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# TILLAMOOK COUNTY WATER TRAIL OREGON



# TILLAMOOK BAY WATERSHED FLATWATER & WHITEWATER

*Produced by the Tillamook Estuaries Partnership*

# Welcome to the Tillamook Bay Watershed



The Tillamook Bay watershed begins as an extraordinary network of hillside creeks leading to five rivers that stream through majestic forests and green lowlands to eventually merge with the estuary and finish the long journey to the Pacific Ocean. This diversity of waterways lends itself to many non-motorized recreational opportunities. Exhilarating whitewater adventures and play spots to calm, placid, sunny day trips, and everything in between await you in this place.

Encompassing a 597-square-mile watershed including the cities of Tillamook, Bay City, and Garibaldi, this guidebook is intended to help users locate public access, discover local amenities, be mindful of sensitive natural areas, and obtain detailed information regarding these waterways. Grab your gear, choose your adventure, and discover the natural beauty that awaits.

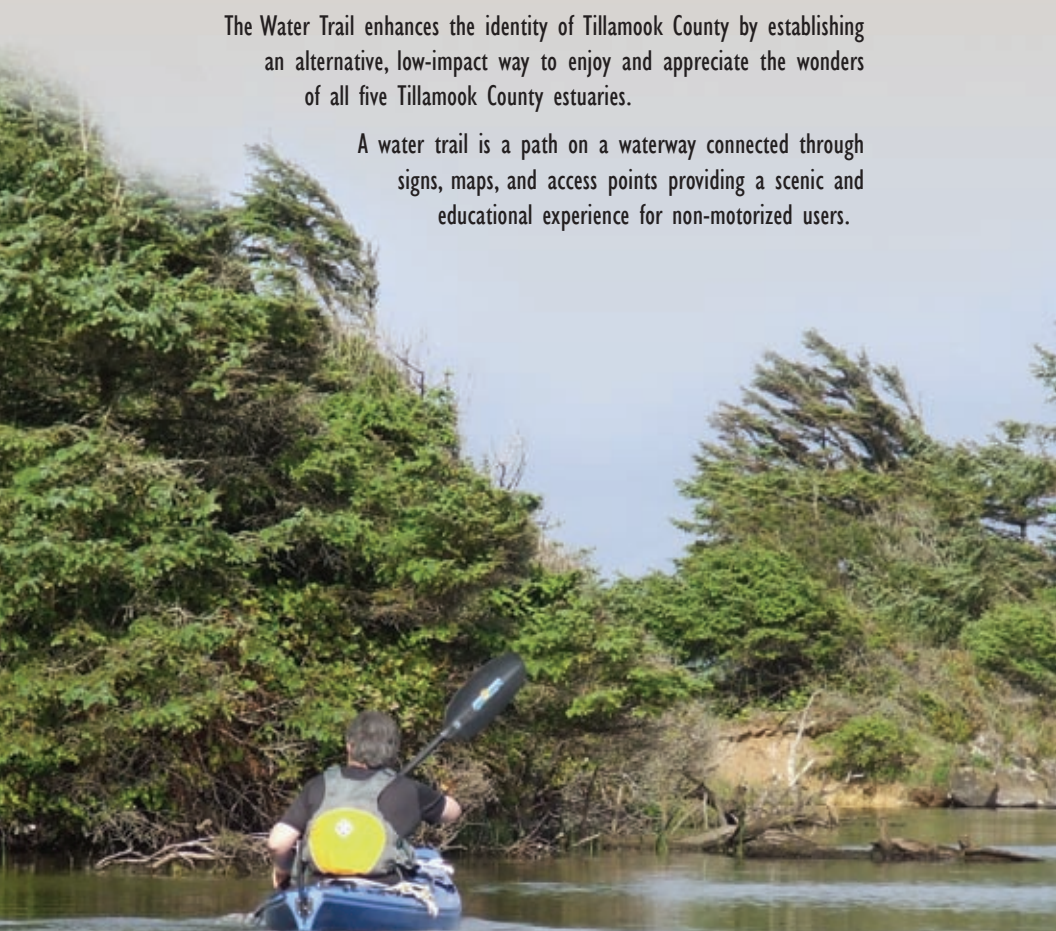
## **Tillamook County Water Trail - The Vision**

The Tillamook County Water Trail encourages the quiet exploration and discovery of the ecological, historical, social, and cultural features of Tillamook County from the uplands to the ocean.

The Water Trail is a recreational and educational experience that promotes and celebrates the value of Tillamook County's waterways with direct benefit to the economic, social, and environmental well-being of the County.

The Water Trail enhances the identity of Tillamook County by establishing an alternative, low-impact way to enjoy and appreciate the wonders of all five Tillamook County estuaries.

A water trail is a path on a waterway connected through signs, maps, and access points providing a scenic and educational experience for non-motorized users.



## **Stewards of the Vision**

The Tillamook Estuaries Partnership, on behalf of a consortium of partners, acts as a guide for the Tillamook County Water Trail (TCWT). A multiyear project, the water trail will eventually encompass all five estuaries and their associated watersheds in Tillamook County. Community and user input are essential for the long-term sustainability of the TCWT.





# A Delicate Balance

Tucked between the rugged Coast Range and the Pacific Ocean, the Tillamook Bay watershed includes some of North America's richest timber and dairy land. The bay supports a thriving oyster industry and boasts some of the best salmon fishing on the West Coast. Historically dependent on resource industries, the Tillamook Bay area increasingly relies on tourism to support its economy, yet dairy farming, logging, and fishing continue to define the cultural landscape of the area. Balancing the multiple interests is this region's greatest challenge.



Roger Ross Photography

## An Estuary of National Significance

Formed when freshwater rivers mix with the saltwater of the ocean, estuaries are some of Earth's most diverse ecosystems. Concerns for water quality, key habitat loss, erosion and sedimentation, impacts to fisheries and shellfish, and flooding led the way for Congress to designate the Tillamook Bay as an "Estuary of National Significance". One of only 28 in the country with this designation, the Tillamook Bay holds a special place not only locally, but across the state and nation. Through the Tillamook Estuaries Partnership (TEP), this status brings together resources to protect and restore Tillamook Bay.

## Collaborative Solutions

A National Estuary designation does not bestow special protections. There are no special provisions for National Estuaries beyond already existing laws. The protection of an estuary depends on the proactive and cooperative endeavors of businesses, governments, farmers, residents, fishermen, and other stakeholders that care deeply about the environment. Thanks to local efforts, millions of dollars have been secured for watershed restoration projects, water quality levels are improving in portions of the Watershed, and hundreds of acres of valuable habitat have been preserved.

**Working for healthy watersheds –  
How you can help:**

**Tillamook Estuaries Partnership:**  
[www.tbnep.org](http://www.tbnep.org)

**Tillamook Bay Watershed Council**  
[www.tillamookbaywatershedcouncil.net](http://www.tillamookbaywatershedcouncil.net)

**OSU Extension Service, Tillamook**  
<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/tillamook/>

**Tillamook County Soil & Water  
Conservation District:** (503)842-2848

## The Tillamook Estuaries Partnership

Born out of a commitment by local citizens and community leaders and supported by state and federal agencies, the TEP brings stakeholders together to assess, prioritize, and begin to solve the problems facing this estuary of national significance. TEP collaborates with partners on jointly held goals of improving water quality, restoring fish and wildlife habitat, reducing the frequency and impacts of flooding, and encouraging stewardship while balancing economic and social impacts.

The TEP now implements a variety of programs to establish healthy ecosystems and improve

salmon runs in all five Tillamook County estuaries and their associated watersheds. TEP monitors and tracks improvements in water quality throughout the watersheds as well as identifies areas of concern. TEP's habitat restoration projects create healthier riparian areas, remove fish passage barriers, create complex fish habitat and stream channels, and enhance and protect wetlands. Through its education program, TEP encourages citizen stewardship and provides opportunities to raise awareness of pertinent environmental topics. Working with local schools, TEP focuses on using the surrounding natural environment as a source for inspiration, education, and life-long learning.

## The Tillamook County Water Trail

A cornerstone of the TEP education program is the Tillamook County Water Trail (TCWT). Beginning with the Nehalem Bay in 2004, and now the Tillamook Bay, TEP is committed to developing guidebooks for all five Tillamook County estuaries and their associated watersheds. Through distribution of guidebooks, non-motorized boaters will receive information that might not otherwise be evident. An identified water trail can protect natural resources by dispersing use, identifying appropriate public access points, encouraging low-impact use, and supporting habitat improvements along our county's waterways. The TEP invites the community to participate in the development of this trail and offers many opportunities for you to become involved.



Illustration by Rodolfo, East Elementary's 6th grade 'Salmon Life Cycle Study'



# Following the Five Rivers

Extend your hand and imagine, as the early settlers did, the Tillamook Bay watershed - the bay nestled in your palm, your fingers representing each river linked by nature. However, just as your thumb differs from your little finger, each river is unique.

## Miami River

Shallow in depth, the smallest watershed that spills into Tillamook Bay is the stingiest with possibilities for exploration. The wetlands that ring the Miami's mouth provide vital habitat for juvenile salmon as they migrate to and from the ocean - a critical step in a salmon's life cycle. The nutrient-rich marshes provide nourishment and respite for birds enroute to summer or winter destinations.

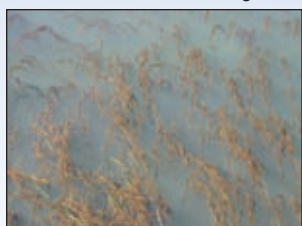
Don Best/Best Impressions Picture Co.



Tillamook Bay

## Kilchis River

Renowned for its remote and scenic vistas, the Kilchis is named for a revered chief of the Tillamook tribe. At fourteen miles long, what it might lack in length it makes up in beauty, history, and recreation. Remnants of this river's role as an economic corridor are visible as you paddle past old pilings that served as the foundation for railroad tracks. Picture yourself navigating through great rafts of logs as they waited to be loaded on railcars headed for parts unknown.



*Eel Grass - found in the estuary. Its roots stabilize the mud and sand bottom. A variety of species use it as cover and protection, and it is the black brant's primary food source.*

## Wilson River

Stretching an impressive forty-three river miles from its headwaters, the Wilson River is a landmark waterway flowing into Tillamook County. In addition to popular Chinook and Steelhead runs, this river system also boasts several large tributaries and ample recreational access for boaters, campers, off-road-vehicles, and hikers. The Wilson is a gateway for the Tillamook Forest and beckons travelers along Highway 6 to stop and explore.

## Trask River

Snaking its way through urban landscapes, the Trask River reveals its distinctive secrets as it unfolds into a fir-lined canyon. This river begins deep in the Coast Range as two separate forks, the North and South, which ultimately merge into one majestic waterway thirteen miles downstream. In the early 1980's, adventure-seekers made the Trask River, and its foaming rapids, home to the Trask River Raft Race. Non-motorized boaters and spectators came from around the state to partake in this thrilling event. Today, daring souls are still racing along the Trask River but in a less organized fashion. The rewards they seek now are striking scenery and unparalleled recreation.

## Tillamook River

"Cheese, Trees, and Ocean Breeze" — The motto of Tillamook County could also serve as the adage for the river that shares its name. Forested uplands give way to pastoral scenes as the Tillamook flows towards the bay. Ever-present occupants of the meadows, Holstein, Jersey, and Guernsey cows lumber single-file to barns to be milked. Paddling opportunities may dwindle with the tide, but as you enter the estuary you sense the river rushing to meet the sea and are tempted to join it on its journey. Now it's your turn to extend your hand, launch your boat, and begin your explorations.

Roger Ross Photography



*North American Raccoon - do not feed wildlife and be sure your camp food is well secured, as these adaptable eaters will find it.*

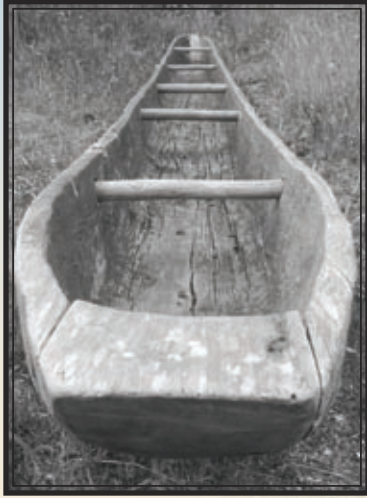




# Connected through Time by Water

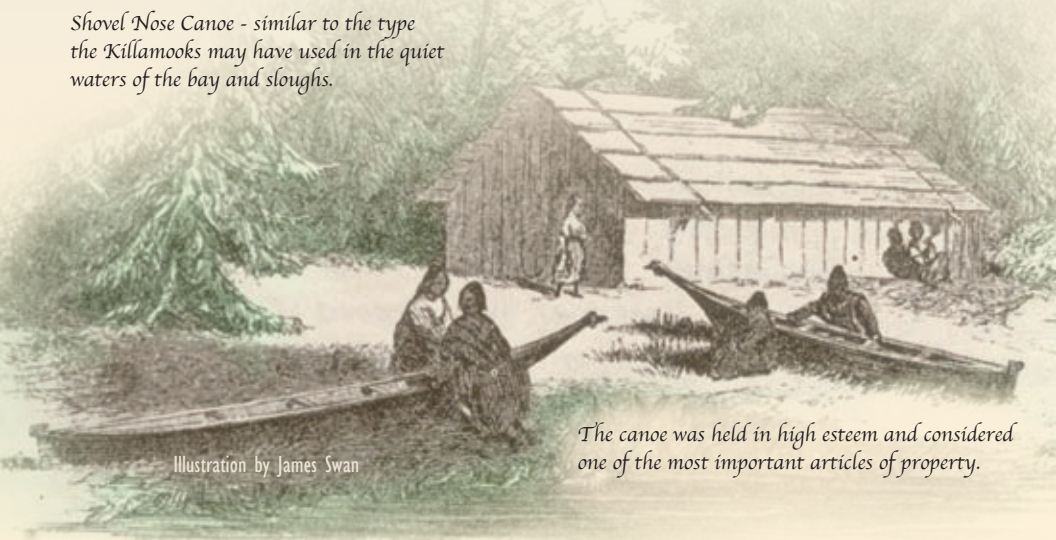
Tillamook Bay watershed is interwoven with inlets, sloughs, and rivers creating a diverse ecosystem with many species coexisting near these shores. These waterways served as the foundation for an intricate transportation system for the native people of the Tillamook Bay area and provided access to a diverse constellation of village sites and places essential to their subsistence such as shellfish beds and salmon fishing stations. In almost every aspect of life, the canoe was essential to the conveyance of people, food, trade goods, and other items throughout the region.

The process of fabricating a canoe was a complex undertaking. Considerable time was devoted to selecting a single cedar tree from which a worthy canoe could be hewn. After the core of the log was



*Shovel Nose Canoe - similar to the type the Tillamooks may have used in the quiet waters of the bay and sloughs.*

carved and burned out, the slow, tedious process of cutting, chiseling, and smoothing with adzes (axe-like tools made from bones, horns, or stones) would last through the winter months. Finally, the canoe was filled with water and red hot rocks so its width could be steamed and stretched open, ensuring stability. It was then painted and decorated. A sea travel canoe could be 50' long and hold up to 30 people for ocean travel and trade. A smaller version of this canoe, for commuting closer to home, could hold 6 - 12 people. The smallest of the three, the "shovelnose", had a very low bow and stern, and held 2 - 3 people. This canoe was ideal for the quiet tidal waters on the rivers, sloughs, and bay and was usually propelled by a long pole pushing off the bottom.



*Illustration by James Swan*

*The canoe was held in high esteem and considered one of the most important articles of property.*

Rugged terrain encircling the Tillamook valley generated significant travel barriers for early settlers. Overland voyages were treacherous and instilled a dependence on waterways as the primary routes of transportation for people and supplies. As the pioneer population flourished, so did the need for outside connections. The community began to rely on ocean-faring vessels from Portland and Astoria to ferry provisions, mail, and newspapers both in and out of the growing region. The arrival of vessels such as the schooner, Morning Star, and the steamer, Sue H. Elmore, were often met with much fanfare by local citizens.

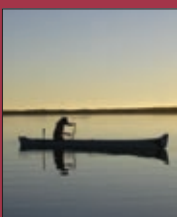


*The Sue H. Elmore delivering supplies.  
Photo courtesy Tillamook County Pioneer Museum*

For water travel, the tides and winds ruled then as they do today. Trips had to be planned accordingly and spontaneous journeys were only an aspiration. Inclement weather and rough bar conditions posed considerable threats to this water dependent delivery system. The growing dairy industry required rapid transfer of its product to avoid spoilage and stores would often go weeks without necessities such as flour, sugar, and animal feed. By 1911, the railroad arrived, modern highways soon followed, and use of rivers and sloughs for transportation began to dissipate. Presently, waterways in Tillamook are valued for their recreational use. The complex system of inlets, sloughs, and rivers now serve as quiet places for visitors and residents to fish, bird, hunt, and paddle.



*Photo courtesy Don Sutherland*



Continuing to build upon a heritage of reverence for local watersheds, the tribes of this area are imparting canoe-building skills to a new generation of members.

*Photo courtesy Clatsop-Nehalem Confederated Tribes*



# Paddling the Tillamook Bay Water Trail

Making safety your top priority will ensure that your paddling experience is a positive one. Pleasant weather, favorable tides, and gentle currents can make for a enjoyable trip, but inclement conditions can create serious hazards. River flows can change rapidly with rainfall. The water temperature in Tillamook County is very cold, even in summer months. Tides, currents, wind, and weather should always be factored into your trip planning - check the conditions before you hit the water. Guidebooks and maps should be used for reference only and no guarantee is made as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of the information they contain.

There are many in-water hazards to consider; educate yourself about what these hazards are and learn their locations. Understand that new obstacles can arise at any time, such as log 'strainers' left behind from winter floods. Wearing a PFD (personal flotation device) is critical. There is always a chance of getting wet, so adequate protective clothing is also essential. Maintain some distance between yourself and objects in the river, and try to avoid areas congested with power boats, especially during busy fishing seasons. It is important not to overestimate your skill level. Pick activities that match your ability, consider taking classes to improve your skills and knowledge, and paddle with others for safety.



*Kilchis Point*

## Sharing the Waterways

While enjoying the water trail, be aware of your direct impact on the surrounding area. Your efforts will make a difference both for the environment and other waterway users. Fishing, boating, and hunting are popular around the Tillamook Bay watershed - know the seasons and give ample room for these activities. When observing wildlife, allow adequate space so they

are not disturbed. Do not remove rocks, plants, or other native objects, as these create habitat for the multitude of species living along these shores.

Public access is a privilege to us all. If you are unsure whether the land is private or public, please stay off out of consideration to private landowners. For more information, see *Who Owns the Waterways*, Oregon Department of State Lands.

Public access is indicated on the maps within this guidebook. In the field, proper access is denoted by a Tillamook County Water Trail sign.

When exploring the outdoors, some key concepts will help keep the environment clean and beautiful.

- Be prepared; educate yourself about your trip
- Pack it in, pack it out
- Use public access
- Camp on hard surfaces
- Dispose of human wastes properly
- Respect wildlife and private property
- Leave it how you find it...or better

*Common courtesy goes a long way on the water.*



## Water Quality

Overall water quality in the Tillamook Bay watershed is safe for recreational use. Paddlers should be aware that levels of *E. coli* in certain waterways can, at times, exceed permissible limits, especially along the Tillamook River and Hoquarton Slough. If ingested, water with high concentrations of *E. coli* can lead to flu-like symptoms. Hand washing is recommended at the end of a paddle.

# Understanding Conditions



Mark Scamfurney - LCCC



Roger Ross Photography



## Details to consider:

The five rivers flowing into Tillamook Bay are tidally influenced upstream to about Highway 101. Many areas drain to mud at low tide. Generally, winds begin to gust during the late morning hours. The Tillamook, Trask, and Wilson Rivers converge near the Memaloose Point County Boat Ramp and can create treacherous channel crossing conditions especially when the wind is blowing. Consult a tide chart and wind report before scheduling your trip. The Kilchis, Wilson, and Trask Rivers offer exceptional winter and early spring whitewater prospects. These rivers are primarily fed by rainfall and each new storm can bring fresh obstacles that change the character of these rivers. Use the USGS flow charts (website below) to help determine the most current conditions.

Every year, many people underestimate the power and danger of conditions on the water and are not adequately prepared. Proper planning is essential for a safe and rewarding water trail experience.

## Tillamook Bay Weather Information

### River Flow, Tides and Weather

(503) 261-9246 or online:

USGS: <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/or/nwis/rt> search:

'Trask River above Cedar Creek' or

'Wilson River at Sollie Smith'

### NOAA's Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service:

[www.wrh.noaa.gov/oh/ahps/](http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/oh/ahps/)

NOAA Weather: [www.wrh.noaa.gov](http://www.wrh.noaa.gov)

Tide Predictions: [www.saltwatertides.com](http://www.saltwatertides.com)

Surf Report: [www.oregonsurfcheck.com](http://www.oregonsurfcheck.com)

Garibaldi, OR Coast Guard

Observations: (503)322-3234



LCCC

Lower Columbia Canoe Club prepares for a safe launch.

## Be a TCWT Fan!

### Join us on Facebook:

Become a Tillamook County Water Trail (TCWT) fan on Facebook® and connect with other water trail users. Share where you have been on the TCWT, what you have seen, and provide updates on current conditions, hazards, and points of interest.



Facebook: Tillamook County Water Trail or visit our website [www.tbnep.org](http://www.tbnep.org)

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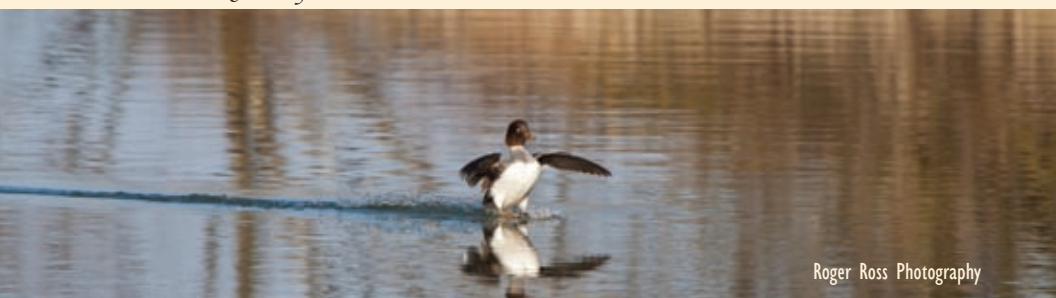
## Items to bring on your trip:

- PFD (personal flotation device)
- Helmet
- Extra paddle
- Non-cotton clothes
- Drinking water/food
- First aid kit
- This map/compass/GPS
- Flashlight
- Rope/Knife
- Bilge pump
- Sunscreen
- Dry bag
- Whistle
- Cell phone (coverage can be unreliable)
- Oregon Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) permit

Female Common Goldeneye

## Be Prepared:

- Wear your PFD (personal flotation device).
- Carry proper safety equipment.
- Preparation, knowledge and skill building is critical to safe paddling.
- Paddle with a companion who is acquainted with local waterways.
- Let someone know where you are going.
- Scout for river and water hazards.
- Never grab a stationary object while moving on swift water.
- Stay clear of a motorboat's path.
- Position your boat perpendicular to an approaching wake.
- Wear a helmet and prepare for whitewater on the Kilchis, Wilson, and Trask Rivers.
- Dress adequately for the water temperature; be familiar with signs of hypothermia.
- Obtain an AIS permit and carry on board. [www.dfw.state.or.us](http://www.dfw.state.or.us)





# Tillamook Bay Paddles

The Tillamook Bay watershed presents so many opportunities for paddling trips it is nearly impossible to list them all. The suggestions below highlight regional favorites. Other trips may be devised using these maps, your experience, and some local knowledge. Prior to getting on the water, review the “Understanding Conditions” section in this guidebook to ensure you have gathered the information and equipment necessary for a successful trip.

## Cape Meares Lake

**2+ miles; 2 hours; Beginner - Intermediate; Map: Tillamook Flatwater**

Don't be fooled by its small size. Nestled next to the Pacific Ocean is Tillamook County's largest lake, Cape Meares Lake. At first glance, its hidden treasures are not obvious, but closer examination reveals many wonders. This freshwater oasis offers anglers seasonally stocked trout and hatchery Steelhead (see ODFW's regulations for specifics). Bright pink water lilies bloom on the lake in May. Although not native, they are a delight to the paddler's eye. The tall grasses, beaver lodges, and roar of the ocean all add to the sensory experience. In August and September, the invasive plant, milfoil, engulfs the waters, making navigation difficult (clean your boat thoroughly). Access the lake by driving west on Third St. out of Tillamook, turn right on Bay Ocean Rd., and continue approximately 5 miles. The road is adjacent to the lake and launch.



Port of Garibaldi, Oregon

## Garibaldi/Miami Cove

**2+ miles; 2 hours; Intermediate**  
**Map: Tillamook Bay**

During salmon fishing season, the bustling Port of Garibaldi and surrounding marina are crowded with recreational and commercial vessels. Bring a crab ring or pole to begin the search for your very own seafood dinner. For an easy access point with both a dock and beach launch; head north on Hwy. 101, turn left in downtown Garibaldi on 7th St. towards the bay. From there, take your 1st left onto American Way and then right on to Jerry Creasy Way. You can also bypass American

Way and continue directly to the Port facilities. There you will see the boat moorage, marina, and boat launch (fee required) on the left. Once on the water, paddle east to find Miami Cove and its wetlands for high tide exploration. This area turns to mud at low tide. Another put-in option is located north on Hwy. 101 off 12th St. There you will find parking and a steep set of steps to the beach. For this site, high tide launching and landing is best.

## Kilchis Point and the Upper Bay

**2 - 4 miles; 3 - 4 hours; Intermediate**  
**Map: Kilchis & Wilson Rivers - Tidal**

The upper Tillamook Bay has an abundance of fascinating paddling opportunities. Use caution as many of these areas drain to mud at low tide. If you are unsure about an area, plan to be on the water 2 hours prior to high tide and off the water 2 hours after high tide. For an effortless high tide launch, Bay City provides a perfect location with easy beach access. Heading south on Hwy. 101 turn right (west) onto Warren St., make a right on Spruce St. and follow the pavement to the end of Salmon St. As you pull away from the shore and paddle southwest, you will pass by picturesque Goose Point. Continue south along the shoreline another half mile to reach historic Kilchis Point and the mouth of the Kilchis River. An area rich with history, it is home to one of Tillamook Bay's largest known Native American sites. Joe Champion, thought to be the first white settler in Tillamook County, is reported to have carved living quarters in a large tree stump, and later built a residence on this land. The property between these points is now owned by the Tillamook County Pioneer Museum and is open to the public for walk-in access only; there is no hunting or woodcutting allowed. Rich wetlands and native plants provide numerous birding prospects. The Museum's vision for this area is one of terrestrial trails intertwined with historical and natural resource interpretation.

Roger Ross Photography



Salal, a native plant common in this region.



## Tillamook Tidbits

- Cows significantly outnumber residents in Tillamook County
- There are 665 stream miles in the Tillamook Bay watershed
- Cape Meares State Scenic Viewpoint is the home to Oregon's largest Sitka Spruce, which stands 144 feet tall
- The Tillamook Cheese Visitors Center attracts nearly 1 million visitors each year



# Tillamook Bay Paddles

## **Carnahan Park - 5th Street to Hoquarton/Dougherty Sloughs** **2 - 4 miles; 2 - 3 hours; Beginner - Intermediate** **Map: Trask & Tillamook Rivers - Tidal**

Carnahan Park boasts plenty of parking (seasonal fee), restrooms, and a clean boat ramp and dock. Perhaps the most convenient paddling access you will find for Tillamook Bay, this beautiful, relatively easy trip begins with a put-in on the Trask River. Heading downstream, follow the first channel that branches to the right and begin enjoying the tranquil Dougherty Slough which continues past Hwy. 101. The next right brings you into the Hoquarton Slough. Step back in time as you float by old pilings which once supported lively docks and waterfront businesses. You would never imagine that you are now only a quarter mile from the heart of the City of Tillamook. Half way up the Hoquarton Slough is a boat ramp (with no restrooms) for stretching your legs, getting a quick snack, or exploring the adjacent Hoquarton Interpretive Trail. From downtown Tillamook, turn west on 5th St., and the road will end at Carnahan Park.

Photo Courtesy Tillamook High School



Photo Courtesy Amanda Borel

SUP

### **Stand Up Paddleboarding**

Originating in Hawaii, this emerging sport is taking hold along the Pacific Coast. A Stand Up Paddleboard (SUP) is generally 9' or longer and a one-bladed paddle is used to steer. SUPs do not need a wave for propulsion, so the quiet waters of Tillamook Bay's tidal areas make for the perfect setting to try out this trend. The Coast Guard recognizes these boards as "vessels" and a PFD, whistle, and Oregon AIS permit are required on board.

### **Bay Ocean Spit**

**6 miles; 4+ hours;**  
**Beginner - Intermediate; Map: Tillamook Flatwater**

Bay Ocean Spit is the narrow strip of land separating Tillamook Bay from the ocean. In the early 1900's, the majority of the peninsula was slated for development. It hosted a resort hotel, a small town, many homes, and was deemed the "Atlantic City of the West". Shortly after the beginning of this dream, various elements, including the building of a new jetty, caused a change in conditions that led to increased erosion, ending in eventual abandonment of the area. Today, there is little trace of the old community that once flourished with only a couple of quiet trails to the end of the spit.



Bay Ocean Spit

One path borders the forest, the other the beach; whichever route you choose will offer scenic vistas. Water access to north Bay Ocean Spit requires a calm day with detailed knowledge of the current, wind, and tide conditions. A free, rustic campground with vault toilets sits at the northeast end of the spit adjoining Crab Harbor. Campfires are restricted during fire season (check Oregon Dept. of Forestry for current information). When entering via water from the south, begin at the parking lot. A high tide is necessary as much of the shoreline drains to mud at low tide. To get to Bay Ocean Spit, follow Third St. west out of Tillamook, stay right on Bay Ocean Rd., and continue approximately 5 miles to the spit. For more information regarding camping, check the Tillamook County Park Department website under the section, "Park rules, regulations & policies".



# Tillamook Bay Paddles

## **Burton Bridge County Boat Ramp: Tillamook River (upstream) or Tillamook Tidewater Access (downstream)**

**5 miles; 2 hours; Beginner - Intermediate**  
**Map: Trask & Tillamook Rivers - Tidal**

When the tide rolls in along this 5 mile stretch, the Tillamook River fills to the brim and creates a sense of tranquility. The waterfowl favor these still waters which makes for excellent birding opportunities. Down river about a half mile of the put-in, the forested banks provide visual variety to the paddling experience. Bank-fishing for sturgeon and salmon is popular along this particular section. Check ODFW fishing regulations for seasons and restrictions. From Tillamook, head south on Hwy. 101 and turn right on 12th St. Take an immediate left onto Tillamook River Rd. Drive about one mile to the intersection with Fraser Rd. to reach the access point. During fishing season, the parking area can be busy, so plan accordingly.

Roger Ross Photography



*Wilson River - 10 minutes of weather can change conditions dramatically.*

## **Mills Bridge to Sollie Smith**

**4 + miles; 2 - 3 hours; Beginner - Intermediate**  
**Map: Kilchis & Wilson Rivers - Tidal**

This trip provides a perfect introduction to the area's whitewater. For a beginner learning how to handle a boat or read a river, this 4-mile run with Class I paddling, offers some moving water. Several short swiftwater sections provide eddy lines at higher flows, so beginning boaters should use caution. Pay special attention to how the scenery changes from forest to open fields, and watch for birds — ducks and blue herons are common on this stretch of river. The Mills Bridge access point is east on Hwy. 6 about 5.5 miles from Tillamook. There is a day use fee and, generally, plenty of parking.

## **Angling in the Tillamook Bay Watershed**

Whether you enjoy the solitude of a kayak or canoe, rowing downstream in a driftboat, casting off the bank, or trolling in a motorboat, local waterways support a bounty of fish species for your angling pleasure. The Tillamook Bay watershed offers a multitude of fishing experiences for every type of watercraft. Once set up with a vessel of your choice, some rigging and free time, the seasons will help dictate your choices. Consider trying for salmon in the fall, or trout fishing in the summer, or hitting the streams for Steelhead in the winter. Year-round, try your luck coaxing the elusive sturgeon from the watery depths, jigging for rockfish off the jetties, or perhaps give spearfishing a try. Interest in kayak angling has grown significantly in the last decade, but the secrets of line, weight, and bait are still difficult to entice from fellow fishers. The web hosts many sites specializing in kayak fishing, running the gamut from how to choose well-suited boats and gear, to picking opportune sites for maximizing your chances of landing that trophy fish.

Proper habitat is essential for maintaining the diversity of species that populate Tillamook Bay. Healthy riparian areas provide the clean, cold water that is imperative for the survival of salmonids. Often seen as obstacles, downed woody debris in streams and the estuary creates refuge for juveniles, slows the velocity of moving waters, and is the base of the food chain. Appropriate disposal of discarded fishing line and tackle, and cleaning your boat assures waterways are clear of debris and reduces the spread of aquatic invasive species. Adherence to rules and regulations also promotes the long-term sustainability of sport fishing. Licenses, daily limits, and gear restrictions are imposed to support projects and programs targeted at increasing and improving fishing opportunities. Key things to remember while angling in Oregon: currently persons 14 years or older need a fishing license and all persons regardless of age need a valid Combined Angling Tag when fishing for salmon, Steelhead, sturgeon or Pacific Halibut. For specific information contact the Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife at: [www.dfw.state.or.us](http://www.dfw.state.or.us)



*Wilson River Catch*





# The Tillamook Bay Watershed

Ecola State Park



Saddle Mountain State Park

## Legend for following section maps

- |                           |                              |                     |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| Public Access - Flatwater | Public Access - Whitewater   | Highway Mileposts   |
| Oregon Dept. of Forestry  | Flow Direction               | 10 River Miles      |
| Parks                     | Private Land - Do not access | Wetlands            |
| Local Gov't.              | Bureau of Land Management    | Mud Flats           |
| Marina                    | Wildlife Viewing             | Lodging             |
| Common Kayak Access       | Restroom                     | Motorized Boat Ramp |
| Camping                   | Drinking Water               | Food                |
| Picnic Area               | Disabled Access              |                     |

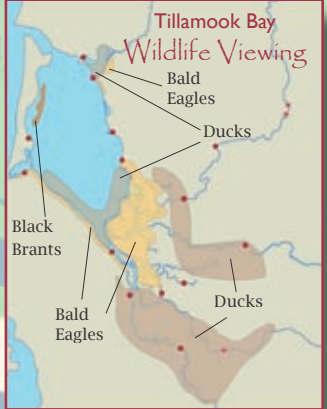


This guidebook cannot alert you to every hazard or anticipate the reader's abilities. The content within these maps is in no way a guarantee that any area is safe or unsafe. People using this guidebook must understand their own limitations, paddle within their abilities, and assume full responsibility for their own safety.

All designated access sites are owned by public entities, fees may be charged; GPS coordinates are provided for some secluded walk-in sites. Roads leading to denoted areas are accessible with 2-wheel drive vehicles, although for remote sites, 4-wheel drive may be necessary under some conditions. No warranty is made by TEP as to the accuracy, reliability or completeness of information contained in this guidebook.

Tillamook County Clatsop County

For more information regarding the Nehalem River, see the *Nehalem Water Trail Guidebook* or visit the website at: [www.tbnep.org](http://www.tbnep.org)



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**Page below prints on top of fold out map**

D.L. Gustafson



R. Draheim



These tiny New Zealand Mudsnails can easily transport themselves from rocks to boots and boats, and have been found in the Tillamook Bay.

**Invasive species to watch for along this water trail**

Nancy Loewenstein



**Parrot Feather**  
Auburn University,  
Bugwood.org

Alison Fox



**Eurasian Water Milfoil**  
University of Florida,  
Bugwood.org

Dave Bremner



**Purple Loosestrife**  
Courtesy - Michigan Sea Grant

**Remember:**  
All non-motorized crafts 10' or more need an Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention permit. More info: [www.boatoregon.com/OSMB/](http://www.boatoregon.com/OSMB/)

**Help Stop the Spread of Aquatic Invasives**

Aquatic nuisance species are a serious threat to Oregon's waterways. Introduction and spread of harmful non-native species can upset the delicate balance of our fragile ecosystems. Aquatic nuisance species are often spread between waterways by hitching a ride on boats and gear.

Clean, drain, and dry boats and gear after each use. For more information:

[www.boatoregon.com/OSMB/Clean/ANS.shtml](http://www.boatoregon.com/OSMB/Clean/ANS.shtml)



Above: Knotweeds are spreading rapidly in riparian ecosystems. These tall and robust plants are commonly seen in the lower rivers. Below: Yellow Flag Iris - This aquatic invader can be mistaken for cattails when not in flower.

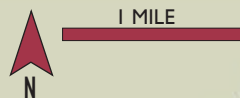


**REPORT INVASIVES:**

If you are concerned about a potential invasive species you have found in Oregon, call the toll-free invasive species hotline number at 1-866-INVADER (1-866-468-2337) or go online to report at [www.oregoninvasiveshotline.org](http://www.oregoninvasiveshotline.org)



# Tillamook Flatwater



Tillamook Bay at low tide

Tillamook Bay is rich with many species of clams. Gaper, butter, cockle, littleneck, and softshell clams are abundant and valued for their size and taste. A license is required to harvest shellfish for people ages 14 and older. Oyster beds in Tillamook Bay are privately owned. Contact the Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife for regulations and shellfish toxin closures. [www.dfw.state.or.us](http://www.dfw.state.or.us)

## Rockaway Beach



**CAUTION:** The Tillamook Bay bar can be treacherous, and is often closed due to high surf. Be mindful of outgoing tides and currents that can increase in strength as you get closer to the ocean. This channel is busy with motorboats and commercial vessels. Garibaldi Coast Guard observations: 503-322-3234; Emergencies: 9-1-1



Port of Garibaldi - Offers several access sites including a marina boat ramp and high tide beach launches.



Crab Harbor - has rustic campsites with vault toilets. Intermediate boaters coming from the north can carefully plan a channel crossing with the tides. Access from Bay Ocean Spit requires high tide launch to avoid stranding in the mud. There is also hike-in access from the south end.

## Garibaldi

Miami Cove

Hobsonville Point - Unimproved beach launch. Good high tide access to Miami Cove.

The Miami River is only accessible by boat to this point at high tide.

Al Griffin Memorial Park - Seasonal camping with fee; RV/tent sites. For info. contact City of Bay City 503-377-2288

Bay City Launch - Parking limited. Exposed paddling with a lot of wind.

## Bay City

Salmon Street Beach Access - High tide launch/land necessary.

Parks Landing Boat Ramp - Day use fee, plenty of parking and port-a-toilet.

## Cape Meares

Bay Ocean Spit - High tide necessary. Access to Crab Harbor to the north.

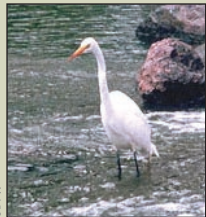


Cape Meares Lake - A freshwater lake with seasonal fishing and bird, deer, and elk hunting; check ODFW and Tillamook County for regulations. Parking is limited. Winds tend to pick up in late morning, off the ocean.



Memaloose Point County Boat Ramp - Day use fee, improved launch and docks. Ramp can be busy during fishing season. **Caution:** Crossing this channel can be extremely difficult especially once the winds begin. Dress for cold water submersion and be aware of what the tide and winds are doing.

Hoquarton Slough Boat Ramp - Ramp can be muddy & slick at low tide. Front St. access.



Snowy Egret

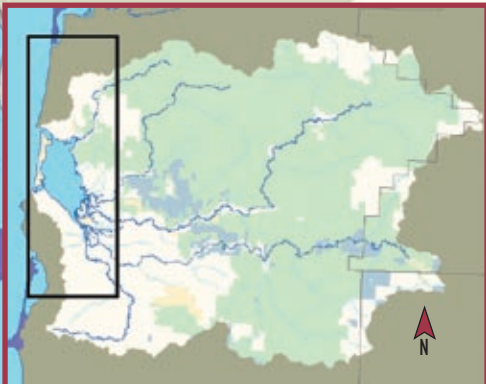


Tillamook Tidewater Access - ADA access to the water's edge for fishing. Walk-in boat access is best at high tide.

Carnahan Park Boat Ramp - Seasonal fee. Plenty of parking, good dock/ramp access.

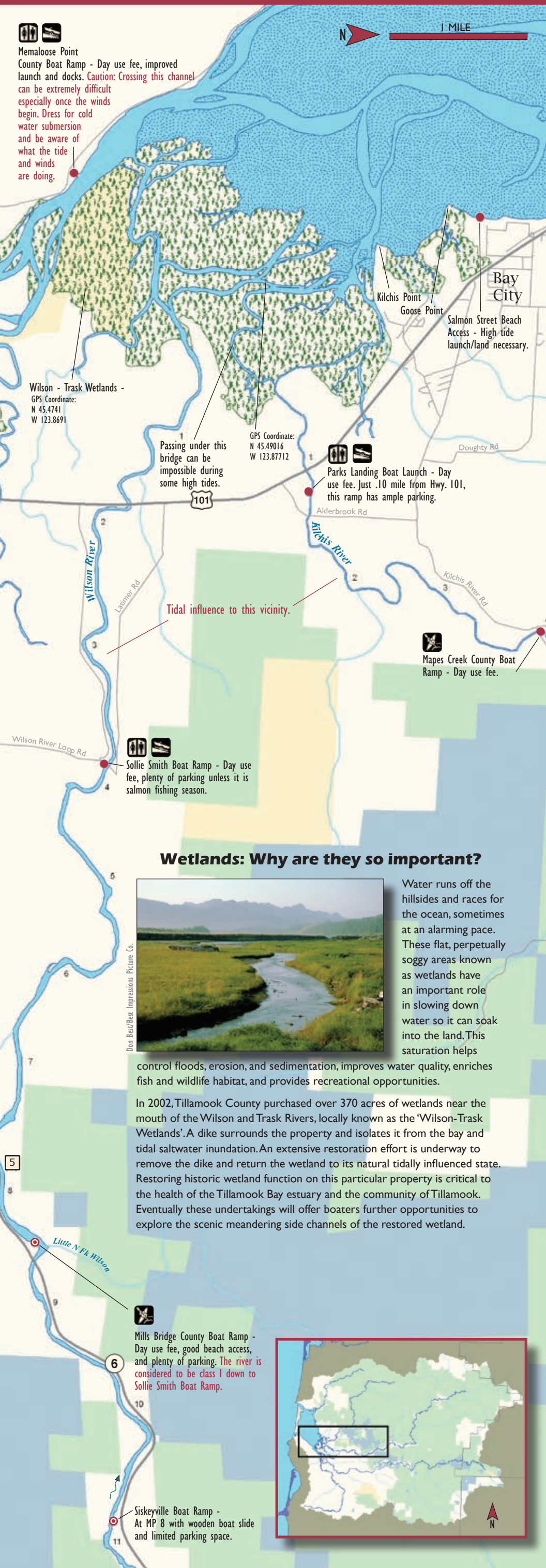


Burton's Bridge Boat Launch - Day use fee, plenty of parking, good ramp access, especially at high tide.





# Kilchis & Wilson Rivers - Tidal Flatwater Paddling



**Memaloose Point County Boat Ramp** - Day use fee, improved launch and docks. **Caution: Crossing this channel can be extremely difficult especially once the winds begin. Dress for cold water submersion and be aware of what the tide and winds are doing.**

**Wilson - Trask Wetlands** -  
GPS Coordinate:  
N 45.4741  
W 123.8691

Passing under this bridge can be impossible during some high tides.

GPS Coordinate:  
N 45.49016  
W 123.87712

**Parks Landing Boat Launch** - Day use fee. Just .10 mile from Hwy. 101, this ramp has ample parking.

**Salmon Street Beach Access** - High tide launch/land necessary.

**Mapes Creek County Boat Ramp** - Day use fee.

**Sollie Smith Boat Ramp** - Day use fee, plenty of parking unless it is salmon fishing season.

## Wetlands: Why are they so important?



Don Best/Best Impressions Picture Co.

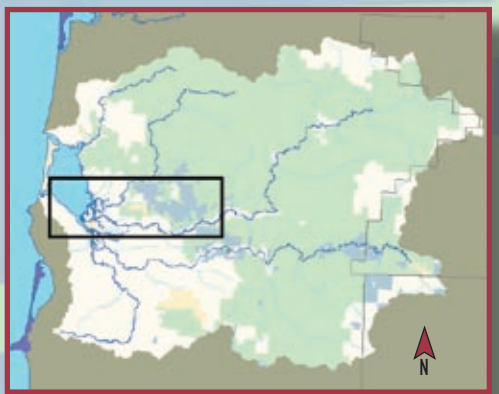
Water runs off the hillsides and races for the ocean, sometimes at an alarming pace. These flat, perpetually soggy areas known as wetlands have an important role in slowing down water so it can soak into the land. This saturation helps

control floods, erosion, and sedimentation, improves water quality, enriches fish and wildlife habitat, and provides recreational opportunities.

In 2002, Tillamook County purchased over 370 acres of wetlands near the mouth of the Wilson and Trask Rivers, locally known as the 'Wilson-Trask Wetlands'. A dike surrounds the property and isolates it from the bay and tidal saltwater inundation. An extensive restoration effort is underway to remove the dike and return the wetland to its natural tidally influenced state. Restoring historic wetland function on this particular property is critical to the health of the Tillamook Bay estuary and the community of Tillamook. Eventually these undertakings will offer boaters further opportunities to explore the scenic meandering side channels of the restored wetland.

**Mills Bridge County Boat Ramp** - Day use fee, good beach access, and plenty of parking. **The river is considered to be class I down to Sollie Smith Boat Ramp.**

**Siskeyville Boat Ramp** - At MP 8 with wooden boat slide and limited parking space.





# Trask & Tillamook Rivers - Tidal Flatwater Paddling



**Memaloose Point County Boat Ramp** - Day use fee, improved launch and docks. **Caution:** Crossing this channel can be extremely difficult especially once the winds begin. Dress for cold water submersion and be aware of what the tide and winds are doing.

**Wilson - Trask Wetlands** - Open to the public with a walking/mountain bike trail and excellent wildlife viewing and birding opportunities. Headed north on Hwy. 101, turn left on Goodspeed Rd. and follow to the gate and sign.



**Tillamook Tidewater Access** - ADA access to the water's edge for fishing. Non-motorized boat access is best at high tide.

The Tillamook Channel is a tight squeeze; a shorter boat along with a high tide may make this route easier.



Roger Ross Photography  
*Hoquarton Trail*



**Carnahan Park Boat Ramp** - Seasonal fee. Plenty of parking, good dock/ramp access.



**Hoquarton Slough Boat Ramp** - Ramp can be slick & muddy at low tide.



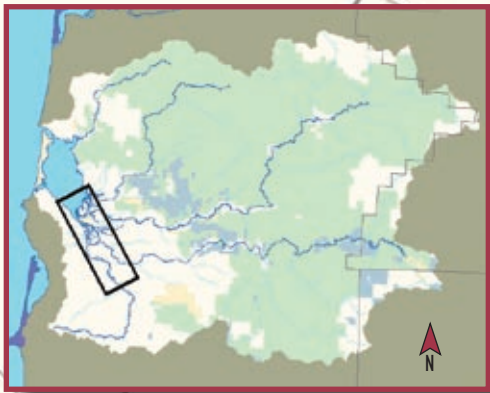
**Burton Bridge County Boat Ramp** - Day use fee, plenty of parking, good ramp access, especially at high tide.



**Steiner Boat Boat Ramp** - Day use fee, plenty of parking, and port-a-toilet.

Tillamook Bay offers numerous inlets and sloughs in this upper-bay region which make for fascinating paddling. Some areas can drain to mud near low tide. If you are unsure about the specific area you are paddling, consider put-in 2 hours prior to high tide and plan to be on the water no more than 4 hours.

Passing under this bridge can be impossible during some high tides.





# Whitewater Day Trips

**CAUTION:** The following sections discuss whitewater paddling which requires advanced experience and training. Those who do not have whitewater training, experience, and equipment should **NOT** attempt these trips.

## Trask River County Campground to Loren's Drift

**Class III; Trask River above Cedar Creek gauge at 750 - 3,000 cfs; 9 miles; 4+ hours;**  
**Intermediate - Advanced whitewater**  
**Map: Trask & Wilson Rivers - Whitewater**

The versatile Trask has good runs possible from 400 cfs to beyond 3,000 cfs. The South Fork, just below the fish hatchery, showcases a narrow, continuous class II run with two class III ledge drops. One more class III drop follows on the main stem above the Stones Road boat launch. Stones Road to Upper Peninsula offers several miles of easy class I and II water. The popular *Rocky Road* run begins at Upper Peninsula boat launch. A fun wave train at the tip of the peninsula allows some warm-up before the class III+ *Upper Dam Hole* and the *Dam Hole*, both of which can be sticky and boney at low water. Higher flows make this stretch easier, but present challenges for the rest of the river. A whirlpool downstream from the *Dam Hole* pool is a perfect play spot at 1,100 cfs. After 0.75 miles of easy water, *Rocky Road* begins. This 1.25 mile boulder garden provides non-stop action that gets faster as the water rises. Use caution and avoid blind spillovers. Several eddy lines and a surf wave supply some amusement before the take-out at Loren's Drift on river left.



Roger Ross Photography

Camping the water trail

## S. Fork Kilchis River Confluence to Mapes Creek County Boat Ramp

**Class III; Wilson gauge at 2,000 to 5,000 cfs; 10 miles; 4+ hours;**  
**Intermediate - Advanced whitewater**  
**Map: Kilchis River Whitewater**

A remote, forest river with several class III rapids, numerous class II rapids, boulder gardens, and several small play waves. All significant rapids can and should be surveyed from the banks, as wood is common on the Kilchis. Boulder gardens can generally be eddy-scouted from the river. Take Hwy. 101 north from Tillamook past the cheese factory, turn right onto Alderbrook Road, then right onto Kilchis River Road. Take a right onto Kilchis Forest Road to cross the river. On your left is the lowest of the take-outs, Mapes Creek County Boat Ramp. From there, put-in points are at Barker Bridge and South Fork bridge, 6.6 and 9.4 miles up Kilchis Forest Road.



Tina Chick

Red-spotted Garter Snake

## Paddling through the Tillamook State Forest

This magnificent Coast Range forest benefits the Tillamook Bay watershed by helping filter water, supplying oxygen, and storing atmospheric carbon. The dense, damp forests also provide numerous recreational opportunities and wood for commercial uses. For plant and animal species, the large trees furnish shade for the forest floor, creeks, and rivers, and the dead or dying trees create rich habitat, especially for salmon.

The forest has seen dramatic changes including the "Tillamook Burn", a series of four large fires (1933-1951) that burned 350,000 acres of old-growth forest. Beginning in 1948, the devastated area was reforested with help from citizens, school children, and inmate labor, and is now managed for future generations with consideration to its ecological, social, and economic values.

The Coast Range averages 105 inches of precipitation annually. In wintertime, rain-swollen rivers provide paddlers with exciting whitewater opportunities. Lower water levels in summer and fall create shallow swimming holes along some of these same stretches. Miles of hiking and off-road vehicle trails acquaint visitors with inspiring views of majestic trees and wildflower meadows. Day use areas, waysides, and campsites furnish quiet places to picnic and respite for the weary traveler. For more about our local forests visit Tillamook Forest Center at milepost 22, on the Wilson River Highway (Hwy. 6).  
[www.tillamookforestcenter.org](http://www.tillamookforestcenter.org)

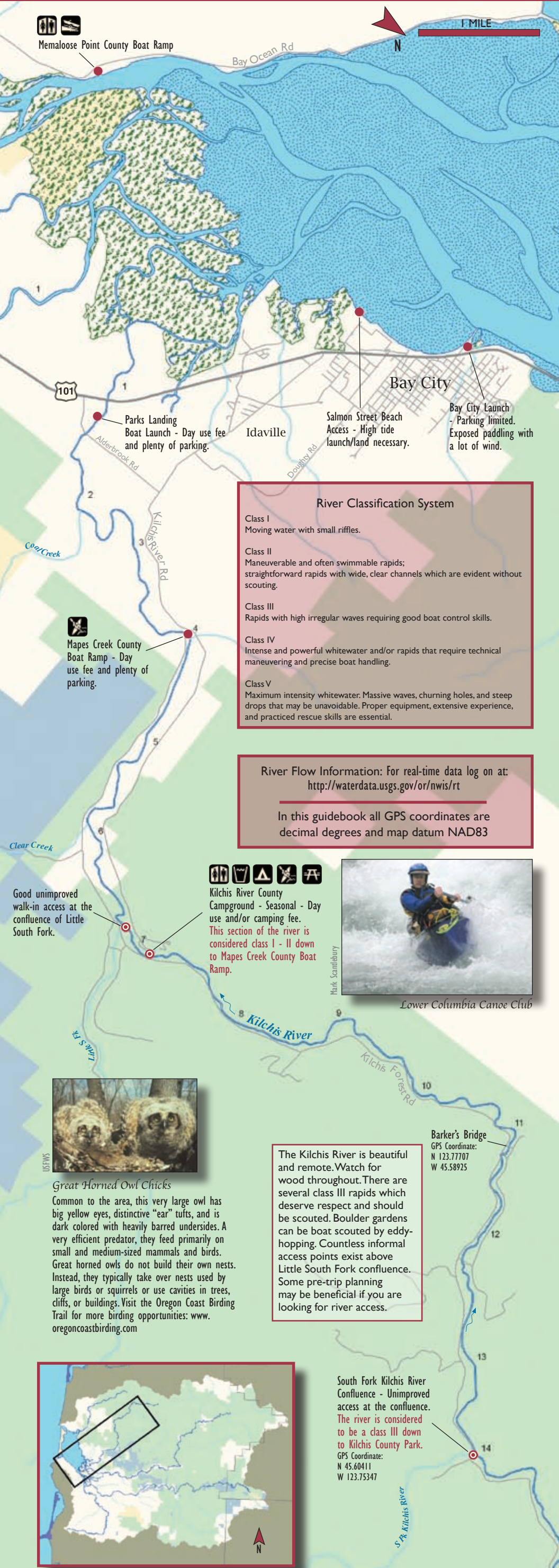
Wilson River



Photo by Roger Ross Photography



# Kilchis River - Whitewater Paddling



Memaloose Point County Boat Ramp

Bay Ocean Rd

1 MILE

N

101

Parks Landing Boat Launch - Day use fee and plenty of parking.

Idaville

Salmon Street Beach Access - High tide launch/land necessary.

Bay City

Bay City Launch - Parking limited. Exposed paddling with a lot of wind.



Mapes Creek County Boat Ramp - Day use fee and plenty of parking.

## River Classification System

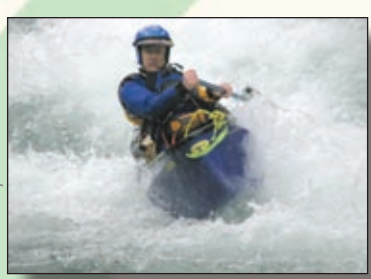
- Class I**  
Moving water with small riffles.
- Class II**  
Maneuverable and often swimmable rapids; straightforward rapids with wide, clear channels which are evident without scouting.
- Class III**  
Rapids with high irregular waves requiring good boat control skills.
- Class IV**  
Intense and powerful whitewater and/or rapids that require technical maneuvering and precise boat handling.
- Class V**  
Maximum intensity whitewater. Massive waves, churning holes, and steep drops that may be unavoidable. Proper equipment, extensive experience, and practiced rescue skills are essential.

River Flow Information: for real-time data log on at: <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/or/nwis/rt>

In this guidebook all GPS coordinates are decimal degrees and map datum NAD83

Good unimproved walk-in access at the confluence of Little South Fork.

  
Kilchis River County Campground - Seasonal - Day use and/or camping fee.  
This section of the river is considered class I - II down to Mapes Creek County Boat Ramp.



Lower Columbia Canoe Club



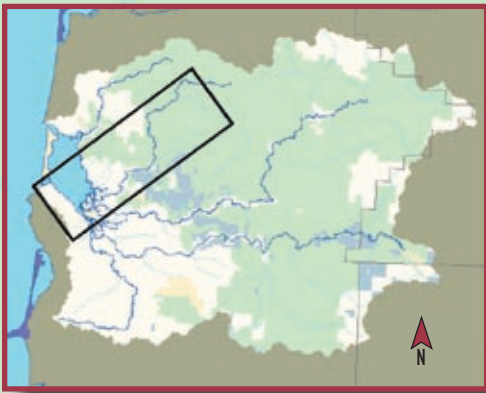
Great Horned Owl Chicks

Common to the area, this very large owl has big yellow eyes, distinctive "ear" tufts, and is dark colored with heavily barred undersides. A very efficient predator, they feed primarily on small and medium-sized mammals and birds. Great horned owls do not build their own nests. Instead, they typically take over nests used by large birds or squirrels or use cavities in trees, cliffs, or buildings. Visit the Oregon Coast Birding Trail for more birding opportunities: [www.oregoncoastbirding.com](http://www.oregoncoastbirding.com)

The Kilchis River is beautiful and remote. Watch for wood throughout. There are several class III rapids which deserve respect and should be scouted. Boulder gardens can be boat scouted by eddy-hopping. Countless informal access points exist above Little South Fork confluence. Some pre-trip planning may be beneficial if you are looking for river access.

Barker's Bridge  
GPS Coordinate:  
N 123.77707  
W 45.58925

South Fork Kilchis River Confluence - Unimproved access at the confluence.  
The river is considered to be a class III down to Kilchis County Park.  
GPS Coordinate:  
N 45.60411  
W 123.75347



N



# Wilson River - Whitewater

## Whitewater Paddling



**Lower Peninsula** - Good parking and river access. The river is considered class III - IV just below this point.

**Wilson River County Park** - (formerly "Demolay"). Put-in option A: Near milepost 12, park on Hwy. 6 and walk boats in about .25 miles. Put-in option B: From Wilson River County Park drive west over the bridge and turn north on North Coast Range Rd., bear right at Y, continue 1/2 mile, turn rt. onto road that descends to large parking area and river. The river is considered class II+ from here down. Option B GPS Coordinate: N 45.49638 W 123.62422

The Narrows - is a gorge that can be scouted from river right. The final slot is 6' wide which causes constriction at high flow. Class III+; class IV at high water. Caution above 5000cfs.

**Jordan Creek** - A technical creek for experienced whitewater boaters. Follow signs from Hwy. 6 to the Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) staging area that has access to the creek with plenty of parking. Campground is open seasonally. From here up river to the road's closure are countless informal access opportunities. Scout as needed. Best flow when Wilson gauge is 5000cfs: <http://waterdata.usgs.gov> GPS Coordinate: N 45.52106 W 123.54334



**Skunk Cabbage**  
Smell aside, the western skunk cabbage is a strikingly beautiful plant. Yellow flowers resembling the calla lily are surrounded by huge, waxy green leaves. Its distinctive odor attracts insects necessary for pollination. Look for blooms dotting wet and boggy sites in early Spring.

**Elk Creek Campground** - Rustic walk-in campsites with access to the river. More info at [www.oregon.gov/ODF](http://www.oregon.gov/ODF)

**Devil's Lake Fork** - Unimproved pullout near where Hwy. 6 crosses the river. The river is considered class III - IV from here down to Jones Creek.

**Mills Bridge County Boat Ramp** - Day use fee. Good beach access. Small class I rapids down to Sollie Smith.

**Siskeyville Boat Ramp** - At MP 8 with wooden boat slide and limited parking space.

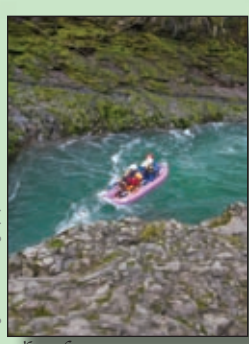
**Vanderzanden Memorial** - The boat launch is a steep boat slide that generally caters to driftboaters.

**Scott's Chute** Class III

**Restrooms** across Hwy. 6 at C. Sprague Wayside.

**Wilson 'Narrows'**  
Class III+; Wilson gauge at 1500 - 2600+cfs; miles vary; whitewater experience

Deciding how far you want to paddle will help you select where to put in. Jones Creek Campground at milepost 23 makes a good start for a long run. One take-out location is at milepost 15. During the first few miles from Jones Creek, expect class II and easy class III rapids. Many streams join the Wilson and increase the push as you drop down river. On the right, just below milepost 15, you will have a good scouting view for "the Narrows", a long narrow gorge with class III+ rapids at above 1800cfs and class IV above 2600cfs. To avoid "the Narrows," put-in at Wilson River County Park ("Demolay") and enjoy class II water with great scenery. Seek more details from Soggy Sneakers by Pete Giordano and the Willamette Kayak & Canoe Club.



**Keenig Creek Campground** - Seasonal walk-in camping with rustic sites and vault toilets. Camping fee.

**Footbridge Trail Head** - Good parking and easy river access. The river is considered class III from here down to Wilson River County Park.

**CAUTION:** 2006 log barrier; mandatory portage.

**Tillamook Forest Center** - Interpretive center devoted to the Tillamook State Forest.

**Jones Creek Campground** - Plenty of parking and good river access. Class II - III.

**Diamond Mill OHV staging area** - Plenty of parking and good river access. GPS Coordinate: N 45.60555 W 123.54774

**N. Fork/W. Fork Confluence** - Unimproved access. From Diamond Mill continue .2 miles, stay right and continue 1.5 miles to bridge over the confluence. Best flow when Wilson gauge is 5000cfs: <http://waterdata.usgs.gov> GPS Coordinate: N 45.62380 W 123.54263v

**CAUTION:** Road Closed. Road washouts can happen seasonally. Use caution and check ODF site for current closures and information: <http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/>

**CAUTION:** Elk Creek Rapid - Class IV on left into wall w/ undercut; portage on right.





# Trask & Wilson Rivers - Whitewater

## Whitewater Paddling



Tillamook Tidewater Access

Hoquarton Slough Boat Ramp

Steiner Boat Launch - Day use fee and plenty of parking.

Sollie Smith Boat Ramp - Day use fee, and plenty of parking unless it is fishing season.

Loren's Drift - Unimproved pullout and a driftboat slide. Plenty of parking. The river is considered class I down to Steiner boat launch.

Mills Bridge County Boat Ramp - Parking fee. Good beach access. Small class I rapids down to Sollie Smith.

Siskeyville Boat Launch  
Vanderzanden Memorial - The boat launch is a steep boat slide that generally caters to driftboaters.

'Rocky Road' - Continuous class III boulder garden.

'The Dam Hole' - Class III - IV; possible portage on right.

'Upper Dam Drop' - Class III.

Lower Peninsula - Good parking and river access. The river is considered class III - IV just below this point.

Upper Peninsula

Stones Rd. Boat Launch - Good parking and river access. The river is considered class II to the Upper Peninsula.

Wilson River County Park - "Demolay"

E. Fork of South Fork Trask - Just below the hatchery is good parking and river access. Rustic camping in the area. The river is considered class III to the Stones Rd. Boat Launch. Two 5' drops; watch for wood to N. Fk. Confluence.  
GPS Coordinate: N 45.41346 W 123.59922

Trask River County Campground - Day use and camping fee. Camping available along the water's edge, open year-round.

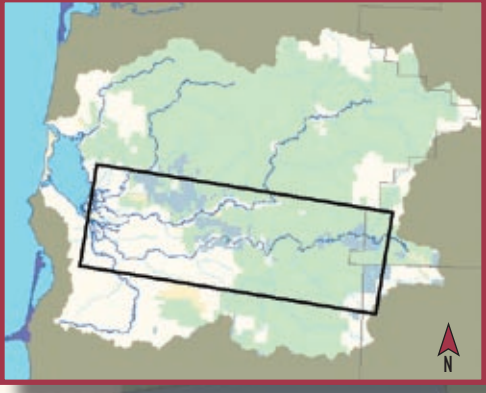
Good Take-out - GPS Coordinate N 45.44658 W 123.56332



Western Red-cedar

Western red cedar is prized for its durability, light weight, insulating quality, and beauty. It has been called the cornerstone of northwest coastal Native American culture and was traditionally used for housing, containers, canoes, clothing, rope, and medicines. Today, it is still a staple for construction and containers, and its oils are used for perfumes, insecticides, medicines, and soaps. It is an important winter food source for elk and black-tailed deer.

N. Fk. of the N. Fk. Trask River Confluence - Unimproved launch. The river is considered a class II - III from here to the take-out at Bark Shanty Creek: <http://waterdata.usgs.gov> (follow links to 'Trask River above Cedar Creek') 1400 cfs is a good minimum flow on the gauge above Cedar Creek.  
GPS Coordinate N 45.46531 W 123.46118



# Resources

## Weather & Conditions

Local Weather: <http://weather.yahoo.com/forecast/USOR0239.html>

Wind Report: [www.wrh.noaa.gov/pqr/buoys.php](http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/pqr/buoys.php)

Oregon Rivers: <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/or/nwis/rt>

NOAA's Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service: <http://www.weather.gov/oh/ahps/>

Tide Predictions: [www.saltwatertides.com](http://www.saltwatertides.com)

Tide tables provided at local markets.

NOAA: [www.wrh.noaa.gov/pqr/](http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/pqr/)

Buoys: [www.wrh.noaa.gov/pqr/buoys.php](http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/pqr/buoys.php)

Surf Report: [www.oregonsurfcheck.com](http://www.oregonsurfcheck.com)

Garibaldi, OR Coast Guard Observations: (503)322-3234

Road Report: [www.tripcheck.com](http://www.tripcheck.com)

Tillamook State Forest Road/Trail Closures: (503)815-7024  
[http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/TSF/road\\_and\\_trail\\_rpt.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/TSF/road_and_trail_rpt.shtml)

## Safety Information

American Canoe Association: [www.americancanoe.org](http://www.americancanoe.org)

Oregon State Marine Board Equipment and Safety Information:  
[www.boatoregon.com/OSMB/BoatLaws/Requirements.shtml](http://www.boatoregon.com/OSMB/BoatLaws/Requirements.shtml)

US Coast Guard Navigation Center - Local Notice to Mariners:  
<http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/>

## Instruction/Tours Retail/Rentals

Cape Falcon Kayak: [www.capefalconkayak.com](http://www.capefalconkayak.com)

Columbia River Kayaking: [www.columbiariverkayaking.com](http://www.columbiariverkayaking.com)

Kayak Tillamook, LLC: [www.kayaktillamook.com](http://www.kayaktillamook.com)

Wheeler Marina Rentals: (503)368-5780

Wheeler on the Bay Lodge: (503)368-5858

Water Trails: [www.seakayakermag.com](http://www.seakayakermag.com)

## Clubs/Groups

Bend Paddle Trail Alliance: [www.bendpaddletrailalliance.org](http://www.bendpaddletrailalliance.org)

Lower Columbia Canoe Club: [www.l-ccc.org](http://www.l-ccc.org)

Oregon Kayak & Canoe Club: [www.okcc.org](http://www.okcc.org)

Oregon Ocean Paddling Society: [www.oopskayak.org](http://www.oopskayak.org)

Tillamook County Water Trail: [www.tbnep.org](http://www.tbnep.org)

## Transportation

Tillamook County Transportation District: [www.tillamookbus.com](http://www.tillamookbus.com)

## Chambers

Manzanita-Nehalem-Wheeler: (877)368-5100

Rockaway Beach: (503)355-8108

Tillamook: (503)842-7525

## Camping

Oregon State Parks and Recreation: <http://www.oregon.gov/OPRD/PARKS/>

Tillamook County Parks Dept.: (503)322-3522  
<http://www.co.tillamook.or.us/gov/parks/Campgrounds.htm>

Tillamook State Forest: <http://egov.oregon.gov/ODF/TSF/camping.shtml>

## Paddling Permits/Fees

Aquatic Invasive Species: <http://www.oregon.gov/OSMB/programs/09LawsFAQs.shtml>

Oregon State Parks Day Use Fees: [http://www.oregon.gov/OPRD/PARKS/dayuse\\_permit.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/OPRD/PARKS/dayuse_permit.shtml)

Tillamook County Boat Launch Fees:  
<http://www.co.tillamook.or.us/gov/Parks/BoatLaunchFees.htm>

## Other

Wildlife Center of the North Coast: (503)338-3954

<http://www.coastwildlife.org/Home.html>

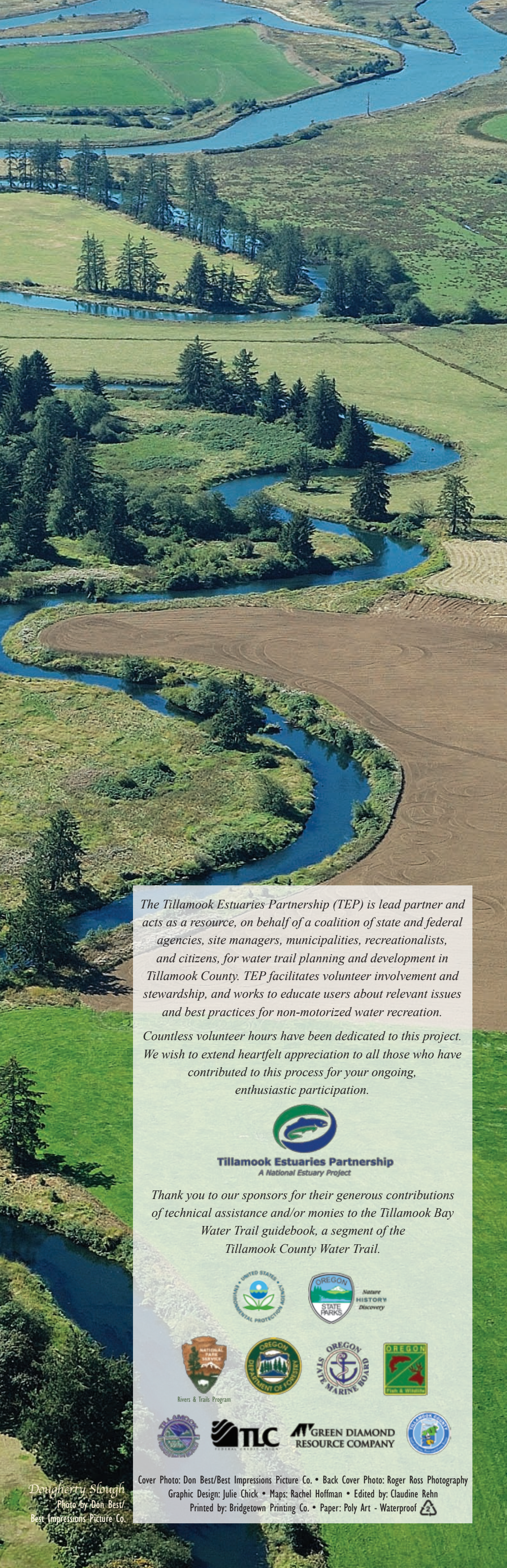
(If you encounter injured or orphaned wildlife)



*Rough-skinned Newt – This is the most visible salamander in our area. Although highly aquatic, it is also often seen crawling about on land. When threatened, this newt raises its head and tail upwards forming a c-shape and exposing its brightly colored underside.*

*Rough-skinned Newts secrete a powerful toxin through their skin. Handle these delicate creatures carefully and wash your hands thoroughly if you come in contact with one. Photo by Tina Chick*





*The Tillamook Estuaries Partnership (TEP) is lead partner and acts as a resource, on behalf of a coalition of state and federal agencies, site managers, municipalities, recreationalists, and citizens, for water trail planning and development in Tillamook County. TEP facilitates volunteer involvement and stewardship, and works to educate users about relevant issues and best practices for non-motorized water recreation.*

*Countless volunteer hours have been dedicated to this project. We wish to extend heartfelt appreciation to all those who have contributed to this process for your ongoing, enthusiastic participation.*

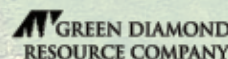


**Tillamook Estuaries Partnership**  
A National Estuary Project

*Thank you to our sponsors for their generous contributions of technical assistance and/or monies to the Tillamook Bay Water Trail guidebook, a segment of the Tillamook County Water Trail.*



Rivers & Trails Program



*Dougherty Slough*  
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The Tillamook County Water Trail is a multi-year project. Guidebooks and maps for the trail will encompass estuaries and watersheds throughout Tillamook County. Donations to keep this project flowing are always appreciated. For information about additional maps in this series or to make a donation, contact the Tillamook Estuaries Partnership at (503) 322-2222.

If there is magic on this planet,  
it is contained in water.

- Loren Eiseley

