

Site Name:	Ecola Point		
Proposal Type:	New	Designation Type:	MCA
Proposer:	North Coast Rocky Habitat Coalition		
Links:	Ecola Map from Seasketch (better image)		

Site Specific Goals: This proposal’s goals are to preserve and strengthen the ecological integrity of the site including existing marine life, fish, seabird and shorebird nesting areas that exist in these rocky habitats for long term sustainability, and to preserve the area’s wilderness character in the face of increasing tourism and population on the North Coast.



Site Location: The site boundaries follow the statutory vegetation line for 3.5 miles from approximately 0.11 mi northeast of the tip of Bald Point to approximately 0.1 mi north of the mouth of Waterfall Creek at the southern end of the site, and extend from the statutory vegetation line out into the ocean to form an irregular polygon that roughly follows the rocky substrate.

Key Natural Resources: Ecola Point and Sea Lion Rock are an otherworldly treasure of dramatic rock formations and extensive tide pools with healthy mussel beds and a rebounding population of sea stars, along with many other tide pool animals. This area is also a crucial haul-out site for seals and sea lions, and a home for nesting shorebirds and seabirds, the most threatened group of birds on our planet. Ecola Point was identified in the 1994 Rocky Shores Management Plan as an area with a “complex mixture of resources and high usage” needing “more detailed study and assessment before designation into” a management category. Similarly, Sea Lion Rock, right offshore of Ecola Point, was designated as a “priority rock for possible study and future management measures.”

Stakeholder Outreach: Two years of outreach in multiple formats (in person meetings, letters, webinars, public meetings, presentations) to the local community has resulted in enthusiastic support from the City of Cannon Beach Police Department, Haystack Rock Awareness Program (HRAP), Friends of Haystack Rock (FOHRAP) the North Coast Land Conservancy (NCLC), and Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition (OSCC). Changes from the 2020 proposal reflect the group's facilitation, cooperation and coordination among nearby coastal conservation groups and state and federal agencies to ensure that marine resources and habitats are holistically managed. Tribes expressed and reiterated that they wanted to be engaged in outreach efforts as projects developed.

Management Overview: Focusing on interpretation of tidepool ecology and natural resources instead of new regulations was agreed to be the best approach at this site. The North Coast Rocky Habitat Coalition will collaborate among agencies, research institutions, and organizations on monitoring and surveying wildlife and marine debris, engaging educated volunteers trained to interact with the public and knowledgeable about park rules. Education will

take place mostly at Chapman Point, though CoastWatch will collaborate with OPRD on interpretation programs at Ecola Point. Signage will be updated at Ecola State Park near the tops of trails down to the beach.

Non-Regulatory Management Recommendations:

- Add to and/or update and maintain informational signs at Ecola State Park parking lot day use area
- Build upon existing North Coast Rocky Habitat Coalition to continue monitoring black oystercatcher nests and cormorants, begin sea star surveys in cooperation with PISCO and marine debris surveys in cooperation with CoastWatch and NOAA
- With documented support from HRAP, FOHRAP, NCLC and OSCC, create a schedule of volunteers and tools for educational outreach during low tides
- Partner with Oregon State Parks (OPRD) to add to and/or update and maintain informational signs at Ecola Creek State Park near top of trails
- Work with OPRD to create messaging and talking points to the public
- Invite beach rangers to meet volunteers on the beach once per season

Regulatory Management Recommendations: *You may collapse table if unapplicable*

Fish Harvest		Marine Plant Harvest	
Commercial:	No additional site-based fish harvest regulations beyond baseline ODFW regs (status quo)	Commercial:	No harvest (scientific permit only) - intertidal only
Recreational:	No additional site-based fish harvest regulations beyond baseline ODFW regs (status quo)	Recreational:	No harvest (scientific permit only) - intertidal only
Invertebrate Harvest		Other	
Commercial:	Commercial: status quo no harvest (scientific research permit only)	Boats: Retracted recommendation for 500' buffer Dogs: Retracted regulatory recommendation. Shift to non-regulatory outreach only Climbing on rocks/trampling: Retracted regulatory recommendation. Shift to non-regulatory outreach only (existing rules)	
Recreational:	Recreational: no harvest in all categories except for single mussels for bait (everything else scientific research permit only) intertidal only		

**Rule change required*

Access and harvest by members of Federally recognized Tribal Nations are unaffected.

Summary Statement : This group has proposed Ecola Point as an MCA to retain this site’s relatively pristine characteristics in the face of increasing visitors. In addition, Ecola Point was originally considered for site designation in the original 1994 Rocky Habitat Strategy. The people who make up the city of Cannon Beach are united in their pursuit to protect the largest draw to their community - the rocky habitat and amazing flora and fauna it supports.