



# Cape Meares - Coleman Creek Watershed

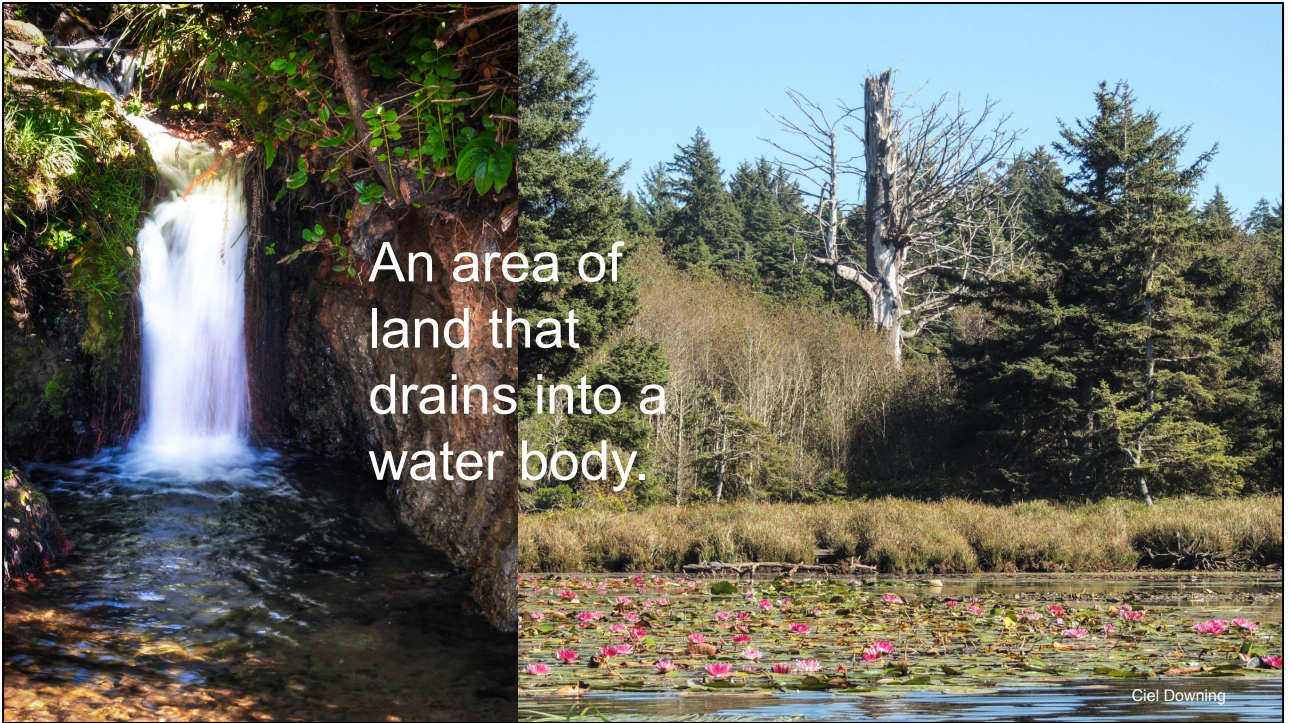
Wendy Burroughs  
Cape Meares Community  
Association  
November 13, 2021



# Our Watershed

Ciel Downing

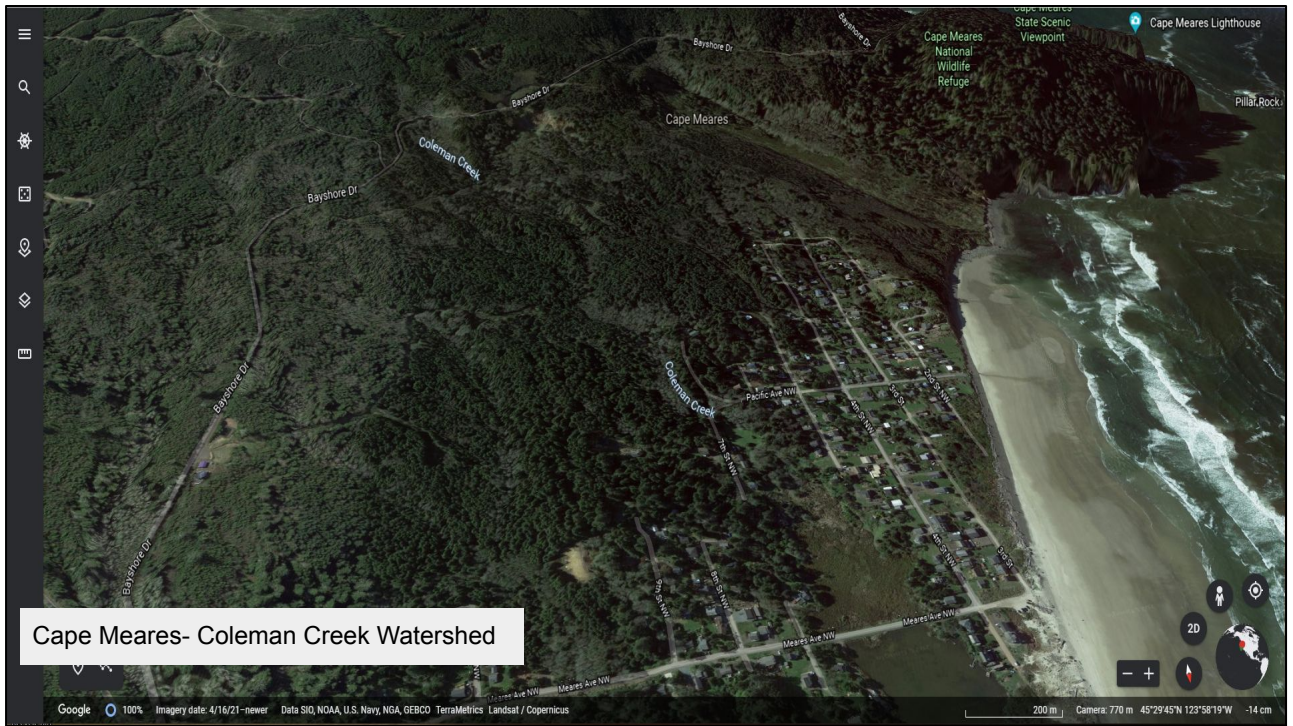




An area of  
land that  
drains into a  
water body.

Ciel Downing

A watershed is: an area of land that drains into a water body.



Cape Meares- Coleman Creek Watershed



**Coleman Creek is the sole source of water for the people of Cape Meares and the creek delivers life-sustaining water to the wetland and lake.**

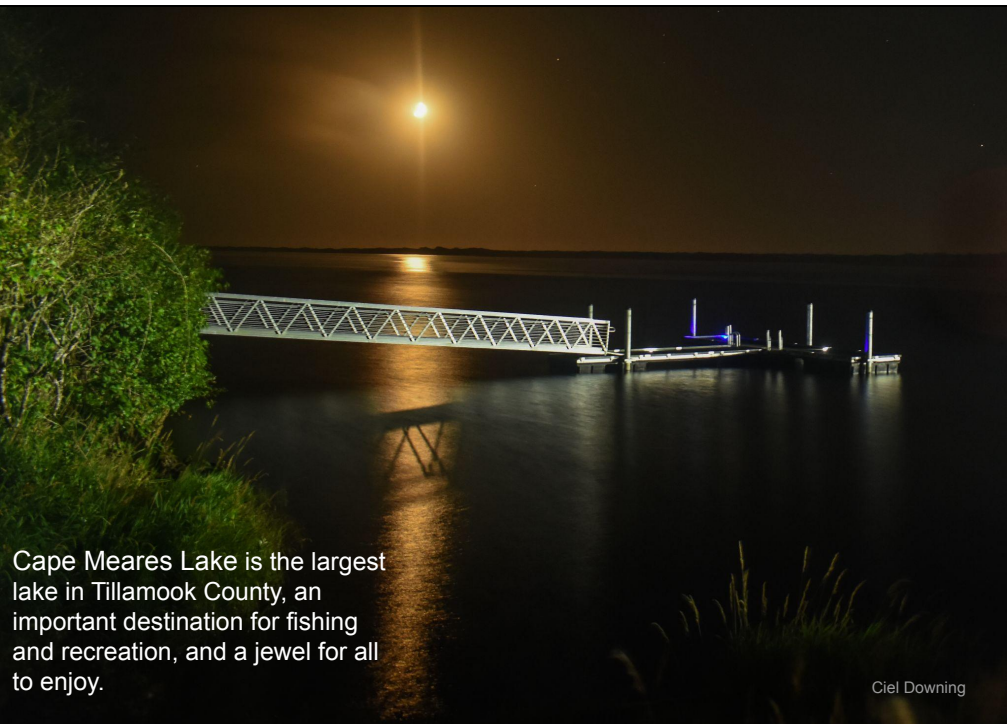


Coleman Creek is the sole source of water for the people of Cape Meares and the creek delivers life-sustaining water to the wetland and lake.



We are connected to our watershed. This is the place where we  
recreate, contemplate, retreat, refresh, restore...





Cape Meares Lake is the largest lake in Tillamook County, an important destination for fishing and recreation, and a jewel for all to enjoy.

Ciel Downing

Cape Meares Lake: The last stop for Coleman Creek on its way to Tillamook Bay.  
From Atlas of Oregon Lakes, Johnson et al. 1985. Cape Meares Lake (also known as Bayocean Lake):  
157.59 acres  
Shoreline 3.93 mi

## Cape Meares Watershed offers outstanding wildlife viewing



Our watershed is their watershed. We all need clean water, food, shelter, and space in the appropriate arrangement. The Cape Meares watershed offers outstanding, world renowned, wildlife viewing opportunities. I believe, it is reasonable to ask that our local and State representatives work with the Cape Meares Community to reconsider the idea that recreation access and habitat conservation may well be the highest and best use for Cape Meares-Coleman Creek Watershed.

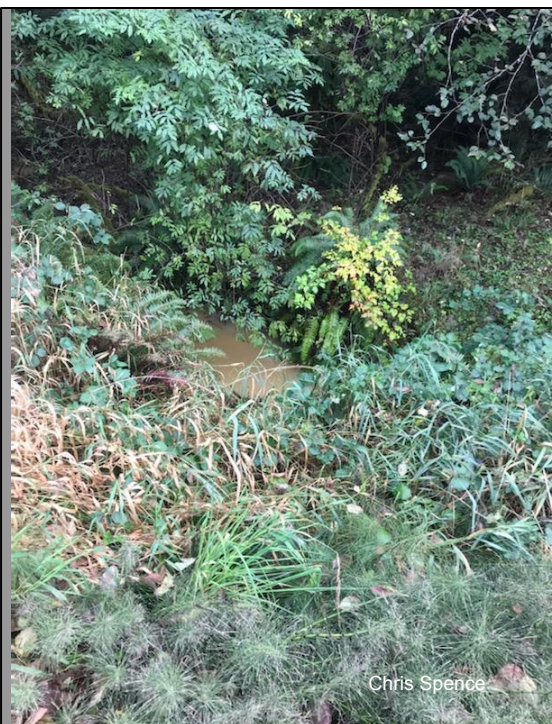


This story begins on October 14 when our neighbor was walking along Bayocean



*Cool Downing*

This story begins on October 14, 2021 when our neighbor was walking along Bayocean and



He notices muddy water flowing through the culvert under Bayocean road between 12th and 9th streets.

This stream flows directly into Cape Meares Lake.

Devin Field notices that the usually clear stream is muddy brown with silt.

Devin contacts Chris Spence and Narayan Lincoln





The stream crosses through a culvert under Bayocean Road between 9th and 12th and flows directly into Cape Meares Lake.

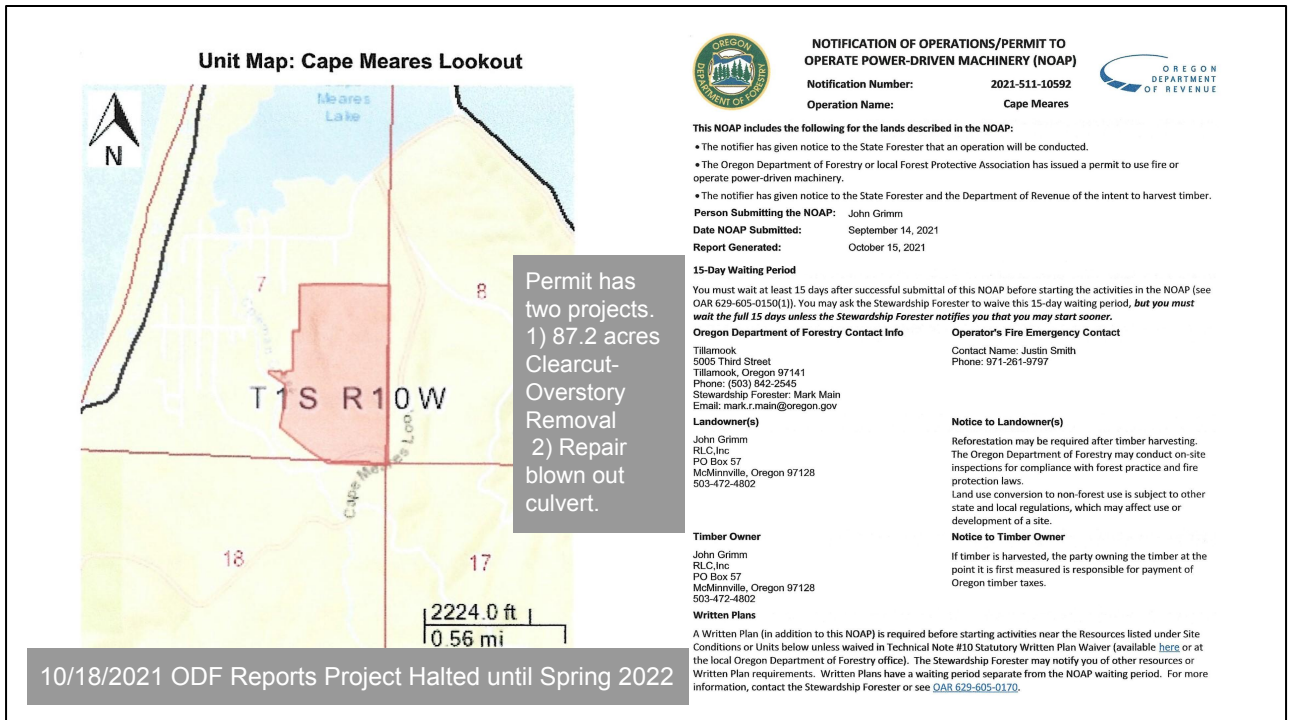


Following the sound of a machine, he discovered that John Grimm had begun a logging operation on his 120 +- acres West of the Loop Rd., East of 5<sup>th</sup>, South of the Cape Meares homesites, and bordering the property on the hill owned by CMCA. A muddy mess of a road was, being installed off the Loop Rd. just at the new blue water tower. No riparian protection was installed, hence the muddy stream.





Also October 14, these signs had been posted on the gate off of the Loop Road.



NOAP and The Written Plan for this project has 2 parts. 1) Clearcut/Overstory Removal 87.2 acres 2) repair blown out culvert. (The road and culvert are on CMCA and Oceanside Water District land.)

10/18/2021 ODF Reports Project Halted until Spring 2022.

Grimm's permit has two parts. The second part is to replace the culvert that blew out on the old water tower access road behind the first yellow gate. There are property line issues and rights of access issues here.

10/15/2021 and 10/18/2021 Chris Spence and Wendy Burroughs were in contact with Tillamook County and ODF. ODF Stewardship Foresters made visits to the site. 10/18/2021 ODF reported that some remediation had been done on site and some additional waterbars would be installed. Other than the clean-up, all work on the project has been halted until Spring 2022.





CMCA retained attorney Michael Kittell of Albright Kittell PC to advise and conduct due diligence on property boundaries, access issues, and to address any incursions onto CMCA property that may have taken place, or are proposed, by Grimm and High Heaven Timberlands.

Why Do We Care?

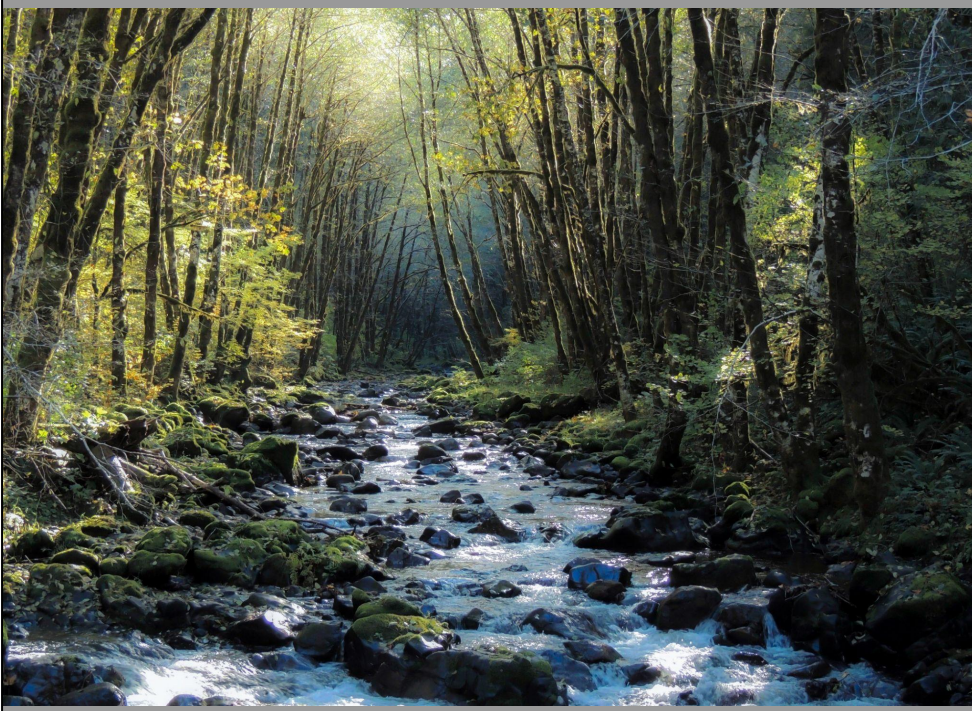
*We have a history here*

*We see a future here*



Why do we care? We have a history here. We see a future here.





*"It's October, the start of the rainy season. It will be impossible to log at this time without creating sediment in the streams flowing to Cape Meares Lake. The streams and lake would be harmed. Without the protection of trees and vegetation, the ground will become saturated early, causing more than normal slope instability. The soil, streams and lake would be harmed. Properties in close proximity to the clear cut would be put at risk for slide and flood damage."*  
Chris Spence

October 20, on behalf of CMCA, Wendy Burroughs submitted comment on NOAP 2021-511-10592

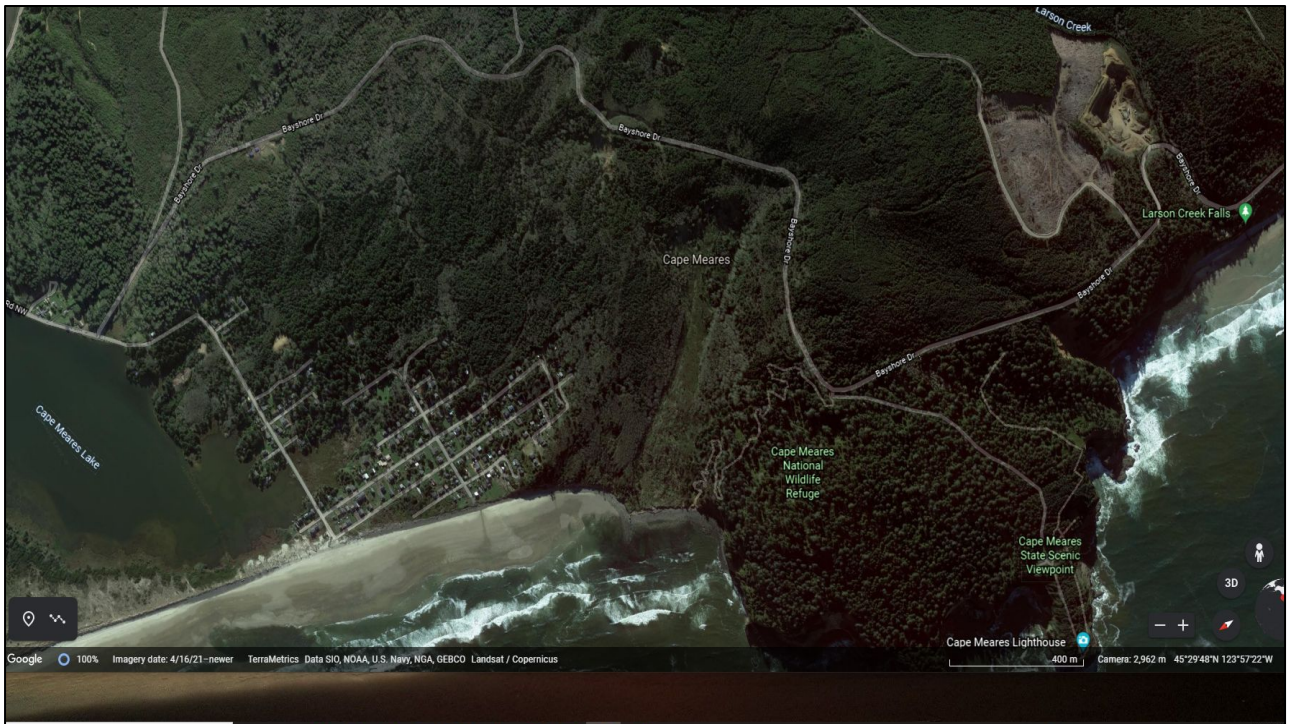
through the FERNS website. I requested an extension of the public comment period and this statement:

"CMCA holds the opinion that a logging operation on the steep, slide prone and slide active area is not possible without calamitous harm to the area logged, the stream and lake system, the adjoining properties above, below and surrounding the logging area, and on the property, the property owners and the residents of Cape Meares."

October 26, with advice and review from Michael Kittell, Wendy Burroughs submitted a letter to the Tillamook County Commissioners requesting a meeting.





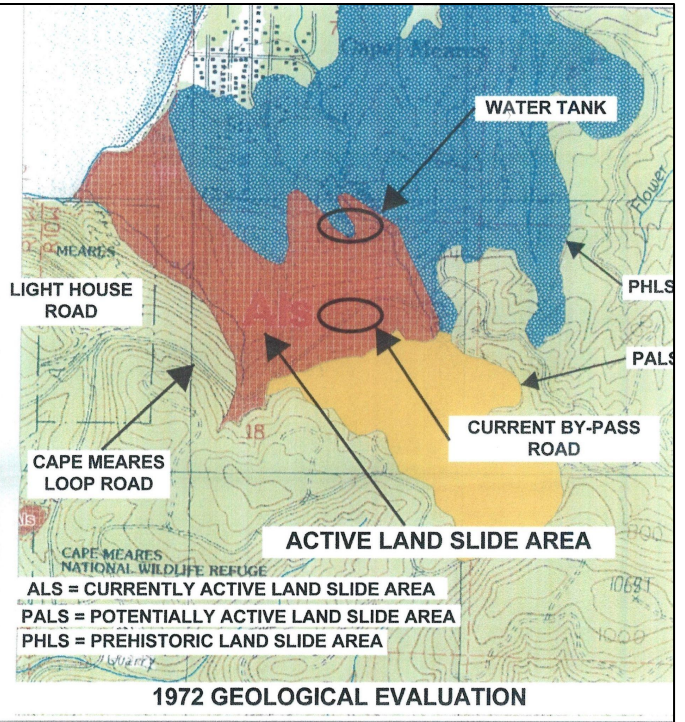
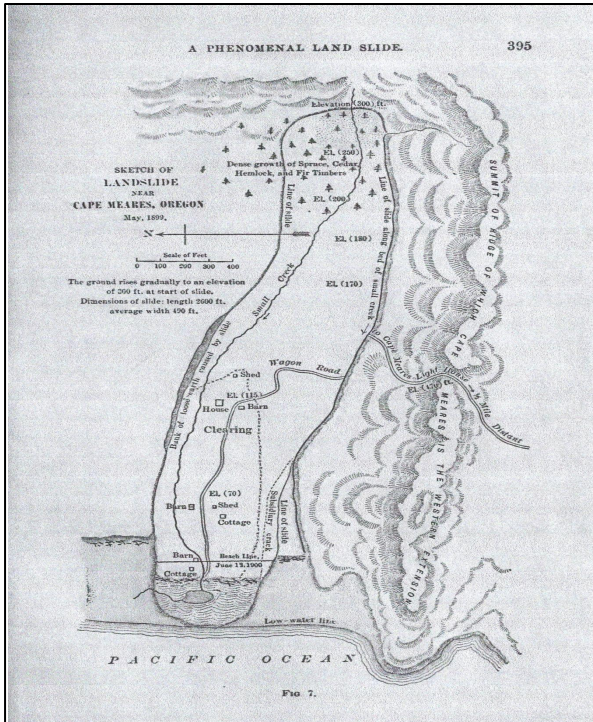


A higher level look at the area to consider the potential of securing the web of recreational access, legacy trails, abandoned roads, social and constructed trails network throughout the Cape Meares-Coleman Creek Watershed to link up with Cape Meares National Wildlife Refuge, Cape Meares Lighthouse, Bayocean Spit, Cape Meares Lake and Tillamook Bay.



The new Loop Road construction to start in the Spring of 2022. The proposed Grimm logging project is set to resume in the Spring of 2022. What does that look like for Cape Meares residents traveling with all the trucks and equipment on our already precarious Bayocean Road?





Did I say “precarious”? The first map under the heading of A Phenomenal Land Slide, *Sketch of Landslide near Cape Meares, Oregon*. May 1899. The caption: The ground rises gradually to an elevation of 300 ft. at start of slide. Dimensions of slide: length 2600 ft. average width 490 ft.

The second map dated 1972 Top Center/Left is the Cape Meares Neighborhood. Colors and arrows indicating Currently Active, Potentially Active, and Prehistoric Land Slide Areas.

*"My group of photos shows more widespread ground instability than I have ever seen."*

Dr. Trygve Steen, Professor of Environmental Science and Management at Portland State University. Steen has taught Forest Ecology, Understanding Environmental Sustainability, and Documentary Photography and works with North Coast Communities for Watershed Health



*"This is clearly a very active slide area, there are even alders with leaves on them."*

I am so very grateful to Chris and Narayan for arranging a walk-about in our forest with Tryg Steen. Tryg took photos to document the slide.

*"My group of photos shows more widespread ground instability than I have ever seen."*

*"This is clearly a very active slide area, there are even alders with leaves on them."*

Dr. Trygve Steen, Professor of Environmental Science and Management at Portland State University. Steen has taught Forest Ecology, Understanding Environmental Sustainability, and Documentary Photography and works with North Coast Communities for Watershed Health



**Flagging is 50 feet slope distance from the stream.**  
Accurate for stream type in Oregon's Forest Practices. It is a 45 degree angle to the stream which is a 100% slope. Therefore flagging is 35 feet away from the stream horizontally.



**The flagging is 50 feet slope distance from the stream. That is accurate for Oregon's Forest Practices Administrative Rules for a stream of that type. The issue is - It is a 45 degree angle to the stream which is a 100% slope. Therefore the flagging is 35 feet away from the stream horizontally.**

Washington State stream buffers are specified as horizontal distance. Therefore a 50 foot horizontal buffer becomes 71 feet slope distance, if Washing were to use such a small buffer..

With horizontal specifications for buffers, as the slope gets steeper, the distance increases.

This is an important contrast with Oregon, where steeper slopes let one log closer to the stream.

Also steep slopes increase the risk to the stream.



CMCA owns a geologic report done for the Coleman Creek slides, culvert blowout, and erosion that occurred in 2015. Though focused on the west side of Coleman creek, this report will inform the potential for damage on both sides of the creek. Spoiler alert. It could be catastrophic. Chris Spence

That is me standing at the edge of this crack. As you know water takes the path of least resistance. Water flowing into these huge cracks can have a destabilizing effect.

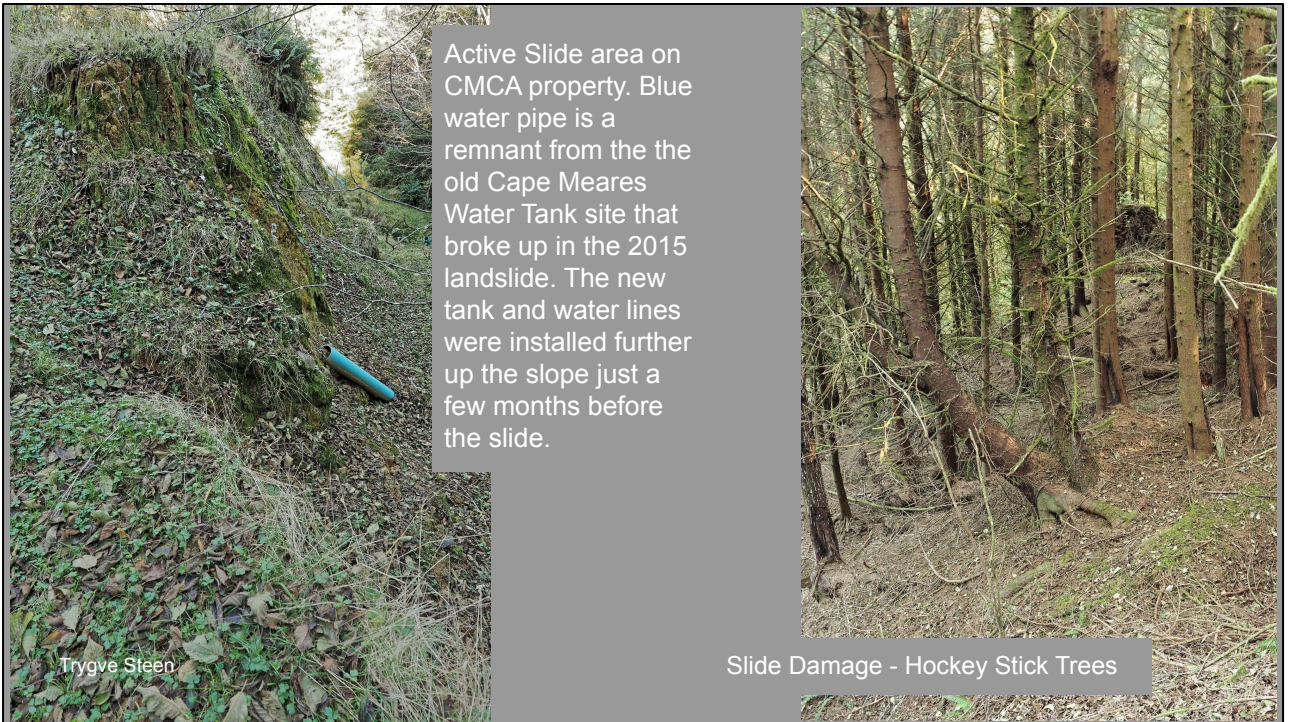




After a tree is cut, it takes 3-5 years for the roots to rot. Throughout this process and after the roots are gone, the mechanisms that held the soil in place (the roots) are gone, putting the area at greater and continuing risk for slide and flooding. New plantings cannot do the same job as the older, more complex root systems.

After a tree is cut, it takes 3-5 years for the roots to rot. Throughout this process and after the roots are gone, the mechanisms that held the soil in place (the roots) are gone, putting the area at greater and continuing risk for slide and flooding. New plantings cannot do the same job as the older, more complex root systems.

As these slides show there is an active slide area. This area has been logged several times and there have been road cuts made throughout that history. This photo shows erosion and landsliding at an old road cut. Tryg Steen suggested that these “gaps” in the mature tree root structure can contribute to land instability.



Active Slide area on CMCA property. Blue water pipe is a remnant from the the old Cape Meares Water Tank site that broke up in the 2015 landslide. The new tank and water lines were installed further up the slope just a few months before the slide.

Trygve Steen

Slide Damage - Hockey Stick Trees

Active Slide area on CMCA property. Blue water pipe is a remnant from the the old Cape Meares Water Tank site that broke up in the 2015 landslide. The new tank and water lines were installed further up the slope just a few months before the slide.

Hockey stick trees are a sign that the land where the tree was rooted shifted and then the tree continued to grow vertically towards the sun. This is evidence of a slide that occurred some years ago.





All of the above risks will only grow for our lifetimes. The Oregon Forest Practices Act includes a hold harmless clause excusing loggers and land owners from liability in these cases. So all of the above will be at continued risk for many years and with no recourse.

Trygve Steen

This photo shows a broken piece of the concrete foundation for the old Cape Meares water tank. What does this have to do with the proposed logging? On a good day, any day, today even, there is a risk of landslide that threatens life and property in the community of Cape Meares. All of the above risks will only grow for our lifetimes. The loss of 87.2 Acres of mature trees from the slide prone slopes elevates those risks. The Oregon Forest Practices Act includes a hold harmless clause excusing loggers and land owners from liability in these cases. So all of the above will be at continued risk for many years and with no recourse.





Gratitude for the time and treasure contributed by:

Chris Spence

Narayan Lincoln

Devin Field

Tryg Steen

Spike And Randy Klobas

Michael Kittell

Ciel Downing

Charles Ansorge

Deborah Neal

North Coast Communities for Watershed Health

[www.capemeares.org](http://www.capemeares.org)

For more information visit: [www.capemeares.org](http://www.capemeares.org)