



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Creek high on Boneyard Ridge.

Conservancy gets funds for land purchase

North Coast Land Conservancy received word that it has been selected to receive \$524,000 from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board toward purchase of Boneyard Ridge, a 360-acre parcel of commercial timberland threaded with salmon-bearing streams on the northeast slope of Tillamook Head.

Boneyard Ridge is tucked between conserved lands in Ecola State Park and NCLC's own 364-acre Circle Creek Habitat Reserve south of Seaside. Purchase of this property will carry forward a legacy that was first envisioned in the 1930s, when the fledgling Oregon State Park system

and some very generous Oregon families first created Ecola State Park. NCLC is helping to advance that vision by creating a connected, conserved region of more than 3,500 contiguous acres stretching from the summit of Tillamook Head to the Necanicum River valley and floodplain. Its stewardship goal for this property is to allow it to mature into a complex rainforest of the kind that once characterized headlands all along the northern Oregon coast.

Owners of the property are asking \$1.8 million for Boneyard Ridge. To date NCLC has secured \$560,000, including the OWEB funds. NCLC is

seeking additional funds from a variety of sources, including public agencies and private foundations. The land trust plans to complete acquisition of Boneyard Ridge by the end of 2016.

Based in Seaside, North Coast Land Conservancy has been working since 1986 to conserve and connect the landscape of the Oregon Coast from the Columbia River to northern Lincoln County. The private, non-profit land trust works to ensure that this extraordinary region is a place where healthy communities of people, plants and wildlife can all thrive. For more information, visit NCLCtrust.org.

Wallace retiring from Public Works Director position

City currently reviewing in-house candidate for his replacement

By Katherine Lacaze
Seaside Signal

Seaside Public Works Director Neal Wallace will retire his post, effective June 30, after serving the city of Seaside for about 17 years.

Wallace, who is licensed as a professional land surveyor and has a degree in forest engineering, joined the department as the senior surveyor/engineer in February 1998. He worked under former Public Works Director Chris Davies, and then as interim director for a little while after Davies resigned in 2003.

He hadn't given much thought to taking the Public Works Director position at that time. It was former City Councilor Stubby Lyons, Wallace said, "who pulled me aside one day and gave me that coach pep talk" about stepping into the



Outgoing Public Works Director Neal Wallace

role permanently. He was hired as the director Nov. 10, 2003.

The city has started its search for Wallace's replacement. The position was advertised in-house first, and one person applied. City Manager Mark Winstanley will review the application that was received in-house, and if that person is not hired, the position will be opened to the public for external applicants, City Administrative Assistant Kim Jordan said.

Winstanley has the fi-

nal say in who is hired.

As for retirement, Wallace said, "I'm absolutely looking forward to it, but I'd be lying to you if I said there weren't some things I was going to miss terribly."

He especially has enjoyed working with "creative people in the community" to develop ideas and see them to fruition, or the community building aspect of the job.

"That process of seeing projects from a thought process to being a completed project and being able to present those to a community, that's something very, very special and I'll definitely miss that," he said.

Wallace currently serves as president of the South Clatsop County Food Bank board of directors and plans to continue serving that organization. He also hopes to use the skills he's developed in other volunteer capacities in the community.

"I don't expect to build another food bank, but I'm sure there's something out there and I look forward to being a part of it," he said.



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