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## Report to the Community July 2015

Following the completion of a community forest feasibility study, View the Future (VtF) entered into a partnership with Oregon Coast Community Forest Association (OCCFA), agreeing to share the costs of hiring a consultant, US Forest Capital, to pursue negotiations for the 1000+ acres south of the Yachats River—the “Viewshed” property. Unfortunately, we were unable to reach an agreement on the purchase price. At least for the time being, negotiations have been terminated.

Two years ago we had a meeting scheduled with Forest Capital Partners (FCP), which had bought the property from Boise, to discuss a possible purchase. Just weeks before the meeting, FCP sold all of its holdings to Hancock Natural Resources Group. Our consultant approached Hancock, communicating our interest in a transaction. Representatives of VtF and OCCFA met with Hancock management and they agreed to enter into negotiations with us in good faith. We proposed, and they agreed, to conduct a joint appraisal of the property—they paid half and we split the other half with OCCFA. The difference between the appraisal value and what Hancock paid for the property (and needed to recoup on behalf of their investors) created a gap which we couldn't bridge. The difference meant it would be nearly impossible to obtain funding from government agencies and philanthropic organizations to purchase the property.

We still feel that it would be very desirable to find a community conservation buyer of the viewshed property. We don't want to close the door to future discussions with Hancock or with any future owner of the property. We plan to continue to make the case that our community has an interest in preserving the viewshed and supporting environmental values. We are a responsible community, good partners to work with, and committed to finding a positive outcome.

Members of View the Future, past and present, have worked on this goal for more than ten years. There has been tremendous interest and support from local residents and visitors, city council, county commissioners and the Lincoln Land Legacy board, as well as a wider community of people committed to preserving the health and beauty of the natural world around us. While working toward the goal of preserving the viewshed, we have also achieved outstanding successes in establishing conservation easements on the Kittel property, the Gerdemann Garden, and most recently the Bryant property on the north edge of Yachats which protects 3.5 acres of shore pine environment through which the 804 trail passes. We have initiated trails projects, obtained funding for trails construction and improvements, and partnered with a range of groups and government agencies to enhance access to the natural world that surrounds our community. While we are disappointed that we weren't able to complete the transaction for the viewshed forest at this time, we will continue to be advocates for these values. Over the next few months, View the Future will be working on plans to continue our positive role in and with the Yachats community. We invite your support and input.