

**From “priceless asset” to cash cow . . .
how a city turned to exploiting its own watershed**



Corvallis Forest Timeline, 1840 - 2023

by Betsy Herbert, Ph.D.

Year (s)	Event	Description	Source
1840-1900 Railroads & logging begin to wreak havoc on the pre-settlement landscape			
Pre-1840	Wildfire primary driver of landscape dynamics	Open prairie & oak, old-growth Douglas fir. Other drivers of landscape dynamics included landslides, insects, wind throw and volcanic eruption. The amount of old-growth in the Coast Range was approximately 61% before the great fires of the late 1840s.	Wallin, Swanson, Marks, Cissel & Kertis, 1996; Ripple, William J. 1994. <i>Historic Spatial Patterns of Old Forests in Western Oregon</i> . J of Forestry
1840	Arrival of white settlers	Farming, grazing, cessation of burning	2013 Corvallis Forest Stewardship Plan (CFSP), p. 10
1840	White settlers noted Kalapuya practice of periodic broadcast burning over large areas of the landscape to control unwanted plants, including Douglas fir	Burning favored retaining desired plants including oak, camas and huckleberries	Marys River Watershed Preliminary Assessment, April 1996
1855	Willamette Valley Treaty of 1855 forcibly removes Kalapuya people to reservations	Today, living descendants of these people are a part of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Community of Oregon and the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians	[Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde]; [Confederated Tribe of Siletz]
1866 - 1887	Congress grants 4 million acres of land to Oregon & California Railroad (O & C)	Rail line to go through Western Oregon from Portland to California border near Ashland. Railroads logged intensively as they built the rails.	History of the O & C Lands: 1866 to 1937
1900-1948 Formative period: Struggle to protect the Corvallis watershed from logging			
1905	Oregon state legislature act authorizes original plan for Corvallis water system	State legislature establishes first Corvallis water committee, chaired by Punderson Avery	Corvallis Gazette Times, 7/24/1937
1906	City begins collecting & delivering water from Rock Creek	Corvallis Forest Watershed was undisturbed primary forest	2013 CFSP, p 10
1907	City Water Commission established	Operated as independent agency	Corvallis Gazette Times, 7/24/1937
1907-1910	Railroad logging begins to impact watershed	Concerned citizens organize to protect drinking water; city begins buying watershed land to protect it from logging	2013 CFSP, p 10
1918	Corvallis residents visiting Mary’s Peak are horrified by logging destruction done by railroad logging nearing the watershed.	“The railroad has reached a point where it is ready to turn south into this watershed.. .Farther down the mountain could be seen where the logging had been finished and the brush and debris burned, leaving nothing but ruin & devastation”	Weekly Gazette Times. August 15, 1918

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1920	Act of Congress transfers 1,720 acres of land from railroads to USFS specifically for municipal watershed protection	By an Act of Congress in 1920, 1,720 acres of O & C revested lands in this area transferred from the interior department to the Forest Service specifically for municipal watershed protection.	2005 Siuslaw Natl. Forest Supplemental Report, fsbdev7_007004.pdf
1922	Secretary of Agriculture & City of Corvallis agree to limited access within watershed to protect water source.	Limited access approved for "logging, research & contract forestry, protecting water, but quality for domestic use remains the first priority for all management practices."	2013 CFSP, p 11
1933	Amount of old-growth in Coast Range estimated at 43%, down from 61% in 1840.		Ripple, William J. 1994. Historic Spatial Patterns of Old Forests in Western Oregon. J of Forestry
1934	WPA workers hand dig 6,300,000 gallon reservoir in Corvallis watershed	Reservoir measured 307 ft x 158 ft. x 18 ft deep.	Gazette-Times, July 24, 1937; Gazette-Times-3/20/53
1937	Siuslaw Reserve established to protect Corvallis watershed from logging after water commission works with federal legislators to achieve government purchase.	When private timber interests threatened logging in city watershed, City Water Commission worked with Senator Charles McNary for federal government to purchase 6,000 acres for \$360,000 to place land in Siuslaw Forest Reserve. "Through the efforts of Representative Hawley and Senator McNary the government has placed hundreds of acres in the forest reserve and thereby protected the future of the Corvallis water supply from logging industry and reduced the fire hazard to a minimum." "...the entire district is in much the same condition from timber production point of view as it was in the time of the coming of the white man." Frank Groves, Corvallis Water Commission, in letter to Senator Charles McNary.	Corvallis Gazette Times, 7/24/1937; Gazette-Times, 10/28/1948; Corvallis Gazette Times, April 21, 1986
1937	Water quality from Rock Creek is excellent	"The quality of the mountain water consumed in Corvallis is excellent. It is free from suspended organic or mineral matter. Since the streams which supply the water to the city are free running and gravel movement occurs only once or twice a year, the sedimentation problem does not enter."	Corvallis Gazette Times, 7/24/1937
1940	Land ownership by USFS/City increases to near current pattern	400 acres already logged when city acquired land	2013 CFSP, p 11
1944	The Water Commission writes a letter to the Forest Supervisor of the Siuslaw National Forest stating its clear opposition to logging in the Marys Peak Watershed that supplies the Corvallis municipal water system.	Opposition to logging is based on these following reasons: 1. The city is using all of the summer streamflows during July-October, so there is "no extra margin of water supply to permit experimenting with logging in this watershed. 2. The city's population is growing as is the state college (to later become OSU) and Philomath, and all depend on and invest in the mountain water supply coming from Marys Peak watershed. "Its preservation, therefore, is a matter of profound importance to the entire community." 3. Provides a detailed account of marked decreased summer flows after logging in adjacent watershed lands with similar steep slopes. Normal summer flows begin to return after 25 years. 4. "The basic reason for Government purchase of the Marys Peak watershed was to protect the water supply for Corvallis, Philomath and the State College." 5. "After careful consideration of the affect on stream flow by various logging projects in Benton County, the Water Commission is of the opinion that to log the Marys Peak watershed would reduce summer flow, and would seriously affect the quality of the water, which is now rated second to no other in Oregon."	10/26/44 Letter from Corvallis Water Commission to F.W. Furst, Siuslaw Forest Supervisor; original letter Oregon Historical Society, 2018-042.0002, Collected papers of Frank Groves

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1944	Letters to Siuslaw National Forest endorsing the Water Commission's no-logging policy for the Mary's Peak watershed written by all major local institutions	<p>"...the position taken by the Water Commission is sound, and the Chamber of Commerce hereby registers its approval of action take by the city of Corvallis in opposition to logging the area from which the city obtains its water supply." Nov. 3, 1944, Corvallis Chamber of Commerce;</p> <p>"The policy of the corvallis Water Commission in opposition of logging of the Marys Peak Watershed has the approval of the Benton County Court. We believe that the public interests of Benton County will best be served by no logging in this area." Nov. 9, 1944, Judge McBee, Benton County Court;</p> <p>"I wish to speak for the Oregon State College in heartily endorsing the action of the city officials of Corvallis in their stand against the proposed logging of the Marys Peak watershed. If the water commission took a chance on any scheme for harvesting the timber on the watershed, it would in our estimation, be betraying a trust. It could easily wipe out all the intelligent planning and foresight that the commission has demonstrated in providing an excellent water supply for this community. Oregon State College expects an enrollment after the war of seven thousand students. This, with the expected concomitant growth of the city makes it imperative to conserve and if possible enlarge our water resources rather than risk any deterioration." Nov. 10, 1944, A.L. Strand, President, Oregon State College.</p> <p>"The policy of the Corvallis Water Commission in opposition to logging of the Marys Peak Watershed has the approval of the City of Corvallis. We believe that the public interest of the city of Corvallis and Benton County will best be served by no logging in this area." Nov. 10, 1944, Mayor, City of Corvallis.</p>	Letters from Charles D. Whiteside, Corvallis Chamber of Commerce; Mayor and City Council of Corvallis; A.L. Strand, President, Oregon State College; County Court of Benton County; original letters Oregon Historical Society, 2018-042.0002, Collected papers of Frank Groves
1948	Corvallis Water Commission maintains a position of no logging in the Corvallis watershed, which is still mostly intact old-growth forest		
1948	The timber industry supports a new city charter that would give city council the power to abolish Water Commission	Letters discuss timber interest efforts to undermine the commission. "One large Benton county lumberman, threatened to close up his sawmill in the event he was not permitted to log watershed timber, in spite of this threat the water commission declined to give its approval. Rumor is circulating that this saw mill outfit is connected with the plan to abolish the water commission. Apparently, the operator believes that his influence would be more effective when used on the office of a city manager."	W. F. Groves, Corvallis water commissioner letter to the editor, Corvallis Gazette, Nov. 1, 1948; & letter from "R.C.I."
1948-1972 City transitions from watershed protection to revenue-driven logging			
1948	Corvallis becomes charter city	Water Commission abolished. All decisions about management of the Corvallis Forest would now be made by city council.	Corvallis Gazette Times, November 4, 1948
1952	Rock Creek water system produces pure water through 1952	Harold M. Erickson, state health officer, commends city of Corvallis for "'this very fine accomplishment' in maintaining a pure supply of water throughout the year of 1952." Monthly tests of the water supply showed that the water met bacteriological standards of purity of drinking water.	Corvallis Gazette Times, 02/21/53
1952	US Forest Service transitions from watershed protection to timber production	Congress originally created national forests to counter the market-driven exploitation of timber by private industry. After World War II, the agency itself turned to timber exploitation, but insisted, without evidence, that its superior knowledge of forestry would allow maximum timber production without harming other public benefits like watershed protection and habitat.	Hirt, Paul W. 1994. A Conspiracy of Optimism: Management of the National Forests since World War II. University of Nebraska Press. Lincoln & London.
1952	Salvage logging conducted after windthrow & bark beetles damage forest stands in city watershed	Road system installed to access timber	2013 CFSP, p 11;

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1952	Forest Service uses clandestine strategy to convince Portland Water Bureau to accept commercial logging as the appropriate management regime for the Bull Run	1952 internal Forest Service memo Forest Service internal memo describing the agency's strategy to promote logging in the Bull Run: "For fifty years city officials and Portland residents have been bally-hooing pure Bull Run water from an unmolested watershed. Many are fully convinced that to keep their water pure the watershed must remain forever untouched. There is a tremendous P. R. job to change this thinking of some 50 years standing. The advantages of opening the watershed must be pointed out to city officials and civic leaders in such a way as to win their cooperation. The entire Portland urban population should be apprised of the necessity of proper management. If the initial steps are not taken with caution we will undoubtedly experience strong opposition which could easily reach congressional level. . . .If the city owned this area they unquestionably would consider converting this timber resource into dollars."	USDA Forest Service 8/1/52 as quoted in Harmon, Rick. 1995. "The Bull Run Watershed: Portland's Enduring Jewel" in Oregon Historical Quarterly, Vol. 96, Nos. 2 &3. and Fitzgerald 1987 and Herbert 2004.
1952	Commercial logging in Rock Creek watershed starts for first time since turn of the century	E. L. Gates, wins bid at \$197,840 to construct 8 miles of road on South Fork to access 1/5 of the timber in the watershed (20 million bf), which is infested with beetles. Gates to get 5 million board feet of city-owned timber at \$18/1000 bf. "The only known method of eradicating the beetle is to cut the infested and down timber in which the insects multiply"	Corvallis Gazette Times, November 14, 1952
1954	US Forest Service and City of Corvallis enter into cooperative agreement to authorize Forest Service to "properly manage" the city's forest lands adjacent to the Siuslaw National Forest	Corvallis Forest to be managed by Siuslaw National Forest rangers.	Appendix B, Timber Management Plan for City of Corvallis, 1984
1954	15 -20 more miles of road to be constructed in city watershed in next two to three years	Roads are constructed to reach salvage timber, with older stands on steep slopes to be clearcut and replaced with younger vigorous stands. Project being used for research by Oregon State College to study logging impacts on water quality. "It is unfortunate that a road building program that would normally require 15 to 20 years must be telescoped into two or three. The amount of soil disturbed per acre per year is thus much greater during the initial development than it would have been had the same construction program been started 10 or 15 years ago. However, nature with the assistance of man is a great healer, and we expect the disturbance to be short-lived." Quote from report from Siuslaw National Forest for Corvallis City Council.	Corvallis Gazette Times, 04/07/54
1955	State Sanitary Authority recommends new Rock Creek water treatment plant with filtration, but could "take its case to the courts if necessary."	"City Manager James Conwill blamed logging operations on the watershed for the turbidity of the water"... "It was revealed by city officials that the water entering the filter plant from the watershed was far from pure."	Corvallis Gazette Times, 11/16/1955
1955	Cost for new water treatment plant estimated at \$335,000; Bond measure to finance the plant is on the December 15 ballot.	Water treatment plant to be "built on the Mary's Peak water shed . . . it is from this source we now get the water we can almost chew. Complaints have been heard from citizens. . .city officials and the citizens are not the only ones concerned about the condition of this water. The state sanitary engineer is also looking down our throat relative tot he present plant..."	"Those City Bond Requests," editorial, Corvallis Gazette Times. 12/10/55
1956	Timber receipts for FY 1956/57 estimated at \$100,000.	Posted in daily newspaper were the "Summary of Estimated Expenditures, Receipts and Tax Levies, FY 1956-57"	Corvallis Gazette Times, 06/11/56
1956	City builds 4.5 million gallon/day treatment plant with 3 million gallons/day supplied by Rock/Griffith Creek watersheds	Water supplied by stream intakes on South Fork, Griffith Creek & North Fork of Rock Creek, & during low-flow by earthen dam reservoir on North Fork	2013 CFSP, p 11
1958	Forest Service convinces Portland Water Bureau to log the Bull Run	Portland Water Bureau chief engineer co-authors, with a Forest Service employee, an article claiming that the Bull Run's old-growth forests should have been logged years ago, since they had already matured. Apparently, the chief engineer sought to cultivate his relationship with the Forest Service, because he needed their approval for a new dam site in the Bull Run watershed.	Harmon, Rick. 1995. "The Bull Run Watershed: Portland's Enduring Jewel" in Oregon Historical Quarterly, Vol. 96, Nos. 2 &3., p. 259); Herbert, Elizabeth.2004. "Forest Management by West Coast Water Utilities: Influences and Consequences., Ph.D. dissertation, University of California, Santa Cruz.

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1962	Columbus Day storm, biggest in history, blows down 240 million bf of timber in Siuslaw National Forest and 30 million bd. ft of timber in watershed	Road system constructed to access salvage timber in 1952 used to conduct salvage logging	2013 CFSP, p. 11; Corvallis Gazette Times, October 19, 1962
1962	Emergence of high-yield forestry in PNW after Columbus Day Storm	"The Columbus Day Storm delivered a dramatic reminder that forestland owners' harvest plans could be upended overnight by a mighty windstorm or wildfire—and as a result the practices of the timber industry were transformed. High-yield forestry emerged, designed to grow trees faster and boost the volume of wood per acre."	Dodge, John. "The Long, Violent 1962 Storm That Inspired the Environmental Movement" June 6, 2019, Zocolo Public Square, ASU & Smithsonian
1962	City negotiates with US. Forest Service for the management of Corvallis Forest timber and the watershed is opened for logging.	"The watershed was protected zealously from the axeman and the hunter until a destructive windstorm felled many trees, creating a fire hazard, and bark beetles attacked other stands in the 1960s."	Corvallis Gazette Times, March 19, 1976
1962	Timber sales advertised the day after the Columbus Day Storm	"Timber sales took place practically immediately. On the rain-soaked Siuslaw National Forest along the Oregon coast, the first sale was advertised just four days after the storm."	Dodge, John. "The Long, Violent 1962 Storm That Inspired the Environmental Movement" June 6, 2019, Zocolo Public Square, ASU & Smithsonian
1962 - 1984	City of Corvallis and USFS conduct annual timber sales	Annual timber harvests conducted by both Siuslaw USFS & city; > 600 acres clearcut in city-owned forest & replanted with Douglas-fir	USDA Supplement to the Marys River Watershed Preliminary Analysis, Siuslaw National Forest, 2005
1962	Timber revenue becomes the primary goal of forest management	"An extensive network of roads was bulldozed throughout the watershed, locked gates were installed, and stands of old growth forest were clearcut and replanted to create monoculture farm crops."	Friends of the Corvallis Watershed
1967	Cooperative agreement between USDA Forest Service and City of Corvallis amended	Agreement amended so that "City agrees that all sales of timber products contracted by the City from the lands shall be subject to approval by the Forest Service and that all contracts in connection with such sales shall be prepared in conformity. . with those currently in effect on national forest timber sales on the Siuslaw National Forest." "Forest Service agrees to prepare annual timber sales for city lands, mark trees, appraise timber values, advertise sales, supervise sale and prepare a timber management plan for Siuslaw/City lands." Agreement indemnifies USFS from any damages incurred.	Appendix B, Timber Management Plan for City of Corvallis, 1984
1971	Timber sales bring in an average of \$84,000 per year. Timber value of watershed estimated at \$7 million.	Corvallis Utilities Division and city council investigate new management program for Corvallis Watershed. They are interested in accelerated harvest of old trees, because of rot and blowdown. "Forest Service estimates that the city has 2,200 acres of timber-producing land within the watershed, with a total inventory of 132,000 million board feet. The land is placed on a 100-year rotation frequency which allows for a constant source of timber. The annual allowable cut under tis program is 1.4 million board feet per year. Approximately 18.5 million board feet has been harvested so far."	Corvallis Gazette Times, 6/29/1971
1971	Mayor Cecil Barker appoints Corvallis Watershed Study Committee "to develop a plan for the conservation and utilization of these natural resources." Committee is heavily weighted towards timber management.	"Such a plan should contemplate the prudent use of including timber, water, wildlife and possible development of areas for recreational purposes," said Barker. Paul Dunn, retired dean of forestry at OSU was appointed chair. Other members included a forester, two lumbermen, a retired member of the Forest Service, a game commissioner, a water resource expert, a recreation specialist and a CPA.	Corvallis Gazette Times, September 8, 1971
1972	City engineer states city needs \$130K per year until 1984 to replace leaking pipes & recommends it be funded from timber & water revenues.	Eroding steel pipes are the problem; formerly financed by bond issue, which is not likely in the future, so "timber sales should be stabilized to facilitate expenditure and income planning."	Corvallis Gazette Times, March 16, 1972

Year (s)	Event	Description	Source
1973	Corvallis Forest sparks nationwide spotted owl controversy		
1973	Spotted Owl controversy begins in the Rock Creek Watershed, as Corvallis Water Department & city council refuse to refrain from cutting old-growth trees to protect spotted owl habitat. OSU graduate student Eric Forsmen appeals to US Fish & Wildlife, which lists spotted owl listed as an Endangered Species in 1987.	OSU student Eric Forsman surveys Rock Creek Watershed, finding three spotted owl nests amongst the old-growth trees. "Within a week Forsman found three nest sites, doubling the number of known spotted owl nests in Oregon. Logging, however, is a source of revenue for many municipalities with forested watersheds. Patches of the Corvallis watershed were periodically harvested to raise money for the city budget. Shortly after finding his nests, Forsman learned that the city planned to cut 100 acres of trees within 100 yards of a spotted owl nest." Forsman attempted to convince the Corvallis water department manager not to cut the old-growth, based on the ecological values of the trees. The response from the water department was that the area that Forsman wanted saved. . . . "represents an area that has reached its maximum potential for additional growth and increased economic value. . . In viewing the economics alone. . . you have placed a value of 2 million dollars per nest on these areas. . . I'm sure you can appreciate the responsibility that the City of Corvallis has to . . . manage the watershed in a manner that provides maximum service to the citizens'" (as quoted in Dietrich 1992. Dietrich (1992, p. 76) explains: "Here was a value system the city of Corvallis did not yet understand. Preserve animals for what? For whom? Forsman took his case to the city council at its regular meeting and was rebuffed." When the local press reported the story, the spotted owl made the news for the first time. Forsman also provided the USFS and the BLM with information about the predicament of the spotted owl, and requested 300 acre reserves to protect its nesting sites.	Dietrich, William. 1992. The Final Forest. The Battle for the Last Great Trees of the Pacific Northwest. Penguin Books USA, Inc., New York. Herbert, Elizabeth. 2004. Ph.D. Dissertation., UC Santa Cruz
1973	Federal Endangered Species Act enacted	Replacing weaker, earlier laws to protect threatened wildlife, the ESA put the survival of species above economic considerations, including any member of the animal kingdom, and included plants.	Dietrich, William. 1992. The Final Forest. The Battle for the Last Great Trees of the Pacific Northwest. Penguin Books USA, Inc., New York.
1973	City Council votes to proceed with 5.5 million BF timber sale in Corvallis Forest old-growth, despite pleas of Forsman to protect spotted owl. Rationalization is to attain net revenue of \$1,143,866 that will be used to subsidize Corvallis water rates and to pay for water infrastructure. Mayor's special study committee recommended proceeding, and "an accelerated the cut of the old-growth timber."	"When asked to defend the need to go ahead with this particular sale, city staff tagged it as a matter of economics. 'All the money from the sale is dumped into the city's water fund,' said Alton Andrews, city utilities engineer. 'It is used to replace broken and leaking water mains throughout the city.'" Council member Berg stated that the old-growth should be preserved.	Corvallis Gazette Times, May 25, 1973; May 28, 1973
1973	City Manager tells city council that if timber sale is approved, the \$58,871 deficit in the water fund would be erased without raising water rates.	"If the timber sale is not approved, then the deficit will increase from \$58,871 to \$206,871."	Corvallis Gazette Times, 5/30/1973
1973	Timber sale approved by city council, but agreed to appoint a committee to recommend setting aside reserves of old-growth on the watershed to protect the spotted owl.	Sale to generate \$1,143,856, equal to a 50 percent rate hike in city water rates.	Corvallis Gazette Times,6/01/1973
1973	Angry citizens deplores city's cutting old-growth	"Was the outcome ever in doubt? Is there ever any question of a decision being made by a committee when there is a dollar at stake? What of the watershed subjected to erosion by the logging? But the lure of the buck makes a farce of these committee decisions. 'Get the money, the end justifies the means' is the motto."	LTE, Jesse Ward, Corvallis Gazette Times, June 6, 1973
1973	T.J. Starker opines on old-growth reserves	"On the watershed, we have timber that has outlived its most productive age limit. It should be progressively cut and restocked with young growth. Trees are a crop and should be so treated here. Douglas fir reaches its maximum growth at about 80 years and I believe the timber on the area to be cut is 160 years plus."	LTE, T. J. Starker, Corvallis Gazette Times, June 18, 1973
1973	Mayor Barker and city council feud over who can be appointed to the Watershed Advisory Committee, which will decide how to create old-growth reserves. Council had voted June 4 to restrict the mayor's appointments to certain groups.	City council provided the names of seven groups, each from which the mayor could appoint one committee member: "U. S. Forest Service, Citizens for a Clean Environment (C2E), Federation of Garden Clubs, Oregon State University Department of Fish and Wildlife, OSU Chapter of the Ecological Society, Sierra Club and a forest hydrologist from the OSU School of Forestry.	Corvallis Gazette Times, Sept. 18, 1973

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1973	Eric Forsman responds to T.J. Starker re: Spotted Owl	"If we are willing to clear-cut everything (as was the plan on the watershed), then the spotted owl will be wiped out. Mr. Starker says he believes in 'the greatest good for the greatest number,' and this I agree with. I question, however, that the destruction of a species is the greatest good for anyone. I, for one, would like to have the satisfaction of knowing that my descendants can walk among tall timber, knowing that the spotted owl is still with them."	Corvallis Gazette-Times, June 30, 1973
1973-1986 City continues logging old-growth as water treatment costs increase			
1979	City water expenses up on supply, treatment, distribution & storage costs from \$531,260 to \$565,310; watershed maintenance up from \$72,640 to \$130,713	Biggest increase was for higher expenses for work on timber sales.	Corvallis Gazette Times, April 19, 1979
1979	Timber sales from Corvallis Forest brought in \$600,000	"The acreage is managed under a city contract with the Forest Service and the proceeds from periodic timber sales help pay for the city's water system."	Corvallis Gazette Times, Sept. 16, 1980
1980	Fire burns 97 acres in Rock Creek Watershed, including 34 on Corvallis Forest	Fire was the result of a Forest Service slash burn getting out of control; it burned an old-growth stand on city property, as well as recently planted areas; Jim Fairchild, who worked on an ODF fire crew to put out the fire, said, "I spent the entire night and well into the morning on that, caught daytime sleep, and continued night shifts up there for the next couple nights, seeing the city lights and watching old-growth cedars torch."	Corvallis Gazette Times, Sept. 16, 1980; Jim Fairchild, pers. communication, 2023.
1984	Corvallis-based environmental group seeks to preserve as wilderness all old-growth on public lands in Oregon, including portion in Rock Creek Watershed	Group known as Cathedral Forest Action Committee sought to "preserve the forest as we know it."	Corvallis Gazette Times, October 25, 1984
1984	Timber Management Plan for City of Corvallis Rock Creek Drainage prepared by Siuslaw Forest Service, Alsea District.	"The city could make up to \$800,000 annually if it went full-bore into the logging business and cut most of its trees in an 80-year cycle."	Corvallis Gazette Times, Nov. 14, 1993
1985	First Marbled Murrelets detected in the watershed in two locations near Rock Creek Reservoir.	Kim Nelson, OSU scientist, discovered birds during surveys that were part of the Old-Growth Forest Inventory Program, USFS PNW Research Station, Corvallis & Olympia	Kim Nelson, pers. communication. May 2023
1986 City needs \$13M to upgrade water treatment plant as water quality degrades			
1986	Up until 1986, city of Corvallis averages \$200,000 a year to pay for public works projects.	"Now the city needs to find \$13 million to expand and improve its water treatment plant over the next decade. If no timber revenue helps pay for that, water customers will have to bear the cost, which could add 30 to 40 percent to monthly water bills," according to a local news article.	Corvallis Gazette Times, Nov. 14, 1993
1987	Threat of litigation by 1,000 Friends of Oregon halts sale of 27 acres of timber in the Corvallis city watershed	The protest is to protect the spotted owls. The city expected a yield of 3 million board feet worth roughly \$400,000 according to Kerry Brough, Corvallis watershed operations manager. "It could also spell financial trouble for the city which has earned as much as \$500,000 a year in timber sales from the area," she said. "According to Charlie Bruce, regional non-game biologist with the State Fish & Wildlife Dept., the watershed area is one of the few remaining areas in the coast range north of the Umpqua River with a large parcel of old-growth timber. Old-growth is considered prime habitat for spotted owls." 1,000 Friends is ready to sue.	Corvallis Gazette Times, September 16, 1987
1987	City Water Commission recommends proceeding with logging of old-growth. Gazette-Times opines that they are wrong.	"The city has already logged nearly half its old growth timber and, if this continues, all the old trees eventually will fall. The watershed has been identified as the biggest block of old growth forest in the Coast Range ...The city's watershed commission gave three reasons in urging the council to approve the logging. It said logging would reduce fire danger, would have only an 'insignificant' impact on wildlife and would raise money. Only the money argument holds up under scrutiny. . .forests that burn most fiercely and hardest to control in the managed stands. . . income from sales is used to maintain the watershed, to repair reservoirs, lay pipes and so on. Its loss could drive up water rates slightly but the city already has too much money in its sewer and water funds, which means rates will probably go down?"	GT's Opinion, Nov. 24, 1987
1987	Logging as part of the annual timber sale programs on the Siuslaw National Forest continued through the late 1980's and on City land as recently as 1991.	Timber harvest on City lands was administered by the Forest Service under a succession of formal agreements between the Alsea Ranger District and the City of Corvallis.	fsbdev7_007004.pdf

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1988	Federal Court (Judge Zilly: Northern Spotted Owl v. Hodel) rules USFWS must list northern spotted owl as threatened or endangered under ESA	“Zilly rules that the Fish and Wildlife Service abused its discretion, acted arbitrarily and capriciously -- and violated the Endangered Species Act -- when it refused to designate critical habitat. The Fish and Wildlife Service is put on a timetable for complying.”	Johnson, Franklin, Reeves, 2023, p. 96 The Making of the Northwest Forest Plan; also, Washington Post, April 2, 1993: "FLUTTERING THROUGH THE FEDERAL SYSTEM
1988	After public outcry and threats of litigation over spotted owl habitat, Watershed Management Advisory Commission recommends withdrawing a planned clearcut of old-growth	Instead, a substitute patch of timber was harvested elsewhere in the watershed.	2/22/89 David Turner, Chair, Marys Peak Sierra Club presentation to Watershed Management Advisory Commission
1955-1989	\$30 million in revenue logging the Corvallis Forest, including 602 acres of clear-cuts were used to upgrade the city's water plant and distribution system.	“Between 1955 and 1989, timber was harvested on the property and about 602 acres of the city-owned land have been clear-cut and reforested. . . Harvest revenue, estimated at \$30 million in 1993 dollars, was used to upgrade the city's water plant and distribution system.” — Steve Rogers, Public Works Director (In 2023 dollars, that value would be \$63 million.)	Article by Steve Rogers, Public Works Director, Corvallis Gazette Times, August 12, 2005.
1989	Sierra Club Marys Peak group submits comments advocating for preservation of old-growth	“Very little old-growth Douglas-fir habitat remains in the Coast Range and the Corvallis Watershed is unusual in having a substantial block of it (approximately 1000 acres).”	2/22/89 David Turner, Chair, Marys Peak Sierra Club presentation to Watershed Management Advisory Commission
1990	Oregon Measure 5 passes, limiting reducing state property taxes	Property tax reduction would lead to a restriction of local government and school revenues (along with Measure 50 in 1997)	League of Oregon Cities, 2017; Measures 5 and 50: A Primer
1990	USFWS lists spotted owl as threatened under ESA		USDA Forest Service
1990 Marys Peak proposed as park, but city doesn't want to give up logging revenue			
1990	Corvallis resident corrects information about Mary's Peak park, showing area is still at risk from logging	“In a recent editorial about creating a large park around Marys peak, it was asserted that the Corvallis watershed has been 'set aside.' In fact, this block of about 2,300 acres, which is owned by the city, has management plan which calls for a large part of it to be harvested on an 80-year rotation. About half the land has been cut, but there is a block of about 1,000 acres which is largely undisturbed forest. There are some good reasons for changing the management plans to halt any further cutting in the block of undisturbed forest and perhaps not do any further cutting at all.”	David Turner LTE, Corvallis Gazette-Times, Oct. 24, 1990
1990	Watershed Management Advisory Commission opposes creation of Marys Peak Park because of impacts of recreation on water quality and need for timber revenue	Commission states, “The 1986 amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act have increased the requirements that must be met by public drinking water suppliers. . .Treatment costs have been and will likely continue to increase. Any degradation of water quality is likely to further increase costs to City rate payers. Encroachment by recreational activities will accelerate these costs of treatment increases.” Commission further denies water quality impacts from city logging, “Timber harvest on City lands (which are below the water intakes), have been used to fund numerous capital improvements to the water system.”	Memo from Tom Penpraze, Utility Operations Manager, re: Marys Peak Alliance Park Proposal, October 25, 1990
1990	Proposal by Mary's Peak Alliance to make 20,000 acre park on Mary's Peak, including Corvallis Forest is opposed by city council, due to loss of \$500K per year in timber revenue	Mayor Vars said, “The council supports maintaining and preserving the natural areas for recreation, but opposes converting the whole peak into a park for two reasons. If the peak is declared a park, then the city will be prohibited from harvesting timber, which contributes an average of \$500,000 a year to the city's water fund. Another concern is the city's ability to protect the watershed. If the peak becomes a park, the city will lose control of where park users can go. Excessive park use near the watershed could harm the water quality, which could lead to higher water rates.”	Corvallis Gazette Times, Nov. 22, 1990
1990	Tree spiking on contested Chintiminti timber sale on Mary's Peak discovered	Mary's Peak Alliance denies any participation in the activity.	Corvallis Gazette Times, Dec. 21, 1990

Year (s)	Event	Description	Source
1990-1993 ESA listings & court rulings halt city's logging in Corvallis Forest			
1990	Half of the Corvallis Watershed has been converted to a tree farm.		<u>Friends of the Corvallis Watershed</u>
1990	First marbled murrelet nest found in Oregon in Siuslaw National Forest by OSU scientist Kim Nelson	Marbled murrelets nest only in old-growth forests near the coast	Corvallis Gazette Times, August 13, 1990
1991	USFWS proposes marbled murrelet for listing under the ESA	Marbled murrelet warrants listing as threatened in California, Oregon and Washington	Corvallis Gazette Times, 6/18/1991
1991	Federal Court (Judge Dwyer: Seattle Audubon Society v. Evans) May 14 ruling stops sales of spotted owl habitat until a satisfactory owl plan is legally adopted.	Ruling estimated to reduce timber sales by 96% on Siuslaw National Forest	Corvallis Gazette Times, June 12, 1991
1991	Scientists complete report for Congress giving 14 options for managing PNW forests	The report analyzed potential impact from each option on timber harvest, the spotted owl, the marbled murrelet and 29 other species of wildlife, employment, fish stocks and watersheds. "As logging increased, the prospects for wildlife declined. As wildlife habitat improved, logging levels declined...The scientists say that as they compiled their report, they became aware of a critical need for more monitoring, research and restoration in the forests."	Corvallis Gazette Times, July 27, 1991
1991	Oregon Board of Forestry adopts restrictions on private land near spotted owl nests	City-owned Corvallis Forest is affected.	Corvallis Gazette Times, June 6, 1991
1991	Logging stops in Rock Creek Watershed, both on Siuslaw and city-owned land because of Dwyer decision. Cessation of commercial timber harvest in Corvallis owned watershed until 2005	There has been no commercial timber harvest and other activity has been very limited since the early 1990's. Logging as part of the annual timber sale programs on the Siuslaw National Forest continued through the late 1980's and on City land as recently as 1991. Timber harvest on City lands was administered by the Forest Service under a succession of formal agreements between the Alsea Ranger District and the City of Corvallis. Implementation of the Northwest Forest Plan designated the entire area as Late Successional Reserve halting harvest of mature timber.	<i>Chapter IV -Reference Resource Conditions, (USDA 2005)Supplement to the Marys River Watershed Preliminary Analysis</i>
1991	42 Oregon groups plead with Congress to include watershed preservation for native fish in legislation dealing with old-growth timber	"The American Fisheries Society says 214 native salmon stocks are at risk of extinction in the Northwest" with more than 175 species residing in the forests on the westside of the Cascades and in the Siskiyou and Coast Range.	<i>Corvallis Gazette Times, Nov. 5, 1991</i>
1992	Marbled murrelet listed as threatened under Endangered Species Act	Siuslaw National Forest logging will be curtailed until a management plan for the marbled murrelet is finalized.	<i>Corvallis Gazette Times, Sept. 29, 1992</i>
1993	City starts process of revising 1984 Timber Management Plan; consultant lays out options for managing Corvallis Forest in light of spotted owl presence	Woodland Management explains options: Option A: Maximum cut to maximize revenue & reduce fire hazard; 130 acres could be thinned for \$312,000 and 21 acres could be clearcut for \$1,200,000, but could impact owl. Option B: Obtain Sec. 10 permit and log selectively for less \$\$ Option C: Same as B but less logging Option D: No logging to improve habitat, but fire hazard increases, roads are left to degrade and no financial return. Watershed Advisory Committee chair Donnally said, "The principle objective is to protect the area (watershed); No one here wants to log the timber for money." Then he explained that water rates would go up 25% if they didn't log. One user in the audience said he would gladly pay more if they stopped logging the watershed.	<i>Corvallis Gazette Times, June 3, 1993</i>
1993	Corvallis Forest neighbor criticizes the city's revised 1984 Timber Management Plan	"The City must invest in its future and divest itself of failed methods of the past. Our overall landscape lies in ruin, as witness the extreme stream turbidities from recent rains on forests 'protected' by the Oregon Forest Practice Act. Adopting a forest management plan such as their suggests that either the wish to maintain viable ecosystems is impossible, or that the City is obliged to operate like other corporate industrial forestland owners and maximize revenues while obligating other to protect the Earth. Corvallis can do much, much better than this."	<i>Jim Fairchild, June 7, 1993 letter to Watershed Management Advisory Commission.</i>

Year (s)	Event	Description	Source
1993	Corvallis resident decries city's intent to log the Rock Creek Watershed	In a letter to then Public Works director Tom Penpraze, Doug Pollock writes, "I am very much opposed to any timber harvesting in the [Rock Creek] watershed. Allowing timber harvesting in the fragile ecosystem of the watershed is totally inconsistent with the very purpose of the watershed...Are we going to continue to allow profit supersede common sense... or will we set the example for the rest of the state by placing a higher value on the health of our people and the natural environment?"	<i>Doug Pollock, August 1, 1993 in letter Public Works and the Watershed Management Advisory Commission.</i>
1993	Restrictions on spotted owl and marbled murrelet habitat prevent further logging in Corvallis Forest; city laments loss of timber revenue to fund \$13 million expansion of its water treatment plant	Work of OSU scientists Eric Forsman re: spotted owl and Kim Nelson re: marbled murrelet resulted in ESA listings and restrictions on logging in these birds' habitat. "It's probably one of the best pieces of habitat left in the Coast Range," said Steven Smith, USFWS. "The trees on the Corvallis Watershed are in high demand." City council seeks advice of its Watershed Advisory Committee, educated laypersons that it appointed. Edward Donnally, chair said, "This is a tremendous change for the timber-dependent community. They see the watershed sitting up there full of trees and we're not doing anything. They say, 'What gives you the right to lock this up?' We're called a bunch of elitists." But the committee recommended on Nov. 5 that the city hold off on large-scale timber salvage logging until a new long-range plan is written. Some of the best old growth is on the east face of the Coast Range. One large stretch passes through the city's watershed. The tree-layered forest canopy consisting of brush, deciduous trees and fir trees protects spotted owls from predators. . "Murrelets use the gnarly old trees as platforms on which to lay their single eggs." The watershed is also home to the peregrine falcon an endangered species, and the northern bald eagle, which is threatened. USFWS "is eager to develop a harvest plan that would give the city some revenue and leave the birds unharmed." "But getting a permit would cost hundreds of thousands of dollars in studies," said Daniel Green, USFWS. "It is a question of patience. Corvallis could wait for its trees to grow. In about 30 years, many will be large enough to cut down without reducing existing owl and murrelet habitat. Another option is to simply sell the land, perhaps to the federal government or a group such as the Nature Conservancy, that would maintain it as a nature preserve."	<i>Corvallis Gazette Times, Nov. 14, 1993</i>
1994 NW Forest Plan reforms logging in national forests			
1994	Implementation of NW Forest Plan (FEMAT) designates Siuslaw USFS lands as late successional forest; establishes legal plan for timber harvest to protect spotted owl & other endangered species.	The Federal Ecosystem Management Assessment Team (FEMAT) reflected the increasing public concern for all species of wildlife, and the ecosystems they depend on. FEMAT designated 7 million acres of old forest reserves, and 2.23 million acres of riparian reserves to meet water quality standards & enhance native fish habitat (Herbert, 2004). The long political and legal struggle over old-growth forests & the spotted owl demonstrated the growth of public and scientific concerns regarding the maintenance of ecosystem functions. Out of those concerns came a new direction in forestry that would be called 'ecosystem management' (Thomas, 1997).	Herbert, Elizabeth. 2004. Ph.D. dissertation. Thomas, Jack Ward. 1997. Forward. In Kohm, Kathryn A. & Franklin, Jerry F., eds. <i>Creating a Forestry for the 21st Century, the Science of Ecosystem Management</i> . Island Press. Washington, D.C.
1996	Major flooding in Oregon raises erosion fears from logging in Salem	"After the February 1996 flood sent mud from logging roads and clearcuts into the city's water supply, the Salem City Council voted to oppose this harvest and others in the watershed. Salem residents were ordered to conserve water as mud overloaded the city's water filtration system."	<i>Corvallis Gazette Times, April 6, 1997</i>
1996	Portland's Bull Run protected from logging by Act of Congress after decades of citizen protest against clearcutting by Forest Service	After a catastrophic winter floods washed sediment and debris into the Bull Run's reservoirs, forcing the Portland Water Bureau to shut down the water system. At that point, Senator Mark Hatfield sponsored legislation to prohibit logging in the entire Bull Run watershed. Congress finally passed the bill, known as the Oregon Resource Conservation Act (P.L. 104-208, Title VI), and President Bill Clinton signed it into law.	Herbert, 2004.

Year (s)	Event	Description	Source
1996	Federal Safe Drinking Water Act amendments emphasize source water protection for drinking water	Emphasis on source water protection, helping to avoid increasingly expensive water treatment infrastructure, as the most efficient way to supply clean reliable drinking water; Amendments require assessment of potential contaminating sources in water supply watersheds; "Managed Forests" rated as "higher risk"	US EPA Safe Drinking Water Act
1997	Oregon Measure 50 further limits property taxes and city government revenues	Combined with earlier Measure 5, Measure 50 leads to further restriction of local government and school revenues, placing more pressure on cities to find other revenue sources	League of Oregon Cities, 2017; Herbert, 2004; Measures 5 and 50: A Primer
1999	Marys River Watershed Preliminary Assessment completed in April	Report summarized history and conditions, noting need for monitoring and assessment to address land use changes, stream temperature, stream nutrients & chemistry, bacteria levels, and bird populations.	Marys River Watershed Preliminary Assessment. April 1999. Prepared by Ecosystems Northwest for Marys River Watershed Council.
2003	Corvallis-to-the-Sea (C2C) Trail partnership formed	Partnership includes City of Corvallis.	Corvallis-to-the-Sea-Trail
2003	USFS conducts forest road analysis for Rock Creek Watershed	A small percentage of old growth forests still remain in parts of Washington and Oregon state. "The plan has shifted emphasis from logging for economic gain to conservation and preservation of aquatic reserves including endangered fish stocks."	2013 CFSP, p 25; see USDA 2005 ref.d

2005-2010 *City plans more revenue-driven logging under new ESA restrictions*

2005	City council directs Watershed Advisory Commission to develop new watershed stewardship plan for Rock Creek, including timber management to restore lost revenue from years of no logging because of spotted owl and marbled murrelet.	Steve Sundeth, water operations supervisor said, "from a water quality standpoint, maintaining a healthy forest is essential for preventing fires and soil erosion'... A catastrophic fire could put the Rock Creek water facility out of operation for several years, and soil contamination adds to the cost of purifying the water, especially during the winter, public officials say..." "Thinning (old clearcuts the city did in 1950s -1970s) would not only mitigate hazards, but also promote a healthy watershed..." "Sundeth acknowledged potential for financial gain from logging. In the past, money from the sale of timber was used by the city to offset utility rate increases and to pay for new infrastructure without asking voters to increase property taxes...'There is money up there, no doubt about it,' Sundeth said."	Corvallis Gazette Times, August 14, 2005
2005	Corvallis Forest Stewardship Plan to reflect public values	Steve Rogers, Public Works Director explains the objective of the plan, "The objective of the stewardship plan is to capture the community's current values and desires for this city-owned property and to translate that into a plan for managing the property."	Article by Public Works Director Steve Rogers, Corvallis Gazette Times, August 12, 2005.
2006	The Watershed Advisory Commission appointed by Mayor Berg is charged with developing the stewardship plan for the Corvallis Forest.	"Assisting the commission with the technical aspects of the stewardship document is a consultant team that is assigned to inventory current watershed conditions...The commission is also being assisted by a peer review group, which consists of 12 individuals representing stakeholder groups and interested parties including five OSU professors from the forestry and the fish and wildlife departments. This group will review the material presented by the consultants and provide expert advice and input on the policy areas."	Article by Steve Rogers, public works director, Corvallis Gazette-Times, June 19, 2006.
2006	Original Corvallis Forest Stewardship Plan adopted, despite remaining questions.	"Among the draft plan's guiding principles is timber harvesting 'a generator of revenue to offset the cost of management and secondarily to help fund the City of Corvallis water utility system.' Since this land has not been logged since 1986, the proposed plan represents a significant departure from current policy. In addition to many valid questions raised by commissioners and peer reviewers at the watershed commission meeting was a discussion about lack of public input. . .citizen involvement is critical to the decision-making process." Yet, "City Council action will be taken . . . at a public hearing on December 18—all during the busy holiday season. I urge you to get involved."	Annette Mills, LTE Corvallis Gazette Times, Dec. 4, 2006

Year (s)	Event	Description	Source
2007	Elizabeth Herbert publishes peer-reviewed research showing how timber revenues drive forest management in some city-owned watersheds	While many cities ostensibly acquire forestland to protect their drinking water sources, it is often the case that revenue from commercial logging becomes the primary goal of forest management in the coastal regions of California, Oregon and Washington. The City of Corvallis was part of this research and was found to fit the author's profile of water utilities that more intensively log their watersheds.	Herbert, Elizabeth. 2007. Forest Management by West Coast Water Utilities: Protecting the Source?" Journal of the American Water Works Assn.
2007	Trout Mountain certifies Corvallis Forest under Forest Stewardship Council	Forest Stewardship Council certification requires better forest management practices than standard state practices.	2013 CFSP, p 32
2007	Revenue generating logging starts up again on Corvallis Forest; thinning of 30 acres.	"This is really the start of a much more intensive management program,' said Steve Rogers, public works director". . . "Rogers said just 20 to 25 percent of the stand was thinned, producing 80 loads of logs. Depending on where the logs are milled, the harvest could bring between \$240,000 and \$400,000 for city coffers."	Corvallis Gazette Times, 8/31/2007
2007	City contributes \$50K to fish ladder project to restore damage from previous logging	City contributes \$50K from timber sale to fish ladder project that totaled \$750K, with grants from other agencies making up the difference; project needed to restore faulty culverts due to past city logging practices	Corvallis Gazette Times, August 31, 2008
2008	Several impediments to fish passage removed from Corvallis watershed	Marys River Watershed Council teams up with city to replace failing culverts under old logging roads, install fish ladders around intake dams and place large logs in stream channels to create spawning and rearing habitat.	Corvallis Gazette Times, August 31, 2008; 2013 CFSP, p 13
2009	City logs 35 acres in Corvallis Forest	Public works announces bid in Gazette-Times	Corvallis Gazette Times, July 7, 2009
2009 - 2011	680 snags created in Corvallis Forest	To provide future habitat for spotted owl & other species	2013 CFSP,, p 19
2010	City holds public informational meeting regarding Corvallis Forest, describing commercial logging as "forest health projects and activities."	"The meeting will focus on the Rock Creek Watershed and the Corvallis Forest Stewardship Plan including . . . updates on recent, current and expected forest health projects and activities on the Corvallis Forest."	Corvallis Gazette Times, May 3, 2010
2010	OSU hydrologist Kevin Bladon publishes paper demonstrating the increasing need for source water protection from land disturbance	"Implications of land disturbance on drinking water treatability in a changing climate: Demonstrating the need for 'source water supply and protection' strategies" Water Research 45(2):461-72	Read article here.
2010	USFS authorizes 1,394 acres commercial thinning over 10 years of stands less than 80 years old and re-opening or building new temporary roads; many stands are in North Fork & Griffith Creek catchments for city drinking water; 87 of 89 stands are within critical marbled murrelet habitat. Cutting & roads within riparian reserves & late successional reserves	Purpose of commercial thinning on Siuslaw National Forest property in the city's watershed described as to "accelerate development of late successional forest habitat and enhance water quality and stream function." Proximity to existing marbled murrelet habitat dismissed.	Marys Landscape Management Project, Siuslaw Natl. Forest, USDA Forest Service, 2010; pp. 26-28
2010-2022 Water quality, supply & habitat issues emerge after more logging in city's watershed			
2012-13	City logs 85 acres to net \$362,346.00	Available city records are incomplete. Requests for city's timber harvest revenues and expenditures have not been forthcoming.	Corvallis Forest Tree Thinning spreadsheet compiled by Oregon Sierra Club Forest Team from city's annual "Forest Activities Reports"
2013	Federal legislation to increase logging on O & C lands could impact city watershed and create turbidity treatment problems.	Public water managers in Eugene, Springfield & Clackamas County asked Senator Wyden that special care be taken to shield municipal water supplies from the impacts of logging, such as increased turbidity from sediment-laden runoff. "They're all worried about turbidity," task force member Jim Fairchild said. "It makes the water harder to treat." But Tom Penpraze, who manages the Corvallis Utilities Division, said he's not worried about that. The city's Rock Creek Water Treatment Plant, he insists, is perfectly capable of handling the extra turbidity. "It was common practice to do clearcut logging up until 1988 on Forest Service land and city land (in the watershed)," Penpraze said. "There was no impact on our ability to treat the water."	Corvallis Gazette Times, Nov. 10, 2013

Year (s)	Event	Description	Source
2013	2013 Corvallis Forest Stewardship Plan establishes reserve areas established to “prohibit commercial timber harvesting” in municipal drinking water catchment areas	Catchment areas currently include only approximately 400 acres of Corvallis Forest due to location of water intakes mostly upstream of the Corvallis Forest; reserves can be expanded; reserves can be thinned (but not commercially) Note: the entire Corvallis Forest planned to become a catchment area for city drinking water within 20-30 years, according to 2022 Water Supply Master Plan.	2013 CFSP, p 40-41, p. 43, 51
2013	2013 Corvallis Forest Stewardship Plan update states that timber revenues “may also be used to fund City water infrastructure expenses.”	Authorizes timber revenues to continue funding city water system; rationalizing that the Corvallis Forest is downstream of the city’s drinking water intakes, so water won’t be affected by forest management.	2013 CFSP, p 34
2013-14	Corvallis Watershed marbled murrelet survey results find nests in Corvallis Forest	Final Report: Corvallis Watershed 2013-14 Marbled Murrelet Survey Results, Turnstone Environmental Consultants; submitted to Mark Miller, Trout Mountain Forestry	Correspondence, April 7, 2017
2014 - 2015	City logs 60 acres to net \$470,362.00	Available city records are incomplete. Requests for city’s timber harvest revenues and expenditures have not been forthcoming.	Corvallis Forest Tree Thinning spreadsheet compiled by Oregon Sierra Club Forest Team from city’s annual “Forest Activities Reports”
2015	DEQ completes final draft of report linking private forests to water quality risks	Private forest land is the source of drinking water for 40% of Oregon’s water providers; “managed forests” listed as “higher risk” impact for drinking water	Schick, Peter. January 6, 2017. OPB. “After Pushback, Oregon Scraps Report Linking Private Forests To Water Quality Risks”
2015 - 2016	City logs 51 acres to net \$135,381.00	Available city records are incomplete. Requests for city’s timber harvest revenues and expenditures have not been forthcoming.	Corvallis Forest Tree Thinning spreadsheet compiled by Oregon Sierra Club Forest Team from city’s annual “Forest Activities Reports”
2016	Jones & Perry research published showing that plantation-style forestry reduces summer stream flows	Read article here.	Jones & Perry. 2016. “Summer streamflow deficits from regenerating Douglas-fir forest in the Pacific Northwest”
2016 - 2017	City logs 100 acres to net \$450,683.00	Available city records are incomplete. Requests for city’s timber harvest revenues and expenditures have not been forthcoming.	Corvallis Forest Tree Thinning spreadsheet compiled by Oregon Sierra Club Forest Team from city’s annual “Forest Activities Reports”
2017	After pushback from the timber industry, DEQ scraps 2015 report linking private forests to water quality risks	Read OPB article here	Schick, Peter. January 6, 2017. OPB. “After Pushback, Oregon Scraps Report Linking Private Forests To Water Quality Risks”
2018	Marbled murrelet listed as state endangered	Oregon Commission on Fish & Wildlife boosts protection for marbled murrelet to endangered under state law	Corvallis Gazette Times, Feb. 10, 2019
2019	Corvallis water rates could go up dramatically in light of future needs for water system upgrades	According to Public Works Director Mary Steckel, “Corvallis owns the Rock Creek watershed property and until the mid-1980s, timber revenues from the land went to maintain the water system, keeping the pressure off ratepayers...Corvallis has just completed an asset management inventory of its water and sewage systems and is starting to see the need for future investments in those systems. More planning is in the works for seismic resiliency and other factors such as climate change. . . “while Corvallis rates are lower now, that picture could change quite dramatically in the near future.”	Hasso Hering, January 30, 2019 Why Corvallis water costs less

Year (s)	Event	Description	Source
2019	DEQ identifies “managed forests” as “higher risk” potential contaminating sources in Rock Creek Watershed	These higher risk areas are the sites of previous logging operations in the city’s water intake areas, mostly in the Siuslaw National Forest, in areas of commercial thinning projects.	DEQ; Drinking Water Source Water Assessment for City of Corvallis, 2019
2019 -2020	City logs an undisclosed number of acres for an undisclosed net revenue. Forest Report describes it as “the largest such sale in the City’s history.”	Available city records have incomplete information about timber harvest revenues and expenditures.	Corvallis Forest Tree Thinning spreadsheet compiled by Oregon Sierra Club Forest Team from city’s annual “Forest Activities Reports”
2020	Hydrologist Kevin Bladon publishes research showing that sediment increases tenfold in logged areas over uncut areas inside stream buffers.	Read the article here	“Quantifying effects of forest harvesting on sources of suspended sediment to an Oregon Coast Range headwater stream” Forest Ecology and Management 466:118123.
2020	Hydrologist Catalina Segura publishes research showing summer streamflow 50% lower in a 40 yr-old plantation relative to 110-yr-old forest.	Read the article here	“Long-term effects of forest harvesting on summer low flow deficits in the Coast Range of Oregon,” Segura et al; 2020. Journal of Hydrology
2020	City Watershed Advisory Board disbanded	Planned harvests to proceed with no public oversight	
2020	C2C Trail connecting Corvallis to the coast opens for the first time	Decades long effort finally succeeds, with trail allowing views into city-managed Corvallis Forest	Corvallis-to-Sea Trail
2021	“Extraordinary compromise” known as Private Forest Accord reached between fisheries advocates and timber industry	Agreement expands stream side buffer zones throughout private forest lands, more restrictions on forest roads, and logging on steep slopes; DOES NOT ADDRESS clearcutting, cumulative impacts at watershed scale from forest operations on water quality/quantity, DOES NOT PROHIBIT pesticide spraying in drinking watersheds.	Forest Water Coalition comments to DEQ; March 2022
2022	City council approves 2022 Water Supply Master Plan (WSMP), detailing plans to move water intakes downstream of Corvallis Forest, making entire city-owned property a catchment for the city’s drinking water.	The WSMP’s preferred alternative is to move water intakes from current locations to downstream of Corvallis Forest. The relocation is needed to increase water usage to 5 mgd to address future city water demand: “For the Rock Creek WTP, the existing three intakes will be decommissioned, and the City’s existing six points of diversion (PODs) in the Rock Creek Watershed will be consolidated into a single 5-mgd, seismically resilient intake located downstream of the existing PODs. This will allow for full use of the City’s water rights in the watershed.”	Chapter 5, 2022 Corvallis Water Supply Master Plan

Year (s)	Event	Description	Source
2022	City's water treatment plant experiencing "performance concerns" as 8 foot sludge accumulations in the sedimentation basin are reducing water storage capacity by almost half and slowing filtration; no mention made of causes of sedimentation or turbidity. Dirty water takes more energy to treat, up to 960 KWh/day.	<p>"Performance concerns were noted with the existing sedimentation basin configuration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sludge cannot be removed during normal plant operations. The basin does not have the equipment needed for consistent, automated sludge removal. • Sludge removal is typically limited to once per year during annual plant shutdowns in May or June. • Lack of frequent sludge removal leads to sludge build-up in the basin, limiting the basin's useful depth and decreasing the effectiveness of settling. Sludge depths of eight feet have been noted when the basin is taken offline for sludge removal. • Decreased settling effectiveness contributes to solids carryover to the filters. This results in increased filter backwashes and power consumption from the backwash and surface wash pumps operating more frequently during the winter. Historical settled water turbidity confirms that the existing basin configuration and operation has significant performance limitations. The monthly performance data shows poor settling performance during winter months with higher raw water turbidity." <p>"The Rock Creek WTP is typical of many WTPs where backwashes and other internal plant uses at WTPs can account for as much as 10 percent of total production. While average production efficiency is relatively consistent through the spring and summer months, it drops off noticeably in late fall and early winter. These months with the lowest production efficiencies coincide with the periods of higher raw water turbidities, which trigger additional backwashing that lowers production efficiencies. Production efficiency is lowest in the month of November when the first big rainfall events typically occur, flushing out the watershed, and raising turbidity. The plant's historical energy use has ranged from 400 kilowatt hours per day (kWh/day) to 960 kWh/day. "</p> 	Chapter 7, 2022 Corvallis Water Supply Master Plan
2022	City estimates that a new Rock Creek Water Treatment Plant, distribution system and water intake relocation to cost more than \$200 million in the next 20 - 50 years.	Estimated expenses put more pressure on the city to keep timber revenues from the Corvallis Forest steadily coming in.	Table ES.2 CIP Summary by Project Category, 2022 Corvallis Water Supply Master Plan
2022	Citizens hiking on recently opened Corvallis-to-the-Sea Trail find large diameter trees marked for cut on Old Peak Road in Corvallis Forest;	There is no public body active to supervise the logging project or address public comments, since Watershed Advisory Board was disbanded in 2020.	
2022	Citizens request halt to logging and complain to City Council; harvest was to cut more than 1 million board feet and included old trees.	An April 18 letter presented to city council demands a halt to the Old Peak Road harvest "until the Corvallis community is again given the opportunity to review and respond to planned operations in the forest under its collective care by Acts of Congress." Letter signed by Benton Forest Coalition, Friends of OSU Old-Growth, Audubon Society of Corvallis & Friends of the Corvallis Watershed.	Friends of Corvallis Watershed; Friends of the Corvallis Watershed
2022	City suspends logging and appoints new Watershed Advisory Task Force to update the 2013 Corvallis Forest Stewardship Plan.	Chaired by retired Corvallis Public Works director; two USFS retired foresters; an OSU professor forest ecology, OSU professor wildlife biology; nearby landowner	
2022-2023 Public response demands protection for drinking water, biodiversity & carbon storage			
2022	Beverly Law et al. publishes research calling for Oregon to preserve forest land to meet IPCC goals to increase carbon sequestration & reduce carbon emissions. Of all the western states, Oregon has the smallest percentage of protected forests.	This article makes the case for protecting mature forests in Oregon to meet the "30 by 30" (protecting 30% of intact areas by 2030) and "50 by 50" (protecting 50% by 2050) requirements for averting the worst impacts of climate change. Figure 8 indicates that the Corvallis Forest and and Rock Creek watershed are within the highest priority areas for preservation. [Read the article here]	Law, Beverly E., Berner, Logan T., Mildrexler, David J., Bloemers, Ralph O, and Ripple, William J. 2022 Strategic reserves in Oregon's forests for biodiversity, water, carbon to mitigate and adapt to climate change. <i>Frontiers in Forests and Global Change</i> , December 22, 2022.

Year (s)	Event	Description	Source
2022	Jim Fairchild, longtime forest advocate, points out long flawed history of Corvallis watershed management and calls for change.	"An extensive network of roads was bulldozed throughout the watershed, locked gates were installed, and stands of old growth forest were clear-cut, then replanted to create monocultured tree stands. By 1990, roughly half the Corvallis municipal watershed had been converted to tree farms. . . creating a self-perpetuating need for managers and consultants to prescribe more logging."	Fairchild, Jim. "As I See It: Along the Willamette," Op-ed. Corvallis Gazette Time, December 2, 2022.
2022	Task force Vice-Chair announces that the 12-year commercial thinning project he planned while employed by the Forest Service, is nearly completed. Much of the project was conducted in the Corvallis drinking water catchment area owned by Siuslaw National Forest	More than 3,000 truckloads of logs removed from watershed catchment for city of Corvallis, ostensibly to create future habitat for endangered species. No water quality monitoring was done. Chair Rogers claimed water quality monitoring was not necessary because "water quality is monitored at the Rock Creek Treatment Plant."	Steve Rogers, Frank Davis, members CFSPU task force, meeting video; Jim Fairchild, former task force member
2023	Dr. Betsy Herbert submits Public Records Act request to Tom Hubbard, Public Works, for raw water turbidity readings taken at the Rock Creek Treatment Plant from 2013 until present	Dr. Herbert also requests a fee waiver: "Because this information is of great value to the public and in the public interest, I request that no charge be made for these data."	PRA Reference # 13667728; 2/24/2023
2023	Dr. Herbert's Public Records Act request fee waiver is denied by Tom Hubbard. Herbert declines to pay.	"Our Water Treatment Plant Supervisor would need 4-6 hours to compile this information for you. The hourly rate we would need to charge is \$83.37 per hour."	Tom Hubbard, pers. Communication
January 6, 2023	Task Force appointee Frank Davis writes an Op-ed praising the past partnership of the city and the Forest Service in managing the Corvallis municipal watershed.	Davis is a retired US Forest Service Team Leader on the Siuslaw National Forest, which has partnered with the City of Corvallis to manage the Corvallis watershed since 1955. Davis said of this partnership, "Strong commitment and wise management by the city and its partners have made the Corvallis Watershed a wonderful success story!"	Davis, Frank. "As I See It: The Corvallis Municipal Watershed, a partnership success," Op-ed. Corvallis Gazette Times. January 6, 2023
February 2023	Public testimony to the Task Force requests that the vision statement for the Corvallis Forest be aligned with the 2022 Water Supply Master Plan, which details the city's plans to move water intakes in next 20-30 years, making entire Corvallis Forest a catchment area for municipal water supply	Commenters remind the task force that the updated Corvallis Forest Stewardship Plan must acknowledge and plan for this same outcome.	Comments submitted by Jim Fairchild and Betsy Herbert, February 2023, quoting City of Corvallis 2022 Water Supply Master Plan.
2023	Citizen Jim Fairchild submits Public Records Act request for timber revenues/expenditures. City denies fee waiver and requires Fairchild to pay more than \$300, before he could examine the information. After paying, Fairchild found that the information was not what he officially requested.	Previous oral and written requests for this information were made at task force meetings.	Task Force minutes; Herbert Public Record Act request.
April 2023	Public Works staff issues public survey to solicit public opinion about its draft Vision & Guiding Principles	Task force revises vision statement after public survey and additional public comment show lack of support for revenue-driven logging, and preference for protection of the forest and watershed for municipal drinking water, habitat & carbon storage.	Survey results and additional public comments submitted to the task force
June 22, 2023	Task Force submits revised Vision & Guiding Principles to City Council for approval at June 22 work session	City councilors request more information about how timber revenues have been spent and question why there is no hydrologist on the task force. Councilors suggest wording changes to the guiding principles which limit timber revenue generated from the Corvallis Forest to be used to offset the cost of management of the forest.	Video of June 22, 2023 City Council Work Session.
July 26, 2023	At its July 26 meeting, Task Force approves final Vision & Guiding Principles to reflect word changes requested by City Council		Task Force minutes.
7/27/2023	Task Force chair Steve Rogers resigns July 27, leaving a vacancy on the task force.	Vacancy is never officially announced on the city's website that solicits applications, so qualified applicants are kept from applying to fill the vacancy. Public Works appoints new task force member from the forest products industry.	
August 11, 2023	NASA report published: "Oregon Coast Range Ecological Conservation: Mapping Recent Logging Within Drinking Watersheds of Oregon's Coastal Range to Support Future Resource Management Policies," Emily French.	Used Landsat data from 1997- 2023 to identify areas of forest disturbance, including commercial thinning. Report concluded that "logging, including both clearcutting and commercial thinning, impacted 31% of forested area in drinking watersheds and the intensity of logging remained consistent from years to year."	Read report here .

Year (s)	Event	Description	Source
September 9, 2023	September 9 letter signed by six environmental groups to the mayor and city council protests the city's appointment process to the Task Force.	A September 9 letter to Mayor Maughan points out that the City Charter requires policy-making task forces and committees that advise city council to be appointed by the mayor and approved by city council. In this case, the mayor and city council allowed Public Works staff to appoint a new member to fill an unannounced vacancy. The letter states in summary, "These violations of the public process diminish public trust and confidence in the stewardship plan update process."	Signers of letter: Friends of the Corvallis Watershed, Audubon Society of Corvallis, Oregon Chapter Sierra Club, Friends of OSU Old Growth, Willamette Valley Great Old Broads for Wilderness, Benton Forest Coalition
Sep 27, 2023	At its September 27 meeting, Task Force provides preliminary turbidity data and preliminary timber revenue & expenditure data.		
October 6, 2023	October 9 blog, "Protecting Drinking Water Sources, Part I: Water Quantity, Quality, and Timely Release." Andy Kerr, the Larch Company.	A few excerpts: "That logged forests produce less water is incontrovertible—except to most foresters." (cites Segura et al. 2020; Perry & Jones, 2016) "Is it possible to log and not harm water quality? No. Is it possible to log less intensely and therefore harm water quality less? Yes. (see USEPA 2005). However, such is not profitable, especially to profit-maximizing entities ranging from transnational corporations to Wall Street hedge funds and even municipal water utilities that own forestland in their own drinking water watershed."	Andy Kerr's Public Lands Blog #234
November 2023	Betsy Herbert receives raw turbidity data from Public Works as requested, from 2008 - 2022.	Data set includes ~1.6 million data points	Pers. Comm. David Gilbert, Public Works staff
December 2023	Herbert confers with data scientist Karl Young who volunteers to analyze the city's raw turbidity data, as a community service.	Young's report describes in detail his methods of analysis, lists figures and tables, provides a discussion and references.	Pers. Comm. Karl Young
January 19, 2023	Herbert submits Dr. Young's turbidity analysis to the CFSPU task force, along with data from the Oregon Department of Water Resources showing volume of water used by the city's WTP from its intakes in the Rock Creek Watershed, and a summary of road density as an acknowledged cause of turbidity	Young's report, entitled "A Preliminary Analysis of Turbidity Measurements Made at the Rock Creek Water Treatment Plant," found a clear trend of increasing turbidity at the WTP's raw water intake, from 2008 - 2012, concluding that more investigation was needed to identify events in the watershed that could be contributing to this trend. Volume of water from two of the three city intakes supplying the treatment plan has fallen dramatically since 2008.	Read turbidity report here View water use table and graph here .
January 24, 2024	Task Force briefly discusses turbidity report as related to road density, but tables it for further discussion until water quality is the subject of discussion at its April meeting. Regarding decreasing volume of water used from two of the three water diversions, task force questions staff if streamflow rates are known. No streamflow gages are present in the watershed.	Task Force decides to research further the appropriate watershed scale with regards to road density as it impacts terrestrial and aquatic wildlife and habitat. For assessing impact to drinking water, DEQ uses >2 mi. of road/sq. mi. of watershed as the threshold for "high potential risk" of contamination of drinking water sources. The area that DEQ assesses for road density is the catchment area supplying the drinking water.	View Herbert's Road Density public comment here