



# Oregon Rocky Habitat Management Strategy Site Designation Proposal Template

**DISCLAIMER:** All rocky habitat site designation proposals MUST be submitted online via the Rocky Habitat Web Mapping Tool ([Oregon.SeaSketch.org](http://Oregon.SeaSketch.org)). If you require assistance with proposal submission, please contact the Rocky Shores Coordinator, Michael Moses, at [Michael.Moses@state.or.us](mailto:Michael.Moses@state.or.us).



All proposals must be accompanied by a map and site report which may be generated under the "My Plans" tab on the Rocky Habitat Web Mapping Tool, or you can attach your own map to the proposal form. Interested parties should also review the [Rocky Habitat Management Strategy](#) to determine the eligibility of possible site designations prior to submitting a designation proposal.

Entities in need of special accommodation should contact staff at the Oregon Coastal Management Program. Due to the depth of agency review, staff cannot guarantee when a proposal will be reviewed by OPAC or LCDC. Please note that a high volume of submissions may increase review timelines.

Have questions? Contact Andy Lanier ([Andy.Lanier@state.or.us](mailto:Andy.Lanier@state.or.us)) or Michael Moses ([Michael.Moses@state.or.us](mailto:Michael.Moses@state.or.us)).

## Contact Information

Please fill out the following section with primary contact information for this proposal. Contact information will be used to provide proposal review updates and ask for questions relating to this proposal.

### Name of Principle Contact\*

Who should be contacted with updates and questions regarding this proposal?

Margaret Treadwell

### Affiliation, agency, or organization (if applicable)

North Coast Rocky Habitat Coalition

### Phone Number\*

503-298-5190



Email Address\*

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Mailing Address\*

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## General Proposal Information & Rationale

To the best of your knowledge, fill out the following section with the general site identification and rationale information for your proposed designation.

### Proposal Type\*

Proposals may outline desired additions, deletions, or alterations to rocky habitat site designations, as outlined in the Territorial Sea Plan: Part Three.

New Site Designation (addition)

Existing Site Removal (deletion)

Alteration to Existing Site

### What type of rocky habitat designation are you proposing?\*

Marine Research Area

Marine Garden/Education Area

Marine Conservation Area

### Proposal Rationale and Goals\*

Please describe the context for why this proposal is being brought forward. a) Please describe the site-specific goals for this proposal. b) What are the outcomes or metrics which could be measured to determine progress toward or achievement of these goals?

Located at the northern edge of the City of Cannon Beach, the rocky habitat at Chapman Point boasts breathtaking views, magnificent rock formations, and tide pools full of life. Chapman Point is loved by residents, serving as a stunning place for community members and visitors to walk, watch sunsets, take their children and grandchildren, and view wildlife. It is located just 1.7 miles north of Haystack Rock, one of the most iconic locations on the Oregon Coast and home to a breeding colony of Tufted Puffins. This stretch of rocky habitat includes some of the most visited on the coast, putting it at high risk of habitat degradation.

Tourism traffic at Chapman Point has increased significantly since the Rocky Shores Management Plan was written in 1994, and challenges facing inhabitants of the rocky shores are growing. Human-caused disturbances include disrupting bird nests by climbing on rocks, drones flushing nesting wildlife, visitors trampling through tide pools, fireworks disrupting seabird and black oystercatcher nests, and dogs chasing defenseless chicks that are unable to fly. Educating visitors and residents regarding care of these habitats would help to reduce pressure on sensitive wildlife and other marine species.

a) Please describe the site-specific goals for this proposal:

This proposal's goals include: 1) 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 2) provide an opportunity for public outreach and education to help achieve the first goal and to educate members of the public that are walking north toward Ecola Point (another site our group is proposing).

b) What are the outcomes or metrics which could be measured to determine progress toward or achievement of these goals?

There are many potential outcomes and metrics that could be measured to determine progress toward achievement of the goals stated above, some of which would require varying levels of financial support. These are the outcomes and metrics that are most likely to be realized with existing support or with support we believe has a good chance of being secured in the short-term:

- Increase in Black Oystercatcher nesting success and potentially increased recruitment of new nesting pairs: Data collected by volunteer monitor(s) for Portland Audubon Oregon Black Oystercatcher Project.
- Reduction in harvest of intertidal animals and algae and increased health of intertidal ecosystem: Observations and reports by CoastWatch volunteer(s) and potential photo point monitoring.
- Reduction in disruption of birds by off-leash dogs: Data on rescued birds and nesting success collected by volunteer monitor(s) for Portland Audubon Oregon Black Oystercatcher Project; data on police calls or reports of dog attacks.
- Small volunteer outreach program during bird nesting season with tabulation of how many members of the public reached/educated about the site, regulations, and disturbance issues
- Signage stating regulations and wildlife protection at site access points at West 7th and West 5th Streets

Longer-term, more aspirational metrics could include:

- Stable or increasing biodiversity of intertidal flora and fauna at this site
- Return of local population of Cassin's and Rhinoceros Auklets

To achieve these goals and outcomes, we propose the following:

- 1) Harvest rules:
  - Fish Harvest: No additional site-based fish harvest regulations. Coastwide Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife regulations apply.
  - Invertebrate Harvest:
    - Commercial: No harvest
    - Recreational: No harvest in all categories, except 25 mussels per day per permit
  - Algae Harvest: No harvest
  - Fish, invert, and algae harvest for scientific research by permit only
- 2) Rules for other human activities:

- Dogs are required to be on leash within beach areas of the Marine Conservation Area and prohibited on any rocky habitat.
- Possession and use of fireworks are prohibited within the Marine Conservation Area.
- No climbing on rocks in intertidal and no climbing through the intertidal zone to the area above Mean High Water (MHW) on offshore rocks.
- No disturbance, harassment, trampling of wildlife.
- Operation of drones is prohibited within 2000 ft. of offshore islands.
- Airplanes are prohibited from coming within 2000 ft. of Marine Conservation Area.
- Recreational boats may not come within 500 ft. of offshore rocks that are included within the Marine Conservation Area.
- Kite flying is prohibited within the Marine Conservation Area.

We propose the following Non-Regulatory Management measures:

- Volunteer on-site education
  - Focus on positive outreach during summer low tides
- Wildlife monitoring
  - Ex: Black Oystercatcher monitoring; sea star surveys
- Beach monitoring
  - Ex: CoastWatch
- Harvest monitoring
  - Tracking impacts over time, rather than intercepting individual harvesters
- Support dog training
- Conduct public use intercept surveys

How does the proposed site improve upon or fill a gap in addressing objectives/policies that are not currently addressed by other designated sites or management measures?

Please address this question in relation to the following topics: a) Maintenance, protection, and restoration of habitats and natural communities. b) Allowing for the enjoyment and use of the area while protecting from degradation and loss. c) Preservation of public access. d) Consideration for the adaptation and resilience to climate change, ocean acidification, and hypoxia. e) Fostering stewardship and education of the area or coastwide.

a) Maintenance, protection, and restoration of habitats and natural communities.

This proposal's specific new regulatory and non-regulatory measures will improve upon existing protections for the site (see the "Regulations and Enforcement" Section below for details) and are aimed at minimizing disturbance to marine life and nesting birds. Proposed non-regulatory actions, including a formal volunteer outreach effort (and subsequent coordination and information sharing with regulatory agencies) and better-supported community science projects, will improve maintenance of the site, thereby helping meet the goals described above.

b) Allowing for the enjoyment and use of the area while protecting from degradation and loss.

In this proposal, we balance enhanced protection with still allowing most uses for the enjoyment of the public. We propose no new recreational or commercial fishing regulations. Our recommendation for an adjustment to mussel harvest still allows enough harvest for family to have a meal on any given day yet

safeguards against excessive take and expected increases in harvest pressure at the site. We recommend no take of marine plants in the proposed Marine Conservation Area, but there are many other places nearby where these activities would still be allowed. Activities including off-leash dog walking and usage of drones would be curtailed in the immediate boundaries of this small Marine Conservation Area but would be allowed in adjacent areas. We specifically did not include beach areas that are popular for dog walking in the boundaries of this site (i.e., Chapman, Crescent and Indian Beaches) and limited them to the areas immediately surrounding the rocky habitat. Many non-consumptive uses remain unaffected by the designation of this site including surfing, kayaking, walking on the beach and tidepooling, and other activities.

c) Preservation of public access.

See response above to section ‘b’ which addresses both public access and balancing enjoyment of the site with proposed restrictions.

d) Consideration for the adaptation and resilience to climate change, ocean acidification, and hypoxia.

While we do not include regulations or management recommendations that specifically address climate change and related impacts, we do believe that the increased protections we propose would aid in the resilience of the site in the face of these growing challenges to Oregon’s ocean ecosystem. We also create an opportunity, via support of community science projects and education/outreach, to monitor for climate-related impacts to the system and educate the public on these growing threats. With the site designated as a Marine Conservation Area, it could facilitate climate change research by academic institutions in the future since it would have formal recognition as a site of ecological importance.

e) Fostering stewardship and education of the area or coastwide.

As described previously, a key goal of our proposal is to establish a more formal volunteer public outreach and education program at this site that would educate visitors and residents on its ecological and cultural value and ways to minimize impacts to the site. Through outreach, there would be the opportunity to recruit new volunteers that could engage in education and/or community science opportunities at the site or other sites, thereby facilitating increased stewardship.

## Site Information

To the best of your knowledge, please provide the following information on your proposed rocky habitat site.

### Name of Proposed Site\*

What is the general site name of the area of your proposed location? (Example: Haystack Rock, Cannon Beach)

Chapman Point, Cannon Beach

### Site Location

What is the specific location of your proposed site (if applicable)? Use common place names, latitude/longitude, and geographic references to identify the location of the site.



Common Place Name: Chapman Point and Bird Rocks

Latitude/Longitude of each corner of boundaries

NW: 45.910471, -123.974887

SW: 45.907127, -123.974887

SE: 45.907156, -123.969458

NE: 45.910471, -123.969458

Geographic references:

From approximately 0.11 miles (0.18 km) north of the tip of Chapman Point to approximately 0.12 miles (0.19 km) south of the tip of Chapman Point, and extending from the statutory vegetation line out to approximately 0.23 miles (0.37 km) west into the ocean from the tip of Chapman Point. The southern boundary lines up with the West 7th Street beach access.

Directly west of and adjacent to John Yeon State Natural Area.

### General Site Description\*

Located at the northern edge of the City of Cannon Beach, the rocky habitat at Chapman Point boasts breathtaking views, magnificent rock formations, and tide pools full of life. Chapman Point is loved by residents, serving as a stunning place for community members and visitors to walk, watch sunsets, take their children and grandchildren, and view wildlife. It is located just 1.7 miles north of Haystack Rock, one of the most iconic locations on the Oregon Coast and home to a breeding colony of Tufted Puffins. This stretch of rocky habitat includes some of the most visited on the coast, putting it at high risk of habitat degradation.

Chapman Point has impressive breeding colonies of seabirds – including 34 of high importance according to the SeaSketch report. This includes colonies of 10,000+ Common Murres and several nesting areas for the Black Oystercatcher, federally listed as a “species of concern” due to its decreasing populations. The tide pools are home to diverse wildlife including Ochre Sea Stars, Giant Green Anemones, California Mussels, Red Rock Crabs, and countless other animals, from chitons to octopuses.

### Site Boundaries\*

Provide a written description of the intended boundaries and scope of the proposed area (e.g. intertidal area, subtidal area, depth contour, etc.) All proposals must include a map of the proposed site boundaries.

From approximately 0.11 miles (0.18 km) north of the tip of Chapman Point to approximately 0.12 miles (0.19 km) south of the tip of Chapman Point, and extending from the statutory vegetation line out to approximately 0.23 miles (0.37 km) west into the ocean from the tip of Chapman Point. The southern boundary lines up with the West 7th Street beach access. Please see the attached map.

Per the SeaSketch report, the selected designated area totals 42.6 acres and touches 0.8 miles (1.28 km) of shoreline. It has an average depth of 2.7m, a maximum depth of -6m and a minimum depth of 16m.



It includes 10 acres of intertidal area currently (in the 0m Sea Level Rise Scenario), which is predicted to be reduced to 6.1 acres in the 0.5m Sea Level Rise (SLR) Scenario, 5.1 acres in the 1m SLR Scenario, and 3.5 acres in the 1.5m SLR Scenario. We recommend that any migration of the intertidal area outside of the site boundaries due to SLR be accommodated by revising the site boundaries in the future as needed.

### Site Access Information\*

How is this site commonly accessed?

This site is most commonly accessed from several access points at Chapman Beach at the north end of the City of Cannon Beach, including at the western ends of West 7th Street and West 5th Street. It is also accessed from the central beach of Cannon Beach (the “main” beach, which sees the highest visitation), by crossing Ecola Creek, which separates the two beaches. It is also accessed from Crescent Beach to the north, at low tides by crossing the sand bridge between Chapman Point and the first Bird Rock, or around the western (ocean-facing) side of the first Bird Rock when tides are low enough.

### What is your understanding of current management at this site?\*

This may include site ownership, management authorities, and other key stakeholders.

Current Management:

The rock above MHW is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) as a National Wildlife Refuge and the beach and intertidal area are managed by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) as part of the ocean shore. Neither has active on-site management.

Ownership:

Submerged and intertidal lands: Division of State Lands (DSL);

offshore rocks above MHW: USFWS;

dry sands beach is a state recreation area under jurisdiction of OPRD;

upland beyond the statutory line of vegetation is owned by OPRD as John Yeon State Natural Site.

### Site Uses

To the best of your knowledge, please provide the following information **based on the current site management**.

#### Site Uses\*

Describe the current users and uses present at the site. Uses may encompass recreational, commercial, cultural, and scientific.

The following is a listing of the major site uses proximal to Chapman Point and Bird Rocks.

Beach and Dog Walking: This area is popular for walking on the beach, particularly for residents of the northern end of the City of Cannon Beach, which is adjacent to Chapman Beach. It is a popular spot for walking dogs off-leash. The presence of off-leash dogs is particularly problematic because many

approach and/or walk on the intertidal rocks and upset the nesting of native birds and disturb marine life. Because this area has no oversight, off leash dogs kill, maim, and agitate wildlife. Chicks that are foraging on the beaches and rocks before they can fly cannot get away from unleashed dogs. This area is known to the Wildlife Center of the North Coast as the location of wildlife injuries and deaths resulting from dogs, according to a former volunteer. Human safety is also at risk, including injuries, equipment damage, and aggressive behavior from dogs experienced by the Black Oystercatcher monitor volunteer (see Attachment 2, “Descriptions of 2020 Dog Encounters”).

Tidepool Exploration: Tidepooling is popular in the area but causes problems due to visitors walking on environmentally sensitive intertidal rocks and disturbing nesting birds.

Birdwatching: Because of the large number of bird species and large seabird colonies found here, Chapman Point is a popular birding spot.

Crabbing: Recreational crabbing occurs infrequently at Chapman Point, when the tidepools are deep enough. Crabs are typically taken from tidepools with nets, pots, or rakes.

Mussels: The harvesting of mussels by recreational users is intermittent but ongoing at Chapman Point. During summer 2020, community members observed people harvesting “coolers full” of mussels on a daily basis.

Drones: Visitors have been observed operating drones at Chapman Point.

Surfing: Chapman Point is a popular spot for surfing. Community members have not noticed surfers disturbing wildlife. The impression is that the surfers are aware and respectful of wildlife.

Kayaking: This stretch of coast sees some recreational sea kayaking. Levels of use are unknown.

Fireworks: This area has been the site of illegal firework detonation, according to community members.

Rock climbing: Many visitors climb up to the top of the tip of Chapman Point, either from the beach through the rocky intertidal zone, or by accessing it from trails above the beach. They also climb First Bird Rock by climbing through the rocky intertidal zone.

Other: Other common beach uses in this area include kite flying, picnicking, swimming, photography, weddings and family events.

For a coastwide view of popular activities, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department report “Visitor Survey of Day Use and Overnight Use at Oregon State Park Coastal Region Parks” (Bergerson 2019) finds that the most popular activities at Coastal Region parks for 2017 were visiting the lighthouse\* (81%), hiking or walking (77%), sightseeing (58%), visiting historic sites (54%), beachcombing (52%), and exploring tidepools\* (47%). (\*Note: Lighthouse facilities are located at two parks and tidepool areas at five parks that were included in the survey.).

## Site Infrastructure

Please summarize existing site infrastructure. For example: large parking lot, public restrooms, 10-foot stairway leading to cobble beach, etc.

There is limited parking on city streets adjacent to Chapman Beach, with access points at the western ends of West 7th Street and West 5th Street. A public restroom and parking lot are at Les Shirley Park, which



is three blocks from the West 5th Street access point. The streets are often overwhelmed with cars during the summer.

## Potential Future Site Uses

Please describe potential future site uses of the proposed site if there was no change to current site management. Much like current uses, future uses may encompass recreational, commercial, cultural, and scientific, as well as others not listed.

With no changes in current site management, all current activities can be expected to continue and increase in volume, given increasing visitation on the North Coast (see next paragraph), the growing populations of nearby metro areas including Portland and Seattle, and the growing population of Clatsop County (Portland State University 2017). While current use may seem relatively benign (apart from poor nesting success of Black Oystercatchers caused by human and dog disturbances), if visitor volume continues to grow the impacts will also grow, degrading the natural resources and visitor experience at this unique location and biodiverse ecosystem.

OPRD data over the past 10 years indicates steady visitation at Ecola State Park at just under 600,000 people per year while the same data from nearby Oswald West State Park indicates a more dramatic increase (see Attachment 11 “State Park Day Use Estimates, 2010-2019”), more than doubling in the last decade to 1.2 million in 2019. Differences between the two sites may explain this discrepancy: First, Ecola has limited parking, especially at Indian Beach, and a \$5 day use fee. Second, Ecola is harder to access, being off the main highway and accessed by a windy narrow road that may dissuade some visitors, while the parking lots at Oswald West are on Highway 101, and many of the visitors recorded there are probably quick stops and bathroom use, like at a rest area. So, the uptick at Oswald West is more reflective of overall increases in North Coast visitors and traffic. Since we are proposing Ecola Point as a Marine Conservation Area in an effort to help ensure its long-term ecological viability, we look at the Ecola day use estimate data as promising, as we would like to see Ecola visitation remain steady and not increase too much with the risk of placing increased pressure on the local ecosystem.

The OPRD report “Visitor Survey of Day Use and Overnight Use at Oregon State Park Coastal Region Parks” (Bergerson 2019) offers some insight into trends in coastal visitation activities. Participation rates increased significantly between 2011 and 2017 for the following activities: hiking or walking, sightseeing, visiting historic sites, exploring tidepools\*, bird or wildlife watching, agate / shell collecting, bicycling on trails, boating (motor, canoe, kayak), and bicycling on local roads. 2017 participation rates were significantly lower for visiting the lighthouse\*, visiting nature / visitor center, surfing / boogie boarding, and clam digging. (\*Note: Lighthouse facilities are located at two parks and tidepool areas at five parks that were included in the survey.)

## Impacts on Site Uses

How will altering this site’s management designation impact existing and potential future uses? Please outline the potential positive and negative impacts to current and future users as well as the degree of impact. How does the proposed site management balance the conservation of rocky habitat resources with human use?

Fish Harvest: No additional site-based fish harvest regulations. Coastwide ODFW regulations apply.

- No impact on site use since we are not recommending any change

Invertebrate Harvest: No commercial harvest; No recreational harvest except 25 mussels per day per permit

- While we propose no commercial harvest of invertebrates at the site, we are unaware of any commercial interests for harvesting invertebrates at this site (this is informed by multiple stakeholder outreach efforts and meetings with the public, including fishermen). In addition, the site area is relatively small and there are nearby areas where commercial harvest could still take place if desired.
- We believe our proposal of 25 mussels per day per permit strikes a good balance between what the existing baseline regulation is (72 mussels per day per permit) and no take (except single mussels for bait), which would have been the default regulation if we proposed this site as a Marine Education Area. The 25 mussels a day limit per person provides enough food for a family meal.

Algae Harvest: No harvest

- While we propose no commercial or recreational harvest of marine plants at the site, we are unaware of any commercial interests for take at this site (this is informed after multiple stakeholder outreach efforts and meetings with the public). In addition, the site boundaries are relatively small and there are nearby areas where both recreational and commercial harvest could still take place if desired.

Scientific research: Fish, invert, and algae harvest by permit only

- No impact to this site because we are not recommending any change in scientific research regulations.

We propose the following rules for other human activities:

Dogs: Required to be on leash within beach areas of the Marine Conservation Area and prohibited on any rocky habitat.

- In designing the boundaries of this Marine Conservation Area, we have intentionally left large beach areas out of the Marine Conservation Area boundary so it wouldn't impact members of the public that want to have their dogs off-leash at traditional sites like Crescent Beach and Chapman Beach. Dogs can still be in the Marine Conservation Area, but must be on leash and not on the rocks. We feel this is appropriate to protect habitat and human safety while still allowing dogs to be walked in the Marine Conservation Area and leaving lots of area for off-leash activity adjacent to the Marine Conservation Area.

Possession and use of fireworks are prohibited within the Marine Conservation Area.

- Fireworks are already prohibited from use on the Oregon coast, and this rule is enforced in Cannon Beach unlike in many other coast locations. Including this rule in the Marine Conservation Area designation is a reaffirmation of the coastwide rule and we hope that signage could be installed at the access points to the site to indicate this specifically.

No climbing on rocks in intertidal and no climbing through the intertidal zone to the area above Mean High Water (MHW) on offshore rocks; No disturbance, harassment, trampling of wildlife; Operation of drones is prohibited within 2000 ft. of offshore islands; Airplanes are prohibited from coming within 2000 ft. of Marine Conservation Area; Recreational boats may not come within 500 ft. of offshore rocks that are included within the Marine Conservation Area.; Kite flying is prohibited within 2000 ft. of offshore islands and within any part of the Marine Conservation Area.

- Our proposed regulations for these activities are the same as those at the Haystack Rock Marine Education Area/Marine Garden. We propose these same regulations at Chapman Point because they provide the means to help meet our site goal #1, have worked well at Haystack Rock, are

acceptable to the public at that site, and provide consistency with regulations at a nearby site with many of the same disturbance concerns and recreational activities.

Additional effects:

Potential positive effects of site designation are: (1) a healthier ecosystem because of better stewardship from visitors and locals with a deeper recognition of how immediate actions from visitation influence the long term, (2) increasing ecosystem health at other rocky habitat sites by educating the public on how to have a more sustainable “low footprint” behavior in everyday life, and (3) and the spillover effect of a healthy ecosystem into nearby areas.

Potential negative impacts of site designation include media coverage driving additional visitation to the area, including careless or negligent visitors. We ask for extra caution and coordination with our group from State agencies when announcing a Marine Conservation Area at this site.

## Key Natural Resources

To the best of your knowledge, please provide the following information on your proposed rocky habitat site.

### Rocky Habitat Present\*

Please include as much information as possible on the specific types and composition of rocky habitat present at the site (e.g. rocky intertidal with extensive tidepools, adjacent rocky cliffs, and rocky subtidal).

Per the SeaSketch report, the selected designated area includes 10 acres of intertidal area currently (in the 0m Sea Level Rise Scenario), which is predicted to be reduced to 6.1 acres in the 0.5m Sea Level Rise (SLR) Scenario, 5.1 acres in the 1m SLR Scenario, and 3.5 acres in the 1.5m SLR Scenario. We recommend that any migration of the intertidal area outside of the site boundaries due to SLR be accommodated by revising the site boundaries in the future as needed.

Per the SeaSketch report, the selected designated area has 9.2 acres of rocky subtidal substrate, 21.7% of the area.

### Key Resources\*

Describe current rocky habitat resources present at the site. These may include, but are not limited to: kelp beds; pinniped haulout or pupping areas; seabird colonies; presence of threatened/endangered/protected species; intertidal diversity (invertebrates, marine plants, etc.).

Key ecological resources at Chapman Point include 1) seabird colonies, 2) black oystercatcher nesting areas, 3) a number of species of conservation concern, 4) and intertidal diversity. We summarize these below:

1. Seabird colonies:

- According to the SeaSketch report, this site contains 34 Bird Colonies of High Importance, and 177 Bird Colonies of Medium Importance. As far as we are aware, this estimate is based on the most recent version of the USFWS Seabird Catalog (Naughton et al. 2007).
- The Oregon Rocky Shores Inventory from 1994 indicates this site supported more than 40,000 nesting seabirds, most of which were Common Murres (Fox et al. 1994). Recent eBird checklist report from July 2020 indicates the Common Murre colony is made up of approximately 10,000 individuals and nest on the Second, Third and Fourth Bird Rocks.
- Observations of other seabird nesting activity at Chapman Pt in summer 2020: Eight Pelagic Cormorants, several Pigeon Guillemot, and multiple Western Gulls on the Inner (First) Bird Rock (Tabea Goossen, Pers. comm. (Attachment 3)).
- It is important to point out that Chapman Point and Ecola Point were once home to colonies of Rhinoceros Auklets and Cassin's Auklets. Cassin's have not been documented in the area since 2014 and the Rhinos not since 2006 (Naughton et al. 2007).

## 2. Black Oystercatchers

- Oregon Black Oystercatcher Project Portland Audubon abundance data from Chapman Point collected from multiple surveys from 2015-17 indicates an average detection of 2.1 individuals. Included in SeaSketch from Liebezeit et al. (2020).
- Oregon Black Oystercatcher Project Portland Audubon nest monitoring occurred in 2016, 2017, and 2020 at Chapman Point. In both 2016 and 2017: Two nests were monitored, both hatched but only one successfully fledged in each of those years. In 2020, there were three total nesting attempts. One pair nesting on the offshore Second Bird Rock failed in its first attempt for unknown reasons and successfully fledged two chicks on their second attempt. One other nest on the shoreside of Bird Rock 1 only was "successful" in fledging a chick that was rescued because it fledged prematurely due to human disturbance, was brought to the Wildlife Center of the North Coast and released back at Chapman Point after recovery. In total, for the three years, seven nesting attempts with three successful fledges not counting the "human-assisted" fledge. There may have been other nests or nesting attempts that went undetected or unmonitored.

## 3. Presence of threatened/endangered/protected species:

Chapman Point is known to support several listed endangered species and / or species of conservation concern including the following:

### Birds:

- The Marbled Murrelet, listed under both the federal and state Endangered Species Act as threatened, is known to frequent waters just off the shore of Chapman Point, primarily during the fall when molting murrelets likely seek out rocky areas for weather protection (Craig S. Strong, Crescent Coastal Research, pers. comm.). Nesting occurs in Ecola and Oswald West State Parks.
- Five bird species listed as strategy species of conservation concern in the Oregon Nearshore Strategy have been documented at Chapman Point and include: Black Oystercatcher<sup>1</sup>, Harlequin Duck, Tufted Puffin, Caspian Tern, Peregrine Falcon, and Brown Pelican.

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<sup>1</sup> The Black Oystercatcher is also listed as a species of concern in the U.S. and Canadian National Shorebird Conservation Plans (Brown et al. 2000; Donaldson et al. 2000) and a "focal species for priority conservation action" by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Tessler et al. 2007). They are also a target species in the Pacific Americas Shorebird Conservation Strategy (Senner et al. 2016) and are on the Watch list in the most recent State of North America's Birds report (NABCI 2016).

Mammals:

- Pacific Harbor Seals have been observed at this site and this is a strategy species in ODFW's Nearshore Strategy.
- Humpback Whales, Gray Whales, and Orca have been sighted offshore and are strategy species in ODFW's Nearshore Strategy.

Fish:

- Coho Salmon are listed as Endangered Species Act (ESA) Threatened and are a strategy species in ODFW's Nearshore Strategy.
- Columbia River salmon and steelhead (13 evolutionarily significant units), and Green Sturgeon Southern distinct population segment, which are all ESA listed.

Invertebrates and marine plants:

- California Mussel, Dungeness Crab, Ochre Sea Star, and Razor Clam are strategy species in ODFW's Nearshore Strategy.
- Surfgrass is an ODFW Nearshore Strategy species. Iridescent Weed, Coralline Algae, Black Pine, Sea Cabbage, Bull Kelp, Dwarf Rockweed, and Northern Rockweed are PISCO/DLCD species of interest.
- Other marine invertebrates that are listed in the Nearshore Strategy that may occur at Chapman are: Purple Sea Urchin, Pacific Giant Octopus, abalone species, Red Sea Urchin, and Sunflower Sea Star (listed as critically endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) on December 10, 2020).

4. Intertidal diversity:

The tidepools at Chapman Point host a typical north coast rocky habitat ecosystem assemblage: Giant and Acorn Barnacles, Gooseneck Barnacles, California Mussels, Ochre Sea Stars, Giant Green Sea Anemones, aggregating sea anemones, Purple Shore Crab, Dungeness Crab, Tidepool Sculpin, various species of chiton and nudibranch, and countless other animals. This ecosystem is in good shape, with healthy sea anemones and not a lot of indications of sea star wasting disease (SSWD).

## Flora and Fauna\*

List the animal and plant species you know exist at this site along with relative abundance.

Birds:

A summary of data contained in the SeaSketch report, the Chapman Point eBird hotspot checklist<sup>2</sup>, the USFWS Seabird Catalog, and other sources document over 40 bird species (most of these are captured in the eBird list footnoted below) that use Chapman Point. Thirty-one checklists have been submitted to the Chapman Point eBird hotspot checklists since 2005 documenting 71 species, of which at least 38 species are known to use rocky habitats as defined by the Rocky Habitat Management Strategy. This includes species in the waterfowl, shorebird, waterbird, and seabird groups as well as some raptors (e.g. Bald

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<sup>2</sup> <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L159576>

Eagle) and songbirds (e.g. Common Raven). Additional documented species at Chapman Point not included in the eBird list are: Bonaparte's Gull, Common Merganser, Red-necked Grebe, Caspian Tern, Wandering Tattler, Killdeer, Whimbrel, Marbled Godwit, and Belted Kingfisher. Several bird species that use this site are species of conservation concern (see "Key Resources" section for more information).

#### Pinnipeds:

There are no significant marine mammal haul-outs at Chapman Point, but Pacific Harbor Seal pups have been observed resting at this site while their mother is hunting.

#### Intertidal species:

The tidepools at Chapman Point host a typical north coast rocky habitat ecosystem assemblage, including Ochre Sea Stars, Giant Green Sea Anemones, aggregating anemones, Gooseneck, Acorn, and Thatched Barnacles, Purple and Lined Shore Crabs, and their associates. Particularly noticeable are the healthy Giant Green Sea Anemones. Although there are no scientific surveys of the intertidal being done at this site, we can look to the data collected by the Multi-Agency Rocky Intertidal Network (MARINE) program at Ecola Point, just 0.75 mile to the north, as an indication of the species assemblage and abundance at this site. Additionally, a marine biology student at Oregon State University's Partnership for Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans (PISCO) lab assembled species information for Chapman Point and nearby areas (when information on a specific species was not available for Chapman). These data sources are attached.

See Attachment 5, "Ecola Biodiversity Survey Findings (MARINE)," Attachment 6, "Ecola Species List (PISCO Coastal Biodiversity Survey)," and Attachment 9, "Species data for Chapman Point, compiled by PISCO student intern," for more details and additional species information.

## Unique Features

Does this site include any unique or special features in relation to the Oregon Coast? This may include high quality examples of rocky habitats, etc.

This strikingly beautiful setting includes a headland (Chapman Point) and four offshore rocks (Bird Rocks) hosts an intact ecosystem at high risk of increased visitation due to its proximity to several major tourist draws: Haystack Rock, Ecola State Park, and the City of Cannon Beach.

This area is also culturally important for the area's indigenous people, located near the sites of two indigenous settlements prior to European settlement (Deur 2016). It is near the banks of Ecola Creek in northern Cannon Beach, which served as a "welcoming place for members of the Clatsop, Nehalem, and Tillamook tribes" for centuries (NPS 2019). The proposal site is undoubtedly a place of historical resource harvest for the Clatsop-Nehalem people, given its proximity to villages and the welcoming place. For example, indigenous people of this area are known to have tended clam beds and harvested shellfish (Deur and Turner 2005).

For more information on the unique geology of the site, see the "Watershed Conditions" section.

## Values and Resources

Please discuss site values and resources and how a change in designation will impact them.

We expect the designation of Chapman Point as a Marine Conservation Area will enhance the natural resources of this site by helping ensure ecological integrity by minimizing human disturbances over the long term. At the same time, the ecological benefits of the site will also enhance the recreational value for both consumptive (e.g. recreational fishers) and non-consumptive users (e.g. wildlife watchers, surfers) as the additional regulations allow responsible harvest and help the site maintain characteristics and feel of a wilderness setting. The outreach and education program will enable volunteers to “tell the story” of the value of Chapman Point to the public, including its unique geology, historic and present cultural values, and biodiversity while at the same time reminding visitors to be responsible and respectful in this special place.

## Regulations & Enforcement

To the best of your knowledge, please provide the following information on your proposed rocky habitat site. Due to the complexity of site regulation and enforcement, this section will not be used to evaluate proposal completeness, but will be considered for the merit of this proposal. Agencies will address gaps where information is available.

### Management Consideration

How was enforcement/compliance of management considered in the design of this site proposal? If possible, please estimate the cost to implement this change in site management.

This proposal was drafted with the idea of balance in mind. Our goal is to help to create balance and sustainability with other parts of the coast and conflicting industries.

While it is not possible for our group to calculate cost estimates for State agencies to implement enforcement/compliance of management, if the designation is approved we will commit to working with State agencies and all other interested/concerned parties to come up with creative funding and staffing options, including developing budgets and external funding sources.

Potential partners include Oregon Coast Visitors Association (OCVA), Oregon Shores CoastWatch, Portland Audubon, Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation, Haystack Rock Awareness Program (City of Cannon Beach), North Coast Watershed Association Coastal Council, and US Fish & Wildlife Service. Haystack Rock Awareness Program and monitoring programs are already active at this site or nearby. The City of Cannon Beach is also much more proactive in enforcement than many coastal cities.

## Enforcement Changes

In comparison to current site management, what changes would be necessary to enforce the proposed management measures? This may include the addition or removal of infrastructure, personnel, etc. Include the estimated financial impact of the proposal. Some designations incorporate larger financial or programmatic support. Please identify any entities or funding sources that may be available to

continually support this proposal. This information is not required for a proposal to be accepted, but review bodies would like to be informed of any support that is already in place or expected for the site.

If the designation is approved and the Marine Conservation Area is implemented by the State, we will commit to working with State agencies and all other interested/concerned parties to come up with creative funding and staffing options, including developing budgets and external funding sources. Potential sources of funding, staffing, and volunteers include partners like Oregon Coast Visitors Association (OCVA), Oregon Shores CoastWatch, Portland Audubon, Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation, Haystack Rock Awareness Program (City of Cannon Beach), North Coast Watershed Association Coastal Council, and students from Clatsop Community College's Environmental Steward Certificate program.

## Needed Regulations

What regulations and enforcement would be necessary to implement this change in management? What regulatory changes at the proposed site would be needed at this site? Which state/federal agencies would be impacted by this change in site management?

We propose establishment of a Marine Conservation Area for this site, with a few exceptions to allow current uses that are not seen as detrimental to the natural resources. We seek to balance conservation and resilience of ecosystems with appropriate uses.

We propose the regulations for this site in accordance with the baseline Marine Conservation Area Regulatory Standards & Management Practices that are listed in Table 1 on pages 32-33 of the draft Rocky Habitat Management Strategy dated April 24, 2020, with exceptions as presented below.

### Fish Harvest:

- Commercial – No additional site-based fish harvest regulations. Coastwide ODFW regulations apply.
- Recreational – No additional site-based fish harvest regulations. Coastwide ODFW regulations apply.
- Scientific & Educational – Requires a permit from ODFW or Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD), which may be issued if the research does not impede the management goals of the Marine Conservation Area.

### Invertebrate Harvest:

- Commercial – Closing harvest in all categories.
- Recreational – Closing harvest in all categories, except:
  - 25 per day mussels per permit. Justification: This limit would constitute a family meal while reducing the impacts of large, daily harvesting documented recently by members of the public. There is also concern about increasing harvest pressure as visitation to Chapman Point is increasing. We believe this proposed harvest level, which allows more than a Marine Garden but less than the current 72 mussels bag limit, strikes a good balance.
- Scientific & Educational – Requires a permit from ODFW or OPRD, which may be issued if the research does not impede the management goals of the Marine Conservation Area.



Algae Harvest:

- Commercial – Closing harvest in all categories
- Recreational – Closing harvest in all categories
- Scientific & Educational – Requires a permit from ODFW or OPRD, which may be issued if the research does not impede the management goals of the Marine Conservation Area.

Other Human Activities:

- Dogs are required to be on leash within beach areas of the Marine Conservation Area and prohibited on any rocky habitat.
- Possession and use of fireworks are prohibited within the Marine Conservation Area.
- No climbing on rocks in intertidal and no climbing through the intertidal zone up above MHW on offshore rocks.
- No disturbance, harassment, trampling and other “take” of wildlife.
- Operation of drones is prohibited within 2000 ft. of offshore islands that are included within the Marine Conservation Area.
- Airplanes are prohibited from coming within 2000 ft. of Marine Conservation Area.
- Recreational boats may not come within 500 ft. of offshore rocks that are included within the Marine Conservation Area.
- Kite flying is prohibited within 2000 ft. of offshore islands and within any part of the Marine Conservation Area.

Agencies that would be impacted:

- ODFW is charged with fish and invertebrates,
- OPRD is charged with marine plants in the intertidal zone and on the beach as well as public access issues, and contains the State Historic Preservation Office that manages cultural resources and archeological sites.
- DSL is charged with subtidal marine plants and removal/fill activities on the seabed floor,
- OSMB regulates boating activity,
- OSP enforces rules and laws of the above agencies, and
- DEQ implements marine water quality standards in state waters, which are triggered by an array of actions.

## Improvements to Management

How does the proposed site improve upon or fill gaps in addressing objectives/policies that are not currently addressed by coastwide regulations or management?

Visitation at Chapman Point has increased significantly since the 1994 Rocky Shores Management Plan, according to many of the community members and frequent visitors with whom we talked. And challenges facing inhabitants of the rocky shores are growing. Human-caused disturbances include disrupting bird nests by climbing on rocks and walking too close to nests, drones flushing nesting wildlife, visitors trampling through tide pools, fireworks disrupting nesting Black Oystercatchers and seabirds, and dogs chasing defenseless chicks that are unable to fly. (See Attachment 2 “Descriptions of 2020 Dog Encounters,” Attachment 11 “State Park Day Use Estimates 2010-2019” and Attachment 1 “Coastwatch Reports for Mile 314” for additional information and insight.)

Our proposed regulations improve upon the current situation by reducing the following human-caused impacts: intertidal harvest, trampling in tidepools, bird disturbances and attacks by off-leash dogs, bird disturbances by beach walkers, drones flushing nesting birds and other wildlife, fireworks disturbing nesting birds, and disturbance to seabird colonies from people illegally climbing on the rocks.

## Non-Regulatory Management Mechanisms

To the best of your knowledge, please provide the following information on your proposed rocky habitat site.

### Management Mechanisms

What non-regulatory mechanisms are required at this site in order to meet the goals of the proposed designation? These may include, but are not limited to, public access management, on-site enhancement, and educational intercepts.

Dependent on funding and capacity, our group proposes to create a volunteer interpretation program at Chapman Point, to communicate the new management changes and provide stewardship education to the community and visitors. To start, we envision a small volunteer community group supported by one person with 10-20 hours/week of grant-supported work to develop the volunteer program's operations and larger vision.

This small group would start by focusing on positive outreach during summer weekend low tides, when the need is greatest, incorporating the successful approach in place at Haystack Rock but at a smaller scale. This would include setting up a small information area with a spotting scope so visitors can see the nesting birds, including Black Oystercatchers, without disturbing them. The volunteers would also put up temporary signs during low tides to warn people when they are close to bird nests and advising them to keep their distance.

Other current and potential non-regulatory management mechanisms include:

- Portland Audubon Black Oystercatcher Monitoring program (currently active with one volunteer with good potential to add more)
- Reports on natural changes and human-induced impacts provided at least quarterly by Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition's CoastWatch volunteers (currently active)
- Conducting sea star surveys in collaboration with Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition's CoastWatch program (future)
- Establishing camera points where photos are taken at regular intervals to monitor intertidal harvest, e.g., tracking mussel bed depletion (future)
- Encourage through outreach and education dog training focused on training dogs to not chase and attack birds (future)
- Conducting public perception intercept surveys (future)

In addition, Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition, in conjunction with Clatsop Community College in nearby Astoria, offers an Environmental Steward Certificate encouraging students to take part in environmental projects. Students pursuing this Certificate could be a consistent source of volunteers for this program.

Note:

A coastwide shoreline interpretive program is called for in the State's Rocky Shores Communications Strategy (OCMP 1995) and elsewhere. Haystack Rock Awareness Program in Cannon Beach, Oregon, and Makai Watch in Hawaii are examples of successful programs.

## Support for Management Mechanisms

How do you propose to support these mechanisms? Some designations incorporate larger financial or programmatic support. Please identify any entities or funding sources that may be available to continually support this proposal. This information is not required for a proposal to be accepted, but review bodies would like to be informed of any support that is already in place or expected for the site.

If the designation is approved and the Marine Conservation Area is implemented by the State, our group will work with partners like Oregon Coast Visitors Association (OCVA), Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition, Portland Audubon, Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation, Haystack Rock Awareness Program (City of Cannon Beach), North Coast Watershed Association Coastal Council, US Fish & Wildlife Service, and others to explore collaborative opportunities and funding sources for an education and compliance program.

## Stakeholder Engagement

To the best of your knowledge, please provide the following information on your proposed rocky habitat site.

### Letters of Support

Before submitting your proposal, please attach any materials or letters of support gathered as part of the development of this proposal. You may include meeting resources, campaign materials, etc.

The following files have been uploaded to SeaSketch:

- Letters of support from Businesses and Organizations
- Letters of support from Individuals
- Social media and newsletter promotion ("RHMS IPP Promo")
- Flyer promoting letters of support ("Support Marine Conservation Area Flyer")
- Proposal Summary distributed to stakeholders ("RH Proposal Summary")
- Site visit agenda
- Site visit invitees

### Stakeholder Collaboration

Describe the steps taken to develop this proposal in collaboration with stakeholders. a) Please describe the community support and opposition for this proposal. b) Please list the communities, organizations, and groups that have worked to develop and support this proposal, as well as those in opposition of the proposal.

Our group has worked tirelessly to contact stakeholders to inform them of this proposal and solicit their feedback. This task has been made much more difficult because of the restrictions in place to prevent spread of COVID-19 and the fact that many people and organizations were focused on adapting and responding to the challenges of the global pandemic and the wildfires in September, and the resulting economic devastation. Nonetheless, we were successful in reaching many stakeholder groups and received mostly positive feedback and no organized opposition.

Please see the “Public Outreach” section for details on public events that we held and press coverage garnered by our efforts. In addition, we reached out to the following stakeholders:

- Clatsop-Nehalem Confederated Tribes
- Confederated Tribes of the Grande Ronde
- Cannon Beach City Council
- Haystack Rock Awareness Program (City of Cannon Beach)
- Friends of Haystack Rock
- North Coast Watershed Association
- Necanicum Watershed Council
- North Coast Land Conservancy
- Lower Nehalem Community Trust
- Lower Nehalem Watershed Council
- Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission
- Oregon Fishermen’s Cable Committee
- Garibaldi Charters
- Northwest Guides and Anglers Association
- Clatsop County Board of Commissioners
- US Fish & Wildlife Service
- Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Seaside City Council
- Seaside Visitor Bureau
- Cannon Beach Chamber of Commerce
- Sea Turtles Forever
- American Cetacean Society Oregon Chapter
- SOLVE
- C4C (dolphin conservation)
- Women’s Club Manzanita
- North Coast Communities for Watershed Protection
- Wildlife Center of the North Coast
- Cannon Beach Academy
- Cannon Beach History Museum
- Seaside Parks Department
- Consejo Hispano
- Sunset Empire Recreation District
- Dragon Boat Team
- NIA Blue Belt Dance
- North County Hiking Group

- Angora Hiking Club
- Cannon Beach Community Church
- Cannon Beach Conference Center
- Cannon Beach Chorus
- Cannon Beach Arts Association
- Tolovana Arts Colony
- Cannon Beach Library
- Coaster Theatre Playhouse
- Many local businesses (a list can be provided on request)

a) Please describe the community support and opposition for this proposal.

Letters of support were received from the following stakeholder groups and organizations:

- Friends of Haystack Rock
- Cannon Beach City Council
- North Coast Land Conservancy
- North Coast Watershed Association Coastal Council
- Lower Nehalem Watershed Council
- Angora Hiking Club
- Northwest Guides and Anglers Association
- Nehalem Bay TideRunners

The following businesses submitted letters of support or signed the Business Sign-On Letter:

- Lor's Tours
- Sea Breeze Court
- Cannon Beach Book Company
- Duane Johnson Real Estate
- Northwest by Northwest Gallery
- Sleepy Monk Coffee Roasters
- IceFire Glassworks
- Four Paws on the Beach
- Dragonheart Herbs and Natural Medicine
- DragonFire Gallery
- Land's End at Cannon Beach
- Crepe Neptune
- Holly McHone Jewelers
- Sea Level Bakery + Coffee

The following organizations signed the Organization Sign-On Letter:

- Sunset Empire Recreation District
- Oregon Coast Alliance
- North Coast Communities for Watershed Protection

Support from community members:

- We received letters and emails of support from 22 individuals.

- 35 people signed the Resident Sign-On Letter.
- We received 3 testimonials in favor of the designation at Chapman Point through a Portland Audubon form.

Please see the PDF files uploaded in the “Letters of Support” section in SeaSketch to view all of these letters, emails, and testimonials.

No stakeholder groups were formally opposed. Please see the “Feedback from Stakeholders” Section, below, for information on the negative feedback we received from community members.

b) Please list the communities, organizations, and groups that have worked to develop and support this proposal, as well as those in opposition of the proposal.

The proposal was developed by:

- North Coast Rocky Habitat Coalition
- Portland Audubon
- Unaffiliated community members

No stakeholder groups were formally opposed. Please see the “Feedback from Stakeholders” Section, below, for information on the negative feedback we received from community members.

## Feedback from Stakeholders

List and explain both positive and negative opinions received regarding this proposal. While preparing this proposal and conducting stakeholder outreach, describe the main comments of support and issues of concerns voiced regarding this proposed change in site management/designation.

Concerns about activities at the site that were expressed by community members and stakeholders who were generally supportive of the site proposals include:

- Fireworks are already illegal, but there were a lot of fireworks launched from this area and all along Cannon Beach this year.
- Visitation is going up. There was a spike this year during the pandemic, however this has been the overall trend year-to-year.
- Keeping trails at Ecola Point unmaintained should be put in writing, to create an official policy not to increase recreational access.
- Camping was observed at Indian Beach this summer, with people taking advantage of the lack of State Parks enforcement personnel.
- Ecola Point is culturally important to the coastal way of life.
- Preventing increased foot traffic resulting from possible increased camping by working with OSP could fit in with a rocky habitat proposal rather than trying to impose regulations on land directly through the rocky habitat process.
- Haystack Rock Awareness Program (HRAP) is supportive, but running an additional program at Chapman could stretch them thin. Could a scenario play out where an educational program could fit in through the city/HRAP?
- Dogs off leash chase, kill, and maim birds and attack harbor seal pups.

Concerns expressed by community members and stakeholders about the site designation proposal include:

- Leashing of dogs infringes on community members' ability to enjoy the area where they live
- Questions regarding how protections will be enforced when existing issues are not addressed, such as fireworks, drone usage, wildlife harassment, and so forth.
- Creating a "police state" in a place where people go to relax and rejuvenate.
  - o One way to address this may be to space out the times when interpreters are on the beach and limit their presence to the busiest days of the year.
- Driving unwanted and un-sustainable traffic to the area.
  - o The existing infrastructure is unable to handle increased visitation. Parking on city streets near Chapman Point and parking at Les Shirley Park is already filled to capacity during the summer.
  - o There is concern that these are places that are mostly known to locals and reluctance to see that change due to a designation.
- The entire 9 miles of Rocky Habitat adjacent to Ecola State Park should be protected, and protecting this small site isn't worth the risk of attracting increased activity.
- The regulations on climbing through the intertidal and not allowing recreational boats to come within 500 ft. of offshore rocks would "effectively close the area to the public."
- Objection to the proposal's prohibition of invertebrate harvest on the grounds that it would end crabbing, razor and butter clamming there.
- Haystack Rock Awareness Program already has challenges getting volunteers; can the community really support another education program?
- The community group process put the burden of public meetings and stakeholder contacts on the public, which led to it not being as thorough as it could have been had the State put more resources behind it.
- Outreach to the crab commission revealed that crabbers do come within the site boundaries and restrictions on crabbing would remove these areas from their crabbing grounds. We revised the boundaries of the site to not include the crabbing grounds.

## Public Outreach

List and describe engagement opportunities where the public has had the opportunity to learn about and/or comment on this proposal (e.g. conferences, meetings, tabling events).

Traditional conferences, meetings, and tabling events have not been possible due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our group has nonetheless conducted extensive public outreach through the following activities:

- September 5-7, 2020: Tabea Goossen and Margaret Treadwell did outreach with a spotting scope and information table at Chapman Point over Labor Day Weekend. We discussed possible rocky habitat designation proposals for Chapman Point and Ecola Point with over 84 visitors.
- Site visit by invitation to stakeholders and locals, September 19, 2020, that resulted in articles in local newspapers *The Astorian* and *The Cannon Beach Gazette*. The site visit was attended by Haystack Rock Awareness Program (Lisa Habecker, Kelli Ennis), Friends of Haystack Rock (Angela Benton), Oregon Parks Beach Ranger (Eric Crum), Wildlife Center of the North Coast (Kari Henningsgaard), *The Astorian* Reporter (Katie Frankowicz), North Coast Rocky Habitat

Coalition (Margaret Treadwell, Frances Buchanan, Ed Joyce, Tabea Goossen), local residents (Susan Glarum, Les Sinclair, Bruce Kerr).

- Presentation to the Cannon Beach City Council (public meeting) on 10/06/20. Twelve members of the public participated with Zoom.
- Organized, promoted, and presented two public meetings on our site proposals (November 18 & December 3, 2020, via Zoom).
- November - December 2020: Volunteers conducted outreach to local businesses, elected officials, and residents.

For information on outreach to specific stakeholder groups, please see the section “Stakeholder Collaboration.”

The following newspaper articles resulted from our press releases and outreach efforts:

(1) “New protections sought for rocky shores near Cannon Beach.” The Astorian, October 9, 2020.

[https://www.dailyastorian.com/news/local/new-protections-sought-for-rocky-shores-near-cannon-beach/article\\_2ffc35ae-0a44-11eb-9e22-ff636f5bdc5b.html](https://www.dailyastorian.com/news/local/new-protections-sought-for-rocky-shores-near-cannon-beach/article_2ffc35ae-0a44-11eb-9e22-ff636f5bdc5b.html)

(2) “New protections sought for rocky shores near Cannon Beach.” Cannon Beach Gazette, October 20, 2020.

[https://www.cannonbeachgazette.com/community/north-coast-rocky-habitat-coalition-hopes-to-protect-beach-wildlife/article\\_a91ee588-1225-11eb-b9b2-6392a3781da2.html](https://www.cannonbeachgazette.com/community/north-coast-rocky-habitat-coalition-hopes-to-protect-beach-wildlife/article_a91ee588-1225-11eb-b9b2-6392a3781da2.html)

(3) “North Coast Rocky Habitat discusses proposals for Ecola Point, Chapman Point.” Cannon Beach Gazette, November 26, 2020.

[https://www.cannonbeachgazette.com/news/north-coast-rocky-habitat-discusses-proposals-for-ecola-point-chapman-point/article\\_8992eada-2e8a-11eb-aaa1-ef1c9fe46b58.html](https://www.cannonbeachgazette.com/news/north-coast-rocky-habitat-discusses-proposals-for-ecola-point-chapman-point/article_8992eada-2e8a-11eb-aaa1-ef1c9fe46b58.html)

(4) “Marine Conservation Proposals for Chapman & Ecola Points, Cape Lookout & Cape Foulweather – Letters of Support by Dec. 18th.” Tillamook County Pioneer, December 16, 2020.

<https://www.tillamookcountypioneer.net/marine-conservation-proposals-for-chapman-ecola-points-cape-lookout-cape-foulweather-letters-of-support-by-dec-18th/>

Social media and newsletters:

We created a Facebook page, “North Coast Rocky Habitats”, and posted regularly about Oregon’s rocky shores and the RHMS update process.

We had a promotional image in the weekly Haystack Rock Awareness Program newsletter to increase awareness. This image is attached in the “Letters of Support” section of this proposal in SeaSketch.

## Additional Information

To the best of your knowledge, please provide the following information on your proposed rocky habitat site.

### Local Knowledge

How does this proposal incorporate local knowledge?

The following information was gathered from local residents: Black Oystercatcher nesting data, seabird nesting observations, other bird observations, mussel harvesting observations, bird nest disturbance information, off-leash dog disturbance and attack information, decades-long observations of visitation



levels, information on access points including pirate trails, information on the elk trails to Ecola Point and elk swimming in the ocean there.

## Scientific Knowledge

How does this proposal incorporate scientific knowledge?

This proposal incorporates scientific knowledge by using: data compiled and analyzed by PISCO interns including data from the Multi-Agency Rocky Intertidal Network (MARINE) Program, data gathered by community scientists, data gathered by eBird users, USFWS seabird survey and pinniped survey data available in SeaSketch, and observations by group members Ed Joyce (PhD in Oceanography), Margaret Treadwell (Master's Degree in Natural Resources) and Joe Liebezeit (Master's Degree in Wildlife Management).

## Goals and Policies

Which goals and policies in the Rocky Habitat Management Strategy does this proposal address, and how?

The overarching Rocky Habitat Management Strategy goal is to “be a coordination and adaptive planning framework focused on the long-term protection of ecological resources and coastal biodiversity within and among Oregon's marine rocky habitats, while allowing appropriate use.”

This proposal addresses each of the goals and policies of the Rocky Habitat Management Strategy as follows:

1) To maintain, protect, or restore rocky habitats and biological communities:

By promoting existing relevant regulations, providing a few targeted new regulations and non-regulatory practices (see details in the “Regulations and Enforcement” and “Non-Regulatory Management Mechanisms” Sections), we aim to meet this rocky habitat goal to increase the maintenance, protection, and restoration of rocky habitats and biological communities at this site. A more formalized volunteer outreach program that we propose would help facilitate communication and education to the public of these regulations and best practices.

2) To implement a holistic management program through site designations and management recommendations that allows for enjoyment and use of Oregon's rocky habitats while protecting them from degradation and loss:

We are recommending a balance between increased protection at the site and public enjoyment for a holistic approach. Most of the regulations at this site will continue to follow baseline regulations that already exist (e.g., we are not recommending any changes in fishing regulations). We worked with the Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission to avoid including areas where commercial crabbers harvest. The new regulations we propose still allow a balance of take. For those categories for which we are proposing no take, there are nearby areas to which members of the public can direct their harvest. Non-consumptive uses of the site would be largely unaffected (e.g., surfers, kayakers, cyclists are unaffected). Our decisions

on proposed new regulations have been carefully considered with much feedback and consultation with members of the public and key stakeholders.

3) To enhance appreciation and foster personal stewardship of Oregon's rocky habitats through education, interpretation, and outreach:

The volunteer outreach we propose will help encourage (“soft enforcement”) the public to follow best practices and adhere to new and existing regulations. The intention would also be to provide the public information on the unique cultural and natural history of this site and also to highlight the value of Ecola Point (located just to the north of Chapman Point and also a proposed Marine Conservation Area). members of the public access Ecola Point via Chapman Point. The intended outreach would also strive to build up stewardship through cultivating new volunteers to engage in outreach and community science opportunities at the site.

4) To improve our knowledge and understanding of rocky habitat ecosystems by fostering research and monitoring efforts:

We expect the designation of Chapman Point as a Marine Conservation Area to increase our ability to recruit volunteers to take part in existing community science efforts at this site and develop new community science and monitoring projects (including potentially human dimensions assessments). Information from such efforts would provide important feedback and metrics evaluation to help meet the goals of the site. In addition, we intentionally have not recommended any new regulations on scientific collection (other than the baseline ODFW regs) to facilitate any interest by academic institutions or others to conduct research at the site. An increased volunteer pool at the site could also potentially assist in such academic-led efforts.

5) To facilitate cooperation and coordination among local, state, and federal resource management agencies, and tribal governments, to ensure that marine resources and habitats are holistically managed:

Through increased volunteer activity at this site, we intend to have more “eyes and ears” on the ground to not only educate the public directly but also enable information sharing with agencies and tribal governments of any regulation and enforcement concerns that come up. We look at this as a way to help increase agency capacity and support especially in times of reduced agency budgets (as we are currently experiencing).

## Watershed Conditions

What land or watershed activities/conditions exist adjacent to this site?

Land:

The area landward of Chapman and Ecola Points is a compressed, biogeographically concentrated ecosystem. Here, eroded slopes rise from the sea and streams plunge directly into the ocean, without estuaries where freshwater and saltwater mix. The direct land-sea interface of this coastal-fronting upland environment results in a unique habitat home to a rare mix of plants and animals.

Landward of Chapman and Ecola Points is a typical Oregon coastal upland environment characterized by Sitka spruce and western hemlock, with lesser occurrences of western red cedar. The understory is composed primarily of salmonberry and evergreen red huckleberry, along with a host of other species including fern and salal, and hardwoods.

This area also includes a flowing water habitat with perennial freshwater streams, springs, seeps, and intermittent streams. Riparian areas occur providing refuge to many species and mitigating runoff and erosion. This area is characterized by steep slopes rising sharply from the ocean to more than 300 feet. These steep slopes support slow growing coniferous trees clinging to thin, rocky soils. The steep slopes are being continually eroded and are retreating landward due to sea level rise. The eroding slopes will continue to transport terrigenous sediment to the adjacent rocky intertidal environments directly impacting local flora and fauna (NCLC 2017).

#### Watershed:

Ecola Creek Watershed is located in the southwest corner of Clatsop County. Ecola Creek drains a watershed of approximately 22 square miles directly into the Pacific Ocean, passing through the town of Cannon Beach. Ecola Creek Watershed provides water for Cannon Beach, as well as fishing and hiking. While the full-time residential population of Cannon Beach is approximately 1,600 people, this extremely popular tourist destination receives over 400,000 visitors annually (North Coast Watershed Association 2020).

Commercial forestry is the predominant land use of the watershed as multiple private industrial timber companies along with Oregon Department of Forestry comprise over 90% of forest land ownership. Additional forest lands are within State Parks and conservation ownership such as Ecola State Park, neighboring Oswald West State Park and Ecola Creek Forest Reserve. The Ecola Creek Forest Reserve totals over 1000 acres of contiguous forest land that is managed by local conservation organizations, protects the Cannon Beach water supply and provides ecological and recreational opportunities to the area. The reserve contains a diverse forest of spruce, alder, hemlock and cedar, including a remnant of old-growth rainforest providing a diversity of habitats for many wildlife species. The remaining land use comprises primarily residential uses within the City of Cannon Beach and unincorporated small coastal communities (NCLC 2020b; North Coast Watershed Association 2020).

The ODFW considers Ecola Creek West Fork a core area for coho salmon and has been designated an essential wild salmon habitat. Due to the watershed's steep gradient, stream flow in Ecola Creek fluctuates seasonally. The watershed contains high quality habitat for salmon species, cutthroat trout and Pacific Lamprey and contains classic forested riparian habitats within a temperate rainforest setting. Riparian vegetation is critical in regulating water temperature, which is very important to salmon because they are susceptible to elevated water temperatures. Riparian vegetation also provides food, cover from predators, and are spawning and rearing areas for salmon (City of Cannon Beach 2020; Ecola Creek Watershed Council 2001).

The proposed Chapman Point Marine Conservation Area is within the Columbia River plume. Tillamook Head is the first high productivity rocky reef headland south of the Columbia River, which goes through five states and has a basin the size of France. It has 15 listed fish species – salmon, steelhead, eulachon, green sturgeon. The proposed site is part of an important ocean mixing area (N. Gardner, pers. comm.).

## Existing Protected Areas

Are there any other overlapping protected areas within the site?

There are no overlapping protected areas within the site. It is adjacent to John Yeon State Natural Area and surrounds, but does not overlap, five offshore/intertidal islands protected as part of Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge.

## Site Characteristics

Please include descriptions of other characteristics of the site or adjacent area.

Chapman Point and Ecola Point are located in a region that has already prioritized conservation, through both local and state-level efforts. With the proposed designations in place, these sites will support and help sustain the resilience of adjacent and nearby conserved land and sea sites through interconnectivity of ecosystems and habitats, wildlife corridors, and landscape scale ecosystem processes such as the transport of nutrient-rich sediment from the land into estuaries and the nearshore ocean that provides the base of the food web in ocean ecosystems.

Adjacent conserved lands include 1,365-acre Ecola State Park, which is globally significant for its biodiversity (NCLC 2020a), and 11-acre John Yeon State Natural Area, which together conserve areas upland of the proposal site. Nearby publicly-owned conserved lands include: 1,466-acre Elmer Feldenheimer State Natural Area and Ecola Creek Forest Reserve, which is 1,040 contiguous acres of forest in the Ecola Creek watershed that is owned by the City of Cannon Beach and open for public recreation. The following nearby properties are owned by North Coast Land Conservancy (NCLC): Shorewood Wetland, a forested wetland bordering City of Cannon Beach property; Ecola Road Wetlands, a forested wetland; Boneyard Ridge, a 340-acre property of mixed stand forest and forested wetlands dominated by western hemlock and Sitka spruce that is being restored from decades of commercial logging and is between and adjacent to Elmer Feldenheimer State Natural Area and Ecola State Park; and Circle Creek, a 364-acre broad floodplain and upland forest. These sites and the proposal sites are all part of the larger Tillamook Head ecosystem.

Just to the south lies the proposed Rainforest Reserve that NCLC and Arch Cape Water District are working on acquiring, which will be 5,000 acres of conserved forest land adjacent to Oswald West State Park's 2,500 acres of conserved coastal rainforest. The Rainforest Reserve includes unique habitat and wildlife; some of the plant and animal species found in the Rainforest Reserve live nowhere else on the planet.

There are also conserved marine areas nearby. Haystack Rock Marine Garden is 1.75 miles south of Ecola Point and is home to 22 Bird Colonies of High Importance, including a well-known Tufted Puffin colony, and 77 Bird Colonies of Medium Importance. Cape Falcon Marine Reserve lies 7.5 miles to the south, offshore of Oswald West State Park and overlooked by the peaks of the proposed Rainforest Reserve. The Cape Falcon Marine Reserve site is 20 square miles and is composed of a no take marine reserve and two associated Marine Protected Areas.

Thus, the Chapman Point Marine Conservation area will join an interconnected system of conserved ecosystems. Land-sea connections drive many environmental processes along our coast, for example

salmon whose lifecycle includes time in both rivers and the ocean, and sediment and runoff from land and rivers that ends up in the ocean. Having conserved land and conserved ocean side-by-side boosts the resilience of ecosystems on both.

See the “Watershed Conditions” section of this proposal, above, for more detailed descriptions of these conserved lands.

### Additional Designation Rationale

Please describe any other reasons you think this site warrants a change in designation.

Chapman Point serves as a logical place for education about delicate intertidal ecosystems due to its location at the north end of Cannon Beach. The geology of the site forms a kind of “gateway” funneling beach walkers through a gap between the tip of Chapman Point and the first (easternmost) Bird Rock, providing an opportunity to station interpretive volunteers here to interact with people heading north on the beach toward Ecola Point. The education program here can provide information about sensitive wildlife and appropriate stewardship behavior at Ecola Point while avoiding the attention and increased visitation that an education program at Ecola Point might attract.

Additionally, this site’s proximity to Haystack Rock and the more heavily visited portion of Cannon Beach lying south of Ecola Creek positions it as a spillover location when Cannon Beach is crowded. This effect is already being seen through higher visitation according to long-time locals and visitors we met with, and it is likely to continue to increase along with the populations of Oregon and Washington state and the popularity of the North Coast as a destination for day trippers and vacationers.

### Other Proposals

Should this proposal be evaluated in conjunction with other proposals your entity has submitted? The merit of all proposals are evaluated independently unless otherwise indicated by the proposing entity. Review bodies reserve the right to also evaluate proposals spatially in relation to one another.

This proposal should be evaluated in conjunction with our proposal for Ecola Point, because the sites are approximately 0.75 mile from one another, with a sandy beach between. We had originally considered proposing the entire area as one site, but decided to split it into two so that the sandy beach would remain free of additional regulations. Please note that implementation of one proposal does not depend on implementation of the other, so approving one of these two is agreeable from our group’s point of view.

### Additional Information

What other information would you like to include about this site or your proposal?

First Peoples:

Access for members of federally recognized Tribal Nations is unaffected by this designation. Tribal Nation agreements with the state cannot be altered through the Rocky Habitat designation proposal

process. Federally recognized Tribal Nations may have, or obtain, consent decrees or other intergovernmental agreements, which outline separate rights or harvest regulations.

Access for members of the federally unrecognized tribes associated with this area is also unaffected by this designation, including but not limited to cultural use and harvest use.

Traditional Ecological Knowledge of the region's first peoples should be incorporated into management plans going forward.

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#### List of Attachments:

- (1) Coastwatch Reports for Mile 314 (Cannon Beach, Ecola Creek, Chapman Beach south) during 2020.
- (2) Descriptions of 2020 Dog Encounters by Tabea Goossen, Volunteer Black Oystercatcher Monitor at Chapman Point for Portland Audubon and a Cannon Beach Resident
- (3) Descriptions of Harvest and Bird sightings by Tabea Goossen, Volunteer Black Oystercatcher Monitor at Chapman Point for Portland Audubon and a Cannon Beach Resident, September 5, 2020
- (4) Deur, D. 2016. "The Making of Seaside's 'Indian Place.'" OHQ vol. 117, no. 4. Oregon Historical Society.
- (5) Ecola Biodiversity Survey Findings (MARINE)
- (6) Ecola Species List (PISCO Coastal Biodiversity Survey)
- (7) Metro Parks and Nature, 2016. "The impacts of dogs on wildlife and water quality: A literature review." Compiled by Lori Hennings.
- (8) National Park Service. N.d. "Columbia Pacific Native American Guide"
- (9) Species data for Chapman Point, compiled by PISCO student intern
- (10) Species data for Ecola Point, compiled by PISCO student intern
- (11) State Park Day Use Estimates, 2010-2019 (OPRD)
- (12) Photos of the proposed site
- (13) Site Map
- (14) SeaSketch Report
- (15) PDF version of site proposal (this document)
- (16) Bibliography/Reference List

#### Additional Materials

If there are any additional documents, materials, etc. that you feel may be relevant or pertinent to your proposal, please attach them here.

The Attachments listed above were uploaded to SeaSketch and submitted with the proposal.