

DEQ Coastal Watershed Event

Sunset Recreation Center, Seaside OR

Feb. 13, 2024

*Neskowin's Drinking Water Supply
&
The Opportunity for Increased Reliability*

Neskowin Regional Water District Watershed Acquisition

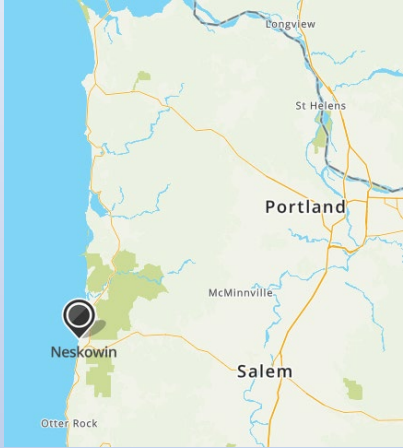
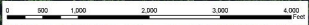
Alex Sifford
E-System Services

HAWK CREEK SOURCE WATER AREA

- WHO: Neskowin Regional Water District
- WHAT: Buying land (1,500+ acres) where water comes from
- WHERE: Hawk Creek watershed east of town
- WHEN: 2023 1st Purchase of 51 acres
- WHY: To manage lands for water supply, conservation & timber
 - Supply means quantity & quality
 - Most cost-effective long term reliable water supply option
- HOW: Working with Partners & Supporters, find money and buy

NESKOWIN COMMUNITY BOUNDARY

Community Boundary
Taxlot
Creeks, Rivers, Lakes



↑ 32 miles to Tillamook

Water Treatment Plant

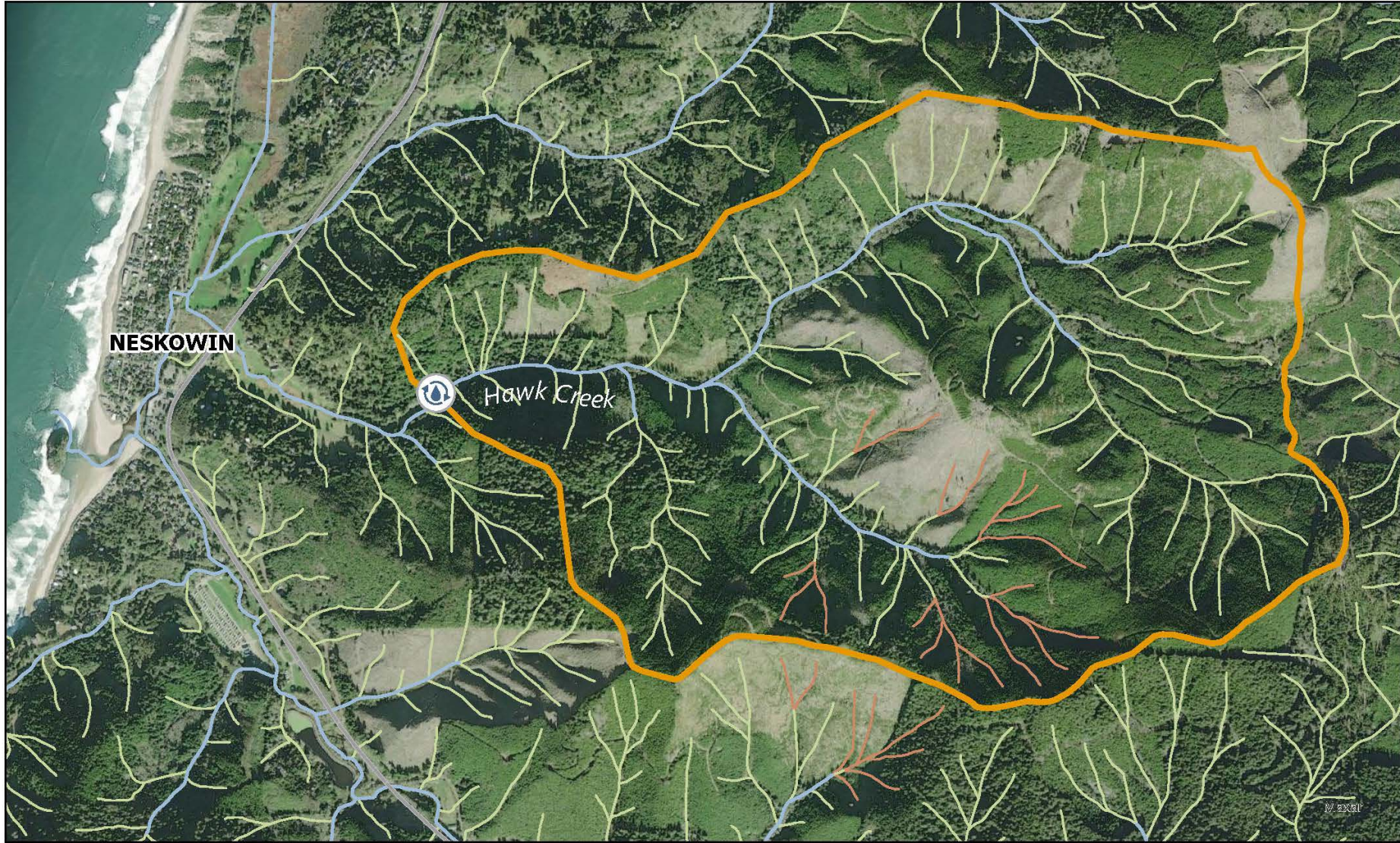
↓ 10 miles to Lincoln City

NESKOWIN REGIONAL WATER DISTRICT

- The District serves about 800 total residential and commercial accounts.
- The District water source is Hawk Creek. The Hawk Creek watershed is one of the finest on the Oregon coast.
- Water treatment is at the Frank Clanton Treatment Facility on Fairway Drive. The District uses a micro filtration membrane treatment system manufactured by Evoqua.
- Water disinfection is by injecting liquid hypochlorite, produced from saltwater and electricity at the treatment plant. The District also adds sodium carbonate to maintain the required pH.
- The Source Water Assessment from DEQ and the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) in 2015 identified our major risks to source water quality in Neskowin. The highest vulnerability comes from high soil erosion potential in our watershed and industrial timber harvesting practices.
- A sustainable long term solution to mitigate these source water risks is for the District to acquire land in our watershed. It gives the District most control.

*Aerial Video of the Neskowin Watershed: https://youtu.be/EI99_qz--Us

Hawk Creek Watershed: Fish Distribution by Stream Type



0 0.13 0.25 0.5 Miles

Stream Type

— Fish

— Nonfish

— Unknown

— Neskowin Drinking Water Source Area

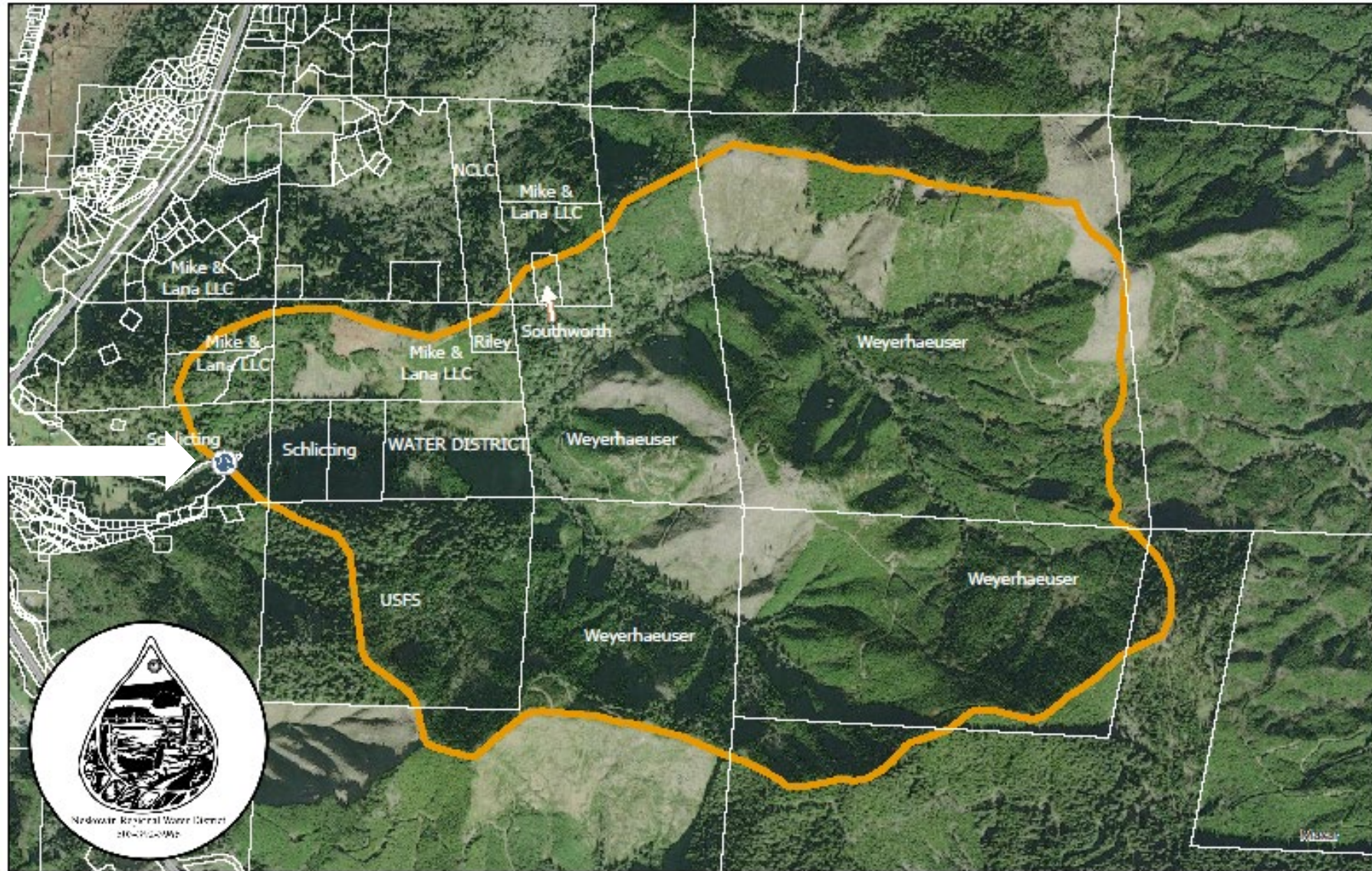
— Highway 101

— Neskowin Regional Water District water treatment plant

Hawk Creek Watershed: Ownership

T5S R10W Sec 29-32

Water Treatment Plant






Data sources: Tillamook County, OR Dept. of Environmental Quality, Mazar (Imagery)
Map prepared by:



0 0.13 0.25 0.5 Miles



-  Neskowin Drinking Water Source Area (1542.7 acres)
-  Neskowin Regional Water District Water Treatment Plant
-  Taxlot

HISTORY & PARTNERS



**Tillamook Estuaries Partnership
Hawk Creek Fishway
Completed 2009**



2007: Pre-Construction



Sept 22, 2009: During Construction



Oct 20, 2009: Post-Construction

HISTORY & PARTNERS

**Tillamook Estuaries Partnership
Hawk Creek Fishway
Completed 2009**



Dec 11, 2014: Post-Construction

HISTORY

- Pre-2011 District Board and GM interest lead to **2012 Trout Mtn Forestry Analysis**. Provides a basis for land values and future management options.
- 2012 – 2020 District discussions with landowners and grant opportunities to value and acquire property. Successful 2019 DEQ grant to appraise properties.
- 2021 – present
 - North Coast Land Conservancy partners with the District.
 - Fundraising starts with \$60,000 initial contributions for 1st purchase
 - 2022 Successful application to create a land management plan
 - Continuing SWA landowner discussions

2023 DISTRICT SUCCESSES

- ▶ **Concludes 1st purchase of 51-acre parcel**
- ▶ Appraises 2nd property for purchase, sale withdrawn
- ▶ Hires Forester for Management Plan
- ▶ Applies for additional appraisal funds for specific parcels
- ▶ Continues discussions with all landowners

TIMBERLAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

Elements

- ➤ Forest Description
 - History, soils, roads, climate, forest health, wildlife
- ➤ Watershed Assessment
 - Special features, water quality risk, resource protection
- ➤ Timber Assessment
 - Timber types and inventory
- ➤ Watershed Management Plan
 - o Short and long-term stewardship goals
 - o Silviculture practices
 - o Treatment recommendations by timber-type in context of watershed goals

PARTNERS

Facilitation: Neskowin Water District Acquires First Portion of Watershed



The Hawk Creek Watershed surrounds Neskowin's drinking water source.

- [News Archive](#)
- [Newsletters](#)
- [Annual reports](#)

Nclctrust.org

The [Neskowin Regional Water District](#) has completed the first phase in a long-term vision of acquiring the part of the Hawk Creek Watershed surrounding the community's drinking water source.

In early November, the district, with [facilitation support from North Coast Land Conservancy](#), purchased approximately 80 acres of forested property from private landowners, Mike and Lana Kowalski. The land sits above the intake for the district's Frank E Clanton Municipal Water Plant at the confluence of Hawk Creek and an unnamed tributary.

Because of its location, "it's arguably the most important piece," says Troy Trute, general manager of the district.

The district has been investigating the advantages of owning and controlling the Source Water Area (SWA) for more than 15 years, an interest that picked up momentum in the past five years because of changes in land ownership; concerns about the impacts of climate change on the water supply of coastal systems; and advisories from Oregon's Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

According to Brenda Freshman, who joined the district's board of commissioners a few years ago to help with the acquisition, all the pieces were in place. As someone who is passionate about watershed protection, she advocated to get it moving forward, even making a significant donation to the project.

"The opportunity to purchase your own watershed is priceless," Brenda says. "What you're able to do, to the best of your ability, as a community, is ensure the quality of your water, in perpetuity."

Taking a Supportive Role

NCLC became involved in the project about two years ago, although the organization has been active in conservation in the Neskowin area for

OUTREACH

- Neskowin Citizens Advisory Committee
Informational Town Hall No. 11 <https://www.neskowincac.org/town-halls>
Feb, 22, 2022 6pm
 - Troy Trute, General Manager, Neskowin Regional Water District (NRWD).
 - Guy Sievert, Consultant, E-System Services, NRWD Board Member.
 - Brenda Freshman, Neskowin ITH coordinator, NRWD Board Member
 - Jon Wickersham, Associate Director, North Coast Land Conservancy.
 - Phil Chick, District Manager, Arch Cape Water & Sanitary Districts.
 - Ben Hayes, Consultant, Springboard Forestry.
 - Ran Koch, NCAC.

NETWORKING

- DEQ Water Quality Programs
- Source Water Protection Programs
- EPA Resilience Programs
- Private forest funding opportunities
- New Oregon Private Forest Accord programs
- Nestucca, Neskowin & Sand Lake Watersheds Council
- Tracking other muni water district acquisitions/management

NEXT STEPS

► **Multi-Path Strategy & Implementation**

- Prepare Timberland Management Plan
- Continue discussions with other landowners in basin
- Appraise and purchase available small parcels
- Continue Outreach & Education
- Refine long term funding strategy for purchases



Neskowin Regional Water District

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[Customer Response Form](#)

Staff

- **Troy N. Trute – General Manager**
- **Joy Neufeld – Office Manager**
- **Jerry Evjen – Water Operator**

Neskowinwater.com

Elected Board Members

- **Brenda Freshman Position #1** Member since July 2021.
- **Steve Rubert (Board President) Position #2** Member since September 2013.
- **Guy Sievert Position #3** Member since July 2023.
- **John Metschan Position #4** Member since July 2019.
- **Paul Bender Position #5** Member since July 2023.