



Arch Cape Forest News

The good news and major milestones just keep coming! The Arch Cape Forest fundraising campaign is succeeding thanks to Arch Cape Domestic Water Supply District partners, funders, and individual donors. The property appraisal is complete, determining the property's value. Recreation and land stewardship planning is underway.

Funding

Previously, the Water District received a \$3.5 million in grants from the US Forest Service via Oregon Department of Forestry. Our project partners at North Coast Land

Conservancy have generously satisfied the match funding requirement of the grant by offering a portion of the Rainforest Reserve property to cover the \$1.7 Million "match" required by the Forest Legacy Program. This important partnership of "2 Projects / 1 Vision" successfully anchors full use of the \$3.5 million to go towards the Arch Cape Forest property purchase.

The District was also awarded \$100,000 from the Oregon Community Foundation and Clatsop County has provided \$250,000. In 2021, the Water District received preliminary word that we were in line to receive an additional \$2 million of federal funding from the American Rescue Plan through Business Oregon. In January 2022, we received news that the funds will be awarded. We expect to have a contract in hand shortly.

Individuals have given generously. So far, 122 households have donated nearly \$280,000. We are humbled by the support from our community. Thank you to all who have contributed! We continue to welcome gifts. Get info at archcapeforest.org/donate

Acquisition

In January 2022, the Water District received the property appraisal. It was completed by an independent appraiser with expertise in large acreage forest properties like the Forest. The appraisal was reviewed by our funder agency, the US Forest Service, to ensure its accuracy. The seller has accepted the appraised value as the purchase price if the District proceeds with the purchase. That decision will be made at the March 16 Board meeting, following a Town Hall (live and on Zoom) on March 12 and a Public Hearing at the Board meeting.

Management

Now that the Water District has the purchase price and we have raised funding for the purchase and some initial road and forest work, the Finance Committee has reconvened to establish a definitive path for management and operations of the Forest in perpetuity. The updated Finance Plan will be reviewed and discussed at the February 17 Board meeting.

Our partner, North Coast Land Conservancy (NCLC) recently received an Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) grant to do an ecological road assessment of both their Rainforest Reserve and the Arch Cape Forest. The grant will help the Water District better manage the road system for clean drinking water and wildlife habitat.

Together with NCLC and neighbor Greenwood Resources, Water District staff and volunteers are working with the National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program to do recreation planning for the Forest. We will be soliciting public input on recreation in 2022.

Learn More: Visit archcapeforest.org; attend the monthly online board meetings.