Arch Cape Forest + Rainforest Reserve
Public Access Advisory Team Meeting - March 8, 2023

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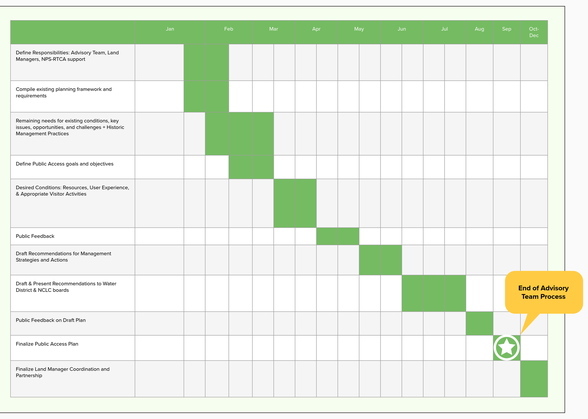
Agenda

Welcome

1. **Group Grounding**
   Where we are at in the planning process
2. **Public Access: Key Issues**
   - What we've heard from the community surveys and public comments
   - Key issues from versions of Multi-Resource Management Plan and other known issues
   - Knowledge Gaps
3. **Arch Cape Forest + Rainforest Reserve**
   - How findings from the ecological roads survey will be used in public access planning
   - Oregon Public Access Legislation – what is it, what implications does it have for both properties?
4. **Recreation Use Activities**
   - Based on what has been shared through community engagement, review list of recreation uses currently being discussed
   - What other activities should we being looking at?
   - Zoom meetings to be scheduled that focus on different activity types
     - Which uses need specific discussions? Which don't?
     - How do we let the community know these are happening? How do we select participants?
   - Working towards Town Hall Meeting, tentatively being planned for Saturday, April 22nd (Earth Day)
5. **Public Comments**
6. **Wrap Up**
   Next meeting: Wednesday, April 12th at 9am



1 Group Grounding

Vision & Goals

Arch Cape Forest

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.

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

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.

Goal 1: Protect the conservation values into perpetuity
Goal 2: Steward the forest towards late serai/ 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)

Domestic Water Related Goals

- Goal 1: Provide reliable quantities of high-quality drinking water
- Goal 3: Manage the drinking watersheds for water quality and quantity
- Goal 2: Retain affordable water
- Goal 6: Promote community benefits (indigenous access, clean drinking water, recreation)

Conservation Related Goals

- Goal 4: Retain and restore natural forest structure and aesthetics
- Goal 1: Protect the conservation values into perpetuity
- Goal 5: Provide intact terrestrial and aquatic wildlife habitat
- Goal 4: Steward the land to be resilient in the face of a changing climate

Public Access + Recreation Related Goals

- Goal 3: Engage the community in the forest
- Goal 6: Promote community benefits (indigenous access, clean drinking water, recreation)

Note: these both mention "community" but what was intended might be different

Advisory Team Members

- Charlotte Blakesley — Arch Cape Water District Rep
- Melissa Reich — Arch Cape Water District Rep + NCLC
- Richard Gibson — Cannon View Park
- Tom Horning — North Coast Land Conservancy
- Kevin Brownlee — North Coast Land Conservancy
- Dale Mosby — Arch Cape Water District Rep

Support Staff

- Daniel Wear — Contractor to Arch Cape Water District
- Julie Fonseca de Borges — National Park Service RTCA
- Jon Wickersham — North Coast Land Conservancy
- Anne Dove — National Park Service RTCA

2 Draft Key Issues and Concerns

Natural Resources

Water Quality/ Quantity & Water Affordability
Specific water quality parameters that can be impacted by human disturbance and management activities and could necessitate water treatment (which can affect water affordability) include:
- Turbidity (i.e. suspended sediment in water that affects cloudiness/murkiness of water)
- Organic matter/ suspended nutrients
- Temperature which can affect the levels of nutrients in water (water temperature is affected by the amount of shade from vegetation)

Factors that can affect these water quality parameters include:
- Steep slopes
- Erodible soils
- Disturbance (e.g. fire, pest and pathogen outbreaks, landslides, windthrow)
- Roads
- Poorly built trails/social trails
- Motorized vehicle use
- Human and domestic animal waste
- Management practices resulting in disturbance to soil, vegetation, etc.

Fire
There are both naturally-caused and human-caused fire, with most fire ignitions in the Oregon Coast Range being caused by human activity. Fire impacts can include:
- Loss of vegetation and impacts to vegetation/forest complexity which by extension can impact water quality due to erosion, increased nutrients, increased temperature
- Loss of water retention properties of forests
- Aesthetic/visual impacts
- Air quality (during fire events)
- Public safety/ loss of life and property

Plant Communities/Vegetation
- Rare plant communities, particularly in the upper elevation areas of the Rainforest Reserve
- Invasive plant species which can be brought in on footwear, tires, domestic animals

Wildlife/ Habitat
- Properties are located at interface of four distinct habitat types (coastal Western hemlock, coastal Douglas fir, coast-range mixed fir, and marine), supporting relatively high species diversity
- The properties provide important habitat to a wide range of terrestrial and aquatic species of wildlife including 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 forestland managed by ODF and private companies, Oswald West State Park, and saltwater marine habitat (including the Cape Falcon Marine Reserve) and provide habitat/ecological connectivity.

Visual Resources

Aesthetics/ Visual Resources/ Community Identity
- Arch Cape Forest and Rainforest Reserve provide the visual backdrop to the community of Arch Cape
- These properties contribute to community sense of place

Uses of Properties

Historic/Cultural Uses
Given the long history of local tribes throughout the region, more information is needed regarding cultural resources and any interest in access for cultural uses including, but not limited to hunting, harvesting, and gathering.

Access Needs (Non-Recreation)
Property access is required for:
- Land managers
- Existing easement holders
- Fire and emergency response
- Other approved activities (including radio repeater station access)

Education & Research
- Sensitive plant communities/species (particularly in the Rainforest Reserve) and unique interface of several ecological communities
- Watershed and water resource education
- The properties serve as examples of plant succession and forest ecological processes/dynamics and complexity
- The Arch Cape Forest is an example of a community forest which is a growing model for community-based forest ownership and management which itself can be a topic for research
- NCLC has identified several potential research topics for the Rainforest Reserve that focus on conservation

Recreation

Recreation
The Arch Cape Forest and Rainforest Reserve properties have been used for recreation by residents of Arch Cape and surrounding communities for decades. The following key issues and concerns are listed below by sub-categories.

Hiking
- Likely the most frequent use
- Social/informal trails and paths
- Safety/user conflicts

Bicycling
- Mountain biking – potential erosion
- E-bikes – potential erosion
- Safety/user conflicts

Hunting
- Hunters historically used these and adjacent properties for sport and subsistence hunting
- Elk management, particularly how population/herd size affects vegetation, elk in human developed areas/ communities/highway, wallows/sediment/erosion, etc.
- State agency support for management if hunting is permitted (more info is needed from ODFW)
- Safety/user conflicts

Sense of Community Ownership
- Sense of "ownership" of the forest by Arch Cape community members as water ratepayers
- Providing public information about the site while not promoting public access

Nature Observation
- Opportunities for nature observation are available across the two properties
- Some sensitive/rare plant communities might be attractive for nature observation while there is a need to minimize impacts to these areas

Domestic Animals (Dogs & Horses)
- Dogs have historically been taken into the properties – potential issues around dog waste/pathogens and water quality and disturbance to wildlife
- Equestrian use is known to take place on the site (including for hunting). Limited space for horse trailers/staging
- Safety/user conflicts

Crowding, Overuse, & Recreation Experience
- Over-crowding and associated parking overflow along highway and in neighborhoods
- Concerns about changes to the historic character of the recreational experience of the properties which has been low intensity/low density
- Concerns about increased recreation use and impacts to natural resources (e.g. water quality, sensitive plant communities/species, etc.)
- Potential fee/permit system and impact to liability (if charge a fee, some liability protections are lost)

Foraging/Gathering
- Mushrooms, firewood, etc. activities may be taking place (or may be a desired activity) for recreation, subsistence, or other purposes

Litter/Human Waste
- Litter and human waste can impact water quality and the recreational experience

3 Arch Cape Forest + Rainforest Reserve Updates

Ecological Roads Assessment

- ODF grant applied 1 -yr ago
- Property managed as 1 block for most of its life
- Interconnected road system among both properties
- Looking at causes of erison b/c of roads and rates of change
- Maintenance plan is the goal
- early april habitat assessments
- draft plan expected in early May
- Where do road closures make sense?
- Which roads need to be maintained?
- Also looking at other types of access (beyond rec)
- Question: If there's an existing road and decide to decommission...there historically there were roads considered "abandoned" and plants have grown over the road. Would people still be allowed to access them?
- There are lots of ways to decommission so it would depend on whether they would still be open to public access/hiking

Oregon Recreational Use Statutes & Liability

- https://oregonpublicspeakers.com/
- Many states have statutes that protect private landowners from liability for no-fee rec access - OR has this type of statute

4 Public Access/ Use + Recreation Activities

NOTE! These are not all being proposed but have been mentioned in various comments, documents, etc. so are included for discussion purposes.

Public Access + Uses ● Info Gathering and Analysis

	Potential Public Access Use	History of Use on Site (yes/no, where, who, when, how much)?	Interim/ Current Policies	Neighboring Land Manager Policies	Public Comments (so far)	Potential Issues/ concerns/ challenges	Opportunities/ Pros/ Benefits	Additional Information Needed	Management Options	How does this activity affect achieving the goals for the properties?
★	**Hunting - 5**		Predator Hunting Not allowable on either property; Trapping not allowable on Rainforest Reserve							
	Hiking -1 2		Allowable on both properties							
	Fishing - 1 1		Allowable on the Rainforest Reserve; No Mention for Arch Cape Forest							
★	**Dog walking - 3**		Not Allowable on the Rainforest Reserve; No Mention on Arch Cape Forest							
★	**Equestrian uses - 3** 1		Not allowable on either property.							
★	**Mt biking - 2** 1		*Not specifically mentioned in either interim public access policy*							
★	**E-bikes - 4**		Not allowable on either property.							
★	**Foraging - 2**		*Not specifically mentioned in either interim public access policy*							
	Nature observation 3		*Not specifically mentioned in either interim public access policy*							
	Paragliding		*Not specifically mentioned in either interim public access policy*							
	Bouldering 1		*Not specifically mentioned in either interim public access policy*							
	Drone use		*Not specifically mentioned in either interim public access policy*							
★	**Camping - 2** 1		Not Allowable on the Rainforest Reserve; No Mention on Arch Cape Forest							
	Picnicking 2		*Not specifically mentioned in either interim public access policy*							
	Research 3		*Not specifically mentioned in either interim public access policy*							
	Education 2		*Not specifically mentioned in either interim public access policy*							
★	**Firewood gathering - 2**		*Not specifically mentioned in either interim public access policy*							

- Consider if these are necessary for all activities (can be placed in a general comments section)
- Add General Pros for Activity
- Add General Cons for Activity
- Add a column for Opportunities

NOTE! These are not all being proposed but have been mentioned in various comments, documents, etc. so are included for discussion purposes.

- Nature observation has little impact and not distinguishable from hiking
- Research presumabily requires few people
- Picnicking also goes along with hiking
- Not sure about link to hunting ...and how far hunters are able to get into spots. In earlier discussed how far people can get into the property and with roads being decommissioned it seems like spots closer to the water that cretain activities could cause more erosion. Equestrian use might affect this.
- Dale proposed eliminating those that can easily be eliminated
- How do we best have these discussions?
- Have info on paper to get conversation started (this matrix?)
- Have work sessions where people try to brainstorm around specific topics 1 to 1-1/2 hrs with 6 or so community members
- Richard proposed asking adv team where they are as a group on whether they already have agreement
- For focused public meetings maybe constrain columns to "pros and cons".
- Schedule two sessions!
- Have 90 min mtg/work sessions. Whoever shows up shows up.
- Daniel noted that ACWD has an email list of rate payer s about 140 that can be used
- For context I don't plan on targeting rate payers specifically with any communications. Rather I wanted to offer the use of an Arch Cape Specific mailing list, which reached Arch Cape Rate Payers. If NCLC has an additional list, or group of partners who should be included in these communications.
- Could a form be sent out to ratepayers email list (asking pros/ cons for the top uses requiring conversations). Could this be a substitute for these mtgs?

5 Public Comments

6 Next Steps

- April 12 is the next Adv Team meeting