



ARCH CAPE FOREST PUBLIC ACCESS MANAGEMENT PLAN



ARCH CAPE DOMESTIC WATER SUPPLY DISTRICT
ARCH CAPE, OR

DRAFT - June 8, 2023

Acknowledgements

Arch Cape Domestic Water Supply District

Board of Directors

Nadia Gardner

Linda Murray

Chris Mastrandrea

Dan Seifer

Past Directors during Planning Process:

Jay Blake

Debra Birkby

Arch Cape Domestic Water Supply District Staff

Matt Gardner, District Manager

Phil Chick, Former District Manager

Arch Cape Forest Advisory Committee

Charlotte Blakesley

Larry Crawshaw

Bob Cerelli

David Dougherty

Dale Mosby

Patricia Noonan

Melissa Reich

Arch Cape Forest and Rainforest Reserve

Public Access Team

Arch Cape Forest Advisory Committee Members (listed above)

Kevin Brownlee — NCLC Board of Directors, Vice-President

Tom Horning — NCLC Board of Directors, Secretary

Richard Gibson — Cannon View Park, President

North Coast Land Conservancy

Katie Voelke, Executive Director

Jon Wickersham, Associate Director

Melissa Reich, Stewardship Director

Sustainable Northwest

Daniel Wear, Forest Program Manager

Springboard Forestry

Ben Hayes

National Park Service

Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program

Julie Fonseca de Borges, Community Planner

Anne Dove, Outdoor Recreation Planner

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Executive Summary



This *Public Access Management Plan* for the Arch Cape Forest builds on work from the recent *Arch Cape Forest Multi-Resource Management Plan (MRMP)*, which was adopted by the Arch Cape Domestic Water Supply District (ACDWSD) in February 2023. Specifically, this access plan, which is a supplement to the Multi-Resource Management Plan, describes the management policies that allow people to access and recreate in the 1500-acre Arch Cape Forest while still protecting the watershed that supplies the community's drinking water.

This document pulls together comprehensive information and material that will be needed by the ACDWSD as they move forward with implementing this public access plan and engaging in future planning and management efforts.

Why Public Access

Through the planning process, concerns were raised by some community members about potential impacts to drinking water sources, visitor overcrowding affecting the historically quiet character of the forest, and overflow parking safety issues along Highway 101 within Arch Cape and surrounding communities. Based on these concerns, some community members expressed a desire to close the Arch Cape Forest to public access and recreation.

Because of the intent and requirements of federal and state grant funding awarded to acquire the Arch Cape Forest and right-of-way easements held by neighboring landowners, a complete closure of the forest to public access is not feasible (*see page 39*). However, through this planning process, community issues of concern were analyzed to facilitate formulation of management recommendations that address these issues and concerns while meeting the vision and goals for the forest and the requirements of grant funding sources.

The organization of this access plan follows a typical planning process that answers key questions (*Figure A: Plan Organization*):

- Where are we now?
- Where do we want to go?
- How will we get there?
- How will we know when we've arrived?

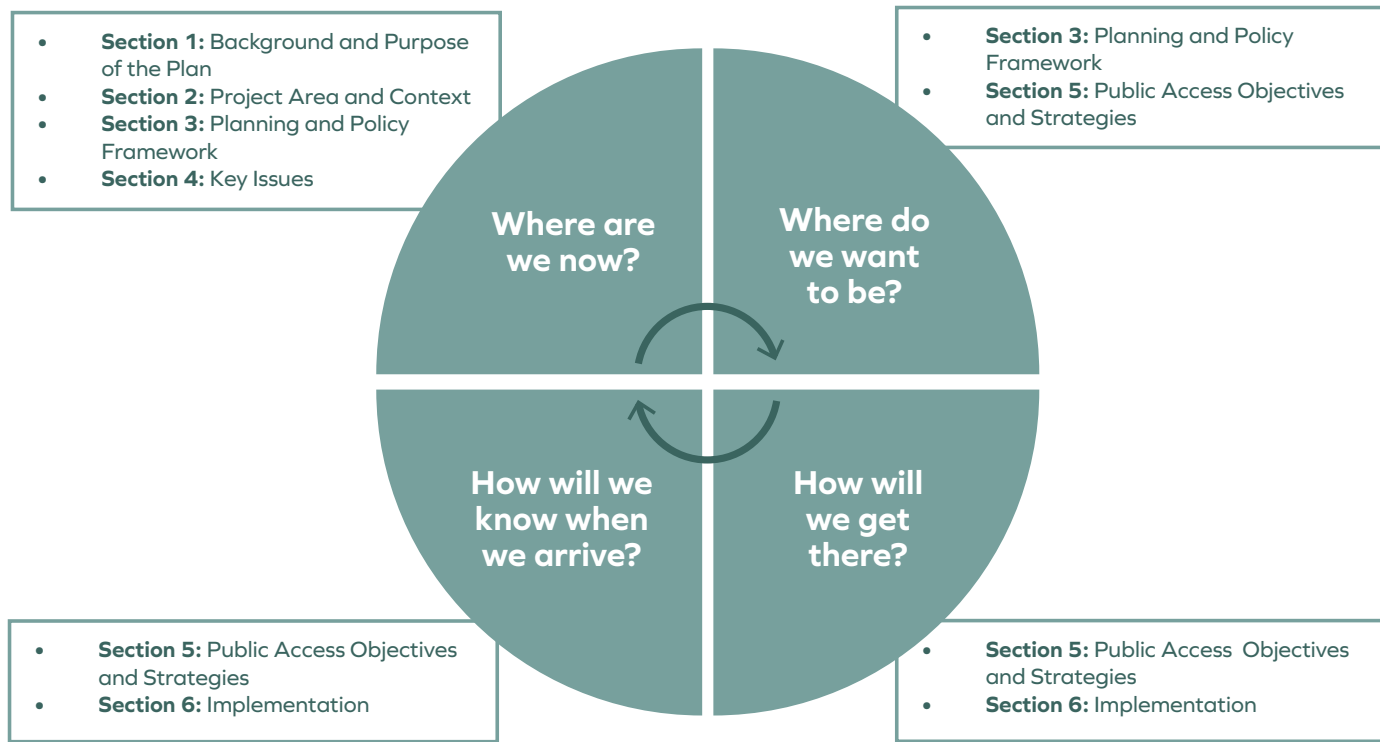


Figure A: Plan Organization

Where We Are Now

The first part of the document describes “where we are now” by introducing the public access plan purpose and the process for creating this public access plan in **Section 1: Background and Purpose of the Plan**. As the new owner and manager of the Arch Cape Forest, the ACDWSD has undertaken preparation of the MRMP and this public access plan as part of due diligence in managing the forest for the public interest purposes for which the Arch Cape Forest was acquired. As a community asset owned by a special district, the process for developing this public access plan included the Arch Cape community. Engagement opportunities included monthly

Public Access Advisory Team meetings, two focused online discussions about specific types of recreation uses, an in-person town hall event, and a public comment period on this draft public access plan. Additionally, public input related to public access that was collected during the MRMP process was also reviewed and analyzed as part of the public access planning process.

Section 2: Project Area and Context outlines the demographic, geographic, environmental, and historical contexts that influenced the establishment of the Arch Cape Forest.

Arch Cape Forest & Rainforest Reserve Public Access Planning

Arch Cape Water District and NCLC worked very closely together for several years to protect the forested coastal slope above the community of Arch Cape to establish what are now the Arch Cape Forest and the Rainforest Reserve. Given the shared histories of these properties and the complimentary goals for the two properties, the two separate plans for public access are being developed with coordination. Prior to these two properties being purchased by the Arch Cape Water District and NCLC, these were owned and managed by single property owners.

As a result of this landowner history and natural history, the two properties share many features. The Asbury and Shark Creek watersheds that supply water to Arch Cape span both properties, as well as a small area of Nuveen Natural Capital - Lewis & Clark Timberland property to the north. The road network throughout the two sites were historically developed when this was one property, so to access the Rainforest Reserve, NCLC and NNC-LCT have easements to use the roads in the Arch Cape Forest. And historically, the public used this road network to access the property for recreation purposes which were managed under one set of public access/use policies.

Where Do We Want to Go

In describing, “where do we want to go”, this public access plan includes an overview of the existing planning and policy context and framework for the forest in **Section 3: Planning and Policy Framework**. This includes State of Oregon plans and policies describing statutes related to recreation-related liability and recreation policies and statutes related to uses such as e-bikes and hunting.

The *Clatsop County Comprehensive Plan* (draft 2023) outlines long term goals and policies for land use across the county, and community plans, including the *Southwest Coastal Community Plan* (draft 2022) which includes Arch Cape. These documents describe the importance of the natural resources, scenic resources, and wildlife values of the county and concerns about water supply and protection in the community plan area. Clatsop County zoning underscores the goals for Arch Cape as a low-density rural community and forest area values related to scenic resources, fish and wildlife habitat, and the desire to maintain and improve the quality of air, water, and land resources.

This section in the public access plan also outlines the relevant public access requirements of the federal and state grant funding programs that enabled acquisition of the Arch Cape Forest by the ACDWSD as well as purchase of the adjoining Rainforest Reserve by NCLC. The change in ownership of the Arch Cape Forest from a succession of private commercial timber businesses to a special district (a form of local government also marks a change in management focus, which is articulated in the vision and goals for the Arch Cape Forest.

To transition between the question of “where do we want to go” to “how will we get there”, **Section 4: Key Issues** builds on an analysis of factors affect public access relative to the goals for the forest and the relevant existing conditions.

How Will We Get There – How Will We Know When We Will Arrive

Section 5: Public Access Objectives and Strategies outlines specific recommendations for the ACDWSD as owner and land manager of the Arch Cape Forest. Consistent with the community’s vision for the forest, the recommendations for public access and recreational use largely follow historic public use of the land and the past policies of previous landowners – meaning that local users will not see significant changes in the types of recreation previously allowed by past owners. Any access and recreational use changes are recommended to protect and conserve natural resources and fulfill the vision and goals set forth by the ACDWSD. A summary of public access and recreation policies are below; a full listing of recommendations can be found starting on page 59 of this plan.

As a result of this planning process, recommendations include strategies to maintain low intensity public use of the forest and prevent impacts associated with high levels of public use. Examples of these recommendations include focusing information sharing about accessing the forest and allowable uses to communication channels largely used by Arch Cape communities to. Additionally, the plan does not recommend significant changes to public access-related infrastructure such as expanded parking, significant entrance signage, or other facilities that would intensify use of the forest. The

Arch Cape Forest Vision & Goals

Our vision is to provide clean, safe, and affordable drinking water to Arch Cape residents and visitors, through the creation of a working community-owned forest to sustain the rich character and beauty of Oregon’s coastal rainforest for generations.

The goals of the Arch Cape Forest are:

1. Provide reliable quantities of high-quality drinking water
2. Retain affordable water
3. Engage the community in the forest
4. Retain and restore natural forest structure and aesthetics
5. Provide intact terrestrial and aquatic wildlife habitat

(from the Arch Cape Forest Multi-Resource Management Plan 2023)

public access plan also recommends development of a monitoring strategy to ensure the ACDWSD, the community, and any partners are able to identify when public access is impacting the achievement of forest goals related to drinking water supply and quality, natural forest structures and aesthetics, and terrestrial and aquatic wildlife habitat.

This planning document provides a framework to ACDWSD Board and staff members as they develop forest management 5-years operating plans and annual workplans to reach the goals set forth for the Arch Cape Forest. With limited capacity to dedicate to all aspects of forest management, the board will need to prioritize recommendations and seek opportunities for capacity building through partnerships, outside funding opportunities, and further engagement of the communities of Arch Cape.

Public Access and Recreation Policies

Prior to drafting signage or public information to communicate these policies, the final language for the following policies and rules should reflect best practices regarding effective communication and compliance.

- Public access into the Arch Cape Forest is via the Hug Point Road gate or through adjacent properties with public access
- Public access is permitted one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset.
- Expect closures during fire season and when forest management operations are taking place in an area.
- Areas with sensitive natural resources may be marked as no access.
- “Pack it in, pack it out”. All trash/waste (including human solid waste) must be removed by user. People are encouraged to use “Leave No Trace” principles.
- Bicycles (non e-bikes) must stay on maintained, rocked roads. No use off-road. No creating new trails.
- E-bikes (as defined by the State of Oregon code ORS801.258¹) are allowed in the Arch Cape Forest. E-bikes must stay on maintained, rocked roads. No use off-road. No creating new trails. (Note that per ODFW regulations e-bikes may not be used for hunting).²
- Hunting is allowed in the Arch Cape Forest consistent with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) regulations. Trapping is not allowed.³
- Fishing is allowed and must follow Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) regulations.
- Recreational foraging, including plant leaves and flowers, mushroom, and berry collection, is allowed for personal, non-commercial use. Removal of wood products is not allowed.
- Dogs are allowed in the Arch Cape Forest on-leash or under direct owner control. Dog waste must be removed.⁴
- Horses are not allowed.
- No camping.
- No alcohol/drug use or possession.

¹ State of Oregon’s Definition of e-bikes in ORS801.258 is:

“Electric assisted bicycle” means a vehicle that:

- (1) Is designed to be operated on the ground on wheels;
- (2) Has a seat or saddle for use of the rider;
- (3) Is designed to travel with not more than three wheels in contact with the ground;
- (4) Has both fully operative pedals for human propulsion and an electric motor; and
- (5) Is equipped with an electric motor that:
 - (a) Has a power output of not more than 1,000 watts; and
 - (b) Is incapable of propelling the vehicle at a speed of greater than 20 miles per hour on level ground. [1997 c.400 §2; 1999 c.59 §233]

² E-bikes are not allowed in the Rainforest Reserve (draft NCLC policy pending finalizing of the Rainforest Reserve public access plan)

³ Hunting in the Rainforest Reserve is limited to elk and deer (draft NCLC policy pending finalizing of the Rainforest Reserve public access plan).

⁴ Dogs are not allowed in the Rainforest Reserve (draft NCLC policy pending finalizing of the Rainforest Reserve public access plan).

Background and Purpose of the Plan

Introduction

Rising to 3,000 feet within two miles of the ocean shore, the coastal ridgeline of the North Coast region of Oregon is home to diverse plant and animal communities found nowhere else but in this northern Oregon's coastal rainforest. This landscape is also home to the headwaters and catchment area of the drinking water for Arch Cape, a community of about 300 homes with 200 residents and numerous visitors (Figure 1: Regional Context).

The Arch Cape Domestic Water Supply District (ACDWSD) purchased the lower portion of the watershed in 2022 to preserve the community's drinking water. Key objectives for the ACDWSD include preserving the quality of available drinking water and keeping water service as affordable as possible for local property owners while mitigating the impacts of climate change and heavy timber harvest. A solution that emerged was to tap into the growing Pacific Northwest movement of community forests, which "...are [places that are] owned and managed on behalf of local people to provide them secure and reliable access to ecological, social, and economic benefits produced by forests"¹. Leveraging a series of federal and state grants



with local fundraising, the ACDWSD purchased 1,500 acres from Onion Peak Holdings to create a community forest and protected watershed. Further protecting the community's water resources, North Coast Land Conservancy (NCLC) – a long time partner of the ACDWSD – purchased in 2021 the 3,500-acre Rainforest Reserve, which preserves the upper watershed. Together, the two properties not only provide an opportunity to further support conservation of rare flora and fauna, but also to provide clean, affordable drinking water to this area for generations to come.

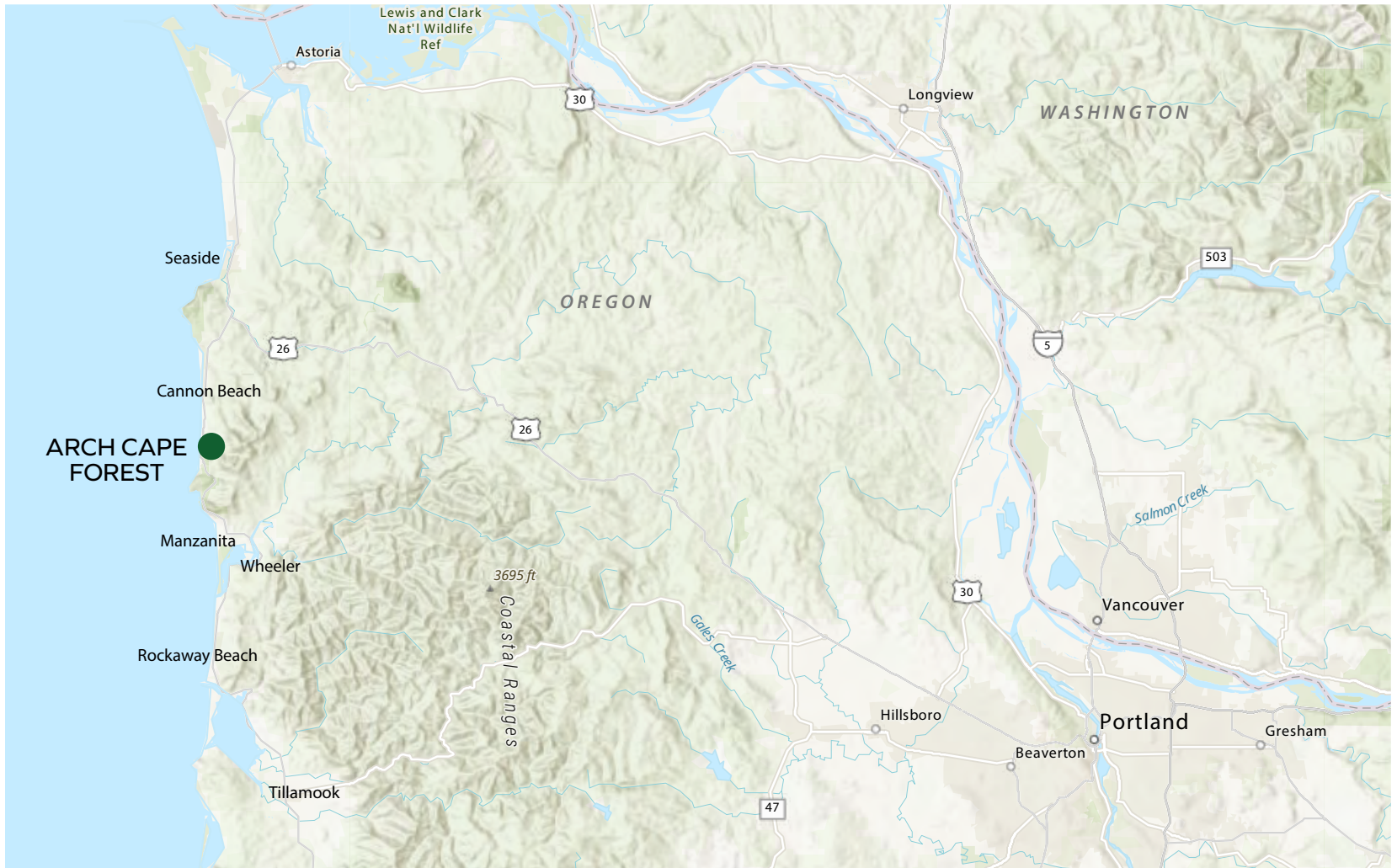
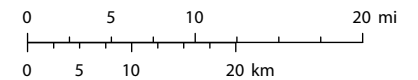


Figure 1: Regional Context



Esri, CGIAR, USGS, Oregon State Parks, State of Oregon GEO, WA State Parks GIS, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, FAO, METI/NASA, USGS,



Background

For decades, land and water conservationists had been working to protect the significant natural resources found in this temperate rainforest, which has been, "...characterized by scientists as the "Galapagos Islands of Oregon"². In 2016, Ecotrust Forest Management (EFM), an investment management firm committed to sustainable forestry, purchased the property that would become the Arch Cape Forest and the Rainforest Reserve from a private timber and wood products company. EFM then worked with both the ACDWSD and NCLC to develop a plan to sell the property to the two northern Oregon entities to protect this rare ecosystem into perpetuity. EFM, through its subsidiary Onion Peak Holdings, conserved the landscape's water and forest resources during the time it took the ACDWSD and NCLC to purchase the combined 5,000 acres. Meanwhile, generations of recreationists continued to benefit from the recreational opportunities they had historically enjoyed.

This change in ownership – from a private timber company to an investment firm and now to two local entities – also signals a change in worldview for how the properties will be managed. For NCLC, paramount is the protection of the rare and sensitive ecosystems throughout the Rainforest Reserve. For the ACDWSD, the focus is protecting the drinking watershed. For both entities, providing for public access and recreational opportunities to the communities of Arch Cape are positive, secondary outcomes.

Planning Purpose

As new owners of a property that has historically provided for public access and recreational use of this landscape, the ACDWSD and NCLC undertook due diligence in planning for their properties including understanding what type of public access had been permitted under past ownerships and how that historic use could potentially continue while supporting new conservation goals for the landscape. Adding to the

complexity of the situation, neither ACDWSD nor NCLC had prior experience³ in managing for public access and use on their properties to this scale. Further, both the Water District and NCLC remain committed to engaging the local community in planning for future access and use.

This *Public Access Management Plan* for the Arch Cape Forest, informed by the Arch Cape community's priorities for this landscape, guides future management objectives, strategies, policies, and actions to achieve its vision and goals (see sidebar).

This plan builds from and serves as a supplement to the Arch Cape Forest Multi-Resource Management Plan (Arch Cape Water District 2023). Specifically, this access plan describes the management policies that allow people to access and recreate in the Arch Cape Forest while still protecting the watershed that supplies the community's drinking water.

Planning Process

The public access planning process formally launched in June 2021. NCLC, with support from the ACDWSD and Nuveen Natural Capital⁴ (Nuveen), received a technical assistance grant from the National Park Service – Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (NPS-RTCA⁵) program. The grant provided staff support to guide the development of two separate public access plans: one for the Arch Cape Forest and another for NCLC's Rainforest Reserve. Given the size of the Arch Cape community and the same list of private, county and state neighboring stakeholders, and tribal communities,

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1. Provide reliable quantities of high-quality drinking water
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(from the *Arch Cape Forest Multi-Resource Management Plan 2023*)

the ACDWSD and NCLC elected to combined outreach efforts to minimize the number of times the community and its partners were asked to engage in conversations around existing conditions, key opportunities and challenges faced by the community and the landscape, and their hopes for future conditions. To guide these discussions with the local public, an Advisory Team of representatives from both the ACDWSD and NCLC was formed in June 2022.

Advisory Team

The Public Access Advisory Team was initially comprised of members from the ACDWSD's Advisory Committee for the development of the Arch Cape Forest Multi-Resource Management Plan (MRMP) along with two NCLC board members. The Advisory Team grew in August 2022 to 10 members when the President of Cannon View Park joined the group. A representative from Nuveen participated in these conversations in an advisory role to share perspectives from

their experience as an adjoining landowner (with shared road easements) that manages a recreational access permit program.

The seven individuals appointed by the ACDWSD board to serve on the Advisory Team were also completing the final stages of the MRMP during the second half of 2022. Their tenure formally ended in early 2023 when the MRMP was adopted by the ACDWSD board in February. Two members from this group remained part of the Public Access Advisory Team to complete this planning process.

Working Together

The Advisory Team hosted public, monthly meetings from August 2022 – August 2023⁶ to determine the planning framework for the public access plan, identify how best to engage the local community in the planning process, reviewed input and feedback from the community, and set the tone and course for defining key components in the plan. In early 2023, a subset of Advisory Team met with ACDWSD and NCLC staff to develop agendas for upcoming meetings in order to streamline the process after the Advisory Team decreased to a five-member group: two representatives from the ACDWSD, two representatives from NCLC, and a single representative from Cannon View Park.

Public Engagement

The perspectives of the Arch Cape community were critical in understanding how best to proceed with public access and recreational use planning for the Arch Cape Forest and Rainforest Reserve. As a result of the work conducted with the Advisory Team, the public had opportunity to provide input and feedback through the following methods:

- Offer public comments during each monthly Advisory Team virtual meeting

Cannon View Park

Cannon View Park is a non-profit organization that provides drinking water for the Cannon View Park community of 50 homes directly west of the Arch Cape Forest. The spring that supplies water and associated infrastructure for this community is on both sides of Hug Point Road, one of the main access points to the Arch Cape Forest and Rainforest Reserve.

Advisory Team Members

(current* and past)

Arch Cape Domestic Water Supply District

Charlotte Blakesley *current*

Larry Crawshaw *past*

Bob Cerelli *past*

David Dougherty *past*

Dale Mosby *current*

Patricia Noonan *past*

Melissa Reich *past*

North Coast Land Conservancy

Kevin Brownlee *current*

Tom Horning *current*

Cannon View Park

Richard Gibson *current*

**Current as of the publishing of this plan.*

- Participate in two, virtual Focus Discussions (March 30 and April 5, 2023) centered on
 - Exploring past public use
 - Understanding current public use, and key concerns and opportunities
 - Discussing potential future public access and recreation uses
 - Gathering additional information from subject matter experts on local public access and use concerns
- Attend a Town Hall (April 22, 2023)
- Comment on drafts of the Public Access Plan during late Spring and early Summer 2023

In addition to the above listed opportunities to engage in the process, public comments received as part of the MRMP comment period and comments gathered during an informal community-led survey in 2022 informed key components of this plan – namely desired future conditions for resource and user experiences (*Appendix A: Public Comments Regarding Public Access*).

Neighboring public and private stakeholders were interviewed by staff and representatives of the ACDWSD and NCLC to better understand local trends for public access and use during Spring 2023.

Partnership Agreement

Another component of NPS-RTCA support is to develop a partnership agreement between the ACDWSD, NCLC,



A Town Hall event provided an opportunity for the community to discuss key issues, opportunities, and challenges related to public access, and provide feedback regarding different potential public uses and recreation for the Arch Cape Forest. Photo: NPS.

and Nuveen, which will be completed in late 2023. This agreement will define an operational partnership in which the neighboring land managers documented how they will communicate and work together to manage easements and respond to emergency situations. Other topics that will be outlined are opportunities for future engagement to achieve the stated goals for all three entities.

How This Plan is Organized

This public access plan is a supplement to the MRMP which included a placeholder to enable this planning process to

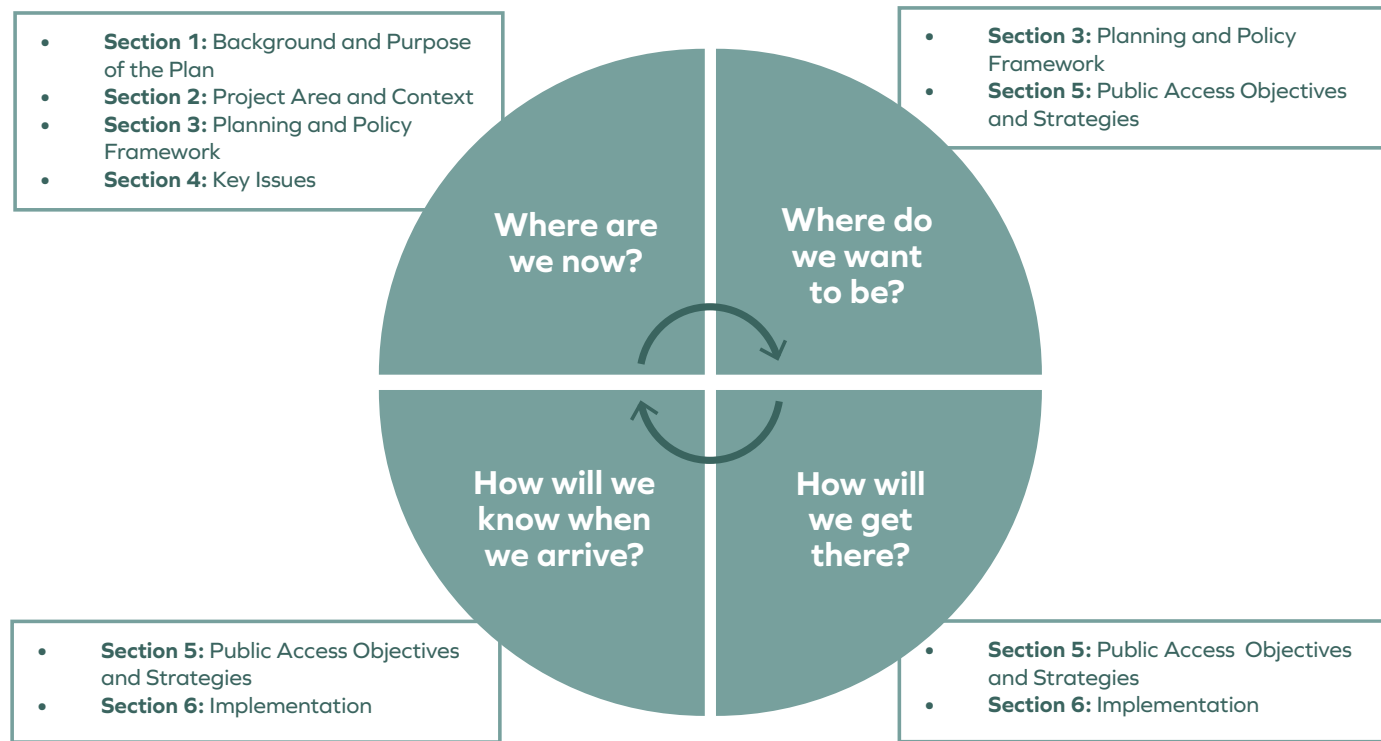


Figure 2: Plan Organization

inform management planning for public access. In future updates to the MRMP, public access and recreation will be integrated into one document.

This public access plan is organized in parallel with a typical planning process which answers the questions:

- Where are we now?
- Where do we want to go?
- How will we get there?
- How will we know when we've arrived?

The sections of this plan align with each of these four overall question (*Figure 2: Plan Organization*).





Endnotes

- ¹ Northwest Community Forest Coalition (n.d.). About NWCFC. Definitions and Principles. Retrieved May 22, 2023, from https://static1.squarespace.com/static/62576a376040c83c5216ddb2/t/62ec5ed1de2bec125b6773bb/1659657937999/1.+Community+Forest+Definition+and+Principles+_2020.pdf
- ² North Coast Land Conservancy (n.d.). Land conservancy awarded \$2.1 million to help create Rainforest Reserve. Retrieved May 23, 2023, from https://nclctrust.org/oweb_grant_rainforest_reserve/
- ³ NCLC manages public access programs for other properties under their stewardship. Visit the nclctrust.org website for specific information.
- ⁴ Nuveen Natural Capital (formerly Greenwood Resources) manages the neighboring Lewis and Clark Timberlands property immediately to the north of both the Arch Cape Forest and Rainforest Reserve.
- ⁵ NPS-RTCA supports locally-led conservation and outdoor recreation projects across the United States. National Park Service staff assist communities and public land managers in developing or restoring parks, conservation areas, rivers, and wildlife habitats, as well as creating outdoor recreation opportunities and programs that engage future generations in the outdoors.
- ⁶ The Public Access Advisory Team attended a kick-off meeting in June 2022. The group did not meet in December 2022.

Project Area and Context

The Arch Cape Forest is located adjacent to the unincorporated community of Arch Cape in southwest Clatsop County. The Arch Cape Forest lies in the lower reaches of the Shark and Asbury Creeks watershed along with several other coastal fronting watersheds. The over 1500-acre Arch Cape Forest includes the western portion of the former EFM property while the eastern portion is now the 3500-acre Rainforest Reserve owned by NCLC.

Adjacent landowners to the Arch Cape Forest include (*Figure 3: Landownership Map*):

- Nuveen Natural Capital's Lewis & Clark Timberlands to the north which is managed for commercial timber production
- Cannon View Park Inc.'s two parcels on either side of Hug Point Road near Highway 101
- NCLC's Rainforest Reserve to the east and south of the Arch Cape Forest
- Oregon Department of Transportation's parcels on the east side of Highway 101 between Cannon Beach and the Arch Cape Forest
- Oregon State Board of Forestry to the north of Arch Cape Forest and west of Nuveen Natural Capital's Lewis and Clark Timberlands
- Clatsop County parcel west of Arch Cape Forest southeast of Upland Drive
- Arch Cape Sanitary District's parcel at the southwest corner of the Arch Cape Forest
- Other privately-owned parcels at the lower ends of Shark and Asbury Creeks to the west of the residential areas along Woodland Heights Road

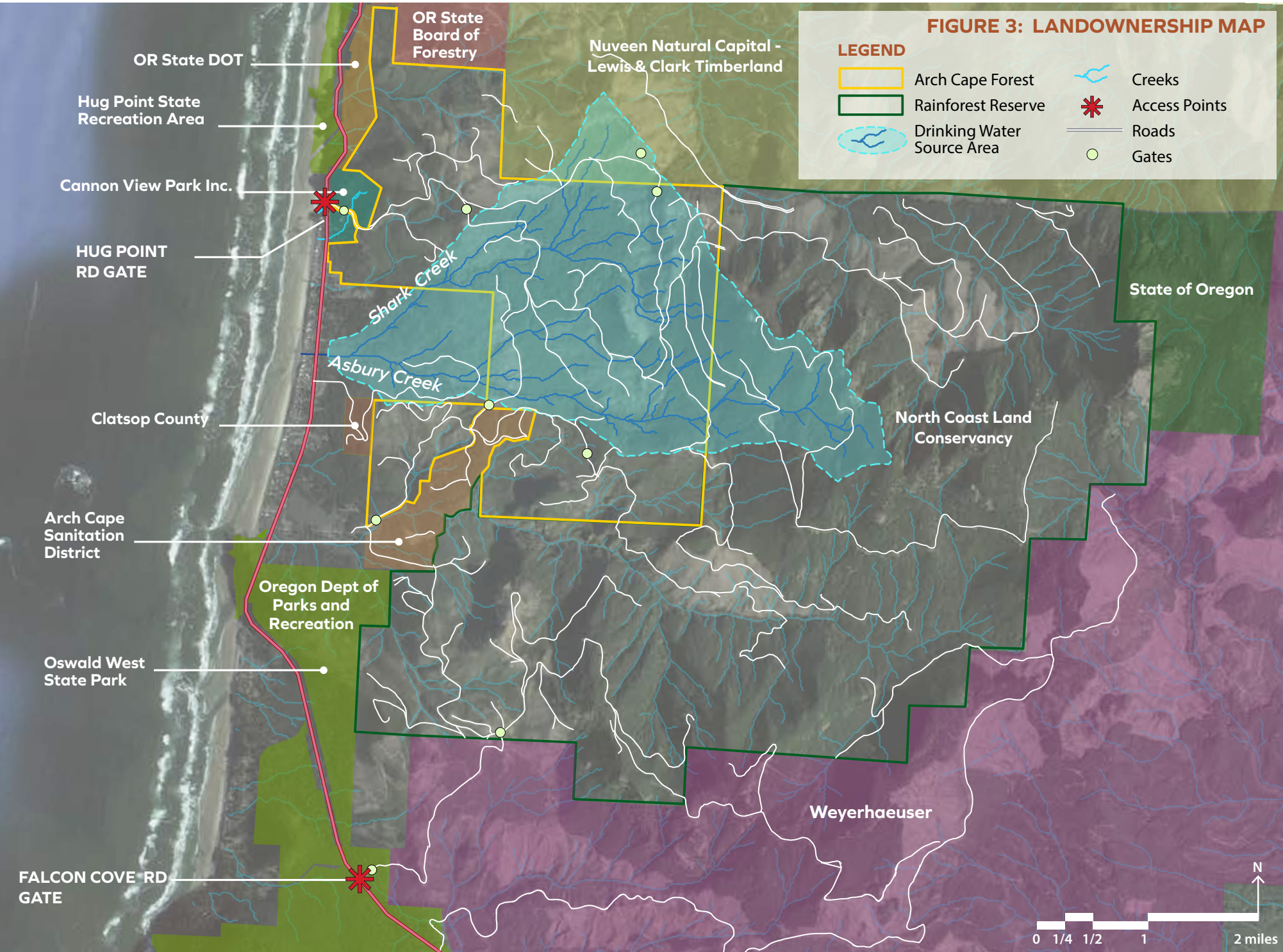
Historically managed as one privately-owned property for commercial timber, the Arch Cape Forest and Rainforest Reserve share a road network, access points, and interconnected natural resources. The community historically has used and experienced these properties as one site, largely using the road network as recreational trails for hiking and bicycling and access for other types of recreation such as hunting, fishing, and foraging.

Property Ownership History

The Arch Cape Forest and Rainforest Reserve properties have been owned by a succession of several commercial timber companies before being purchased from Stimson Lumber Company by Ecotrust Forests II, LLC (EFM). The property has experienced intensive commercial forestry which characterized the primary use. This has included harvesting trees, planting of harvested stands, salvage of old growth cedar logs and stumps, and creation of rock pits for logging road construction and maintenance. The property was logged intensively in the 1960s with the Arch Cape Shingle Company (the current site of the wastewater treatment plant) processing logs for several decades until the facility burned down in 1967 (EFM 2017). A subsequent period of logging initiated in the early 2000s, accelerating in the period after 2005. By 2014, most of the western half of the property had been harvested, after which harvesting operations were focused in the northeast corner of the property for the next two years (EFM 2017).

EFM purchased the property in 2016 and entered into an agreement with both NCLC and the ACDWSD to hold the

FIGURE 3: LANDOWNERSHIP MAP



Map prepared by the National Park Service - Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program for the Arch Cape Water District and North Coast Land Conservancy for the Arch Cape Forest and Rainforest Reserve Public Access Planning process. 6/8/23

property while the entities raised the funds to purchase what is now the Arch Cape Forest and Rainforest Reserve. EFM managed the forest applying ecological forest management principles until funds were raised to purchase the 5,000-acre forest. NCLC acquired the Rainforest Reserve in 2021, and the ACDWSD purchased the Arch Cape Forest in 2022.

Natural Resources

The Arch Cape Forest and Rainforest Reserve are at the southern end of one of the largest temperate rainforests in the world extending over two thousand miles from the Oregon Coast through British Columbia into southeast Alaska. The elevation gradient across the Arch Cape Forest and Rainforest Reserve promotes a diversity of plant communities from lowland redcedar to higher elevation Pacific silver fir forests as well as herbaceous and shrubland plant communities on steep slopes and rocky openings. The Arch Cape area sees an average of 185 days of precipitation that yields an annual average of 93 inches of rainfall. Moisture is added to the ecosystem through condensation of water droplets that gather on leaves and needles of native trees.

The climatic, topography, and geographic location of the Arch Cape Forest and Rainforest Reserve results in conditions that favor the rapid growth of large coniferous tree species, represented on the north coast by the Sitka spruce, western hemlock, and western redcedar associated plant communities. In addition, the Arch Cape Forest is adjacent to Hug Point Recreation State Recreation Site and the Rainforest Reserve, which is contiguous with Oswald West State Park and Cape Falcon Marine Reserve. Together, these sites contribute to a 32-square-mile sea to summit conservation area that protects a large intact area that complements existing ecological networks (Arch Cape Forest Conservation Plan 2023).



Fire

Fire is a concern that transects many issues related to water quality and affordability issues, public safety, plant communities, wildlife, and public access. There are both naturally caused and human-caused fires, with most fire ignitions in the Oregon Coast Range caused by human activity (Clatsop County 2021). Historically in the North Coast area, forests ranged in age and tree size due to a range of natural disturbance including coastal erosion, drought, floods, landslides, wildfire, and windstorms. Today, susceptibility to wildfire and frequency is affected by shifting conditions in the global climate, cyclical changes of El Niño/La Niña, development in urban-wildland interface areas, and forest management practices (Clatsop County 2021).

Arch Cape Forest Conservation Plan

A recent Arch Cape Forest Conservation Plan (2023) was completed by NCLC for the ACDWSD and identifies wildlife and plant species in the forest, both those known to be in the forest and those that are either on adjacent properties with similar conditions or for which there is suitable habitat in the forest. The following is a summary overview of wildlife and plants in the Arch Cape Forest.

Wildlife

Asbury and Shark Creeks are classified as fish bearing above the Asbury Creek culvert under Highway 101 and are likely used by resident cutthroat and rainbow trout. Arch Cape Creek which flows close to the southwestern property boundary features coastal cutthroat, coastal Coho salmon, fall Chinook salmon, winter steelhead, and Pacific lamprey (ODFW fish habitat distribution dataset, 1996-2021).

A list of more than 90 bird species likely to breed on the property or in adjacent forested areas was developed from observation and based on data extracted from the online eBird database. Species of concern that have been noted on nearby analog sites as likely breeders include Northern pygmy owl, pileated woodpecker, band-tailed pigeon, olive-sided flycatcher and willow flycatcher. Watch-list species include Rufous hummingbird and hermit warbler. All these species are very likely to occur on the site (NCLC 2023).

Mammal data was inferred from observations of tracks and scat, and anecdotal observations from community members. There is sizable herd of Roosevelt elk, numerous Columbia black-tailed deer; scat from coyote and bobcat have been observed; American black bear and cougar have been reported; and evidence of mountain beaver has been observed (NCLC 2023).

Based on limited field surveys and observations at analog sites, the full array of native amphibians that occur in the

Northern Oregon Coast Range are likely present in the Arch Cape Forest. Species observed on the property include northern red-legged frog, Oregon tailed frog, rough-skinned newt, Columbia torrent salamander, and western red-backed salamander (NCLC 2023).

Sensitive Plants & Habitat

Most of the sensitive plant habitat is found along rocky outcrops and ridges located at higher elevations of the Arch Cape Forest and nearby Rainforest Reserve. There is a section of Onion Peak Road that falls within the property and contains a naturalized rock wall upslope of the road artificially created by early 20th century road construction. There is a section of an unnamed road near the south boundary of the property that contains unique rocky habitat. Several rare plants have been observed and mapped, and many rocky habitats areas on the property not yet surveyed have a high potential to contain sensitive plant species and should be inventoried in the future.

Please see the Arch Cape Forest Conservation Plan for more details including species lists, maps, and photos as well as management recommendations.





For almost one hundred years, the management of the area in and around the Arch Cape Forest has been primarily focused on commercial timber production. This has resulted in a patchwork of forest stand ages that tend to be less than 40 years old and in 40 to 80-acre blocks. These stands were evenly planted and thinned to increase the quantity of merchantable wood and lacked the attributes of late successional (old growth) forests that existed prior to European settlement. Old growth forests are typified by

only large trees and high species diversity, large standing and down dead wood, varied age cohorts, and a patchwork of openings. These features are important habitat for many animals that depend on these late seral forests (Arch Cape Forest Conservation Plan 2023).

As forest management is transitioned to more ecologically focused goals, more old growth forest attributes will develop by reducing over-stocked areas, promoting rapid tree growth, and breaking up uniform stands of single species plantations. Ecological forest management can develop old growth forest attributes imitating natural disturbance regimes by creating openings can provide down woody material as well as recruit new tree cohorts or increase understory species diversity. Under natural disturbance regimes, there will likely be increased water filtration and retention, and moderated stream flows. Well-developed forests also provide mitigation to landslide events that increase sediment transfer to streams. Old growth forests can be resilient to climate change by storing large amounts of carbon and moderating temperature. Larger contiguous forests with a host of smaller “micro” habitats allow for climate refugia as plants and animals adapt to changing conditions. The progression to later seral forest condition adds to a historically underrepresented forest stage that many threatened species depend (Arch Cape Forest Conservation Plan 2023).

Domestic Water Supply

The Arch Cape Forest and neighboring Rainforest Reserve properties contain portions of watersheds that supply water to three different domestic water supply organizations (*Figure 4: Watershed Boundaries and ACDWSD Infrastructure*). A watershed is defined as, “an area of land that drains all the streams and rainfall to a common outlet such as the outflow of a reservoir, mouth of a bay, or any point along a stream channel” (USGS).

Asbury Creek and Shark Creek Watersheds provide the drinking water source for ACDWSD and are among the frontal coastal watersheds

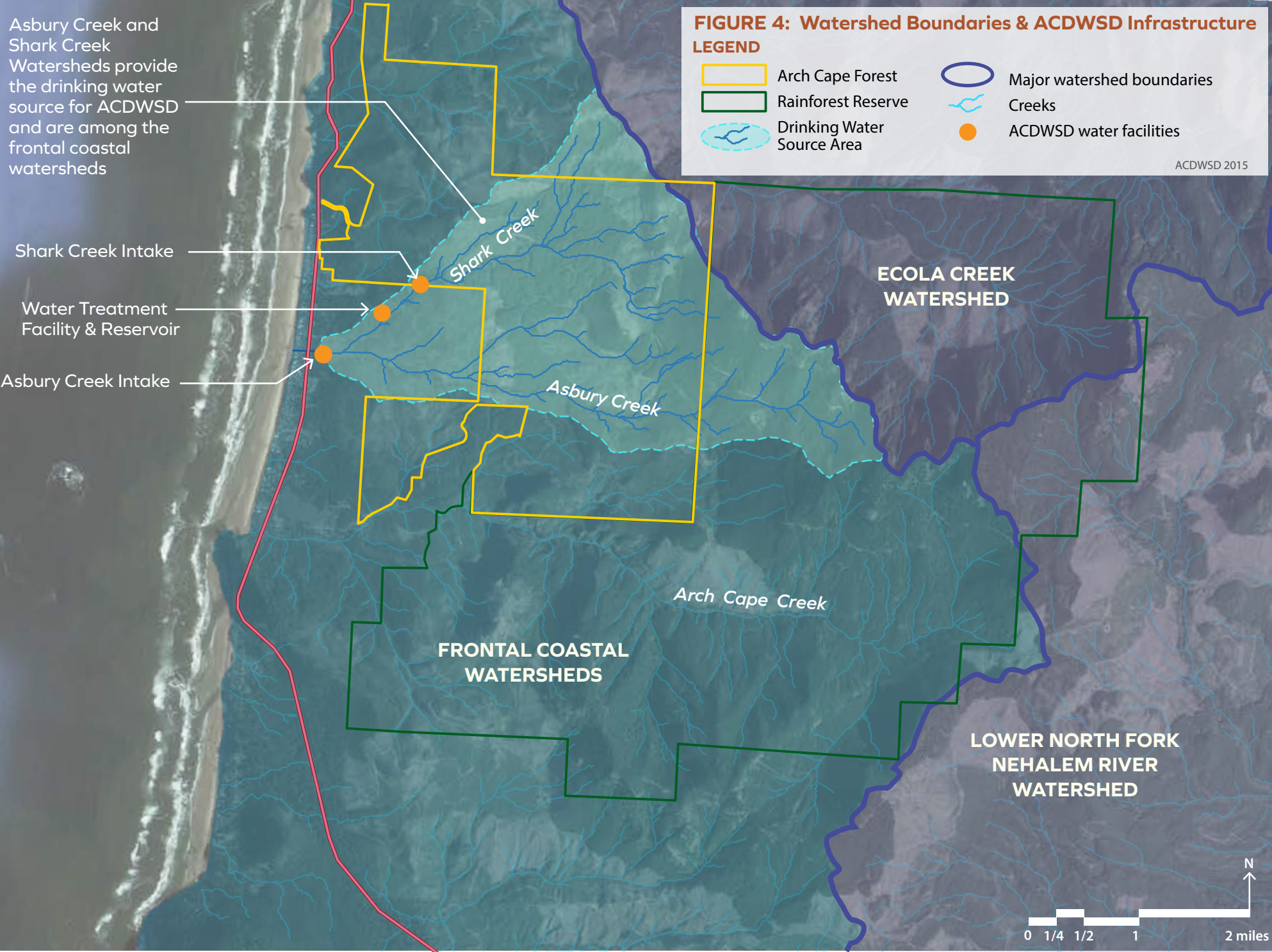
Shark Creek Intake
 Water Treatment Facility & Reservoir
 Asbury Creek Intake

FIGURE 4: Watershed Boundaries & ACDWSD Infrastructure

LEGEND

- Arch Cape Forest
- Rainforest Reserve
- Drinking Water Source Area
- Major watershed boundaries
- ~ Creeks
- ACDWSD water facilities

ACDWSD 2015



Map prepared by the National Park Service - Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program for the Arch Cape Water District and North Coast Land Conservancy for the Arch Cape Forest and Rainforest Reserve Public Access Planning process. 6/8/23

Arch Cape Domestic Water Supply District – Shark Creek & Asbury Creek

The community of Arch Cape’s drinking water is supplied by the Arch Cape Domestic Water Supply District from two sources – Shark Creek and Asbury Creek. Both creeks are fed by a combination of springs and smaller spring-fed tributaries within the 1250 acre-watershed (ACDWSD 2015). Only about 58% of the Shark Creek and Asbury Creek watersheds is within the Arch Cape Forest; the remainder of these watersheds are within the Rainforest Reserve property, with a small portion located within Nuveen Natural Capital’s Lewis and Clark Timberlands to the north of the Arch Cape Forest.

Because of the number of vacation homes and several hotels— which are used more in summer, weekends, and holidays – the bulk of the water demand in this community occurs in the summer and on busy holiday weekends throughout the year. The primary source of Arch Cape drinking water is Shark Creek, which is typically the sole water source from late September until early summer. In order to meet water demands during the warmer, drier season water from Asbury Creek is pumped to the water treatment plant where it serves as the priority water source (ACDWSD 2015).

Water from Shark and Asbury Creeks is conveyed to the water treatment plant where it is run through an ultrafiltration process with membranes to remove particulate matter, bacteria, and pathogens. A minimum level of chlorine is then added as required by law. This water is then directed to the 525,000-gallon glass lined steel tank for gravity feed to customers through the five miles of pipes in the delivery system (ACDWSD 2015). The water intakes from both creeks and the water treatment plan are all located outside of the Arch Cape Forest boundary.

Cannon View Park Inc. - Springs

The community of Cannon View Park in the northwestern area of Arch Cape (west of Highway 101) obtains its domestic water from a developed spring with a capacity of less than 10 gallons per minute and storage of 140,000 gallons. This spring and water tanks are located on the east side of Highway 101 on two separate parcels located on either side of Hug Point Road near Highway 101. Both parcels are owned by Cannon View Park Inc. (ACDWSD 2015).

City of Cannon Beach – Ecola Creek Watershed

The northern area of the Rainforest Reserve and a small portion of the Arch Cape Forest are within the upper reaches of the 14,000-acre Ecola Creek watershed which supplies municipal water to the City of Cannon Beach. The Ecola Creek Forest Reserve, a community forest owned by the City, protects a large part of this watershed for multiple objectives including drinking water protection.

Falcon Cove Water District – Surface Runoff

The community of Falcon Cove uses water that drains off slopes in the southwest corner of the Rainforest Reserve property.

Communities of the Arch Cape Area

The population of the area is a mix of permanent residents who live in their homes year-round, part-time residents who regularly visit their homes throughout the year, and visitors to the area who stay in hotels, inns, and short-term rentals. One common thread that attracts residents and visitors alike is the natural beauty, peacefulness, and isolation of the area (Clatsop County 2022). The people who live and own property in the Southwest Coastal Planning Area (defined by Clatsop County as the southern boundary of Cannon Beach to the Tillamook County boundary) consider the community a unique place with a special character. The history, coastal



setting, headlands, beaches, streams, wetlands, vegetation, and type of development are some of the factors that make up the community character of the Arch Cape area. Residents and property owners generally consider this character something to be preserved (Clatsop County 2022). The North Coast area has long been a vacation destination, with access via Highways 26 and 30 from Portland and the Willamette Valley, and Highway 101 access up and the down the Oregon Coast and across the Columbia River to southwest Washington (Clatsop County 2023).

Indigenous and Tribal Communities

This coastal watershed landscape, nestled between the Pacific Ocean and the rocky north Coast Ridgeline, is well known to the indigenous communities whose ancestral lands tie directly to this area. Many coastal tribes either fully inhabited or traveled through this area to trade and extend familial connections since time immemorial. Today, the people of the

federally recognized Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians and the Clatsop-Nehalem Confederated Tribes are present and continue to observe and pass down cultural traditions throughout the region.

Arch Cape

Exceptional scenery, mild weather, small-town atmosphere, and wealth of natural beauty of the Arch Cape area make it a desirable place to live and recreate. In 2006 when the Clatsop County Recreational Lands Master Plan was prepared, the area was identified as being attractive to “higher-than-average number of retirees and people of middle age and beyond starting a second career or small business” (Clatsop County 2006). With technology expanding opportunities for working remotely, this trend has likely expanded, particularly in the wake of the COVID pandemic. Since 2006, the aging “baby boomer” generation has also increased the relative number of retirees. In a demographics and social trends

report prepared for Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation in 2018, Clatsop County was identified as a priority area based on the growing segment of the adult population over 85 years old, which is projected to continue to increase (Portland State University 2018).

The development pattern of the Arch Cape area has occurred mostly along the coast, generally consisting of small to medium-size residential lots with some limited commercial development. Most of the early development occurred on a lot-by-lot basis in the 1940s and 1950s with many structures intended as summer beach cottages. Today, people in Arch Cape generally can be described as either full-time residents, part-time residents (largely those with second homes in the area), or visitors/tourists. Residents in this area largely moved to the community; and while the permanent resident population has grown over the years, most landowners are part-time residents who use their homes on weekends and during the summer. The continuity of the same people returning on weekends and during vacations has resulted a shift from a “resort town” flavor to one where both permanent and part-time residents know each other and have a sense of community, especially as many part-time residents became fulltime residents when they retired.

In 2021 the total number of homes in the Southwest Coastal region was about 450, with approximately 100 of those being short-term rentals and several others used as part-time or vacation homes not occupied year-round. (Clatsop County 2022). There are few long-term rental units in the planning area. (Clatsop County 2022). With the popularity of short-term rentals increasing since the early 2000s, concerns in the north coast area have emerged about nuisances such as noise, parking, and trash, with no owners or managers on site to handle the problems. Concerns have also been raised about over-occupancy and the burden on local infrastructure including roads, sewer and septic systems, and water that

is already in short supply during the summer months. Many feel the character of the neighborhoods have changed with the increased number of shorter-term visitors, resulting in impacts to the quality of life of residents. Short-term rental issues and related policy work continues to be a focus for this area.

Falcon Cove Beach

This small unincorporated community is immediately adjacent to Arch Cape and has its own water district.

Cannon Beach

The City of Cannon Beach sits just six miles north of Arch Cape along Highway 101. Cannon Beach is a popular tourist town for national and international visitors drawn to the small-town, coastal landscape. The local population is about 1500.

Visitors & Tourists

Tourism historically has been a strong economic base for Clatsop County with visitors coming from local communities, the Portland metropolitan and Willamette Valley areas, out-of-state, and other countries. Per information from Travel Oregon, in 2019 local recreationists and visitors spent \$785 million on outdoor recreation in Clatsop County. Between 2016 and 2018, Clatsop County averaged approximately 3,900 visitor person-nights per year. Hotel/motel stays were 61% of these, or approximately 2,400 person-nights per year. Private home transient lodging (also known as short-term rental) visits accounted for about 13% or 500 person-nights per year, and 26% or 1,020 person-nights per year were in ‘other’ accommodations (Clatsop County 2021). Many of these visitors are drawn by the same scenic views and sites, beaches, open spaces, and wildlife, qualities that are noted as being valued by area residents. Because of the limited availability of public transit within the county, the majority of

visitors travel to the area by private vehicle, increasing non-local traffic. (Clatsop County 2023).

A report prepared by University of Oregon for Travel Oregon summarized visitor information for the North Coast, defined as the coastal area from Astoria to Pacific City (Travel Oregon 2018). Data was collected via surveys during August 2018 in developed areas, including Tillamook, Manzanita, Seaside, Astoria, and undeveloped/less developed locations including Cape Kiwanda, Cape Lookout, Oswald West State Park, and Fort Stevens State Park. In general, survey responses suggest that visitors appreciate the North Coast for its stunning nature and relaxing atmosphere more than other factors and is viewed as a place to recreate or passively enjoy natural beauty. Some relevant findings include:

- Most indicated leisure was their primary purpose for travel to the North Coast
- Visitors identified the top two greatest strengths of the North Coast as a visitor destination as: nature/ocean (47%) and beauty/scenery (41%)
- Outdoor recreation activities were popular during trips included: land-based outdoor recreation (69%), ocean-related outdoor recreation (63%), freshwater-related outdoor recreation (11%)
- Types of outdoor recreation that were most popular included hiking, and “walking on the beach”/“enjoying the waterfront”
- Eighteen percent or less of respondents said they would visit recreation/undeveloped areas, with Hug Point State Recreation Area being the least visited undeveloped location at 6%
- The primary visitor barriers identified most often included: traffic/parking (18%), crowding (18%), and cost/unaffordable (16%). Those who criticized infrastructure primarily commented on the disrepair of some roads and lack of trail options. Those surveyed at undeveloped sites

had more complaints about crowds, traffic/parking, and lodging availability.

Public Access and Recreation Context

Clatsop County and the North Coast region of Oregon provides outdoor recreation opportunities ranging from beaches and water-based recreation to state parks and county parks and privately-owned forests that allow for public access. In the Arch Cape area, there are two state park sites, beaches, a statewide trail, and privately-owned forests.

Three bicycle routes pass through the planning area: the Oregon Coast Bicycle Route, the TransAmerica Bicycle Trail, and the Northwest Oregon Loop Bicycle Route. All three routes follow U.S. Highway 101 through the Arch Cape area. Together, the recreational opportunities supported by publicly and privately managed lands in this region provide a wealth of possibilities for locals and visitors alike to enjoy the outdoors.

State of Oregon

The North Coast has several state parks and waysides that contribute to the range of open space and recreation amenities in the area.

Oswald West State Park

This 2484-acre coastal park extends four miles along the Oregon Coast just south of Arch Cape and includes dense, temperate forests, volcanic basalt and sandstone cliffs, and Short Sand Beach. Accessed via Highway 101, the park has four parking lots and offers trails (including a 13-mile segment of the Oregon Coast Trail), and beach access (with surfing a popular activity), fishing, and picnicking. Camping was available until 2008 when a tree fell in the camping area without warning, after which, the park operated as day-use only (OPRD 2023). In 2021, Oswald West State Park was the



The Oregon Coast Trail crosses Arch Cape Creek off of E. Shingle Mill Road where a now-closed footbridge connects the trail to Oswald West State Park.



fourth most visited park in the Oregon State Park system with over 1.5 million visitors.

Hug Point State Recreation Site

This 42.3-acre site is located five miles south of Cannon Beach and just north of Arch Cape. The site primarily is visited for beach access and scenic views. This wayside site provides a forested picnic area, restroom, and short walk to the beach. A parking area is accessed via Highway 101 and when there is higher visitation, the parking lot fills and people will park along Highway 101.

Oregon Coast Trail (OCT)

The OCT spans the Oregon coastline from Washington State to California, offering recreation opportunities for people wanting shorter day hikes to those wanting to hike the entire length of the Oregon Coast. The trail passes through

28 cities. Most of the trail route is along beaches with some upland areas spanning scenic headlands, forests, and rivers. Gaps exist along the trail with approximately 10 percent of the trail considered disconnected, inconvenient, unsafe, or inaccessible. Oregon State Parks with Federal Highway Administration, Association of Oregon Counties, and Oregon Solutions has been working on a developing an action plan to complete the OCT.

The Oregon Coast Trail is routed along the beach through Arch Cape to E. Shingle Mill Road where it crosses Highway 101 and continues east to a footbridge near Arch Cape Mill Rd. which connects southward to Oswald West State Park.

County

The Clatsop County Recreational Lands Master Plan, which is part of the County's comprehensive land-use plan, provides

the planning and policy framework for County recreation facilities. This document was updated in 2006 by a group of citizen volunteers. Currently, Clatsop County provides 12 county parks with a range of facilities and recreation opportunities (*Table 1: Clatsop County Park Facilities*).

Privately-Owned Land Open for Public Access

Some privately forest owners in Clatsop County allow for public access on their land for recreational purposes. Most of these forests are managed for commercial timber production.

Nuveen Natural Capital – Lewis & Clark Timberlands

Nuveen Natural Capital (Nuveen) allows recreational public access via a no-fee permit system managed by a contractor. While public access has been allowed on their property for many years, the permit system began in 2018. Currently, all recreational activities, including hunting, on Nuveen’s Oregon and Washington properties require a recreational access permit. A copy of the most recent (2023) permit agreement is available as *Appendix B: Nuveen Natural Capital Permit Agreement*. Their permit website shows Nuveen’s Lewis & Clark Timberlands property available for permitted public access and a map of the permit area (included in Appendix B).

On their website, Nuveen notes they maintain a regular presence on the timberlands to help assure a positive experience for permit holders and to help protect permit holders from system abusers. The permit system is also a tool to communicate information regarding fire closure and policy changes through text, e-mail and/or notices posted on their website. Their permit system requires visitors place a vehicle placard on display on the dash of their vehicles while parked near Nuveen gates, and visitors also need to have their Recreation Access permit and picture ID available upon request by a Nuveen representative (including security) or a law enforcement officer. For the 2023-24 permit cycle, Nuveen is offering an unlimited number of no-fee permits.

In the most recent notification to Oregon recreational access permit holders dated 5/18/23, Nuveen outlined the following policy reminders:

“NON-MOTORIZED access ONLY is allowed within the Permit Area Except for limited motorized access during General Rifle Deer & Elk seasons.

Permittees can use bicycles within the Permit Area. Electric or gas-powered skateboards, dirt bikes, motorcycles, and ATVs are not allowed on the property even if street legal.

Pedal assist e-bikes designated by the manufacturer as Class 1 are considered bicycles and not motorized vehicles. (Class 1 e-bikes are limited to a powered speed of up to 20 mph with motor wattage <= 750 watts and DO NOT have a throttle element)

All other e-bikes, including any owner-modified bicycles, will be considered motorized vehicles and may NOT ride in the permit area.

During the Travel Management Agreement (TMA) all e-bikes including Class 1 are prohibited behind closed gates. The TMA is in effect three (3) calendar days prior to the opening of general archery season through the close of all bull elk rifle seasons.”

Weyerhaeuser

Weyerhaeuser has an access program to enable permit holders to use their property for recreation purposes. Their permits grant permittees the right to recreation on Weyerhaeuser property within the identified permit area. For each permit area, there are a limited number of permits available and a fee is charged to secure a permit. They issue four types of permits, two non-motorized types and

Table 1: Clatsop County Park Facilities

	Big Creek County Park	Carnahan County Park	Cullaby Lake County Park	David Douglass Park	John Day County Park	Kloutchy Creek Park	Lee Wooden Fishhawk Falls Park	Nehalem Park	North Fork Nehalem Park	Sigfridson County Park	Smith Lake Park	Westport County Park
Location	Knappa area	Off US Hwy 101 between Astoria & Seaside	Off US Hwy 101 between Astoria & Seaside	13 mi east of Seaside	5 mi east of Astoria	Hwy 26 at mile post 2	Hwy 202, 25 mi east of Astoria	Hwy 26, ½ mi east of Elsie	Hwy 53 at ODFW fish hatchery	Olney area	Smith Lake off Ridge Road	Westport
Size (acres)	36	30	165	64	54	25	55	50	3	64	2.5	n/a
Open space	x	x		x			x	x	x	x		
Trails	x	x	x			x	x					
Bike trails						x						
Nature observation area			x									
Fishing Access	x	x	x						x	x		x
Water access	x	x	x			x			x			x
Boat launch	x	x	x		x							x
Picnic tables	x	x	x									
Picnic shelters			x									
BBQ pits			x									
Horseshoe pits			x									
Play area			x									
Playground			x									
Ball field	x											
Restrooms			x		x	x						x

two motorized types. Non-motorized recreation access permits allow for day use and non-motorized access/uses, and a non-motorized premium permit allows for use of e-bikes that: cannot exceed 1,500 watts; operated with a headlight and taillight; electric/battery powered motor only; and equipped with working brakes. Motorized vehicle permits allow motorized access via designated gates; use of e-bikes, camping, and firewood are included with the motorized vehicle permit. Motorized premium recreational access permits additionally allow for one UTV. The permit area adjacent to the Rainforest Reserve is the Clatsop-Jewell Permit Area which is 55,502 acres. A list of policies as described on their “Frequently Asked Questions” website and a map of their permit area can be found in *Appendix D: Weyerhaeuser Recreational Access Permit Information*.

Public Access and Recreation in the Arch Cape Forest and Rainforest Reserve

To effectively understand how any future changes to public access in the Arch Cape Forest may affect the goals for the forest, a baseline understanding of the history of public access and recreation on the forest is helpful.

Overview of Past and Current Public Access and Recreation

The Arch Cape Forest and Rainforest Reserve properties have been accessed by the public and used for recreation for many years. The logging road network has been used for hiking, running, mountain biking, non-commercial foraging, and hunting. The primary access points for these uses have been Hug Point Road at the north end of Arch Cape and Falcon Cove Road south of Arch Cape. Both access points are adjacent to Highway 101 with limited parking. Hug Point Road is also used as an access point for people visiting Lewis

& Clark Timberlands to the north along a shared road. At the Falcon Cove Road gate, people access Weyerhaeuser property with Angora Peak on their property being a popular destination. The route to Angora Peak passes through the Rainforest Reserve. Both properties also provide opportunities to enjoy scenic resources, nature observation, and other passive recreation.

While EFM owned and managed these properties, their recreation management policy was the following (EFM 2017):

“Recreation: The Property will remain open to walk-in recreation including non-predator hunting and hiking. Access may be further restricted during periods of high fire danger. Signs will be posted at major access points describing allowed uses. The conservation easement area will remain closed to most use including public visitation and signs are posted at the entrance to this zone. Use of the Mystery Peak trail will be allowed but not widely promoted in order to protect the rock garden plant communities. To improve safety, users will be re-



Sign posted at the Hug Point Road gate from when EFM owned and managed the Arch Cape Forest and Rainforest Reserve.

directed to the HP 19 Tie road to access the high ground of the property on Onion Peak. Additional guidance on recreation use is provided in the EFM Forest Management Plan.”

Both NCLC and the ACDWSD generally continued with the legacy policies utilized by EFM while this public access plan was being developed as follows:

Arch Cape Forest Interim Public Access Policies:

“Continuance of the previous land manager’s policies until public access planning is completed:

- Past use (pre-EFM) has been mostly non-motorized use including hiking, biking and horses. Some motorized-based hunting has been allowed in the past.
- Since 2016, open to non-motorized access for recreation including non-predator hunting and hiking. Horses, E-bikes, and predator hunting not allowed.
- Access may be further restricted during periods of high fire danger.
- Signs will be posted at major access points describing allowed uses.”

NCLC Interim Public Access/Recreation Policies (note that GreenWood Resources is referenced, which is now Nuveen Natural Capital):

“The public is allowed to visit the Rainforest Reserve for non-motorized recreation such as hiking, hunting and fishing (following state fish and game regulations). Note that the summit of Onion Peak is off-limits to the public due to the sensitive plant and animal species there.

PUBLIC ACCESS

There are two main access points for the Rainforest Reserve from Highway 101 (see map). Both require you to park at a gate and walk a gravel road through privately owned timberlands to reach the Reserve. There is limited parking at either site. Do not block the gate; logging trucks must continue to have access. Do not block the line of sight for safely exiting onto the highway. Do not park on the highway. If the parking is too tight, please return at another time. Watch for logging trucks driving on the roads as you walk, as there may be active logging on adjacent land until you reach the boundary of the Rainforest Reserve.

The Hug Point access allows hikers to approach the Reserve from the north. It requires the longest hike to reach the boundary of the Rainforest Reserve (about 3.4 miles, 1600 feet elevation gain). From this access point it is possible to cross over to land managed by GreenWood Resources. We recommend that you sign up for this permit even if you don’t intend to cross into GreenWood land. By signing up for a GreenWood permit (available free online), you will receive emails about fire closures and policy changes.

The Falcon Cove access allows hikers to approach the Reserve from the south. It requires a shorter hike to reach the Reserve (about 1 mile, 400 feet elevation gain) and requires you to walk through land owned by Weyerhaeuser. Weyerhaeuser also has a permit system in place, but there is a cost for this permit. A sign posted on the gate at this access indicates that public access is allowed during daylight hours. We recommend consulting the Weyerhaeuser recreation website and obeying the rules posted at the gate.

RAINFOREST RESERVE Public Access Map

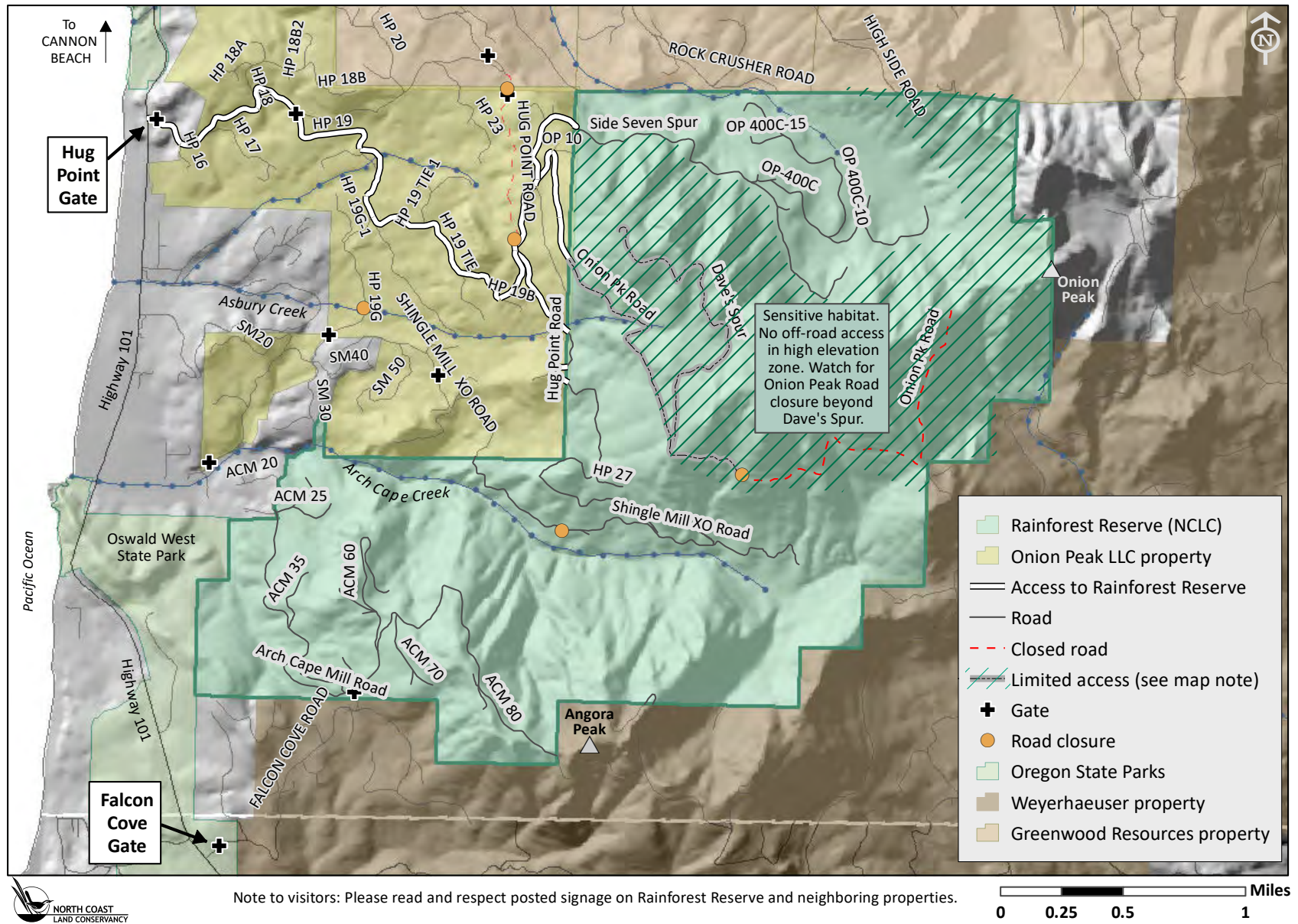


Figure 5: Rainforest Reserve Interim Public Access

Both access points require you to park at the gate (to the side without blocking the gate). There is limited parking at both sites. There is no planned logging on our land, but there is often active logging on the neighboring properties. Be cautious of the potential for log trucks driving on the roads until you get to the Rainforest Reserve boundary.

GUIDELINES AND PERMISSIBLE USES

We welcome visitors to the Rainforest Reserve—a beautiful place that belongs to us all. However, to protect this ecologically sensitive land, we must be good stewards. You can help by following these guidelines within the Rainforest Reserve boundary:

- *Foot and bicycle traffic only (No motorized vehicles or e-bikes)*
- *No trapping or predator hunting*
- *Horses and other domestic animals are not permitted*
- *No camping or fires*
- *Check your boots and clothes to remove invasive plant seeds before proceeding*
- *No access to Onion Peak*
- *Stay on the road where indicated*
- *Respect the land, and “leave no trace”*

A supplemental map illustrates the roads that are open to public access to the Rainforest Reserve as well as areas with sensitive natural resources where public access is restricted to roads (*Figure 5: Rainforest Reserve Interim Public Access*).

Overview of Public/Recreation Uses and Policies

The following is an overview of the public uses and related policies EFM and Stimson Lumber implemented on what would become the Arch Cape Forest and Rainforest Reserve

when they managed these sites. Listed as well are the uses and policies of adjacent and nearby land managers including Nuveen Natural Capital/Lewis and Clark Timberlands, City of Cannon Beach – Ecola Forest Reserve, and Oregon State Parks – Oswald West State Park (*Table 2: Overview of Area Public/Recreation Uses and Policies*).

Emergency Services

The community of Arch Cape is primarily served by the Cannon Beach Rural Fire Protection District (Fire District) for fire, and emergency medical services. The Fire District was originally formed in 1947 to serve the Cannon Beach area, and as the area grew in population, a second station was built in Arch Cape. The original mission of the Fire District was to extinguish fires, with search and rescue services added in the 1950s, and emergency medical services (EMS) added in the 1970s followed by additional high angle rescue and surf rescue services (Clatsop County 2021). Today the Fire District provides services from the Highways 26/101 junction south to the Tillamook County boundary, including Oswald West State Park, and the communities of Cannon Beach, Arch Cape, and Falcon Cove including their resident populations of 2,500, and the 750,000 to 1,000,000 annual tourists who visit the area. The Fire District has 20 volunteer firefighters, three engines and two brush trucks. With the station in Arch Cape and the replacement of the older pumper, the fire insurance rating in this area is 3 or 3x (Clatsop County 2022).

Residents in this area receive police services from the County Sheriff and State Police. The Sheriff’s Department patrols the area on an average of once a day (Clatsop County 2022).

Table 2: Overview of Area Public/Recreation Uses and Policies						
Public Use	History of Use on Arch Cape Forest & Rainforest Reserve Properties	Current Interim Policy for Arch Cape Forest & Rainforest Reserve	Neighboring Land Manager Policies <i>Note: All have day use only, no smoking, land may be closed during a time of fire danger or equipment operation.</i>			
			Lewis & Clark Timberlands (LCT) (require a no-fee annual permit to access/use their land ²)	Stimson Lumber (owner prior to EFM)	City of Cannon Beach (Ecola Creek Forest Reserve)	Oregon State Parks (Oswald West State Park)
Hunting	Yes. Anecdotally some access area on horseback.	Predator hunting ¹ not allowed on either property (consistent with EFM policy); trapping not allowed on Rainforest Reserve	Yes. No target shooting. Some areas may be opened for motorized travel during hunting season. No trapping.	Yes. No trapping.	No. Hunters may walk through the land with rifles to access permitted hunting area on LCT land. Trapping not allowed.	No (hunting is allowed in some State Parks, but not Oswald West or Hug Point).
Hiking	Yes	Allowed on both properties	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Biking	Yes	Not specifically mentioned in either interim public access policy	Yes	Yes. Must stay on logging roads	Hard surface roads only	No
Fishing	Unknown	Allowed on the Rainforest Reserve; not specifically addressed for Arch Cape Forest	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Camping	Not allowed	Not allowed	No	No	No	No

¹ The term “predator hunting” here refers to species considered to be “biological predators”. ODFW regulations define “predatory animals” as including, “coyotes, feral swine, rabbits, rodents, and birds (excluding game birds) which are or may be destructive to agricultural crops, products and activities” (ODFW 2022). Most biological predator species fall within other categories such as “big game species” or “furbearer species” per ODFW regulations. The ODFW definition of “big game species” includes: cougar, black bear, deer, elk, pronghorn antelope, Rocky Mountain goat, bighorn sheep, and Western gray squirrel (ODFW 2023).

² Additional LCT policies include: no use or possession of drugs, alcohol, fireworks; no rock collecting, gold panning, prospecting, or archeological artifact disturbance

Table 2: Overview of Area Public/Recreation Uses and Policies (continued)

Public Use	History of Use on Arch Cape Forest & Rainforest Reserve Properties	Current Interim Policy for Arch Cape Forest & Rainforest Reserve	Neighboring Land Manager Policies <i>Note: All have day use only, no smoking, land may be closed during a time of fire danger or equipment operation.</i>			
			Lewis & Clark Timberlands (LCT) (require a no-fee annual permit to access/use their land*)	Stimson Lumber (owner prior to EFM)	City of Cannon Beach (Ecola Creek Forest Reserve)	Oregon State Parks (Oswald West State Park)
Dog walking	Yes	Not allowed on the Rainforest Reserve; not specifically addressed for Arch Cape Forest	Yes. Under owner control at all times.	Not addressed	Must be on leash or under voice command. Must pick up dog waste.	Yes. Pets must be on a leash not more than six feet long, and kept under physical control at all times. Owner responsible to pick up after pets. On beach, off leash allowed while under “direct control”
Equestrian uses	Anecdotally, most appears to take place with hunting.	Not allowed on either property.	Yes	No. Not permitted, but some use by hunters takes place.	Yes. Hard surface roads only. Non-commercial use only.	Not specifically excluded (based on online information), but park is not listed on Oregon State Parks’ website listing sites for horse riding
E-bikes	Not allowed	Not allowed on either property.	Yes. Class I (pedal assist) only.	No. Policy has not been enforced, e-bikes are in use.	Hard surface roads only	No at Oswald West. State Park policy in general is: e-bikes that fit the definition under Oregon law (ORS 801.258) may ride on bicycle trails 8 feet and wider unless otherwise marked.

Table 2: Overview of Area Public/Recreation Uses and Policies (continued)

Public Use	History of Use on Arch Cape Forest & Rainforest Reserve Properties	Current Interim Policy for Arch Cape Forest & Rainforest Reserve	Neighboring Land Manager Policies <i>Note: All have day use only, no smoking, land may be closed during a time of fire danger or equipment operation.</i>			
			Lewis & Clark Timberlands (LCT) (require a no-fee annual permit to access/use their land*)	Stimson Lumber (owner prior to EFM)	City of Cannon Beach (Ecola Creek Forest Reserve)	Oregon State Parks (Oswald West State Park)
Foraging	Unknown	Not specifically mentioned in either interim public access policy	No. No commercial collection including berries, mushrooms, boughs, bark. he	Yes. Mushroom and berry picking are allowed, no plant or wood product harvesting.	Yes. Mushroom and berry picking allowed - no plant or wood product harvesting.	Plant life and natural resources may not be picked, cut, removed or mutilated. However, visitors may gather for personal consumption berries, fruits, mushrooms, or similar edibles in quantities not to exceed one gallon per person per day.
Firewood gathering	Unknown, but with only non-motorized access, likely minimal	Not specifically mentioned in either interim public access policy	No. Additionally: No cutting or injury of trees, shrubs, or other forest products. No nails, screws, or other metal objects may be placed in trees.	Permit only	No	No (see foraging for details)
Picnicking	Unknown - not documented as a specific use but people accessing the site might informally picnic	Not specifically mentioned in either interim public access policy	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Table 2: Overview of Area Public/Recreation Uses and Policies (continued)						
Public Use	History of Use on Arch Cape Forest & Rainforest Reserve Properties	Current Interim Policy for Arch Cape Forest & Rainforest Reserve	Neighboring Land Manager Policies <i>Note: All have day use only, no smoking, land may be closed during a time of fire danger or equipment operation.</i>			
			Lewis & Clark Timberlands (LCT) (require a no-fee annual permit to access/use their land*)	Stimson Lumber (owner prior to EFM)	City of Cannon Beach (Ecola Creek Forest Reserve)	Oregon State Parks (Oswald West State Park)
Nature observation	No specific information about birding or other nature observation, but likely an informal part of people’s activities.	Not specifically mentioned in either interim public access policy				Not specifically addressed
Drone use	Unknown	Not specifically mentioned in either interim public access policy	No	No	No	No

Planning and Policy Framework

In order to develop a comprehensive access and use plan, the ACDWSD needed to articulate how the special district would work to achieve key goals, including engaging the community with the Arch Cape Forest while protecting the health of the watershed ecosystem. To that end, this process first worked to document existing conditions (including past allowable uses and guidance), understand historical management of the site, listen to the community's hopes for how they want to experience the forest in the years to come, and then identify common goals the ACDWSD shares with adjacent land managers.

This Public Access Plan builds from plans, policies, requirements, and guidance for the Arch Cape Forest and Rainforest Reserve established through State of Oregon and Clatsop County plans and policies, property titles and easements, funding requirements, and management planning documents developed for the Arch Cape Forest and Rainforest Reserve by their respective landowners.

State of Oregon

State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)
Every five years, each state in the US must prepare a Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) to remain qualified for stateside Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). In Oregon, the plan functions not only to guide the LWCF program, but also provides guidance for other OPRD administered grant programs including the Local Grant, County Opportunity Grant, Recreational Trails, and All-Terrain Vehicle Programs. The SCORP also provides recommendations to the Oregon State Park System and guidance to federal, state, and local units of government,

as well as the private sector, in delivering quality outdoor recreational opportunities to Oregonians and out-of-state visitors.

The most recent SCORP, which covers the time span of 2019-2023, identified the most used types of recreation activity of Oregonians including:

1. Non-motorized Trail Activities – Walking on local streets / sidewalks – 83%
2. Outdoor Leisure / Sporting Activities – Sightseeing / driving or motorcycling for pleasure – 59%
3. Non-motorized Water-based and Beach Activities – Beach activities – ocean – 57%
4. Nature Study Activities – Other nature / wildlife / forest / wildflower observation – 34%
5. Vehicle-based Camping Activities – Car camping with a tent – 32%
6. Non-motorized Snow Activities – Sledding, tubing, or general snow play – 27%
7. Hunting and Fishing Activities – Fishing – 27%
8. Motorized Activities – Power boating (cruising / water skiing) – 12%

Recreational Use Statute

The State of Oregon has regulations that provide liability immunities for landowners providing access for, “recreational purposes, gardening, woodcutting or the harvest of special forest products”. If a fee is charged for these uses, the liability immunities do not apply. The text of these statutes can be found in *Appendix D: Oregon Recreational Use Statutes*.

E-bike Definition

Unlike many other states in the US, the State of Oregon does not use the general classification system for characterizing e-bikes, instead using e-bike specifications. The Oregon Vehicle Code provides a definition of e-bikes as follows:

ORS 801.258 “Electric assisted bicycle.” “Electric assisted bicycle” means a vehicle that:

- (1) Is designed to be operated on the ground on wheels;
- (2) Has a seat or saddle for use of the rider;
- (3) Is designed to travel with not more than three wheels in contact with the ground;
- (4) Has both fully operative pedals for human propulsion and an electric motor; and
- (5) Is equipped with an electric motor that:
 - (a) Has a power output of not more than 1,000 watts; and
 - (b) Is incapable of propelling the vehicle at a speed of greater than 20 miles per hour on level ground. [1997 c.400 §2; 1999 c.59 §233]

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Fishing and Hunting Regulations

ODFW’s mission is to, “protect and enhance Oregon’s fish and wildlife and their habitats for use and enjoyment by present and future generations.” The local office that serves the Arch Cape area is the Tillamook North Coast Watershed District Office. Any fishing or hunting in the Arch Cape Forest would need to comply with the State of Oregon’s fishing and hunting regulations (*Appendix E: ODFW Hunting and Fishing Regulations*).

ODFW offers the Access and Habitat Program which was established by Oregon Legislature in 1993. The incentive-based program purpose is to improve public hunting access and wildlife habitat on private lands in Oregon. The program’s motto, “Landowners & Hunters Together for Wildlife,” conveys the program’s basic mission to foster



partnerships between landowners and hunters for the benefit of the wildlife they value. The program also seeks to recognize and encourage the important contributions made by landowners to the state’s wildlife resource. A seven-member volunteer board, appointed by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission), reviews project proposals submitted by private landowners, timber and agriculture corporations, sporting organizations, and public agencies among others, and recommends funding for projects that further the A&H mission. Final funding approval for projects is determined by the Commission (ODFW 2021).

Program revenue is generated by a \$4 annual surcharge on hunting licenses, proceeds from the annual raffle and auction of special deer and elk tags and a portion of the Green Forage and D.E.A.R. Program funds. The A&H Program provides grants to private landowners, industrial timber companies,

sporting groups, natural resource agencies, and others for projects designed to improve wildlife habitat and/or increase public hunting access on private lands. Examples of eligible projects include juniper removal, wildlife forage seeding, water development, noxious weed eradication, wetland restoration, law enforcement patrols, travel management

areas, and public hunting leases on private lands (ODFW 2021). One benefit of participation in the A&H program can provide funding for enhanced law enforcement patrols by Oregon State Police to support enforcement of hunting regulations.

Hunting and Terminology

During the planning process, the scope of hunting that should be allowed in the Arch Cape Forest was a topic of much community discussion. Of particular interest was whether to restrict “predator hunting”. In the context of these discussions, the phrase “predator hunting” was typically used based on a common definition of “*a predator is an animal that lives by capturing and eating other animals,*” with bear and cougar being the most commonly mentioned “predator” species.

In comparison, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife uses the term “predatory” based on their hunting regulations. Moving forward in clarifying hunting policies for the Arch Cape Forest, it is important that consistent language is used. The following are ODFW definitions for wildlife species based on their hunting regulations.

ODFW Definitions:

- **Big Game Hunting Species:** deer, elk, black bear, Western gray squirrel, pronghorn antelope, Rocky Mountain goat, cougar, and bighorn sheep (ODFW 2023)
- **Furbearer Species:** In general, a furbearer is an animal whose fur has commercial value. In Oregon, this

includes beaver, bobcat, fisher, marten, mink, muskrat, river otter, raccoon, red and gray fox (ODFW 2022)

- **Predatory Animals:** Predatory animals are coyotes, rabbits, rodents and feral swine, which are or may be destructive to agricultural crops (these animals have no closed season, bag limit or weapons restriction; however a hunter must first find out if small game are either federally or state protected and if it carries any special regulations, such as closed seasons, bag limits or weapons restrictions).
- **Protected Mammal and Bird Species:** game mammals, game birds, furbearers, threatened or endangered species, fisher, ringtail, fringed myotis, Townsend’s big-eared bat, white-tailed antelope squirrel, silver-haired bat, western small-footed myotis, long-eared myotis, long-legged myotis, Yuma myotis, pika (cony), pygmy rabbit, white-tailed jackrabbit, Washington ground squirrel, northern flying squirrel, chickaree (pine squirrel), golden-mantled ground squirrel, chipmunks, white-footed vole, pallid bat, all marine mammals, and all nongame birds except Eurasian collared-dove, European starling, house sparrow and rock pigeon
- **Unprotected Mammals:** Unprotected mammals are badger, coyote, gophers, moles (*Scapanus townsendii*, *S. orarius* and *S. latimanus*), mountain beaver, yellowbellied marmots, nutria, opossum, porcupine, spotted skunk, striped skunk and weasel (ODFW 2022)

Clatsop County

As an unincorporated community of Clatsop County, Arch Cape is within the County’s jurisdiction (other than those responsibilities that are within the purview of the ACDWSD). As such, the planning and policy framework for Arch Cape and its surrounding unincorporated areas is established by the County. The following is a summary of Clatsop County plans and ordinances that are relevant to the Arch Cape community and Arch Cape Forest.

Comprehensive Plan

The Clatsop County Comprehensive Plan (Comprehensive Plan), which outlines long term goals and policies for land use includes two components – a Countywide Comprehensive Plan and six community plans. Of these community plans, the Southwest Coastal Community Plan includes Arch Cape and the area extending from the southern boundary of Cannon Beach to the south County line, and from the Pacific Ocean to one mile inland. Arch Cape is considered a “rural community” per the existing County land use designation. The original Comprehensive Plan was developed from 1979-1980, and the most recent “periodic review” took place in 2003. Clatsop County’s Comprehensive Plan Goals and Policies Document was codified in 2012, and in 2019, the County began the process to update the Comprehensive Plan, including its six component community plans.

The updated Comprehensive Plan remains in draft form as of early 2023, but some relevant countywide draft goals and policies from the most recent drafts are compiled (*Table 3: Clatsop County Comprehensive Plan [Draft] - Countywide Goals & Policies*).



A draft of the Southwest Coastal Community Plan (Clatsop County 2023) was available on the County’s Comprehensive Plan Update website as of May 2023. A community open house took place in Arch Cape for the Southwest Coastal Planning Area in June 2019 where some issues identified included concerns about water supply and protection, and the impacts of short-term rentals and related parking issues. Arch Cape Creek is described as one of the most important natural resources in the Southwest Coastal Planning Area. The creek was identified by the community survey as an extremely important natural area, scenic resource, and wildlife habitat. Although it is not pristine or undeveloped, it is still highly valued by local residents. Other streams in the area that are considered valuable to the community are Asbury and Shark Creek in Arch Cape.

Specific draft goals and policies of relevance include the following (*Table 4: Clatsop County Comprehensive Plan [Draft] - Southwest Coastal Community Plan Draft Goals and Policies*).

Table 3: Clatsop County Comprehensive Plan (Draft) - Countywide Goals & Policies
<p>Goal 2: Land Use Planning - To establish a land use planning process and policy framework as a basis for all decisions and actions related to use of land to assure an adequate factual base for such decisions and actions.</p>
<p>Landscape Unit Policies – Coast Range Foothills</p> <p>Policy A: This landscape unit is a resource unit and should be reserved primarily for timber production, wildlife habitat, recreation and mineral resources, and potable drinking water sources.</p> <p>Policy B: Forest uses shall be the preferred use of the coast range foothills.</p>
<p>Landscape Unit Policies – Basaltic Highlands</p> <p>Policy A: This landscape unit is a resource unit and should be reserved primarily for woodlands, timber production, wildlife habitat, low-intensity recreation, natural and mineral resources, and potable drinking water sources</p>
<p>Landscape Unit Policies – Sedimentary Uplands</p> <p>Policy A: This landscape unit is a resource unit and should be reserved primarily for timber production, wildlife habitat, open space. recreation, mineral resources, and potable drinking water sources</p>
<p>Goal 4: Forest Lands - To conserve forest lands for forest uses.</p>
<p>OBJECTIVE 1: To conserve forest lands for forest uses.</p> <p>POLICY A: Forest lands shall be conserved for forest uses, including the production of trees and the processing of forest products, and carbon sequestration, open space, buffers from noise, visual separation from conflicting uses, watershed protection, wildlife and fisheries habitat, soils protection from wind and water, maintenance of clean air and water, outdoor recreational activities compatible with these uses, and grazing land for livestock.</p>
<p>Goal 5: Open Spaces, Scenic and Historic Areas, and Natural Resources - To protect natural resources and conserve scenic and historic areas and open spaces</p>
<p>Climate Change - OBJECTIVE 1: Clatsop County shall work to protect watersheds, surface waters, aquifers and drinking water supplies from the impacts of climate change</p> <p>Policy D: Clatsop County shall encourage state agencies and property owners to develop a framework to protect cold water streams that will serve as thermal refugia.</p> <p>Policy F: The County will include the future planning concerns of the infrastructure districts, including water, sanitary sewer, and fire districts, in looking at future development. Such review will include the number of homes supplied.</p>
<p>Riparian Corridors - OBJECTIVE 1: Preserve riparian areas to provide for productive ecological function.</p> <p>Policy J: Grading, excavation or filling in the riparian zone of rivers, streams, and creeks should be carefully controlled in order to prevent sedimentation of the water. Filling, grading, and excavation of lands should be prohibited within stream buffers.</p>

Table 3: Clatsop County Comprehensive Plan (Draft) - Countywide Goals & Policies (continued)	
Wildlife Habitat - GOAL 1: Clatsop County recognizes the importance of riparian vegetation in protecting fish and wildlife habitat resources. Vegetated riparian areas are vital to water quality function including the following:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Providing shade to maintain or reduce stream temperatures to meet state water quality standards 2. Supporting wildlife in the stream corridors 3. Minimizing erosion and nutrient loading into water 4. Maintaining natural hydrology 5. Stabilizing slopes to prevent landslides that contribute to sedimentation of water. <p>Clatsop County strongly encourages the protection of riparian vegetation to the greatest extent feasible from the impacts of development consistent with the best available ecological science.</p>
Oregon Recreation Trails	<p>Policy C: Clatsop County shall cooperate with public and private property owners and the Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission to support the designation of new Oregon Recreation Trails in Clatsop County.</p>
Goal 6: Air Water and Land Resources Quality - To maintain and improve the quality of the air, water and land resources of Clatsop County.	
Water Quality	<p>Policy D: The County should develop educational outreach programs and partnerships to work with rural communities and private land owners regarding protections to drinking water sources and watersheds and ensure high quality drinking water.</p>
Goal 8: Recreation Needs - To satisfy the recreational needs of residents and visitors.	
POLICY T: The County should establish a more integrated and connected system of parks and recreational resources within the county parks system and between the county and other public and private recreation providers.	

Table 4: Clatsop County Comprehensive Plan (Draft) – Southwest Coastal Community Plan Draft Goals & Policies	
Water Bodies and Coastal and Stream Shorelands Goal: To conserve, protect, and where appropriate, develop the coastal and stream shorelands in the Southwest Coastal Planning area; and to conserve, protect, and where appropriate, develop the lands near and adjacent to water bodies in the Planning Area	
1.Grading, excavation or filling in the riparian zone of rivers, streams, and creeks shall be carefully controlled in order to prevent sedimentation of the water. Filling, grading, and excavation of lands shall be prohibited within stream buffers.	
3.A vegetated buffer shall be provided along either side of Arch Cape Creek, Asbury Creek, Shark Creek, Cedar Creek, Austen Creek, and other creeks and drainage ways critical to local drinking water supply and erosion control in order to provide clean drinking water, protect riparian vegetation, prevent loss of property due to erosion, and protect the aesthetic value of the streams. Buffers shall generally be 50 feet wide, measured perpendicular to the normal streambank unless the size of lot and natural topography would create a hardship. Variances may be granted, but in no event shall the buffer be less than 25 feet wide	
4. In no event shall an impediment or alteration be permitted in a natural drainage way.	
5. Gravel and cobble removal from the streams shall be prohibited.	
14. Access points to the beach and streams should be provided for at the ends of platted and vacated streets where safe and feasible, and shall not be unnecessarily impeded by shoreline protection, flood protection, and other structures. Access to the beach where possible should be made passable for the elderly or other persons with limited mobility. Further work needs to be done on who would maintain these access points. Creation of new access points, or improvement of existing access points, in fragile, steep, or otherwise hazardous areas shall be avoided.	
Coast Range Foothills, Basaltic Highlands, Sedimentary Uplands Policies	
1. These landscape units are resource units and should be reserved primarily for timber production, wildlife habitat, recreation and mineral resources, and potable drinking water sources	
Critical Hazards Goal: To prevent harm to people and damage to property through the use of reasonable building controls. To work together to prepare for the survival needs of residents and visitors.	
Wildfire Hazard Policy 2: Prohibit campfires, cooking fires and other open flames on undeveloped public and private lands outside the jurisdiction of the Oregon Parks Department.	
Public Facility Goal: To provide public facilities and services capable of meeting existing and future needs at appropriate levels for the RURAL SERVICE AREA and RURAL areas in the most cost-effective manner.	
6. Except where contiguous with a developed lot under the same ownership, tent camping is prohibited on all undeveloped lots in the AC-RCR and CR zones in order to prevent fires and problems associated with lack of infrastructure. Camping is permitted in these zones for up to 7 days on property with an existing residential dwelling, or an RV legally on the property where camping will occur and with the written consent of the property owner. Commercial camping is not allowed anywhere in these zones.	
Forest Lands and Conservation Other Resources: Natural	
1.2 All the watersheds in the planning area need to be more clearly defined and mapped. Additionally, each watershed has individual problems which need to be identified.	
1.3 Drinking watersheds and groundwater sources should be identified and added to the County’s public GIS maps. Policies to protect those sources, including stream buffers, should be developed and implemented.	

Table 4: Clatsop County Comprehensive Plan (Draft) – Southwest Coastal Community Plan Draft Goals & Policies (continued)	
Transportation Goal: To safely and efficiently meet the transportation needs of the regional communities while keeping their rural character. To improve safety for vehicles and pedestrians accessing Highway 101.	
1. Access points onto U.S. Highway 101 shall be kept to a minimum to reduce the potential for accidents. New development shall use common front-age roads, and lots shall be designed so as not to front or have access onto the highway.	
12. Establish a plan for bicycle and pedestrian pathways throughout Arch Cape, emphasizing safety and connectivity across Highway 101.	
Open Space, Historic, Recreation, Scenic and Natural Areas Goal: To preserve the open space and recreation qualities of the riparian areas, wetlands, beaches, and the surrounding forest areas throughout the Southwest Coastal Planning Area	
6. Because of the limited access and land area at the mouth of Arch Cape Creek and the potential conflict with the adjacent residential neighborhoods, a regional park or recreation site in this vicinity is not desirable. Regional parks are not intended to be a permitted use within Rural Service Areas. Parks and recreation sites within such communities are intended to be neighborhood oriented, low impact in terms of traffic generation, and designed in a compatible manner with the surrounding environment.	
Conservation Other Resources Policies	
1. Watersheds for the community water systems in the area shall be protected by the Forest Practices Act. Forest management in elevations above the watersheds, including road construction and chemical spraying/treatment, shall take place only after the appropriate water districts are notified and efforts are made to prevent adverse impacts.	

Clatsop County Zoning

Most of the community of Arch Cape is zoned “AC-RCR” (Arch Cape Rural Community Residential) with the Arch Cape Forest and Rainforest Reserve zoned as “F-80 Forest 80”. The F-80 zone applies to the Arch Cape Forest and Rainforest Reserve properties while the AC-RCR applies to the residential area of Arch Cape.

In the Clatsop County Zoning Ordinance, the AC-RCR zone purpose is described as:

“The Arch Cape RCR zone is intended to accommodate the immediate and foreseeable demand for low density housing in Clatsop County’s rural communities. This zone has been developed with the purpose to: (1) Allow residential development that is compatible with rural communities that wish to maintain a primarily single family rural residential character, (2) do not adversely impact adjacent resource lands, (3) allow for minimum

lot sizes and densities, that will provide for an ultimate build out that is more commensurate with actual physical, and (4) environmental constraints, and the availability of community water and sewer facilities, and may provide for non-residential uses that are small in scale, intended for the needs of the local community or for people traveling through the rural community, and are compatible with surrounding uses.”

The F-80 Forest 80 zone purpose is described as:

“The purpose of the Forest (F-80) Zone is to protect and maintain forest lands for grazing, and rangeland use and forest use, consistent with existing and future needs for agricultural and forest products. The F-80 zone is also intended to allow other uses that are compatible with agricultural and forest activities, to protect scenic resources and fish and wildlife habitat, and to maintain and improve the quality of air, water and land resources

of the county. The F-80 zone has been applied to lands designated as Forest 80 in the Comprehensive Plan. The provisions of the F-80 zone reflect the forest land policies of the Comprehensive Plan as well as the requirements of ORS Chapter 215 and OAR 660-006. The minimum parcel size and other standards established by this zone are intended to promote commercial forest operations. [Ord. 18-02]”

The draft Clatsop County Comprehensive Plan’s “Goal 4: Forest Lands” (2023) referenced in the F-80 zone description, states as the first objective and policy:

“OBJECTIVE 1: To conserve forest lands for forest uses.
POLICY A: Forest lands shall be conserved for forest uses, including the production of trees and the processing of forest products, and carbon sequestration, open space, buffers from noise, visual separation from conflicting uses, watershed protection, wildlife and fisheries habitat, soils protection from wind and water, maintenance of clean air and water, outdoor recreational activities compatible with these uses, and grazing land for livestock.”

Clatsop County Parks and Natural Areas - Natural Resources Inventory and Stewardship Plan

The *Clatsop County Parks and Natural Areas - Natural Resources Inventory and Stewardship Plan*, adopted in 2010, contains policy recommendations based on an inventory and assessment of the natural resources found within County-managed recreational lands. It is intended to guide management decisions and to preserve and protect resources such as trees, wetlands, and wildlife on hundreds of acres of county-owned property and identifies potential threats including erosion, overuse, and invasive species.

Clatsop County Parks and Recreational Lands Master Plan

The *Clatsop County Parks and Recreational Lands Master Plan*, last updated in 2006, provides a recreational lands inventory, an inventory of recreation providers in the area, community demographic information, projected recreational needs, and a set of goals, objectives, and action strategies to meet those needs. The Clatsop County Recreational Lands Planning Advisory Committee (RLPAC) has identified updating the master plan as a near-term priority project. The plan notes that the updated master plan should be adopted by reference into the Comprehensive Plan Goal 8 element.

Clatsop County Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan

The *Clatsop County Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan* (Clatsop County 2021) purpose is to create a disaster-resilient Clatsop County by identifying actions to reduce the dangers to life and property from natural hazard events. The most recent version was updated in 2021 and includes Arch Cape Water and Arch Cape Sanitary Districts as included jurisdictions as well as Cannon Beach Rural Fire Protection District which serves Cannon Beach, Arch Cape, and Falcon Cove. Specific natural hazards risks identified for the districts’ area include drought (high vulnerability), earthquake (medium vulnerability), flood (low vulnerability), landslide (high vulnerability), tsunami (medium vulnerability), wildfire (high vulnerability), and wind/winter storm (high vulnerability). Fires in the Arch Cape area in the recent past include a 100-acre fire near East Shingle Mill Road in 2014 when Stimson Lumber owned the Arch Cape Forest/ Rainforest reserve and a 300-acre fire on Stimson Lumber and Weyerhaeuser property in 2013 that affected Arch Cape and Falcon Cove. One of the mitigation actions recommended in the plan was to purchase the watershed.

Grant and Funding Requirements

Acquisition of the Arch Cape Forest and Rainforest Reserve were both facilitated through federal and state public grant programs. With these types of grant funding, there are public benefits associated with providing public funds, and these public benefits are typically outlined in the grant program descriptions and requirements. The purposes of these programs and associated requirements of grantees provide both guidance and requirements related to funded projects. The following is a summary of these grants and any related requirements.

Arch Cape Forest USDA Forest Legacy Program:

Program Description: The Forest Legacy Program (FLP) was established in 1990 through an amendment to the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act (CFAA) of 1978 (16 USC 2101 et seq.). The purpose of the FLP is described as below (USDA Forest Service 2017):

“The purpose of the FLP is to identify and protect environmentally important forest areas that are threatened by conversion to nonforest uses and to promote forestland protection and other conservation opportunities. Desired outcomes include the protection of important scenic, cultural, fish, wildlife, and recreational resources, riparian areas, and other ecological values. Traditional forest uses, including timber management, as well as hunting, fishing, hiking, and similar recreational uses are consistent with purposes of the FLP. The FLP acquires and accepts donations of perpetual conservation easements that permanently limit property interests and uses to protect forest values. The FLP also purchases and accepts as donations forestland in full fee. The FLP only works with willing sellers or donors.”

In the FLP guidelines, several compatible uses are outlined including several related to public access and recreation:

“Compatible Uses

Continuation of traditional and other forest-based uses are integral to the purpose of the FLP. Compatible uses may include, but are not limited to: hiking; fishing; hunting; harvest of timber, syrup, mushrooms, and other forest products; camping; and bird-watching. Many activities and improvements support, enable, or enhance these forest uses while minimally impacting other forest values and benefits and thus may be compatible with the purposes of a specific FLP project.”

Requirements Related to Public Access:

The FLP guidelines outline that:

“Landowners who enter into the FLP have a duty to manage the tracts for the purposes of the FLP. The FLP authorizing legislation (section (d)(i) Duties of Owners) states: “Under the terms of a conservation easement or other property interest acquired (for the FLP), the landowner shall be required to manage property in a manner that is consistent with the purposes for which the land was entered in the Forest Legacy Program.” The requirement to manage the property for the purposes that it was entered into the FLP is met managing the property according to the terms of a Multi-Resource Management Plan. For FLP tracts acquired in fee, this requirement can be met by the creation of a Multi-Resource Management Plan or by amending an existing plan that incorporates the additional tracts into the larger plan.”

The Multi-Resource Management Plan must meet the plan criteria, plan elements, and additional information content

requirements of the current USDA Forest Service, Forest Stewardship Program’s National Standards and Guidelines, and the Forest Stewardship Program plan requirements of the State in which the project is located.

The Forest Service Forest Stewardship Program’s National Standards and Guidelines—Revised October 2015 describes plan elements for inclusion in Multi-Resource Management Plans as follows:

“The plan preparer will consider, describe, and evaluate resource elements present and their importance to the ownership. The extent to which a management plans addresses these elements will depend upon their prevalence on the property and their importance with respect to the landowner’s primary objectives. The intent of this guidance is that all approved Forest Stewardship plans be multi-resource in scope and adequately comprehensive with respect to forest ecosystem management.

The plan preparer will consider, describe, and evaluate plan elements and their importance to the ownership when they are present. Plan elements to be considered include...recreation...”

The Guidelines specifically define public access as follows:

“Public access – Access that is provided on a nondiscriminatory basis at reasonable times and places, but may be limited to protect cultural and natural resources or public health and safety. Public access refers to how open the property is to the general public, either in full or in specific areas, and is specified in conservation easement language. Public access is expected in deed acquisition.”

State Forester review and approval is another requirement for multi-resource management plans:

“Multi-resource management plans must meet the following requirements:

- Comply with the stipulations in the conservation easement or deed and not conflict with the purposes of the FLP;
- Address all of the plan criteria, plan elements, and additional information items necessary to comply with a Forest Service Forest Stewardship Program Forest Stewardship Plan described in Appendix O – Sample Content of a Multi-Resource Management Plan;
- Meet or exceed the State FLP guidelines; and
- Comply with Federal, State, and local laws, regulations, and permit requirements.”

The FLP Guidelines outline that:

“Governmental entities that hold title to land or conservation easements purchased through FLP have the long-term responsibility for managing their land in a manner consistent with the purposes of FLP and in accordance with the terms specified in the conservation easement and Multi-Resource Management Plan.” (USDA Forest Service 2017)

As part of the FLP, the property deed includes specific “Forest Legacy Program Covenants and Restrictions” related to the purpose of the grant program and the grant application.

“The purpose of Grantee’s acquisition of the Property is to effect the USDA Forest Service Forest Legacy Program (the “FLP”) on the Property in accordance with the provisions of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978, P.L. 95-313 as amended (codified at 16 U.S.C. § 2101 et seq), which purposes include protecting

environmentally important forest areas that are threatened by conversion to nonforest uses and for promoting forest land protection and other conservation opportunities. The purposes also include the protection and preservation of important scenic, cultural, fish, wildlife and recreational resources, riparian areas, and other ecological values, and to ensure that the Property is available for the sustainable and cost effective harvesting of forest products in a silviculturally sound manner, all of which meet the objectives of the FLP. The various purposes described in this paragraph are collectively referred to in this deed as the “Purposes”

Management Objectives:

The Property shall be managed in a manner consistent with the FLP and according to a State Forester approved Multi-Resource Management Plan, as may be amended from time to time with State Forester approval (the “Management Plan”) to ensure long-term sustainability and protection of the forest land and forest resources located upon the Property. Management activities must take into account the long-term viability and health of the ecosystem on the Property. There may be no activities or uses of the Property which are not compatible with the long-term forest health and sustainability. This limitation includes limitations on activities of short duration that may have long-term impacts such as soil compaction or disturbance of fragile systems...

Application Description: The following four items were bulleted in US Forest Legacy Project Grants issued to Arch Cape Water District:

“Public Access: The Property is .5 miles from Oswald West State Park, which in 2018 attracted 1.2 million day-use visits. The District plans to maintain access in a way that might reduce crowding of the landscape...

...Economic Benefits, Non-Timber – Non-timber product uses on the Property include an active hunting season for Roosevelt elk and black tailed deer. Black bear are present, but predator hunting is not allowed. Other uses include mushroom gathering for chanterelles and local firewood collection...

...Economic Benefits, Recreation – Outdoor recreation and tourism are the fastest-growing segment of Clatsop County’s economy. In 2016, destination travelers spent \$67 million in Clatsop County for arts, entertainment and recreation, creating an estimated 850 jobs. ..

...Economic data show the increasing importance of retirees, tourists, and service industries relative to natural resource sectors in coastal Oregon (Swedeen et al., 2008). Arch Cape experiences a seasonal population increase from its 200 year-round residents to more than 1,000 in the summer.

A 2018 survey by the University of Oregon and Travel Oregon found that half of visitors to the North Coast were from outside the state. The report recommends developing new recreation areas and dispersing visitor impacts. The Property will fulfill the need for publicly accessible recreation areas.”

The Arch Cape Forest FLP 2021 application also included the following language:

“Public Access – The Property currently provides limited and informal public access. Public access will be formalized and expanded upon Project completion, including improving accessibility, walking trails and enhances access to nearby public lands which collectively see 2.4 million day users.”



Rainforest Reserve

USDA Community Forest Program:

Program Description: The Community Forest Program (CFP) is a competitive grant program that provides financial assistance to tribal entities, local governments, and qualified conservation non-profit organizations to acquire and establish community forests that provide community benefits. Community benefits include economic benefits through active forest management, clean water, wildlife habitat, educational opportunities, and public access for recreation.

Requirements Related to Public Access: The Final Rule for this program defines community benefits as including, “Recreational benefits such as hiking, hunting, and fishing secured with public access.”

The program requires that a Community Forest Plan be developed properties that received grants through this program. The Final Rule defines a Community Forest Plan as:

“A tract-specific plan developed with community involvement that guides the management and use

of a community forest and includes the following components...Community benefits to be achieved from the establishment of the community forest... A description of ongoing activities that promote community involvement in the development and implementation of the Community Forest Plan... A description of public access and the rationale for any limitations on public access, such as protection of cultural (including tangible and intangible resources) or natural resources or public health and safety concerns.”

The Final Rules also states under Section 230.9 outlining “Ownership and Use Requirements” that “(c) Grant recipients shall provide public access in accordance with the Community Forest Plan.”

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) Land Acquisition Grant Program:

Program Description: The Oregon Constitution specifies that OWEB may fund projects involving the purchase of interests in land from willing sellers for the purpose of maintaining or restoring watersheds and habitat for native fish or wildlife.

Requirements Related to Public Access: The program does not specify requirements related to public access and recreation though guidance is provided regarding community use and engagement. In outlining guidance for the required management plan for properties funded through this program, the following guidance is provided regarding community involvement:

“Conserved properties present a range of opportunities for community involvement. Appropriate community use of a property depends on, among other things, ownership circumstances, how sensitive the property’s conservation values are to disturbance, site constraints such as safety concerns and limitations on physical access, and the capacity of the property owner to oversee public uses. Community use of any property needs to be carefully assessed and planned to ensure that the use is structured, monitored, and managed in a manner that protects the property’s conservation values. Describe your plans for community involvement with the property, if any. Include specific community activities that will be undertaken, any infrastructure development that will be necessary to support the community activities (e.g., trails), the level of oversight of the community activities, and a description of how and when the activities will be monitored and adaptively managed to avoid impacts to the property’s conservation values. OWEB does not require public use of a property as a condition of a land acquisition grant award. However, the OWEB Board encourages grantees to assess opportunities for low-impact hunting on property interests proposed for purchase with OWEB land acquisition grant funds”

Application Description: The application for the OWEB grant for the Rainforest Reserve included the following:

“North Coast Land Conservancy plans to invite the community to help determine the types of public access allowed. However, we envision allowing non-motorized access, including hiking, biking and non-predator hunting. We would like to increase public access from the previous owner that allowed hiking and hunting only during the weekends by allowing these activities during the week as well. The property provides world-class hiking experiences with ocean vistas and rocky peaks and is already a popular hiking destination among the local community. The property has been used for hunting for generations and NCLC would like to honor this historic use. The property boasts multiple herds of elk and deer. The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Department and local hunters estimate nearly 100 hunters access the property per year for deer and elk hunting.

To better understand the types of public access desired by the community and how they can be achieved without harming the conservation values, North Coast Land Conservancy has hosted public open houses. These discussions have helped shape the potential types of access NCLC may allow: non-motorized access for hiking, biking and non-predator hunting. The property is located behind locked gates and accessed via several miles of steep logging roads. The most sensitive habitats are at higher elevations that are difficult to access via hiking or biking, limiting access. NCLC will implement no-access areas to further protect sensitive habitats. To ensure public use is consistent with management goals, NCLC will post boundary signs, place kiosks with public access information at access points, monitor the property with staff and volunteers and explore enrolling the property in ODFW’s Access and Habitat Program. These actions will ensure that public uses are being continually monitored and are consistent with our management plan.

North Coast Land Conservancy plans to invite the community to help determine the type of public access allowed. However, we envision allowing hiking, biking and non-predator hunting. We would like to increase public access from the previous owner that allowed hiking and hunting only during the weekends by allowing these activities during the week as well. The property provides world class hiking experiences with ocean vistas and rocky peaks and is already a popular hike among the local community. The property has been used for hunting for generations and NCLC would like to honor this historic use. The property boasts several herds of elk and deer. The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Department and local hunters estimate nearly 100 hunters access the property a year for deer and elk hunting.”

Title and Easement Requirements

The State of Oregon statutes include the following definitions related to easements:

“Easement” means a nonpossessory interest in the land of another which entitles the holders of an interest in the easement to a private right of way, embodying the right to pass across another’s land.

“Holders of an interest in an easement” means those with a legal right to use the easement, including the owner of the land across which the easement passes if the owner of the land has the legal right to use the easement. [1989 c.660 §1; 1991 c.49 §1]

Some examples of types of easements include those for rights-of-way or access, utilities, and conservation. There are several easements, primarily for access to adjoining properties, on the Arch Cape Forest including North Coast Land Conservancy and Nuveen Natural Capital.

Arch Cape Forest and Rainforest Reserve Management Vision and Goals

The Arch Cape Forest and Rainforest Reserve were historically owned and managed as one landscape; one road network ties the two properties together, wildlife travel the land without regards to boundary lines, and human visitors to this environment have traditionally benefited from a seamless experience in this section of coastal Oregon. Both the ACDWSD and NCLC share similar visions⁹ of providing for the protection of vital natural resources to the communities of Arch Cape for generations to come. Their goals for managing are equally compatible, and can be grouped into domestic water, conservation, and public access and recreation related goals (*Figure 6: Comparison of Arch Cape Forest and Rainforest Reserve Goals*).

Arch Cape Forest Multi-Resource Management Plan

The Arch Cape Forest Multi-Resource Management Plan: Management Policies and Procedures (MRMP 2023) was prepared as follows:

“The organization and contents of this multi-resource management plan reflect the vision, goals and objectives of the Arch Cape Domestic Water Supply District Board of Directors and the Arch Cape Forest, Forest Management Advisory Committee. In addition, this plan has been structured to satisfy the requirements of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service Forest Legacy and Community Forest funding programs, the State of Oregon’s Forest Management Planning standards, and the standards for Forest Stewardship Council Certification.”

The planning horizon for this document is intended to extend for the initial ten years of forest ownership. As community

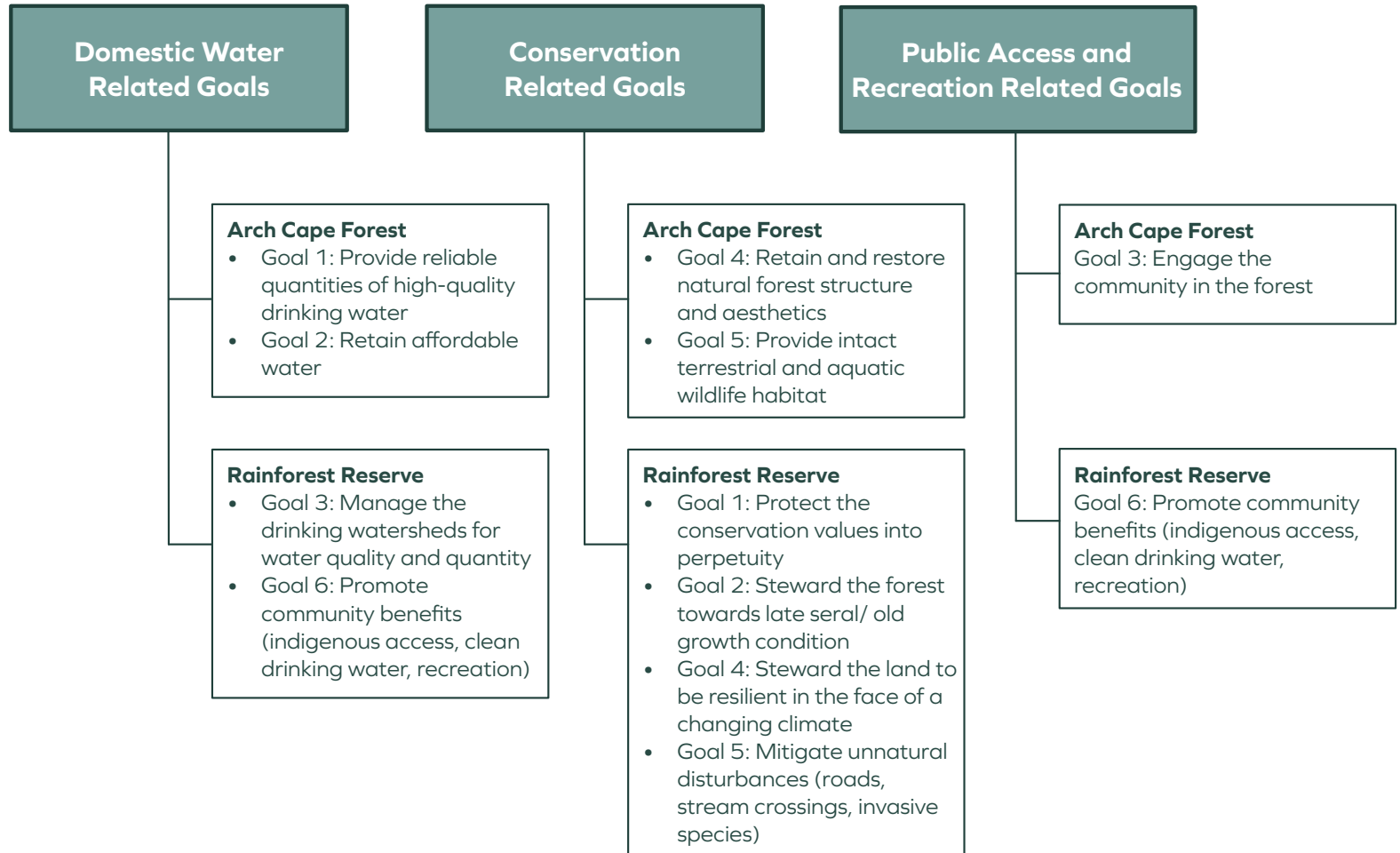


Figure 6: Comparison of Arch Cape Forest and Rainforest Reserve Goals

forest values, public access and recreation are components of the MRMP, but given the interconnected history, road network, and natural resources, ACDWSD and NCLC recognized the benefits of coordinated planning. As such, these topics have been addressed in a separate process, the result of which is this Public Access Plan.

Because this Public Access Plan is a supplement to the MRMP, the vision, goals, and objectives of the latter provide the foundation and framework for planning for public access and recreation. This framework in the MRMP is as follows.

Vision Statement

Our vision is to provide clean, safe, and affordable drinking water to Arch Cape residents and visitors, through the creation of a working community-owned forest to sustain the rich character and beauty of Oregon’s coastal rainforest for generations.

Goals

The Forest Management Advisory Committee for the Arch Cape Forest and consulting team began the process of drafting a multi-resource management plan by workshopping a set of goals. These goals were generated directly from the Vision Statement. These goals underly a set of four objectives. In turn, the four objectives support policies. Many of the policies cut across multiple goals and objectives. Each policy is described in the following sections and then associated with goals, in ranked order.

Goal 1: Provide reliable quantities of high-quality drinking water

Goal 2: Retain affordable water

Goal 3: Engage the community in the forest

Goal 4: Retain and restore natural forest structure and aesthetics

Goal 5: Provide intact terrestrial and aquatic wildlife habitat

Objectives

Four objectives support the Arch Cape Forest goals and vision statement. Each of these objectives cut across goals. In ranked order, they are:

The Arch Cape Forest will:

1. Protect and enhance the watershed, watershed resilience, and source water quality and quantity.
2. Protects the affordability of drinking water, which may include active timber harvest.
3. Connect with the local community.
4. Retain and restore natural forest structure and species diversity.

Policies

To achieve the Arch Cape Forest vision, goals and objectives, the Advisory Committee considered a set of eight broad policies related to future forest management decisions. These policies create a framework for determining operational plans and financial feasibility. These policies also meet or exceed the requirements of the Oregon Forest Practices Act and Forest Stewardship Council Pacific Standard.

The policies include specific requirements and tolerances related to:

- Stream Buffers
- Harvest Levels
- Opening Size
- Tree Retention
- Road Maintenance
- Chemical Use
- Invasive Species
- High Conservation Value Forest / Steep Slopes

Rainforest Reserve Forest Management Plan

As the owner of the Rainforest Reserve property, NCLC has prepared a forest management plan for this area. Similar to the MRMP, the Rainforest Reserve Forest Management Plan serves as the foundation and framework for planning for public access and recreation on that property, and these topics are being addressed in a supplemental plan for the Rainforest Reserve. This framework includes:

Vision

North Coast Land Conservancy's primary goals in acquiring this property are the protection and restoration of the conservation values of the Rainforest Reserve—coastal temperate rainforest, healthy streams, and rare high elevation rock garden habitat—into perpetuity, and to connect Cape Falcon Marine Reserve, Oswald West State Park and other protected areas in the Coastal Edge to create a land to sea conservation corridor.

Goals

- Goal 1: Protect the conservation values into perpetuity
- Goal 2: Steward the forest towards late seral/ old growth condition
- Goal 3: Manage the drinking watersheds for water quality and quantity
- Goal 4: Steward the land to be resilient in the face of a changing climate



- Goal 5: Mitigate unnatural disturbances (roads, stream crossings, invasive species)
- Goal 6: Promote community benefits (indigenous access, clean drinking water, recreation)

In support of the MRMP, two additional recent plans and studies have been developed or are nearing completion. These include the Arch Cape Forest Conservation Plan (2023) and the Ecological Road Assessment (forthcoming 2023), the scope of which includes the Arch Cape Forest and the Rainforest Reserve.



Endnotes

⁹ Rainforest Reserve Vision: North Coast Land Conservancy’s primary goals in acquiring this property are the protection and restoration of the conservation values of the Rainforest Reserve—coastal temperate rainforest, healthy streams, and rare high elevation rock garden habitat—into perpetuity, and to connect Cape Falcon Marine Reserve, Oswald West State Park and other protected areas in the Coastal Edge to create a land to sea conservation corridor.

Key Issues

To inform public access policies and strategies, identifying key issues is a critical part of the planning process. The overview of the project context such as land uses, natural resources, and other topics summarized in “*Section 2: Project Area and Context*” when considered alongside the summary of the planning and policy framework outlined in “*Section 3: Policy and Planning Framework*” leads to consideration of key issues that provide context, opportunities, and challenges relative to the project vision, goals and the topics of public access and recreation.

The key issues are organized by the goals in the MRMP followed by issues aligned with other public access management considerations. This summary is based on input through the Public Access Advisory Team process, public comments provided at the Public Access Town Hall event, public comments received as part of the *Arch Cape Forest Multi-Resource Management Plan (MRMP)* development process, staff input from the ACDWSD and NCLC, review of existing information, site visit observations, and input from stakeholders including neighboring land managers and relevant public agencies (*Appendix A: Public Comment Regarding Public Access, Appendix F: Town Hall Summary*).

Water Resource Issues

Arch Cape Forest Management Goals:

Goal 1: Provide reliable quantities of high-quality drinking water

Goal 2: Retain affordable water

Sediment:

- Sediment and in-stream nutrients are a primary driver of water treatment costs.
- Sediment comes from a variety of sources, the most common being erosion within existing stream channels, extension of stream channels through the road ditch and drainage network, erosion from soil disturbance associated with logging, and mass wasting events or landslides.
- Road surfaces are a primary source of fine sediments that remain suspended in the water column are often the most costly and problematic issue for source water treatment systems as they can both clog systems and create disinfectant byproduct issues. Poor construction and maintenance both increase erosion and contribute to fine sediment runoff.
- Any form of soil disturbance, particularly those that expose mineral soil, can create sediment issues.
- Sediments from erosion can smother the eggs of trout and other fish that lay eggs in stream gravels, reducing reproductive success (Marion & Wimpey 2007)
- Sedimentation can hurt invertebrate organisms, which serve as food for fish and other creatures (Marion & Wimpey 2007)
- Some sediment may contain nutrients that can contribute to algal blooms that deplete the dissolved oxygen in water bodies when they die off (Marion & Wimpey 2007)

Related Public Access Issues:

- Off-trail/off-road recreation on poorly built or illegal trails use has the potential to increase soil disturbance and erosion; when trampling of vegetation occurs, plant

recovery can be very slow and can create a visible path that encourages other users, making rehabilitation more difficult (Headwater Economics 2018)

- Non-motorized recreation use of well-built, well-maintained roads is not likely to result in measurable increases in sedimentation in creeks.
- Natural surface trails create additional surface runoff and present a risk of fine sediment, which will remain suspended in the water column through most source water intake systems.
- Dispersed recreation, such as non-motorized trails for hiking and biking, tend to have more limited impacts on water quality, as they generally only affect small portions of the watershed (Headwater Economics 2018)
- Source water contamination due to human actions can have impacts on source water and treatment costs
- Recreation can bring risk of human waste, domestic animal waste, and trash/refuse affecting water sources. [Little research quantifies the impacts of recreation on water contamination, and it is difficult to differentiate whether the source of contamination is wild animals, domesticated animals, or humans (Headwater Economics 2018)]
- *Figure 7: Sensitive Areas* identifies the watersheds for Shark Creek and Asbury Creek which is the source drinking water area for ACDWSD

Community Issues

Arch Cape Forest Management Goals:

Goal 3: Engage the community in the forest

Community Identity, Sense of Place, and Quality of Life Issues

- Arch Cape community character and quality of life is largely based on the surrounding forests, beaches, and open space



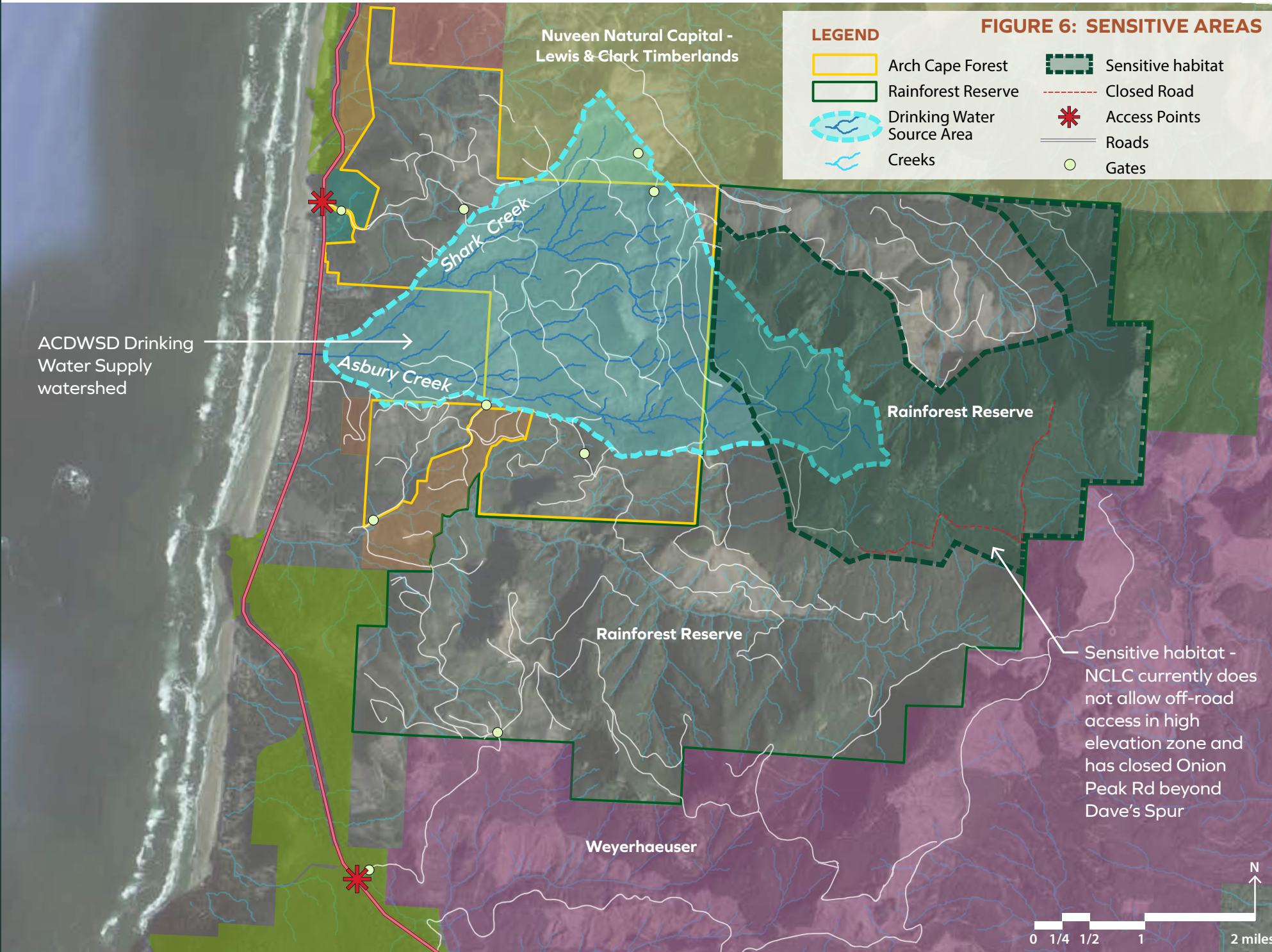
Example of where a culvert located under a logging road was removed. Without vegetation to stabilize the soil along the creek, erosion can increase.

- The Arch Cape Forest serves as a scenic backdrop from Arch Cape’s residential areas, beaches, and Highway 101
- The Arch Cape Forest provides scenic views of the coastal slopes, shoreline, headlands, and ocean due to the site’s elevational gradient and openings in the vegetation due to past timber harvesting.
- Sense of “ownership” of the forest by Arch Cape community members as water ratepayers
- Community interest in maintaining the current recreational experience which is part of the quality of life and character of Arch Cape Recreational uses and contact with nature contribute to mental and physical health for both residents and visitors

FIGURE 6: SENSITIVE AREAS

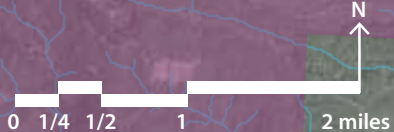
LEGEND

- Arch Cape Forest
- Rainforest Reserve
- Drinking Water Source Area
- Creeks
- Sensitive habitat
- Closed Road
- Access Points
- Roads
- Gates



ACDWS Drinking Water Supply watershed

Sensitive habitat - NCLC currently does not allow off-road access in high elevation zone and has closed Onion Peak Rd beyond Dave's Spur



Map prepared by the National Park Service - Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program for the Arch Cape Water District and North Coast Land Conservancy for the Arch Cape Forest and Rainforest Reserve Public Access Planning process. 6/8/23

Recreational User Conflict Issues

- Different types of recreational uses sometimes conflict. Often these are based in concerns about safety, resource impact, and social perceptions about different types of uses/users and “appropriate” user experiences
- Emerging technologies and types of recreation uses (ex. e-bikes, drones) can result in user conflicts due to the lack of history and knowledge of the type of use in addition to typical user conflict issues



Example of the type of parking off of Highway 101 at the Hug Point Road gate and Falcon Cove Road gate.

Historic/Cultural Use Issues

- Given the long history of indigenous communities and tribes throughout the region and on the North Coast, there is the potential for the presence of cultural resources, including culturally significant natural features, and potential for future cultural uses.

Tourism, Crowding, Traffic Issues

- Providing public information about the site while not “promoting” public access
- Community concerns about the increasing rate of tourism/visitors to the North Coast and resulting crowding of state parks, beaches, and other natural and outdoor recreation areas.
- Increased traffic and parking overflowing onto Highway 101 and into neighborhoods
- Limited access points into Arch Cape Forest with limited parking; limited feasibility to expand parking at access points
- Impacts to the historic recreation experience in the Arch Cape Forest from increased use

- Concerns about potential human-caused impacts to natural resources
- Social media and websites can catalyze significant interest and visitation of areas and distribute inaccurate information

Research and Education Issues

- Access for research and education could potentially increase erosion, vegetation damage, and other types of impacts related to off-trail/off-road access (as described earlier in this section)
- Given the natural resource goals/purposes of these sites, education can increase public stewardship and awareness.
- The sites provide many opportunities for research that can contribute to the general body of knowledge around community forests, natural resource issues, etc. while providing valuable information for managing these sites as well as other areas.
- Balancing access by groups engaging in research and education with concerns about crowding, parking, etc. and potential impacts to recreational user experiences

Compliance and Enforcement Support

- Public access and recreation provide greater awareness of forest conditions and public activities, which can both encourage compliance with rules and regulations and provide support for enforcement activities

Forest and Habitat Issues Arch Cape Forest Management Goals:

Goal 4: Retain and restore natural forest structures and aesthetics

Goal 5: Provide intact terrestrial and aquatic wildlife habitat

Plant Communities, Vegetation, and Wildlife Issues

- Sensitive plant habitat is found along rocky outcrops and ridges located at higher elevations of the Arch Cape Forest (and Rainforest Reserve)
- The Arch Cape Forest provides important habitat to a wide range of species due to location, proximity to protected forests, and forest ecology. Species present on the property or in streams flowing from the property include Roosevelt elk, deer, black bear, cougar, Coho and steelhead, numerous bird species, and a multitude of insects, fungi, and other organisms
- The properties are located between large areas of institutional and commercial forestland managed by ODF and private companies, Oswald West State Park, and saltwater marine habitat (including the Cape Falcon Marine Reserve) which creates unique ecological connectivity and a connection to both saltwater marine



- habitat as well as freshwater creeks and streams.
- The mosaic of forest stand characteristics and relatively intact forest ecological processes present on the Arch Cape Forest currently support important habitat with the potential for dramatically increased future habitat quality.
- Invasive plants present a competitive challenge to native vegetation by creating monoculture thickets, out competing native plants for light and moisture, and creating challenges for working forestry and source water.
- Fire can result in loss of vegetation and impacts to vegetation/forest complexity which by extension can impact water quality due to erosion, increased nutrients, increased temperature
- Fire can reduce the water retention properties of forests

- Post fire conditions affect aesthetic/visual qualities
- Air quality impairment during fire events
- Public safety/ loss of life and property as a result of fires
- *Figure 7: Sensitive Areas* identifies sensitive habitat area in the Rainforest Reserve

Related Public Access Issues

- Issues listed under “Sediment - Related Public Access Issues” can impact plant communities and vegetation
- Foraging of mushrooms, berries, and other plant materials is an historic use of the site and a common activity in the region
- Hunting, particularly elk and deer, has been an historic activity in the area and on the Arch Cape Forest property
- Human presence can flush/disturb wildlife; in one study, three ungulate species (bison, mule deer, and pronghorn antelope) exhibited a 70% probability of flushing from on-trail recreationalists within 100 m from trails, with 96% probability of mule deer flushing from off trail recreationalists (Taylor & Knight 2003).
- Invasive plant species can be brought in on footwear, tires, and domestic animals; invasive plant species can outcompete native vegetation and can negatively impact water quality (Headwater Economics 2018).
- Dogs can displace wildlife, cause disturbance/stress response, and cause direct and indirect wildlife mortality from pathogen transmission (such as Canine distemper virus, Toxoplasma sp., Neospora caninum, Giardia, and parvovirus) and dogs chasing wildlife (Costanzi 2021, Metro Parks 2016)
- Fire from human caused ignitions can result in vegetation loss and damage and changes to the characteristics of soil and result in increased erosion.
- Fire risk under high fire danger conditions related to weather and other conditions can result in closures to public access



A sign posted at the Hug Point Road gate area outlines “Public Use Restrictions During Fire Season” which outlines activities and whether there are restrictions during different levels of fire danger conditions.

Other Public Access-Related Issues

The following summary of issues do not explicitly align with MRMP goals but are important considerations for planning public access.

Forest Management Capacity Issues

The ACDWSD is a relatively small special district with an all-volunteer Board of Directors and two full-time

staff supplemented by contracted administrative services. Additional support for the Arch Cape Forest has been provided via partnerships with other organizations and contracted forestry and project management services. The Arch Cape Forest, as a community forest, has expanded the responsibilities of the ACDWSD, so capacity to support public access including monitoring and enforcement is an issue for the future.

While the special district may have limited capacity the community and partners have demonstrated through support of the acquisition of the Arch Cape Forest support for the vision and goals for the forest. Given this momentum and tangible support, there are opportunities to continue to foster and grow these relationships and leverage what the community and partners can bring to the table. Given the significant public investment in the forest via federal and state grants, this history can be leveraged to garner additional grant funding and technical assistance.

Other Non-Public Access Needs and Issues

As a community forest managed for multiple goals and objectives, there are access needs into Arch Cape Forest unrelated to public access and recreation. There are existing easements providing access through the forest to adjacent properties, forest stewardship access needs, access needs related to emergency management, and access needs related to other approved purposes such as radio repeater station access.



Acquisition of the Arch Cape Forest was supported by the community with many residents making donations to support the effort. The community celebrated successful completion of the acquisition.

Fees & Liability

One way organizations, agencies, and special districts support the expenses associated with providing for public access and recreation is by charging parking, entrance, or permit fees. While this can be a source of revenue, there are trade-offs related to liability issues.

The State of Oregon has regulations that provide liability immunities for landowners providing access for, "recreational purposes, gardening, woodcutting or the harvest of special forest products". If a fee is charged for these uses, the liability immunities do not apply. [ORS 105.672 - 105.696]

Any potential trade-offs related to charging fees and associated liability are important considerations should the ACDWSD consider fees in the future.

Access Issues (other than public access/recreation)

- Mainline roads need to remain fully open in accordance with existing easements and to prioritize full property access
- Coordination of access to locked gates (the MRMP provides policies and protocols for accessing keys to operate gate locks)
- Radio repeater station access to the station site in the Rainforest Reserve (accessed via the Arch Cape Forest) supports amateur radio emergency communications during power outages and disasters

Related Public Access Issues

- Community concerns about access by easement holders creating conflicts with Arch Cape Forest goals
- Potential conflicts between motorized access and non-motorized recreational users
- Arch Cape is in a hazard area for tsunamis and other natural disasters that may require emergency evacuation; with special district ownership of the forest, there may be opportunities to integrate forest access points and roads into the emergency evacuation plan (*Figure 8: Arch Cape Tsunami Evacuation Routes*)

Summary of Specific Public/ Recreation Use Issues

To understand potential issues associated with specific types of public use and recreation and to facilitate public and stakeholder discussion around these topics, a summary of potential issues as well as opportunities and challenges was prepared organized by public use type (*Table 5: Summary of Specific Public Recreation Uses and Related Issues*).

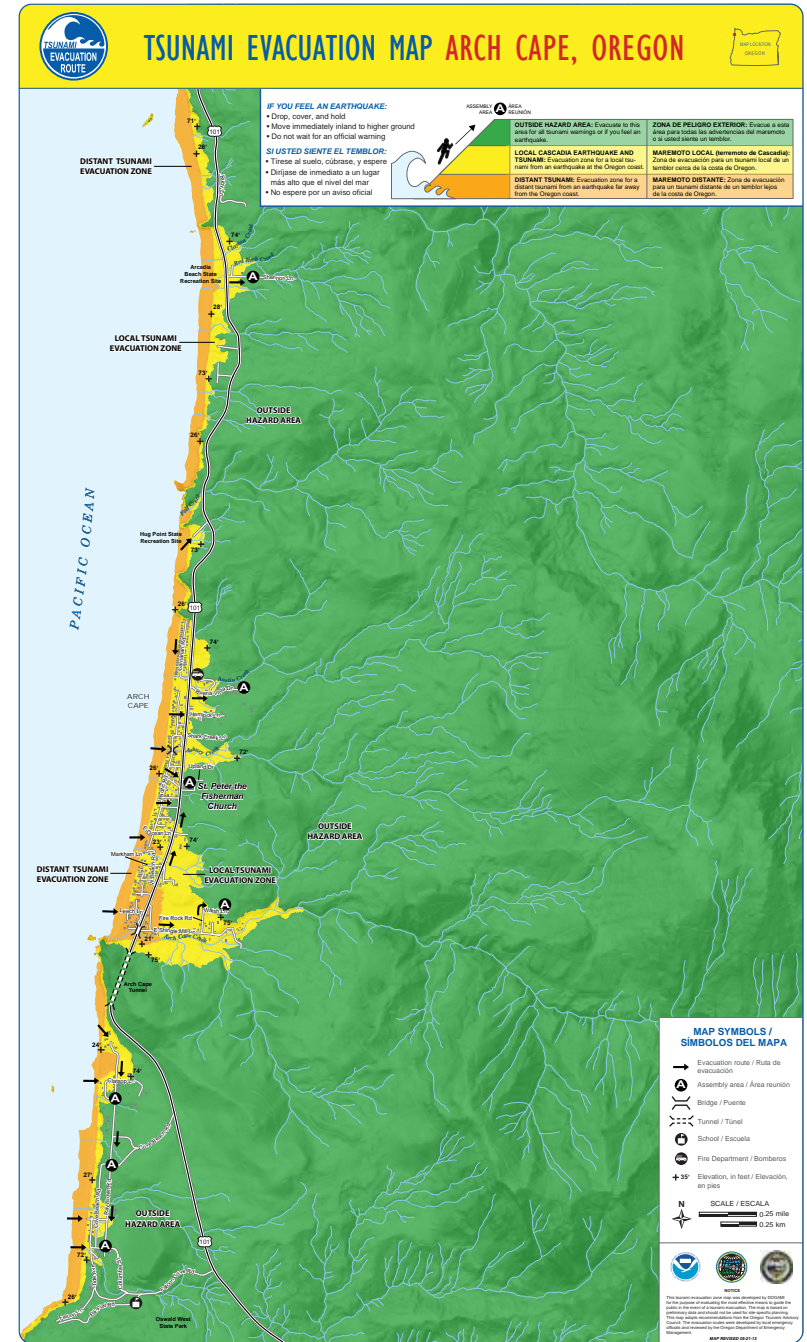


Figure 8: Arch Cape Tsunami Evacuation Routes (Oregon Dept of Geology and Mineral Industries 2022)

Table 5: Summary of Specific Public/Recreation Uses and Related Issues

Potential Public Use	Potential issues, concerns, challenges	Potential Opportunities, pros, benefits
Hunting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of a traditional use of the site and area Concern from hunters that they are being singled out or discriminated against Concerns about the loss of hunting adversely affecting elk populations and increases to human/wildlife conflicts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hunting can be a tool for managing wildlife populations, helping to reduce road strikes and conflicts between people/wildlife in residential areas. Oregon State Police provides patrol in hunting areas to check hunters and monitor compliance with land manager policies/regulations as part of their Access and Habitat Program Hunting can provide low cost food
Hiking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential increase in trash, erosion, water quality impacts from human waste, etc particularly off-road/off-trail hiking. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An additional recreation opportunity.
Biking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use on wet surfaces can result in rutting and erosion. High downhill speeds can be a safety issue for riders and other users. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The impacts of mountain biking on wildlife are similar to those of hikers and other non-motorized trail users. Mountain bikes appear to cause just as much damage, and in some cases less damage, than other modes of travel, such as hiking, on natural surface trails (FHWA 2022)
Fishing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential increase in erosion, soil, plant disturbance in accessing creeks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An additional recreation opportunity. Fishing can provide low cost food
Camping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential increase in trash, erosion, water quality impacts from human waste, potential increase in fire ignitions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An additional recreation opportunity
Dog walking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disturbance to wildlife Dog waste and potential water quality impacts from nutrients and fecal bacteria (British Ecological Society, Garfield & Walker 2008) Potential for invasive plant seeds to be dispersed by dog hair/coat. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dog walking can motivate people to use open space/trails
Equestrian uses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Soil displacement higher than hiking/biking. In one study (Marion & Olive 2006) mountain biking trails showed the least amount of erosion; by comparison, all-terrain vehicles displaced over 40 times more soil, horses over 26 times more soil, and hikers more than three times more soil. Potential for invasive plant seeds to be dispersed via hair, manure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Horses have historically been used by some hunters.

Table 5: Summary of Specific Public/Recreation Uses and Related Issues (continued)		
Potential Public Use	Potential issues, concerns, challenges	Potential Opportunities, pros, benefits
E-bikes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows users to travel at higher speed (Class I or pedal assist can reach 20 mph) which could be a safety issue and could affect the recreation experience of other users Facilitates longer distance access/bike rides, which could increase use in more remote areas of the site with any associated impacts. There is no significant difference in soil displacement due to the performance or speed of the rider between e-mountain bikes and conventional mountain bikes. However, the heavier weights of e-mountain bikes, when compared to conventional mountain bikes, can cause increased soil displacement in grade changes and turns (IMBA 2015) It can be difficult to distinguish between classes of e-bikes making enforcement challenging 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows for longer rides/access farther into more remote areas. Also allows more people the ability to ride farther/ longer. E-bikes have the potential to be helpful during emergencies Allows people with different abilities to access the property
Foraging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foraging removes and can disturb plant material Foraging activities might draw people away from roads/trails which can result in disturbance to wildlife, trampling of plants, erosion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides an opportunity to provide for nutrition, health, nature observation, etc. Provides low cost food
Firewood gathering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removes plant material from land Difficult to support without allowing motorized vehicle access Difficult to regulate what wood is removed May lead to cutting of live trees that should remain on the land 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides a resource to collectors Provides low cost heating for residents
Picnicking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential increase in trash Potential impacts to wildlife through access to human food 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An additional recreation opportunity
Nature observation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any impacts would likely be related to access, and any potential increases in trampling, soil displacement/erosion, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides an opportunity to learn, document observations for land managers, enjoy nature, etc.
Recreational drone use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can disturb wildlife Can disturb other recreation users (particularly noise, visual impacts) Fire risk Downed/lost drones and debris 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides opportunities to observe natural areas and take photos/videos

5

Public Access Objectives and Strategies

This section provides guidance for public access management for Arch Cape Forest. The first part outlines public access objectives organized by MRMP goals, followed by a series of supporting strategies. Because some strategies can be used to address multiple goals and objectives, the strategies are outlined in a table to illustrate alignment with different goals and objectives. The strategies are followed by an outline of public access policies for the Arch Cape Forest.

These plan components are defined as follows:

Goals: Broad statements of the outcomes that will need to occur in order for the community to achieve its vision

Objectives: Statements of outcomes that must be accomplished to achieve goals; objectives are more specific than goals and are often measurable and more time-limited

Strategies: Descriptions of how each objective will be accomplished; typically strategies are narrowly focused, quantifiable, and actionable.

Policies: Descriptions of rules and/or plans of action

Arch Cape Forest Goals and Public Access Objectives

The following is a summary of the MRMP goals, objectives, and policies followed by supporting public access-specific objectives.





Water Resources

Multi-Resource Management Plan:

Goal 1: Provide reliable quantities of high-quality drinking water

Goal 2: Retain affordable water

Objective 1: Protect and enhance the watershed, watershed resilience, and source water quality and quantity.

Objective 2: Protects the affordability of drinking water, which may include active timber harvest.

Policy (relevant to public access):

Road maintenance - The Arch Cape Forest will have a perpetual ownership responsibility of maintaining and monitoring a significant road network. The overall strategy will focus on minimizing risk of catastrophic failure and fine sediment mobilization while prioritizing mainline roads... Mainline and essential spurs will be maintained on a scheduled basis with repairs as needed... Road maintenance will focus on updating roads to current watershed best management practices.

Public Access Objective:

Provide for public access and recreation that minimizes erosion, sedimentation, and water contamination

Community Engagement

Multi-Resource Management Plan

Goal 3: Engage the community in the forest

Objective 3: Connect with the local community.

Policy (relevant to public access):

Given the MRMP specifies that public access will be decided upon separately through this public access planning process, there are no specific policies outlined relative to public access other than, “the legacy public access policy of past landowners will remain in place, as posted on the gates.”

Public Access Objectives:

1. Provide public access and recreation that are consistent with water resource, forest, and habitat goals and objectives for the Arch Cape Forest
2. Provide for public safety for those visiting the Arch Cape Forest
3. Maintain the recreational experience of low density, low intensity, low development, dispersed, non-motorized recreation in the Arch Cape Forest
4. Develop educational information to support forest goals and to facilitate resource protection, positive visitor experiences, and support for the Arch Cape Forest
5. Engage the community in monitoring and stewardship efforts
6. Coordinate with neighboring land managers to address public access and connectivity issues and to identify opportunities for collaboration.
7. Support educators and researchers in their efforts that further Arch Cape Forest goals

Forest and Habitat

Multi-Resource Management Plan

Goal 4: Retain and restore natural forest structure and aesthetics

Goal 5: Provide intact terrestrial and aquatic wildlife habitat

Objective 4: Retain and restore natural forest structure and species diversity.

Policies (relevant to public access):

Invasive Species: Arch Cape Forest will work with partners to utilize the best available science and treatments for the management of invasive species. Invasive species are an inevitable component of ecosystems on the Oregon Coast, but forest managers will strive to manage for native species and diverse ecological communities.

Public Access Objectives:

1. Minimize the opportunities of human-caused fire ignition in the Arch Cape Forest
2. Coordinate with neighboring land managers to inform the public of potential fire dangers and closures resulting from hazardous fire conditions.
3. Build public awareness about the benefits of healthy forest structure and intact terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems and how public use of the forest affects these benefits
4. Inform the public about the risks of invasive species to the Arch Cape Forest and measures they can take to minimize these risks

Forest Management Capacity

Goals: The MRMP does not establish forest management capacity goals, but outlines management actions related to this topic.

Public Access Objectives:

1. Adequately resource the Arch Cape Forest to meet the goals and objectives of the MRMP and Public Access Plan
2. Collaborate with neighboring land managers to support mutual goals
3. Maintain connections to the Pacific Northwest community forest network to stay engaged with best practices for community forest management and to share knowledge about the Arch Cape Forest with others

Other Non-Public Access Needs and Issues

Goals: The MRMP does not establish goals related to non-public access needs but outlines management actions related to this topic.

Public Access Objectives:

1. Minimize conflicts between management activities, public use, and recreation
2. Consider the Arch Cape Forest and road access in any future emergency and tsunami evacuation route planning

Strategies and Actions

The following table of strategies and actions outline specific ways the goals and objectives can be accomplished (*Table 6: Arch Cape Forest Public Access Strategies and Actions*).

Because some strategies and actions support multiple goals and objectives, the table identifies those goals each strategy or action supports. The strategies listed differ in time horizon, resources needed, and urgency, and do not need to be accomplished in the short-term. As outlined in “*Section 6: Implementation*”, assessing which strategies are highest priority and how to resource them will be a key next step for the ACDWSD.

Table 6: Arch Cape Forest Public Access Strategies and Actions					
Strategies & Actions	Goals 1 & 2 Water Quality & Affordability	Goal 3 Community Engagement	Goals 4 & 5 Forest Structure and Aesthetics & Wildlife Habitat	Forest Management Capacity	Other Non-Public Access Needs
Plans					
Develop 5-year operation plans and shorter-term work plans to support the goals and objectives of the public access plan – use the process to prioritize which strategies and actions need to be undertaken in the next five years	x	x	x	x	x
Prepare a monitoring plan for public-access related issues and objectives	x	x	x		x
Develop a signage plan in coordination with neighboring land managers that outlines appropriate visitor use, important safety information, timely access and management updates, and other information that supports forest goals while minimizing signage that “promotes” use	x	x	x	x	x
Plan for accessibility guidelines and strategies appropriate for the Arch Cape Forest and in compliance with accessibility laws and regulations within the first year of forest operations		x			
Projects					
<p>Implement MRMP and Ecological Roads Assessment recommendations to facilitate safe, lower-impact recreation. For roads recommended for abandonment or decommissioning, prior to deciding whether to close those roads to public access, evaluate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety conditions • Water and natural resource issues associated with keeping the road open to public access while excluding use as a road for motorized vehicles • The impact to public access and recreation uses (for example would closure of a segment or the road network significantly impact the recreation experience by eliminating popular or loop routes) • Operational trade-offs: closing a road is not a passive activity as physical barriers (including possible vegetation), signage, monitoring, and public education are all required. However, keeping the road open for non-motorized public use will require monitoring for any new safety issues, periodic brushing, and other maintenance activities to keep the route open and safe. 	x		x		

Table 6: Arch Cape Forest Public Access Strategies and Actions (continued)					
Strategies & Actions	Goals 1 & 2 Water Quality & Affordability	Goal 3 Community Engagement	Goals 4 & 5 Forest Structure and Aesthetics & Wildlife Habitat	Forest Management Capacity	Other Non-Public Access Needs
Projects (continued)					
Identify and close unofficial trails	x		x		
Restore vegetation and habitat on closed unofficial trails as quickly as possible to avoid soil compaction and continued use	x	x	x		
Where roads cross creeks, assess conditions to identify need for barriers to keep the public out of the creek corridors; where intervention is needed, maintain vegetation buffers between road edges and creeks where there are road drainage crossings to deter the public from leaving the roads to access the creeks; where vegetation buffers are not practical or conflict with other management goals, consider physical barriers such as fencing or railing.	x		x		
Provide watershed identification signs along roads where they cross watershed boundaries to raise awareness of the different watersheds in the Arch Cape Forest (include as part of a signage plan)	x	x			
Provide markings to delineate parking spaces at Hug Point Rd entry gate		x		x	
Install boot brushes at Arch Cape Forest access points to remove foreign plant materials and seeds; and make users aware of the potential spread of invasive plant seeds on footwear, gear, and in dog's fur/hair and the impacts of invasive plants.	x	x	x	x	
Policies					
Limit recreation to dispersed uses such as non-motorized trail use, to minimize impacts to water quality, vegetation, and wildlife	x		x		
Utilize the maintained road network for recreational use. Limiting most public access to the maintained road network will significantly reduce any additional monitoring and maintenance activities associated with public access and recreation due to the road management strategies already identified in the MRMP and Ecological Roads Assessment.	x		x	x	

Table 6: Arch Cape Forest Public Access Strategies and Actions (continued)					
Strategies & Actions	Goals 1 & 2 Water Quality & Affordability	Goal 3 Community Engagement	Goals 4 & 5 Forest Structure and Aesthetics & Wildlife Habitat	Forest Management Capacity	Other Non-Public Access Needs
Policies (continued)					
Exclude public access within 25 ft. of any stream with the exception of access along maintained roads	x		x		
Close the Arch Cape Forest to public access during high fire danger conditions in alignment with neighboring land managers providing public access so the same standards are followed for consistency and public information/understanding		x		x	
Coordination, Collaboration, and Partnerships					
Engage indigenous communities and tribes to assess their interests in the Arch Cape Forest and collaboratively develop any strategies for addressing these interests.		x		x	x
Identify additional potential governmental, non-profit, academic, and community partners to help with ACDWSD management capacity.	x	x	x	x	
Collaborate with adjacent landowners/land managers who manage public access to coordinate and identify opportunities for partnerships that meet mutual goals and needs.	x	x	x	x	x
Coordinate with ODOT to ensure appropriate signage is provided to prohibit overflow parking along Highway 101		x		x	
Obtain any needed permits for ODOT for Highway 101 ingress/egress at Hug Point Road		x		x	
Consult with ODFW regarding language and wording of hunting rules for the Arch Cape Forest to ensure consistent terminology is used to minimize confusion.		x		x	x
Coordinate with adjacent landowners/managers prior to proceeding with new road abandonments or decommissioning for routes that connect properties	x	x	x	x	x
Coordinate with Clatsop County to include bike/pedestrian connections to Hug Point Rd gate in future bicycle/pedestrian planning for the Arch Cape community to provide safe, non-motorized community access to the forest and minimize parking pressure at this entrance.		x		x	

Table 6: Arch Cape Forest Public Access Strategies and Actions (continued)					
Strategies & Actions	Goals 1 & 2 Water Quality & Affordability	Goal 3 Community Engagement	Goals 4 & 5 Forest Structure and Aesthetics & Wildlife Habitat	Forest Management Capacity	Other Non-Public Access Needs
Programs					
Assess feasibility of establishing a community-based “Friends of the Arch Cape Forest” type organization to provide support to ACDWSD	x	x	x	x	
Target the Arch Cape community in communications about public access information and updates		x			
Provide information about public restrooms closest to Arch Cape Forest at the Hug Point Road entrance and in any public information about public access.	x	x	x	x	
Provide information about policies, rules, safety, etc. at the Hug Point Road entrance to the Arch Cape Forest	x	x	x	x	
Inform the public that non-public access takes place in the Arch Cape Forest		x			x
Provide advanced public information about planned forest/ road closures and motorized access to the Arch Cape Forest for forest management activities		x			x
Provide relevant “Leave No Trace” information to the public and encourage them to apply these principles when visiting the Arch Cape Forest (<i>Appendix G: Leave No Trace Principles</i>)	x	x	x	x	
Provide educational materials about water quality threats related to public access and how members of the public can contribute to water resource protection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signs • Website info 	x	x	x	x	
Manage trash and waste (including biological waste) through communication and education by developing and providing educational information	x	x	x	x	
Engage the public in monitoring invasive species	x	x	x	x	
Establish mechanisms for the public to document and report site conditions of concern to ACDWSD.	x	x	x	x	

Table 6: Arch Cape Forest Public Access Strategies and Actions (continued)					
Strategies & Actions	Goals 1 & 2 Water Quality & Affordability	Goal 3 Community Engagement	Goals 4 & 5 Forest Structure and Aesthetics & Wildlife Habitat	Forest Management Capacity	Other Non-Public Access Needs
Programs (continued)					
Work with partners to identify existing digital tools to enable the public to assist with data collection that can support forest management efforts.	x	x	x	x	
Monitor short-term rental and lodging advertising for information about the Arch Cape Forest and reach out to those advertising the ACF to build awareness of limiting factors affecting visitor capacity (i.e. parking limitation, lack of infrastructure/amenities, etc.)	x	x	x	x	
Work with partners to monitor trail-related social media sites and websites that have user generated data so that ACDWSD can request removal of inappropriate/inaccurate information		x		x	
Develop policies and procedures for facilitating education and research requests and activities		x		x	

Public Access and Recreation Policies

Prior to drafting signage or public information to communicate these policies, the final language for the following policies and rules should reflect best practices regarding effective communication and compliance.

- Public access into the Arch Cape Forest is via the Hug Point Road gate or through adjacent properties with public access
- Public access is permitted one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset.
- Expect closures during fire season and when forest management operations are taking place in an area.
- Areas with sensitive natural resources may be marked as no access.
- “Pack it in, pack it out”. All trash/waste (including human solid waste) must be removed by user. People are encouraged to use “Leave No Trace” principles.
- Bicycles (non e-bikes) must stay on maintained, rocked roads. No use off-road. No creating new trails.
- E-bikes (as defined by the State of Oregon code ORS801.258¹) are allowed in the Arch Cape Forest. E-bikes must stay on maintained, rocked roads. No use off-road. No creating new trails. (Note that per ODFW regulations e-bikes may not be used for hunting).²
- Hunting is allowed in the Arch Cape Forest consistent with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) regulations. Trapping is not allowed.³
- Fishing is allowed and must follow Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) regulations.
- Recreational foraging, including plant leaves and flowers, mushroom, and berry collection, is allowed for personal, non-commercial use. Removal of wood products is not allowed.
- Dogs are allowed in the Arch Cape Forest on-leash or under direct owner control. Dog waste must be removed.⁴
- Horses are not allowed.
- No camping.
- No alcohol/drug use or possession.

¹ State of Oregon’s Definition of e-bikes in ORS801.258 is:

“Electric assisted bicycle” means a vehicle that:

- (1) Is designed to be operated on the ground on wheels;
- (2) Has a seat or saddle for use of the rider;
- (3) Is designed to travel with not more than three wheels in contact with the ground;
- (4) Has both fully operative pedals for human propulsion and an electric motor; and
- (5) Is equipped with an electric motor that:
 - (a) Has a power output of not more than 1,000 watts; and
 - (b) Is incapable of propelling the vehicle at a speed of greater than 20 miles per hour on level ground. [1997 c.400 §2; 1999 c.59 §233]

² E-bikes are not allowed in the Rainforest Reserve (draft NCLC policy pending finalizing of the Rainforest Reserve public access plan)

³ Hunting in the Rainforest Reserve is limited to elk and deer (draft NCLC policy pending finalizing of the Rainforest Reserve public access plan).

⁴ Dogs are not allowed in the Rainforest Reserve (draft NCLC policy pending finalizing of the Rainforest Reserve public access plan).

Other Future Considerations

The following topics warrant follow-up planning and are summarized below.

Communicating with the Community

Communicating with the community will be essential in meeting the goals of the Arch Cape Forest relative to public access given the limited infrastructure and lack of capacity to provide formal patrol and enforcement in the forest. Education and carefully crafted relevant messaging can both inform forest users and inspire and motivate them to engage with the forest in a way that meet the forest goals. By forging an understanding of how the forest provides benefits to them through providing clean, affordable water, scenic resources, healthy forests, and opportunities to connect with nature, the community will be more likely to want to support the vision and goals for the forest through their actions. Education and opportunities to engage in stewardship help to improve behavior and actions of individuals to support resource protection goals (Headwater Economics 2018).

Community Stewardship

The community's action to acquire the Arch Cape Forest for various values is an indication that there is already strong community support to fulfill the vision for the forest. Building from this existing sense of ownership for the forest and communication and education efforts, there are opportunities to transform the community's support for the forest into stewardship action. Given the limited capacity of the ACDWSD, it will be critical to engage the community and partners in collaboratively stewarding the forest to achieve the forest goals.

Volunteerism is one way to engage the community in stewardship, but while volunteers expand capacity, it takes resources to plan for and coordinate volunteer support. By

Permits as a Management Tool

While this public access plan does not include any specific recommendations about developing a permit system, this information is included for reference purposes should permit be considered at a future date.

Permits are a type of tool that is used for managing public access and recreation. This enables land managers to communicate with permittees as needed while providing information to land managers about how permittees are using the property. Permits can be provided at no-cost or for a fee. Nuveen Natural Capital - Lewis & Clark Timberlands has a no-cost permit system for their adjacent property to the north, while Weyerhaeuser, which owns property adjacent to the Rainforest Reserve, charges a permit fee.

Some of the benefits of a permit system include:

- The ability to communicate with users regarding closures and conditions
- Having a record of who is using the site
- Having a tool for gathering information from user about types of uses, how often they use the site, etc. Which can help with management decisions and future planning

Some of the potential challenges of a permit system include:

- The cost of setting up and operating a permit system (note that Nuveen uses a contractor for these services which has a system already in place that could be a model), especially if it will be a no-cost permit in order to retain liability immunities per Oregon State statutes
- Permit systems can deter users from using the site, especially if the process for obtaining a permit takes time

engaging partners with experience working with volunteers or community members with this experience, the ACDWSD can build capacity for forest stewardship.

Signage

Signage is a common communication tool for providing important safety and rules/regulatory information, while enhancing user experiences by providing wayfinding and information about the site. They also help to set expectations for users about the experiences they will have in the forest.

Through this planning process, the community generally expressed a desire to minimize facilities and signs to retain the character of the forest and user experiences. This can be accomplished while still providing essential information to users by crafting a sign plan. The purpose of a sign plan is to ensure that all signs work in concert and in support of the communication goals of the ACDWSD. A sign plan will also help ensure that signs are routinely maintained and promptly replaced as required.

Some of the functions and content of signs include:

- Site identification such as entry signage communicating the name of the site and landowner
- Visitor information such as regulations and rules, resource protection, safety information, and maps

- Wayfinding information such as trail/road identification, mile markers, and directional information
- Boundary markers which can identify boundaries of landownership and watershed boundaries
- Funder information – some funders and grant programs require acknowledgement in public signage and have specific guidance about graphics and language to include. For example, the Forest Legacy Program, which funded a portion of the Arch Cape Forest acquisition, has signage requirements which are outlined in the “Forest Legacy Program Implementation Guidelines” for guidance and link to their graphics/logo.

A sign plan includes a list of all signs in or relating to a site or property that will be installed and maintained by the land manager, as well as a map of all sign locations. This includes an inventory of all existing signs and any proposals for changing, removing, or adding additional signs and all attributes of a sign including location, type, purpose, content, physical characteristics (of structure, sign, panel, and mounting assembly), and physical condition. Uniform design of colors, fonts, use of logos, and other elements are also identified in a sign plan to ensure that the system of signs is uniform.

Implementation

While this public access planning process occurred separately from the earlier development of the Multi-Resource Management Plan (MRMP), management of these topics will be integrated into the overall forest management framework moving forward.

Operating Plans and Work Plans

As outlined in the MRMP, annual and 5-year operating plans will play a key role in all future forest management activities including harvest, road maintenance, recreation, invasive plant treatment, and thinning activities. As part of their responsibilities, the new 3-member Arch Cape Forest Management Committee will recommend periodic (5-year) operating plans to the Board and will work with managers and consultants to execute operating plans. Public access and recreation issues should be integrated into this work. Eventual decision making and approval of operating plans will continue to require approval from the Board.

In moving forward with implementing the public access plan objectives and strategies, some steps could include:

- Identify any immediate public safety risks and short-term threats to natural resources resulting from public access and mitigate these risks and threats
- Develop and apply criteria for prioritizing strategies and actions
- Evaluate the resource and capacity needs to implement each strategy or action and identify any gaps in resources and capacity

- Explore and pursue opportunities to leverage additional needed resources and capacity via partnerships, grants, volunteers, etc.
- Develop operating and work plans

Monitoring and Adaptive Management

Without monitoring, managers cannot determine whether their management strategies and actions are effective. Monitoring shows how conditions change over time, including the rate and magnitude of change, and the extent to which goals established for the property are being met, and if not, how and to what extent. In this way, monitoring provides a rich and more complete picture to determine whether new or modified management actions are needed to achieve and maintain goals and objectives (IVUMC 2019).

Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring

One potential strategy for monitoring conditions of the Arch Cape Forest includes use of volunteers.

The State of Oregon's Department of Environmental Quality has a Volunteer Monitoring Program to engage people in identifying and solving water quality problems. The program provides support via technical assistance with monitoring design, equipment use, data management, and analysis. Volunteer groups that participate in the program are eligible for high quality monitoring equipment on loan. Information about the program can be found at the program's website.

Given the multiple goals for the Arch Cape Forest, monitoring public access and potential impacts will be critical to meet water resource and forest/natural resource goals. With limited capacity as a special district, strategies to engage and leverage support from the community and partners will be critical.

To facilitate effective monitoring of public access and related issues, any monitoring plans for the forest related to water and natural resource goals should incorporate monitoring needs related to public access. As part of a monitoring plan, strategies for establishing baseline data that can be used for measuring change should be defined and collected. Monitoring is a management activity that provides opportunities for engaging students or interested citizens who want to be involved in data collection, with coordination and evaluation support from resource professionals. In order to monitor, baseline data that can be used for measuring any potential changes over time is an important tool. As such, these data should be collected prior to implementing any management changes. Once this information is understood, defining metrics and thresholds for management intervention will be important for guiding future management actions.

Based on the goals, objectives, and strategies for public access, the following are potential topics for monitoring:

- Parking issues including parking along the highway outside of the designated areas on Hug Point Road
- Public access parking at Shingle Mill Rd
- Vandalism to gates, signage, and other infrastructure
- Damage to natural resources such as dumping/litter, social trails and trampling of vegetation, water contamination (including visible erosion/social trails near creeks or drainages; measurable water quality parameters), damage to vegetation from unpermitted

Arch Cape Forest Governance

The MRMP outlines governance for the Arch Cape Forest as follows:

“The District Board of Directors (“Board”) holds ultimate decision-making responsibility for the Arch Cape Forest. The Board has financial responsibility for Arch Cape Forest Operating Budget. A new 3-member Arch Cape Forest Management Committee (separate from the Forest Management Advisory Committee, which was responsible for this plan) has responsibility for working within that Budget to determine an optimum approach for executing the budget (e.g. staff, consultant, vendors, partnerships) and working with staff / consultants / vendors / partners to execute the operating plan.

Following acquisition, a new 3-member Arch Cape Forest Management Committee will recommend periodic (5-year) operating plans to the Board and will work with managers and consultants to execute operating plans.

Eventual decision making and approval of operating plans requires approval from the Board. The Board has overall responsibility for the management of the Arch Cape Forest. The Arch Cape Forest will be established as a separate, distinct business unit. As such, the Arch Cape Forest will maintain separate financial controls and reporting. These will include business unit specific long-range operating & financial plans, annual budgets, bank accounts, and financial reporting (e.g., balance sheet, income statement, and cash flow statement). Both Arch Cape Forest and the existing Water business units will report to the Board. Both business units will follow Board approved policies in accordance with State of Oregon law & Special District guidelines.”

harvesting, collecting, and other activities; invasive plants; dogs off-leash/out of owner's voice control, and impacts to wildlife

- Crowding, can be subjective, but measurable indicators such as numbers of cars parked and the number of people encountered in the forest can be used
- Social media mentions and appearances in online public information
- Number and linear distances of social trails
- Impacts from dispersed uses that may take place off the maintained roads such as foraging, fishing, and hunting
- As maintained roads are recommended to be the only official routes for public access and recreation use, monitoring and maintenance of roads is addressed as part of other forest management activities
- Recreational user conflicts



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