



OREGON FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION TOUR

TOUR:
Thursday, April 23, 2026- 8:00 AM
Shearwater Inn
120 Inlet Court
Lincoln City, OR 97367

MEETING:
Friday April 24, 2026- 8:00 AM
Lincoln City Cultural Center
540 NE Hwy 101
Lincoln City, OR 97367

Oregon Coast Coho Recovery – A Landscape Perspective: Habitat Restoration and Monitoring in the Siletz River Basin Thursday April 23, 2026

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/98udTYFX9Garf6ig9>

The recovery of Oregon Coast Coho is a powerful example of landscape-scale conservation in action. This tour highlights one of the drivers of that success-- restoring freshwater habitat by tackling the limiting factors that matter most for coho.

What makes this effort stand out is the statewide, largely voluntary partnership behind it—landowners, watershed councils, Tribes, OWEB, and local communities all pulling together. Oregon’s restoration infrastructure has made it possible to turn science into action, directing investments where research and monitoring show they will have the greatest impact.

This tour will showcase how voluntary restoration, strong partnerships, and science-based decision-making helped Oregon Coast Coho rebound—and what these lessons offer for future conservation work.

- 8:00 AM Lobby Shearwater Inn. Vans will be loaded on Inlet Ave.
- 8:20 AM Drift Creek Tidal Channel Reconnection and Large Wood Placement: The Drift Creek estuary historically provided complex rearing habitat for juvenile coho salmon and other species. Land use practices over the previous century resulted in simplified channels and reduced floodplain connectivity. This USFWS-owned site highlights work completed in 2023 where numerous techniques were used to restore estuarine function.
- Derek Wilson, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
 - Evan Hayduk, Mid-Coast Watershed Council
- 9: 15 AM Restoring Habitat Diversity in the Siletz Estuary: This site highlights an innovative effort by the Siletz Tribe to increase habitat complexity in the Siletz Estuary. As we travel over the Highway 101 Bridge, be sure to look

to your right (west) to get a view of the complex wood structures installed by the Siletz Tribe. At our stop down the road, we will hear about the history of this project and what it takes to install hundreds of logs in a dynamic coastal estuary.

- Dylan Gorman, Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians

10:30 AM Beverly Beach State Park: Restroom Break and Snacks to Go

11:15 AM Depot Creek Habitat Creek Restoration: ODFW Habitat Restoration Biologists identify degraded habitats that are not meeting the life history requirements of coho salmon and other species. They work with landowners, such as Weyerhaeuser, to design, permit, fund, and implement projects on the ground. This site offers a glimpse into “pre-project” degraded stream, riparian, and wetland habitat conditions. ODFW biologists will discuss the challenges at this site and how future work will benefit coho, beaver, amphibians and other species. (Hardhats required).

- Noa Meiri, Beaver Conservation Biologist, ODFW
- Brent Priz, Habitat Restoration Biologist, ODFW

12:00 PM Lunch – Siletz Community Clinic – Speakers
Oregon Coast Coho: implementation and evolution of an all-state response to recovery.

- Tom Stahl, Inland Fish Deputy Administrator
- Cyndi Curtis, Wild Salmon Center
- Stephanie Page, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

1:20 PM Mill Creek Habitat Restoration. The primary limiting factor affecting coho smolt production in the Mill Creek watershed was identified as stream complexity, specifically winter rearing habitat. Learn about this project on Weyerhaeuser land and the role that large woody debris plays in creating habitat that is beneficial for both juvenile and adult coho salmon. (Hardhats Required)

- Dylan O’Keefe, District Fish Biologist, ODFW
- Maddie Maffia, Water Resources Science PhD Candidate, Oregon State University

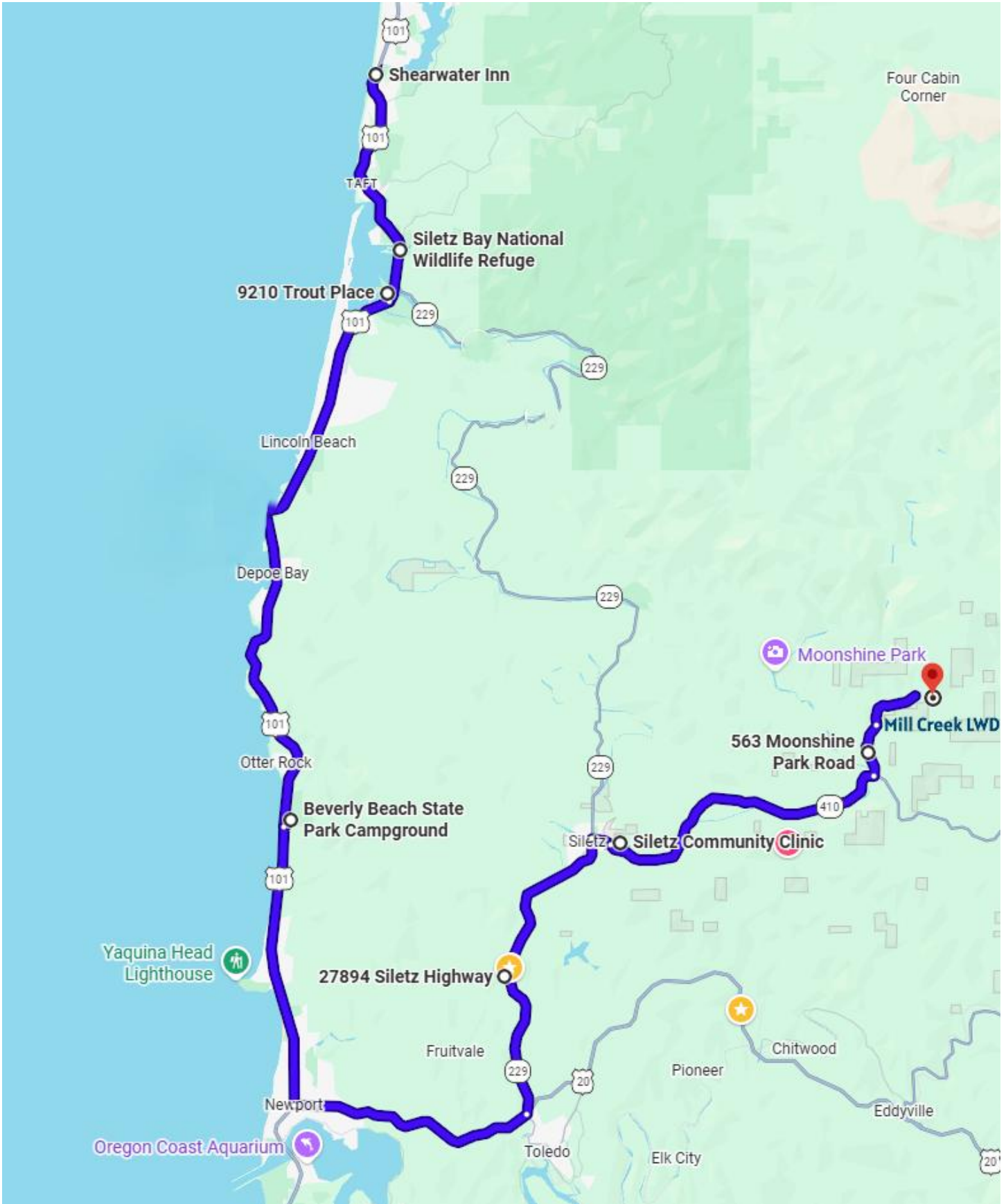
2:15 PM Salmonid Life-Cycle Monitoring and Investigation of Habitat Restoration Effectiveness in the Mill Creek Watershed. OR Coast coho are one of the most intensively monitored populations in the world across such a large scale. The research and monitoring have been critical to the recovery of OR Coast coho, both to track population status and guide restoration actions and fishery management. The Life-Cycle Monitoring (LCM) project, managed

by ODFW, monitors coho salmon and other salmonids in Western Oregon to assess population status, trends, and survival rates across freshwater and marine stages. At this site, we will discuss how LCM data along with physical and biological surveys conducted in the Mill Creek watershed were used to evaluate restoration effectiveness of the Mill Creek Habitat Restoration Project. Partners in the project included the Mid-Coast Watershed Council, Plum Creek Timber (now Weyerhaeuser), Oregon DEQ, and OSU College of Forestry.

- Wes Shum, Assistant Project Leader, ODFW
- Eric Suring, Fish Research Project Leader, ODFW
- Chris Lorion, Conservation Planning Coordinator, ODFW

3:15 PM Siletz Community Center: Restroom Break and Snacks to Go

3:30 PM End of Tour/ Return to Shearwater Inn by 4:30 pm



Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission
Thursday April 23, 2026