



Proposed Rainforest Reserve acquisition

SUMMARY

In 1951 Oregon's first parks superintendent expressed his dream of expanding Oswald West and Nehalem Bay state parks to include the adjacent coastal-fronting peaks, creating what he characterized as one of the nation's most "outstanding natural parks." Sixty-five years later, North Coast Land Conservancy and its partners are now poised to achieve Sam Boardman's vision. The foundation has been already laid, with conservation of the summit of Onion Peak and creation of Ecola Creek Forest Reserve and Cape Falcon Marine Reserve. The moment has arrived to permanently protect the spectacular landscape we call the Coastal Edge.

KEY MESSAGES

- In 2016 NCLC secured a partner—Onion Peak Holdings LLC—to create an opportunity to purchase critical lands for conservation within the Coastal Edge Initiative target area.
- NCLC is raising funds to purchase what it calls the Rainforest Reserve in two phases. Together Phases 1 and 2 include Onion Peak, most of the Angora Peak complex, and nearly all of the Arch Cape Creek watershed: 3500 acres of rare plants, venerable forest, cold, clear, salmon-bearing streams, and the headwaters of creeks that supply drinking water to many people in Cannon Beach and Arch Cape.
- NCLC and Onion Peak Holdings LLC are working to facilitate a community-based conservation outcome for the remainder of the watershed that supplies the Arch Cape Water District with drinking water—land now owned by Onion Peak Holdings but outside the proposed Rainforest Reserve.

ABOUT THE COASTAL EDGE INITIATIVE

The Coastal Edge Initiative, of which the Rainforest Reserve is a part, is focused on conserving coastal lands from Tillamook Head to Neahkahnie Mountain and Nehalem Spit, *a region characterized by:*

- Steep, forested hillsides where most creeks empty not into an estuary (where freshwater and saltwater mingle) but directly into the ocean, nurturing a unique population of salmon.
- High-elevation rocky "balds" with unique ecosystems and rare or unusual plants.
- Existing conserved lands (three large state parks, a community forest reserve, several NCLC habitat reserves, a state marine reserve) that create opportunities for large landscape-scale conservation and habitat connectivity through acquisition of adjacent lands.

Goals of the Coastal Edge Initiative:

- Create long-landscape conservation by creating connections between existing conserved lands.
- Conserve entire (or nearly so) watersheds.
- Protect rocky balds and the plant and animal communities they support.
- Restore mature, mixed-age temperate rainforest habitat.
- Protect drinking water sources and store carbon.