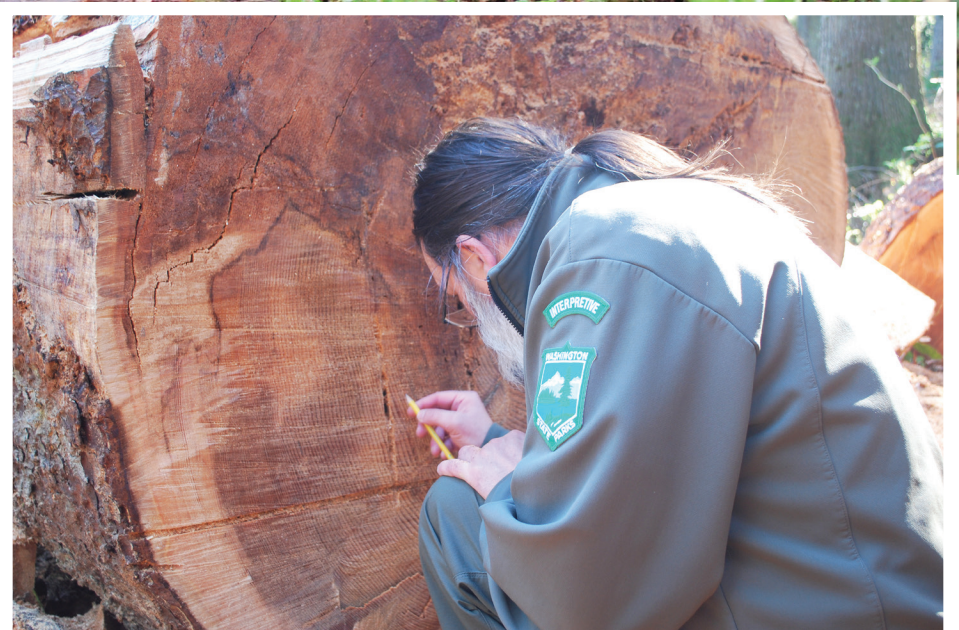
Webster recently led me along the Coastal Forest Loop trail at Cape Disappointment State Park.

“It’s still the kind of trail you can hike around, even in the summer, and not see

another person. I like that about it,” Webster said.

The trail offers a side of the park that visitors might miss. Tourists flock to attractions at the park, like the Cape Disappointment Lighthouse, the North Head Lighthouse and Waikiki Beach for good reason. The Coastal Forest Loop trail is a bit off the beaten path.

The trail features big old-growth trees, a variety of wildlife and unique views. Situated on the traditional lands of the Chinook people, the 1.5 mile trail traces the western edge of Baker Bay and loops



Photos by Caitlin Seyfried

TOP: A tree arches across the start of the Coastal Forest Loop trail. **ABOVE:** Aaron Webster counts rings of a fallen Sitka spruce along the Coastal Forest Loop trail.

See Page 11