

BACKYARD ADVENTURES



Photos by Andy Cameron

Boats are seen docked along the Skipanon River.

Try these bucket list destinations on the North Coast

BY ANDY CAMERON

January – Fort to Sea Trail

Start the year with an homage to the miserable winter experienced by the Lewis and Clark Expedition in 1805-1806. Rain-soaked and subsisting on meager rations, the explorers and their crew made several treks to the beach. The Fort to Sea Trail, which connects Fort Clatsop and Sunset Beach, offers intrepid winter hikers a chance to walk a path similar to that taken by the expedition corps. A full round trip comes in at a little more than 13 miles.

February – Youngs River Falls

Though penned in misery, the rains documented by Lewis and Clark can bring significant beauty to the rivers and waterfalls of the North Coast. Locally, Youngs River Falls offers the best view of this hydrological display. The hike is short, but February rains also bring mud and slip-

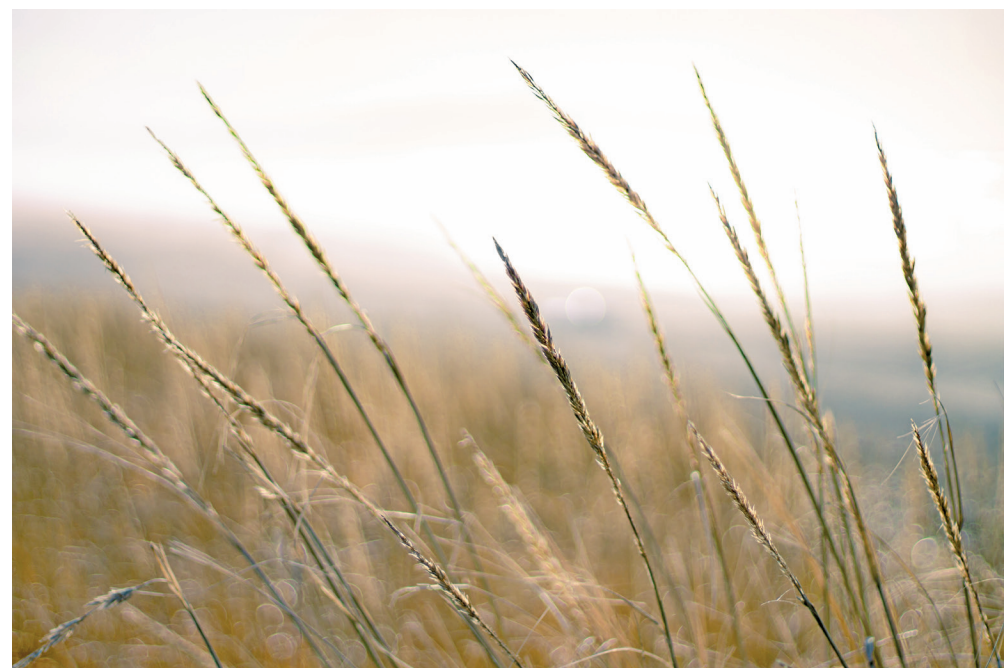
pery conditions. For hikers willing to go slow and heed caution, the reward is worth the soaking.

March – Columbia Shore Disc Golf Course at Fort Stevens

Rated as one of the best courses in the region, Fort Steven's 18 holes offer breathtaking views of the Columbia estuary, wandering elk and passing ship traffic. Disc golf may be unfamiliar to many, but the premise is identical to that of the club-based sport from which it takes its name. March can still bring soggy conditions, but golfers can play a full 18 without the pressure of summertime crowds. Park at the fort's museum and be sure to pay the day use fee.

April – Trout fishing

Mid-spring has the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife stocking several



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Many trails on the North Coast offer a chance to see the region's natural environment.