

Clatsop's 2019 timber share: \$19.6 million

Clatsop County's state forest lands contributed \$19.6 million toward public services in 2019, according to a new report.

The report, released by Oregon Department of Forestry, was issued to the 15 state forest trust land counties, which includes Clatsop.

The forest trust counties receive revenue generated by timber sales on the state forest land within their boundaries.

The Clatsop State Forest consists of 147,000 acres (although a small portion of it is in Tillamook and Columbia counties).

County government and entities receiving revenue include Clatsop Care

Health District, Clatsop Community College, Jewell School District, Rural Law Enforcement District, Port of Astoria and numerous other providers of fire protection, public transit and other services.

The annual report includes a recap of timber sales and revenue distribution, conservation and forest health activities, and recreation use, including popularity and number of visitors.

Statewide, counties and local governments received a record \$86.9 million in revenue.

The state agency replanted 3.1 million trees and hosted 40,000 campers at ODF campgrounds.

"ODF manages these healthy working forests for a balance of benefits over time for all Oregonians, and we're proud of the accomplishments that this report highlights," State Forester Peter Daugherty said.

BY THE NUMBERS

- Clatsop State Forest protects 373 miles of fish-bearing streams and 959 miles of non-fish bearing streams.
- The state harvested 297 million board feet of timber.
- ODF restored 2.3 miles of fish access and removed six fish barriers.
- The state maintained 339 miles of trail.
- More than 53,500 people visited ODF's Tillamook Forest Center.

Conservation group makes way for future forests

Fifteen men armed with chainsaws climbed into pickup trucks at daybreak last month and drove up a gravel road on Tillamook Head.

By day's end, they would cut a lot of trees on Boneyard Ridge. Yet the project begun that morning will help trees grow to a ripe old age — ultimately becoming part of a mature temperate rainforest of the kind that once characterized the iconic coastal headland.

Boneyard Ridge is a 340-acre habitat reserve acquired by North Coast Land Conservancy in 2016. It sits between state park land along the shoreline and NCLC's own Circle Creek Conservation Center at the south end of Seaside.

The forest is all second growth, and one 85-acre portion, densely planted with now 20-year-old hemlock and spruce trees, needed to be thinned to improve forest health. By the time the thinning project was completed



A habitat pile left in the cleared woods to benefit birds, salamanders and other forest critters.

Courtesy NCLC

10 days later, the forest was about a third as dense, about 630 trees per acre was cut to 220.

The thinned trees were left on the ground, and some were arranged in "habitat piles" mimicking large downed wood.

Amphibians such as the giant Pacific salamander and red-legged frog can find the kind of damp, dark shelter they need, and birds ranging from pileated woodpeckers and mountain quail can perch and survey the forest

as they forage.

As the habitat piles age, the wood will decompose, enriching the forest soil.

A couple of large gaps were left in every acre of thinned forest so NCLC can plant western red cedar and big-leaf maple in an effort to restore the species diversity that historically characterized the forest on Tillamook Head.

"We are pioneering techniques that we may be able to use in the proposed Rainforest Reserve," said Melissa Reich, NCLC stewardship director.

Students can ride for free

Sunset Empire Transportation District will provide fare-free student transportation in Clatsop County beginning Jan. 6.

All students in kindergarten through high school can ride for free on all routes in the county.

Some of the funding the district receives requires that 1 percent be dedicated to transportation for high school students, Executive Director Jeff Hazen said.

"We want to do more than that and extend the fare-free service to grades kindergarten through 12 because, someday, these kids will graduate and some will be going to college and they will already



Hazen

be experienced in using public transportation before they leave home," Hazen said.

Some of the grants the district receives are based on ridership, so the additional passengers also could help with those grants.

"We are hopeful that this fare-free program will reduce the barriers that some students face when wanting to participate in all school activities." He said.

The transit agency will work with the schools to get the message out to students and parents about the new program.

For more information, contact Hazen at jeff@ride-thebus.org or 503-861-5399.

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