

Arch Cape Forest & Rainforest Reserve Public Access Management Plan

Interim Public Access Policies

Draft 2/1/23

The following is a summary of the previous owner's, Ecotrust Forest Management's, recreation and public access policies that were in place prior to the acquisition of the Arch Cape Forest by the Arch Cape Water District, and the Rainforest Reserve by the North Coast Land Conservancy, as well as the current, interim policies for each of these properties.

Previous Public Access Policies

Prior to acquisition of the Arch Cape Forest and Rainforest Reserve properties, Ecotrust Forest Management (the previous owner) had the following recreation policy as outlined in their 2017 *Onion Peak Holdings Property Management Plan*:

"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-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."

In general, the Arch Cape Water District and North Coast Land Conservancy (NCLC) are continuing these policies on an interim basis until the public access planning process is completed.

Arch Cape Forest

The following interim public access policies are in place for the Arch Cape Forest:

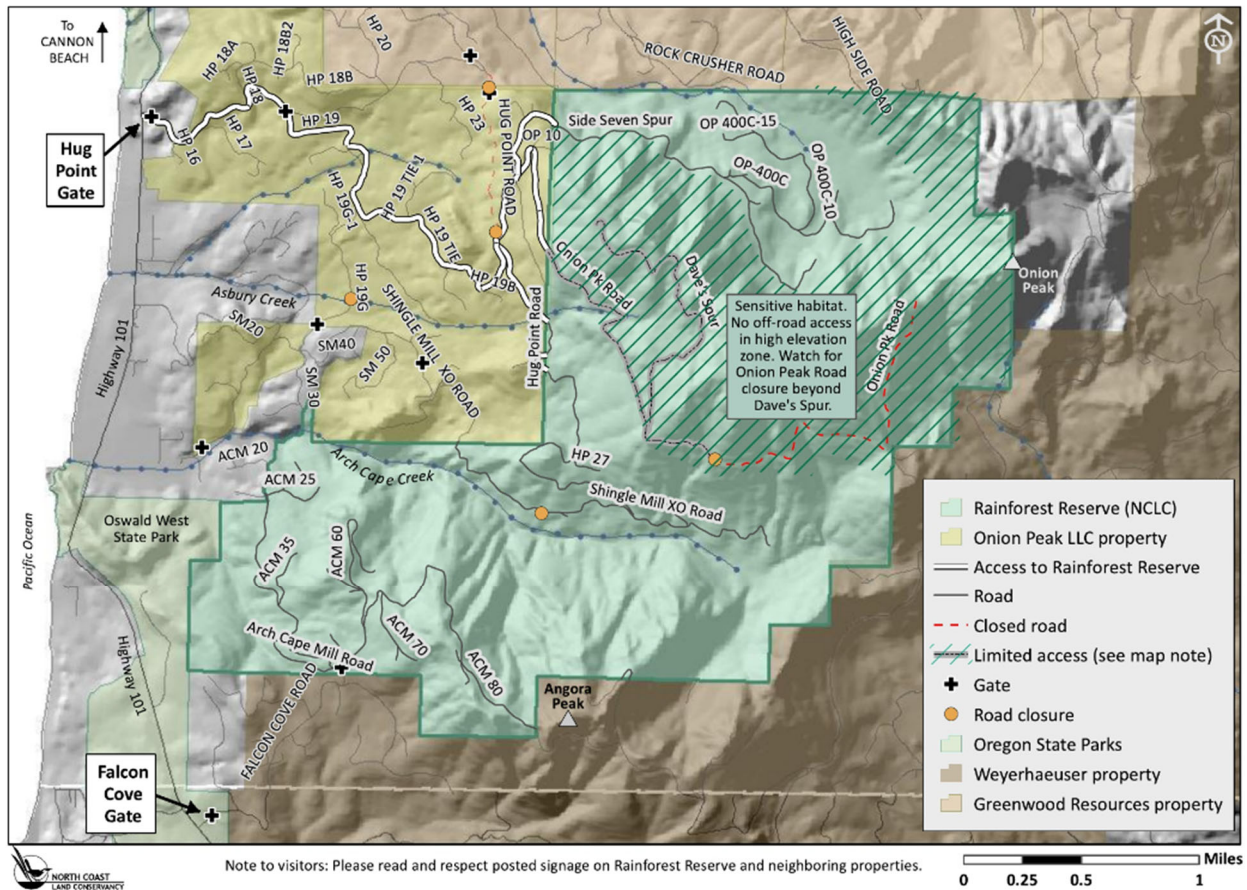
Continuance of the previous land manager's policies until public access planning is completed:

- 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.

Rainforest Reserve

The following interim public access policies are posted on the North Coast Land Conservancy's website along with the map below.

RAINFOREST RESERVE Public Access Map



“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.

Both of the 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”