

Walk funded by grant, local support

CoastWalk from Page 1A

to Cannon Beach from Sept. 23 to 25. Depending on their pace, people hiked for three to five hours each day.

"It went wonderfully. It was super inspiring to see these folks," the conservancy's Executive Director Katie Voelke said. "By the end, it was glorious weather and there was wonderful camaraderie that the group built. Overall, they have a whole new perspective and respect for the Oregon coast."

Though familiar with the coast, Lund noticed parts of the beach she had never seen before during the walk.

"They brought so many new things to me, even as an Oregonian," she said. "It was worth every penny and every minute of my time."

A windy start

With howling wind and rain, the first day was challenging, but hikers made it from Clatsop Spit to Sunset Beach.

Before the event, the conservancy communicated to participants what to bring, what to wear and how to train — and that the walk would happen rain or shine.

'This is helping to move our mission forward because it gets people out.'

Lorraine Ortiz,
conservancy development director

"People were really prepared, but I don't think people knew what it meant to walk 10 miles in sideways rain," the conservancy's Development Director Lorraine Ortiz said. "Now they know. The majority didn't turn around and they had such a sense of accomplishment and great attitudes."

Participants were rewarded with clear, sunny days when they hiked from Sunset Beach to Cartwright Park in Seaside on day two, and trekked over Tillamook Head to Cannon Beach on day three. After successfully completing the walk, the group celebrated at Public Coast Brewing.

The walk was an opportunity to educate participants on the North Coast Land Conservancy properties along the way, such as the recently acquired Boneyard Ridge.

"That was neat to get an idea of what exactly they're

doing and where they're doing it while we're walking," Lund said.

"We're thrilled. We are not an event organization; we're a land conservation organization," Ortiz said. "But this is helping to move our mission forward because it gets people out, boots on the ground, to understand why it's important that we're doing the work that we do."

Another CoastWalk to come

The event was a good fit for the conservancy, Ortiz said.

"People use golfing to do business," she said. "We do hiking."

The conservancy is already planning next year's CoastWalk, which might start in Cannon Beach and head south, Ortiz said.

The event was organized

by Voelke, Ortiz, Communications Coordinator Bonnie Henderson and Administrative and Outreach Assistant Lynette Villagomez.

The funds raised — almost \$20,000 — will help support future North Coast Land Conservancy conservation projects. The event received a Cannon Beach Tourism and Arts grant and sponsorship from local businesses.

Ortiz said the CoastWalk could partner with the Cape Falcon Marine Reserve, Oregon State Parks and the Haystack Rock Awareness Program in the future.

"It's neat that (CoastWalk) is grabbing the attention of other organizations that see the value in it," Ortiz said. "It enhances not only our mission but theirs too. It's a win-win for everyone."

After her experience, Lund looks forward to supporting the conservancy at next year's CoastWalk.

"They are trying to protect our beautiful Oregon coast for all of us," she said. "Overall, I wouldn't change a thing. Even that crazy windy day — I am just very thankful that was day one."



LYRA FONTAINE/CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

The county dissolved the Arch Cape Design Review Committee, calling it "unnecessary."

Commissioner says disbanding decision is 'a fair outcome'

Arch Cape from Page 1A

past four decades, and is a local asset that maintains the livability of the community.

Theodore Lundy, chairman of the Arch Cape committee, said the group offers a way for locals to voice their concerns face-to-face.

"It's like a family meeting down there," Lundy said.

Commissioner Lianne

Thompson used Lundy's family analogy to point out not all family members agree. She said many residents felt too vulnerable or at risk to propose their building plans to their neighbors.

"Sometimes those family members had not wished to appear on the record because they have been concerned about their neighbor's negative opinions," Thompson said.

Spraying needed to comply with state laws, Weyerhaeuser says

Spraying from Page 1A

Herbicide for regrowth

Timber companies are required to notify the Oregon Department of Forestry of planned operations, said Tillamook District Forest Katherine Skinner.

"At this point, there is no required notification of general citizens," Skinner said. "In this particular issue in Oswald West State Park, Weyerhaeuser has notified adjacent landowners."

Skinner said some timber companies in Tillamook County voluntarily give residents a shorter notice of planned spraying.

Weyerhaeuser went through proper notification channels before spraying, said Park Manager Ben Cox, with

Oregon State Parks. When planting after harvesting forest, Weyerhaeuser may use herbicides to control weeds, brush and invasive species that compete with tree seedlings for sunlight, nutrients and water, Weyerhaeuser Public Affairs Manager Greg Miller said in an email. The Oregon Forest Practices Act requires replanting within two years after harvest and the seedlings must be "free-to-grow" within six years.

"Without herbicide use, reforestation may be unsuccessful, thus we would be out of compliance with state reforestation laws," Miller wrote. "Once tree seedlings are established, herbicides are rarely used again in the same forest cycle, except along road right of ways."

The pesticides help the trees get a head start before the competing species and prepares the site for tree replanting this winter, Skinner said.

Weyerhaeuser notified the Oregon Department of Forestry and applied herbicides in compliance with state and federal regulations and law, Miller said. The public has access to notifications online through the state department's Forest Activity Electronic Reporting and Notification System. In addition, Weyerhaeuser communicated to the adjacent parks department about the chemical application and posted a range of dates for operation at locations with potential public access.

"We also went beyond forest practice requirements by leaving an untreated buffer along

the shared state park property boundary," Miller wrote.

Notification needed

The notification system is a "step toward better notification," but Webster said it isn't enough. Spraying could occur anytime in a six-month period, too large of a window.

With modern technology, timber companies could send out an electronic notice before the helicopter takes off, she said, and other timber companies have posted two-week notices after receiving phone calls from residents.

"The big problem with the aerial spraying is you can't get real-time notifications," said Jane Anderson, a Garib-

aldi resident. "People need to know that this is happening. They may tell you they're going to do it in six months. If you'd like to leave the area to protect yourself, you'd have no idea when that would be."

Anderson and her husband found out about aerial spraying while hiking through the woods several years ago.

"We saw fliers on trees and we were surprised," Anderson said. "We had no idea that was happening."

While the citizens group voiced concerns about chemicals drifting into Oswald West and Short Sand Beach, forester Skinner said there was a "low risk" that chemicals would drift from the treated

area, because the application is done at a low elevation and the chemicals cannot be sprayed in the wind.

The group would like state legislators to change Oregon's forest practices law.

"I felt really good about reaching out and educating people," Webster said. "We believe it's a public health issue."

More than 300 people contacted legislators after the Sept. 24 event.

"The main focus is to let folks know what's happening in their forest," Anderson said. "Hopefully we'll be able to put enough pressure on our legislators so that they will decide aerial spraying is a risky practice."

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