

Friends of Willapa National Wildlife Refuge
Press Release

September 15, 2004
Ocean Park, WA

Public invited to learn more about a local treasure: Ellsworth Creek Preserve

Tom Kollasch, manager of the Ellsworth Creek Preserve for The Nature Conservancy of Washington will speak Wednesday, Oct 13th at the Senior Activity Center in Klipsan Beach from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. Attendees will enjoy learning about the Conservancy's efforts to restore this 5,000 acre watershed near the Willapa National Wildlife Refuge. Ellsworth Creek contains one of the largest remaining patches of old growth forest in the area with some trees exceeding 800 years old. Also found are strong salmon runs as well as abundant amphibians and a significant population of threatened marbled murrelet's. The Nature Conservancy purchased 7,200 acres of land in and around the watershed in the past few years to form the preserve. Ellsworth Creek is now the only fully protected coastal watershed of its size between Central Oregon and Southern Canada. Mr. Kollasch will discuss The Nature Conservancy's vision and goals for using the watershed as a living laboratory for forest restoration research. He also plans to discuss Conservancy's cooperative forest restoration efforts with the Willapa National Wildlife Refuge. Come and learn about one of our own local treasures, a scenic delight and an irreplaceable part of Washington's natural heritage.

The public is most welcome to attend this Friends of Willapa National Wildlife Refuge sponsored event. Guests will enjoy learning more about the local diversity of life that often goes unnoticed.

To learn more or join Friends of Willapa National Wildlife Refuge visit
<http://www.willapabay.org/~fwnwr>

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