



Restoring a Forest

Boneyard Ridge is a 340-acre habitat reserve that sprawls out across Tillamook Head, one of the most beloved and iconic landmarks on the northern Oregon Coast.

NCLC Finishes 5-Year Project on Boneyard Ridge

This winter, North Coast Land Conservancy's stewardship team completed the last phase of a five-year forest restoration project on Boneyard Ridge, a roughly 340-acre habitat reserve atop Tillamook Head in Clatsop County.

"Our approach is to encourage as

diverse a forest as possible, so the trees, plants, and animals can adapt to a changing environment as they need to," Stewardship Director Melissa Reich says.

NCLC purchased Boneyard Ridge in 2018, with the intent to restore it from a tree farm to a healthy forest and

create a connected conservation corridor from Ecola State Park to Circle Creek Conservation Center to the Necanicum River. The team started the project in 2019, tackling this massive effort in three distinct phases involving different units of the forest.

(continued on page 3)

MARINE DEBRIS SURVEYS BEGIN AT CAPE FALCON SITE

In January, NCLC started a new community science program at Cape Falcon Marine Reserve that involves conducting marine debris surveys at the beach in Arch Cape.

The survey site is part of the Marine Debris Monitoring and Assessment Project (MDMAP), which is managed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

The project is used to globally track marine debris and get a sense for what is washing up, where, and what time of year. This can provide insight into the main drivers of marine debris in different areas of the world.

"All of that data is used to understand what is washing up, how it affects the wildlife, where we need to focus our attention, and the ultimate

(continued on page 3)



PARTNERING FOR CONSERVATION ON THE COAST

Family and community have been pillars of Coaster Construction since its establishment five decades ago. When father-son team John and Joel Nelson took ownership of the company in 2019, they continued that tradition.

“We’re really rooted in the area, in the community,” Joel says. “Even though Cannon Beach has changed a lot over the years, our big thing is being involved in the community and helping out.”

John adds, “Coaster has always been a huge supporter of many different things.”

They give back in multiple ways, from being the title sponsor of Cannon Beach’s annual Sandcastle Contest to supporting local schools and educational programs.

Since Joel and John took ownership of the company, conservation has become another cause they support at the local level, with Coaster Construction being a sponsor of NCLC’s prime fundraising event, CoastWalk Oregon, three years in a row now.

“You guys were something new we personally took on,” Joel says.

“OUR BIG THING IS BEING INVOLVED IN THE COMMUNITY AND HELPING OUT.”



John and Joel Nelson took ownership of Coaster Construction in 2019.

This was a natural development for a father-son team with deep ties to the community and a love for the coast’s natural environments.

John has been a resident since the 1960s, when his parents moved to the area and his father established Coaster Properties with the Clark family to start developing downtown Cannon Beach.

That makes Joel a third-generation resident as well. Besides a brief stint in the Portland-metro area, where he went to school for construction management and then worked in commercial construction for a few years, Joel has made Cannon Beach his home.

Both father and son spend a great deal of time in the outdoors to fish, bike, hunt, and hike. They’re also avid surfers and watermen.

When asked about their favorite

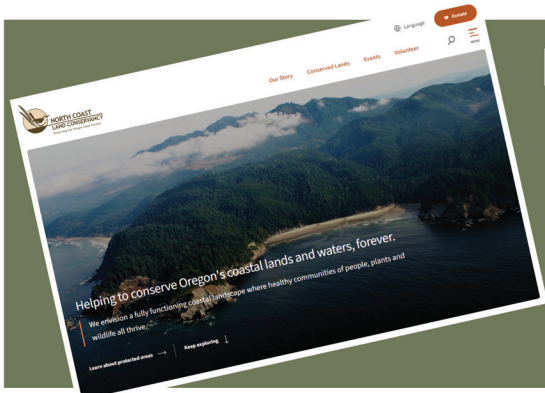
spot on the coast, they had several answers: Angora Peak, Hug Point, Sugarloaf Mountain, the Punchbowl.

“Everybody looks at this area as the ocean, but there’s so much more to it than that,” Joel says. “It’s just really beautiful everywhere.”

With a deep relationship to outdoor recreation, the Nelsons see the value of preserving wild places, particularly on the Oregon Coast, according to Joel, who has spent innumerable hours in the woods east of Cannon Beach and visited various NCLC reserves.

As the business is also big on family values—“We call it our Coaster family,” Joel says, adding their “family first” ethic extends to clients, as well as employees—there’s a desire to help ensure that beautiful natural spaces can stay protected for future generations.

“It’s cool knowing they’re always going to be there,” he adds.



NCLC Website Gets a Makeover!

If you’ve visited NCLCtrust.org recently, you’ve probably noticed it has a new look! We hope it will be easier for you to interact with us online, whether you are looking for upcoming events and volunteer opportunities, wanting to make a donation, or simply getting to know us better.



Jesse Jones, with CoastWatch, and NCLC volunteer Ed Joyce conduct a marine debris survey at the beach along Cape Falcon Marine Reserve.



MARINE DEBRIS

(continued from page 1)

goal of the program is to keep our marine environment clean and our water healthy,” Marine Program Coordinator Angela Whitlock says.

The site itself covers 100 square yards. However, during the surveys,

volunteers monitor four transects—or 5-yard segments—from the back of the beach down to the waterline. These transects are generated randomly and, ideally, the site is monitored on a monthly basis.

NCLC can use volunteers to help with this community science project, along with the others that take place

at Cape Falcon Marine Reserve, including sea star surveys and Portland Audubon’s annual Black Oystercatcher Project.

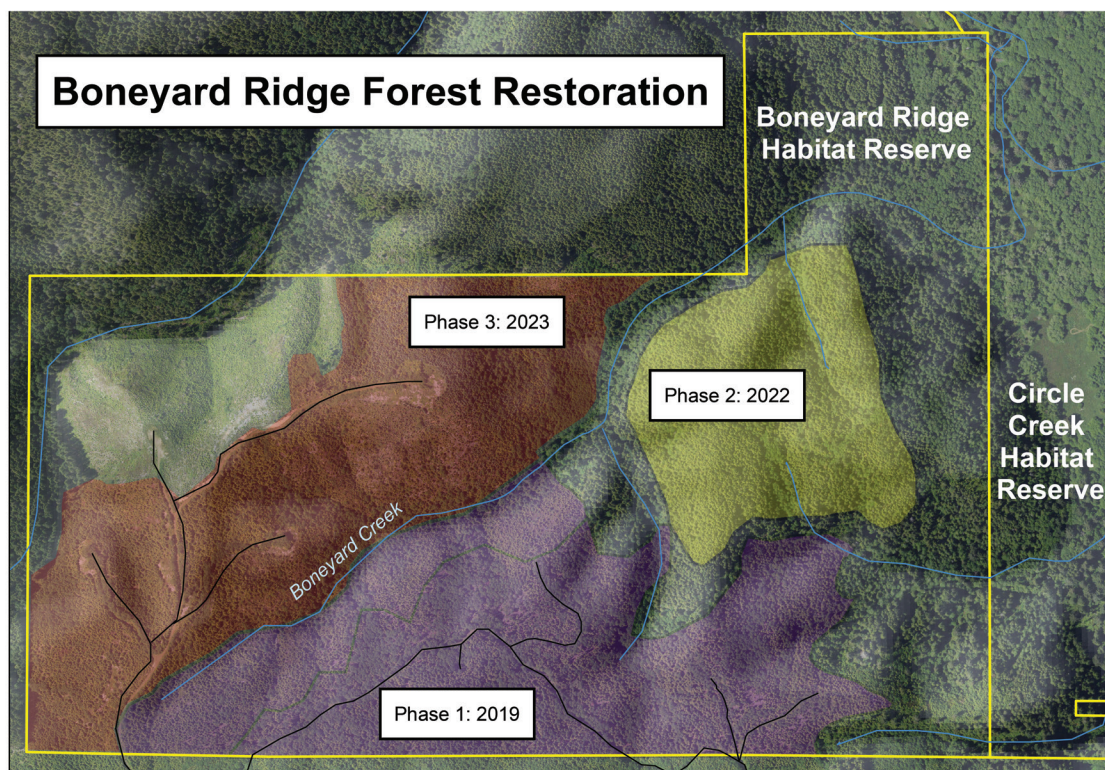
If you’re interested, contact Angela at angelaw@NCLCtrust.org. Read more about the marine debris project at NCLCtrust.org/news/cape-falcon-marine-debris-surveys.

BONEYARD

(continued from page 1)

In general, the project involved thinning 212 acres of overstocked (or overly dense) forest, creating gaps (or openings) for wildlife habitat, and planting for species diversity. However, the team prescribed varied thinning treatments for each forest unit in Boneyard Ridge based on the age and density of the trees on the landscape.

The goal was to create natural forest conditions, considering how the forest might have developed over time without industrial logging. For example, using other coastal forests that were not logged and replanted as a guide to the types of disturbances that shape these forests.



On this part of the Oregon Coast, wind events and landslides are the most common types of natural disturbance, as opposed to fire, which more greatly

affects areas east of the coastal Sitka-spruce zone. “We’re mimicking what wind does naturally to jumpstart the restoration project and set the for-

est on the right trajectory to becoming healthy and robust,” Melissa says. Read the full story at NCLCtrust.org/news/boneyard-ridge-project-complete.

*Helping to conserve
Oregon's coastal
lands and waters,
forever.*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*Betsy Ayres, President
Kevin Brownlee, Vice President
Ron Logan, Treasurer
Tom Horning, Secretary
John Mersereau
Randall Henderson
Tammi Lesh
Vianne Patterson
Layton Borkan*

NCLC STAFF

*Executive Director
Katie Voelke
Associate Director
Jon Wickersham
Stewardship Director
Melissa Reich
Development Director
Kassia Nye
Community Programs Director
Lynette Villagomez
Conservation Manager
Morgan deMoll
Stewardship Managers
Eric Owen
Colin Meston
Marine Program Coordinator
Angela Whitlock
Communications Manager
Katherine Lacaze
Office Manager
Chris Mathison
Stewardship Assistant
Callista Martin*

MAILING ADDRESS

*P.O. Box 67
Seaside, OR 97138*

PHYSICAL ADDRESS

*2609 N. Roosevelt Drive
Seaside, OR 97138*

CONTACT US

nclc@NCLCtrust.org



CoastWalk Oregon 2024



Catch Your Inspiration

CoastWalk Oregon will take place this year from Sept. 20 to 22. We will be walking about 30 miles of the Oregon Coast Trail between Ecola State Park and Nehalem Bay State Park. Registration opens April 1! Check out CoastWalkOregon.org for route descriptions and other details.

THE FOREST REMEMBERS: HONORING LOVED ONES

Each spring, our staff, board and volunteers, along with members of the public, gather together for a special program we call The Forest Remembers, honoring friends and loved ones who are no longer with us.

We read aloud the names of all those who have been honored with memorial gifts to NCLC, this year and throughout our history. As the list grows, we are reminded of the human community that surrounds and connects us all.

In 2024, The Forest Remembers event will take place at 11 a.m. Saturday, May 4, at Fort Clatsop. The public is invited to attend.



Lorraine Ortiz reads names aloud during The Forest Remembers in 2023. For updates on this year's event, visit nclctrust.org/events.

Stay current and engaged by following North Coast Land Conservancy on Facebook and Instagram



*Find us on the web at
NCLCtrust.org*

