



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). If you require assistance with proposal submission, please contact the Rocky Shores Coordinator, Michael Moses, at 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) or Michael Moses (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*

northcoastrockyhabitat@gmail.com

Mailing Address*

% Lower Nehalem Community Trust, PO Box 496, Manzanita, OR 97130-0496

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 just north of Cannon Beach and adjacent to Ecola State Park, 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. This area is also a crucial haulout 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.” However, no management measures have been enacted since then.

According to locals and frequent visitors, foot traffic at Ecola Point has increased significantly since the Rocky Shores Management Plan was written in 1994, and data gathered by a volunteer bird monitor and experienced birders show that 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 travelers and residents regarding care of these habitats and limiting some activities through new regulations would help to reduce pressure on sensitive wildlife and other marine species, and help protect this area for future generations to enjoy in its wild state.

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) preserve the area’s wilderness character and relatively low visitation in the face of increasing tourism and population on the North Coast.

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, potentially, photo point monitoring.
- Reduction in disruption of birds by off-leash dogs: Data on rescued birds from Wildlife Center of the North Coast and nesting success collected by volunteer monitor(s) for Portland Audubon Oregon Black Oystercatcher Project; data on police calls or reports of dog attacks.
- Signage stating regulations and wildlife protection at most common access points.

Longer-term, more aspirational metrics could include:

- Stable or increasing biodiversity of intertidal flora and fauna at this site: Measured by data collected by Multi-Agency Rocky Intertidal Network (MARINe) at their intertidal monitoring study site located at Ecola Point (MARINe 2020a).
- 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 (ODFW) regulations apply.
 - Invertebrate Harvest:

- Commercial: No harvest
- Recreational: No harvest in all categories, except single mussels for bait
- 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, or 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 within the Marine Conservation Area.
- Kite flying is prohibited within the Marine Conservation Area.

We propose the following Non-Regulatory Management measures:

- Avoid enhancement or improvement of future physical public access
- 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 at Chapman Point and/or Indian Beach.

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 avoiding enhancement or improvement of future physical public access 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. We recommend no take of marine plants or invertebrates in the proposed Marine Conservation Area, but there are many other places nearby where these activities would still be allowed. We revised the site boundaries after consulting with the Crab Commission, so that we would not include crabbing grounds in our site proposal area. Activities including off-leash dog walking and usage of drones would be curtailed within the boundaries of this Marine Conservation Area but would be allowed in adjacent, larger areas. We specifically did not include beach areas that are popular for dog walking (i.e. Crescent and Indian Beaches) in the boundaries of this site and limited the proposed site 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, wildlife viewing, tidepooling, and other activities.

c) Preservation of public access.

Our recommendations would not change current public access to the site, which is by walking on the beach at low tides. Trails from the Ecola State Park parking lot on top of the headland are already decommissioned and not maintained, so we are simply recommending maintaining the status quo.

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, to monitor for climate-related impacts to the system and educate the public on these growing threats. Site designation as a Marine Conservation Area 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.

We are not proposing an education program at Ecola Point because we do not want to attract attention and increased visitation to the site. To foster stewardship and education, our proposal supports off-site education and on-site community science projects, thereby facilitating increased stewardship. We are proposing an education program at Chapman Point (also proposed as a Marine Conservation Area) just to the south of Ecola Point. Many visitors access Ecola Point by walking past Chapman Point, so volunteers based there would educate members of the public about Ecola Point.

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)

Ecola Point and Sea Lion Rock

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 Names: Ecola Point, Sea Lion Rock, Bald Point.

Geographic References:

The site boundaries follow the statutory vegetation line for 3.5 miles (5.6 km) from approximately 0.11 mi (0.17 km) northeast of the tip of Bald Point to approximately 0.1 mi (0.16 km) 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. Coordinates to form the polygon are in the “Site Boundaries” section below. Please see the attached SeaSketch map for reference.

General Site Description*

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.” However, no management measures have been enacted since then.

Located just north of the City of Cannon Beach and adjacent to Ecola State Park, this area is most accessible at low tides by walking on the beach from Chapman Point and Crescent Beach to the south or from Indian Beach to the north, or at any time from unmaintained trails from the Ecola State Park parking lot on the headland above. Sandwiched between high-visitation locales (Cannon Beach and Indian Beach), this relatively pristine area is at risk of increased visitation as we see visitor numbers rapidly increase on the North Coast. We are already seeing impacts of human visitation, including trampling in the intertidal and climbing on rocks where birds breed, walking on sand very close to bird nesting sites, disturbing marine mammals, as well as low flying aircraft and drones.

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.

The site boundaries follow the statutory vegetation line for 3.5 miles (5.6 km) from approximately 0.11 mi (0.17 km) northeast of the tip of Bald Point to approximately 0.1 mi (0.16 km) 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. Coordinates to form the polygon are below. Please see the attached SeaSketch map for reference.

NE corner: 45.926473, -123.977355

NW corner: 45.926473, -123.980273

West side, points north to south:

(1) 45.9231, -123.983406

(2) 45.921846, -123.981732

(3) 45.919727, -123.981861

(4) 45.91907, -123.982891

(5) 45.918324, -123.98641

(6) (Westernmost point of polygon): 45.91698, -123.988599

South side, points west to east:

(1) 45.915845, -123.986925

(2) 45.915577, -123.978342

(3) 45.914591, -123.975853

SE corner: 45.915696, -123.971604

Per the SeaSketch report, the selected designated area totals 159.3 acres and touches 3.5 miles of shoreline. It has an average depth of 1.6m, a maximum depth of -12m and a minimum depth of 55m. It includes 26 acres of intertidal area currently (in the 0m Sea Level Rise Scenario), which is predicted to be reduced to 20.0 acres in the 0.5m Sea Level Rise (SLR) Scenario, 15.4 acres in the 1m SLR Scenario, and 10.0 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 area is accessible at lower tides from three access points: (1) from the east by trails from the main Ecola State Park parking lot to Ecola Beach (trails are currently closed and not maintained); (2) from the south by walking from Crescent Beach, which is reached by two trails that lead from Ecola Road to Crescent Beach; and (3) from the north by walking from Indian Beach.

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 Ecola State Park.

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 Ecola Point and Sea Lion Rock.

Beach Walking and Beachcombing: This area is popular for walking and beachcombing during lower tides, especially during summer, for residents of the north end of Cannon Beach and vacationers. Tourists who love beaches with less congestion than Haystack Rock are now frequenting this area.

Dog Walking: This 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 are routinely killing, maiming, and agitating wildlife. Chicks that are foraging on the beaches and rocks before they are old enough to 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. Human safety is also at risk, including injuries, equipment damage, and aggressive behavior from dogs that has been experienced and documented by residents (T. Goossen, pers. comm. (see Attachment 2 “Descriptions of 2020 Dog Encounters”)).

Tidepool Exploration: Tidepooling is popular in the area. Rocky habitat is a great example of our intricate ocean ecosystems and provides an opportunity to see the delicate balance between species without having to engage in snorkeling or SCUBA diving. Tidepooling can cause problems due to visitors walking on environmentally sensitive intertidal rocks and disturbing nesting birds (MARINe 2020b).

Birdwatching: Because of the large number of bird species and large seabird colonies found here, Ecola Point is a popular birding spot. There are two eBird hotspots at Ecola Point and Indian Beach. eBirders regularly enter checklists into these hotspots (36 checklists have been entered at Indian Beach).

Fishing: One person consistently fishes off the rocks at Ecola Beach at low tide. There are other intermittent fishermen throughout the site designation area, both on the beach and the rocks. However, catch appears minimal. There are sometimes commercial fishing boats near Indian Beach. Researchers from MARINe have also observed fishing (MARINe 2020a).

Algae Harvesting: Researchers from MARINe have observed algae harvesting at this site (MARINe 2020a).

Clamming: According to community members, a few clammers are generally out on the beach north of Ecola Point and at Crescent Beach at low tides. It doesn't appear that anyone is harvesting large quantities of clams. Locals seem to prefer to clam elsewhere where more clams are present.



Crabbing: Occasionally folks are catching crabs in tide pools with nets or rakes on Ecola Beach, according to community members.

Mussels: There is intermittent harvesting of mussels by recreational users at the rocky area of Ecola Beach, according to community members.

Drones: Visitors have been observed operating drones at Ecola Point. Drone use has been reported to State Park rangers, but they are usually not able to respond in a timely manner due to low levels of staff resources.

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 down to the rocky intertidal habitat from the upland of Ecola Point despite the closure of the trails.

Bicycling: During summertime low tides, it is common to see people riding beach cruiser bikes all the way from Chapman Beach to Indian Beach, passing through Chapman Point, Crescent Beach, Ecola Point, and Bald Point.

Research and Scientific Collection:

- A MARINE intertidal monitoring study site is located on the rocks offshore of Ecola Point.
- Biologists from the Seaside Aquarium use the site for research and collecting specimens.

Other: Other common beach uses in this area include photography and birdwatching.

For a coastwide view of popular activities, the OPRD 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.

To the east, there is a large parking lot and restrooms atop the Ecola Point headland at Ecola State Park. Visitors can access the proposed Marine Conservation Area from this location via trails that are closed and not maintained.

To the north, there is a parking lot and restrooms at Indian Beach in Ecola State Park.

To the south, 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.

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, more than doubling in the last decade to 1.2 million in 2019 (see Attachment 11 “State Park Day Use Estimates”). 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 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.)

Additional future site uses that would be appropriate at this site are (1) marine research, including community science projects, and (2) field trips with schools such as the Cannon Beach Academy, Fire Mountain School, Clatsop Community College, and Seaside Public Schools, which would be a good alternative to promoting the site for tourism.

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 single mussels for bait

- 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). After consulting with the Crab Commission, we revised our boundaries to leave out crabbing areas.
- We believe our proposal of allowing take of single mussels for bait allows for recreational fishers to continue their activities at the status quo level while preventing this site from becoming popular for recreational harvest of large quantities of mussels, as Chapman Point to the south is already becoming. Recreational mussel harvesters could still harvest at Chapman Point, with a 25 mussel a day limit per person if the Marine Conservation Area is enacted there, which 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 by 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, invertebrate, 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 making the boundaries of this Marine Conservation Area, we have intentionally left large beach areas out of the Marine Conservation Area boundary so it would not 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 this site to indicate this specifically.

No climbing on rocks in intertidal and no climbing through the intertidal zone to the area above 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 regulations as those at the Haystack Rock Marine Education Area/Marine Garden. We propose these same regulations at Ecola Point because they provide the means to help meet our site goal #1 and provide consistency with

regulations at a nearby site with many of the same disturbance concerns and recreational activities, albeit at a much higher level.

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 similar 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).

This area is an otherworldly coastal treasure of striking offshore and intertidal rock formations, dramatic cliffs, and extensive tidepools with healthy mussel beds and a rebounding population of sea stars, along with many other tidepool flora and fauna. The offshore and intertidal rocks provide essential nesting and roosting habitat for many species of birds and secluded haul-out sites for marine mammals.

Per the SeaSketch report, the selected designated area totals 159.3 acres and touches 3.5 miles of shoreline. It has an average depth of 1.6m, a maximum depth of -12m and a minimum depth of 55m. It includes 26 acres of intertidal area currently (in the 0m Sea Level Rise Scenario), which is predicted to be reduced to 20.0 acres in the 0.5m Sea Level Rise (SLR) Scenario, 15.4 acres in the 1m SLR Scenario, and 10.0 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 85.2 acres of rocky subtidal substrate, 53.5% of the area, and the site area includes 131 offshore islands totaling 4 acres.

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.).

This site features extensive tidepools with healthy California Mussel beds and a rebounding population of Ochre Sea Stars, along with many other tidepool animals. The offshore and intertidal rocks provide crucial haulout sites for seals and sea lions, and a home for nesting seabirds, the most threatened group of birds on our planet. Sea Lion Rock at Ecola Point was formerly one of the three largest haulout sites on the north Oregon coast for Steller Sea Lions but has now been abandoned for unknown reasons.

Key ecological resources at Chapman Point include 1) pinniped haulout areas, 2) seabird colonies, 3) black oystercatcher nesting areas, 4) a number of species of conservation concern, 5) and intertidal diversity. We summarize these below:

1) Pinniped haulout and pupping sites:

According to the SeaSketch report, there are haulouts at Ecola Point for Steller Sea Lions, Northern Elephant Seals, California Sea Lions, and Pacific Harbor Seals. The Oregon Rocky Shores Inventory from 1994 (Fox et al. 1994) notes that harbor seals use the haulout during pupping season and have 100-300 animals, and that Tillamook Rock, Sea Lion Rock, and the rocks off Chapman Point were listed in the Oregon Ocean Plan as especially sensitive bird and mammal habitats (Oregon Ocean Resources Management Task Force 1991). According to the 1994 Rocky Shores Management Plan (Section G), Sea Lion Rock at Ecola Point site was formerly one of the three largest haul-out sites on the north Oregon coast for Steller sea lions but was abandoned for unknown reasons.

2) Seabird colonies:

- According to the SeaSketch report, this site contains 8 Bird Colonies of High Importance, 317 Bird Colonies of Medium Importance, and 12 Bird Colonies of Low 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 1994 Oregon Rocky Shores Inventory (Fox et al. 1994) notes that Common Murres, Brandt's Cormorant, Pigeon Guillemot, and Western Gull are the most common species in offshore rock colonies off Ecola Point and Chapman Points.
- The reports for the eBird hotspot at Ecola Point State Park indicate a total of 29 seabird species documented including 10 gull species, 7 alcids, 4 procellarids, 3 cormorants, 2 terns, and 2 pelican species.

3) Black Oystercatchers:

- Oregon Black Oystercatcher Project Portland Audubon abundance data from Ecola Point collected from multiple surveys from 2015-17 indicates an average detection of 1.1 individuals per survey (not including correction for detection probability) included in SeaSketch from Liebezeit et al. (2020).
- Oregon Black Oystercatcher Project Portland Audubon nest monitoring occurred in 2016, 2017, and 2020 at Ecola 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 four total nesting attempts by three oystercatcher pairs. One nest located on a small island on the north side of the point failed due to unknown reasons. This nest was difficult to monitor since Ecola State Park was closed. When the park is not closed, this nest is accessible by people/non-avian predators, and people and dogs frequently climb this rock. The other three nests were more accessible and were located on the point and accessible by people and non-avian predators during low tide. One nest appeared to hatch chicks (possibly two) that did not fledge. This pair did not attempt to nest a second time. The status of the first nest of the other pair is unknown. The second attempt of this

pair hatched three chicks that did not fledge. So, for all four attempts, two nest failures and two unknown nest fates were documented, resulting in zero chicks fledged. While the causes of the nest failures are unknown, both humans (and dog) and avian predators were documented to cause disturbance to the nesting pairs.

4) Presence of threatened/endangered/protected species:

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

Birds:

- Marbled Murrelets, a species listed as “threatened” in both the federal and state level Endangered Species Act (ESA), have been documented in nearshore waters off Ecola Point during the months of April through September (Ecola State Park eBird hotspot data) suggesting this may serve as a foraging ground during the breeding season. Marbled Murrelets are regularly documented in small numbers off Ecola Point during summer at-sea surveys conducted since the 1990s to the present (Craig S. Strong, Crescent Coastal Research, pers. comm.). Nesting occurs in Ecola and Oswald West State Parks.
- At least one report of Western Snowy Plovers has been documented at Ecola Point (Ecola State Park eBird hotspot data). This species is listed as “threatened” under the federal ESA.
- The seabird catalog (Naughton et al. 2007) and the eBird checklist for Ecola State Park indicate 10 strategy species of conservation concern in the Oregon Nearshore Strategy that are known to utilize rocky habitats have been documented at this site (Black Brant, Black Oystercatcher, Harlequin Duck, Marbled Murrelet, Tufted Puffin, Red-necked Grebe, Caspian Tern, American White Pelican, Brown Pelican, Peregrine Falcon).

Mammals:

- Pacific Harbor Seals use this site as a haulout and pupping ground. This is a strategy species in ODFW’s Nearshore Strategy.
- Up to ~150 Gray Whales have been spotted at one time offshore during migration (Nearshore Strategy species).
- Orcas (southern resident and transient) travel offshore (Nearshore Strategy species).
- Harbor Porpoise have been spotted offshore (PISCO/DLCD Species of interest).
- Humpback Whales have been spotted jumping out of the water at Indian Beach (formerly endangered).

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 alga, 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 occur at the site 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).

5) Intertidal diversity:

The tidepools at Ecola 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 at this site are the healthy beds of California Mussels and abundant Ochre Sea Stars with little sign of sea star wasting disease (SSWD). MARINE has a research site here, and there is Biodiversity Survey data available. See Attachment 5, “Ecola Biodiversity Survey Findings (MARINE),” and Attachment 6, “Ecola Species List (PISCO Coastal Biodiversity Survey).”

Additionally, a marine biology student at Oregon State University’s PISCO lab assembled species information for Ecola Point and nearby areas (when information on a specific species was not available for Ecola Point). See Attachment 10, “Species data for Ecola Point, compiled by PISCO student intern.”

Flora and Fauna*

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

Birds:

eBirders have submitted 580 Ecola State Park hotspot checklists documenting 187 species. In the past five years (2015 - 2020) submitted checklists have documented 140 bird species (<https://ebird.org/barchart?byr=2015&eyr=2020&bmo=1&emo=12&r=L447385>) of which at least 64 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. Peregrine Falcon) and songbirds (e.g. Common Raven). Go to the link above to view barcharts for all species in the 5-year period which depicts overall relative abundance by month.

Pinnipeds:

According to the SeaSketch report, there are haul-outs at Ecola Point for Steller Sea Lions, Northern Elephant Seals, California Sea Lions, and Pacific Harbor Seals. Pacific Harbor Seals and California Sea Lions are frequently observed by visitors.

Intertidal species:

MARINE data collected at Ecola Point shows that:

- The most abundant intertidal invertebrate species are: California Mussels, Acorn Barnacles, Chthamalid barnacles, Thatched Barnacles, and other species of mussels.
- The most abundant mobile intertidal fauna species are: 13 species of sea snails including Winkles or Periwinkles, Dog Whelks or Dog Winkles (Nucella), Black Turban Snail, and the Variegated Amphissa; five species of limpets; the Thick-horned Nudibranch; four chiton genera: Lined Chitons, Cyanoplax Chitons, Black Leather Chitons, and Mossy Chitons; 17 species of

crustaceans including Hairy Hermit Crab, Rock Lice, Purple Shore Crab, Porcelain Crabs, Idotea spp., Lined Shore Crab, and Northern Kelp Crab.

- MARINE researchers have documented 19 plant and alga species and genera at Ecola Point, the most abundant of which are Sea Cabbage, Scouler's Surfgrass, Iridescent Weed, and Black Pine alga.

See Attachment 5, “Ecola Biodiversity Survey Findings (MARINE),” Attachment 6, “Ecola Species List (PISCO Coastal Biodiversity Survey),” and Attachment 10, “Species data for Ecola Point, compiled by PISCO student intern” for more details and additional species information.

Other marine animals:

- Sharks have been sighted in this area and are known to use Cape Falcon Marine Reserve in the south and the Cove in Seaside to the north.
- Sea Turtles are found in Oregon (offshore) and have been sighted and washed up in this area.

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.

The striking geological formations of Ecola Point and Sea Lion Rock are among the most unique in Oregon and are almost otherworldly in appearance. At low tides, extensive tidepools are revealed with a remarkably intact ecosystem containing healthy Ochre Sea Stars and impressively robust mussel beds, along with many other intertidal flora and fauna. A natural grotto hosts a population of Six-Ray Sea Stars, not frequently seen at other rocky shore sites in this area. An elk trail from the upland area gives elk and deer herds access to this area, and they are often seen coming down from the headland to swim in the ocean here.

This area is relatively isolated and difficult to access compared to nearby beaches and rocky habitat; however, it is located between two very popular spots: Indian Beach and Cannon Beach and thus the increased visitation of recent years is likely to continue to grow.

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). This 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 Ecola 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 enthusiasts, birdwatchers, and photographers) as the additional regulations allow responsible harvest and help the site maintain characteristics and feel of a wilderness area.

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 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 and compliance of management measures, 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.

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.

We acknowledge that there are limitations on enforcement capacity at this site, and at all rocky habitat sites on the Oregon coast, due to inadequate funding resulting in understaffing at the OPRD. This is particularly acute now during the COVID-19 pandemic. There is only one State Parks Beach Ranger for the area from the north jetty on Tillamook Bay to just south of The Cove in Seaside. A planned stewardship education “gateway” at Chapman Point Marine Conservation Area (a site also being proposed by our group) will help by intercepting visitors and educating them about protections at Ecola Point as they head that way. It may be possible for USFWS to provide a summertime volunteer to help with outreach, education, and/or enforcement at this site.

While it is not possible for our group to calculate cost estimates for State agencies to implement enforcement and compliance of management measures, 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 sources of funding, staffing, and volunteers include partners like Oregon Coast Visitors Association (OCVA),

Oregon Shores CoastWatch, Portland Audubon, OPRD, 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 at this site, with a few regulatory 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 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 – No take except for single mussels for bait.
- 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 the Marine Conservation Area.
- 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 the 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?

Foot traffic at Ecola Point has increased significantly since the 1994 Rocky Shores Management Plan, according to many of the community members and frequent visitors who we talked with. 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 tidepools, 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.

We propose the following non-regulatory management mechanisms at Ecola Point to meet the goals of the proposed designation:

- Discourage trail improvements and prohibit new trail access to shore sites in the refuge area.
- Post informational signs describing marine wildlife and disturbance concerns at the busiest access points: Indian Beach access and Chapman Point access.
- Provide a regular opportunity for the community group to communicate with State Management Agencies on real and perceived ecological and human impacts to the site, including the summarized data gathered by ongoing community science monitoring projects and any trends observed.
- Minimize promotion of this area in Cannon Beach and around the State.
- Integrate information about Ecola Point wildlife and appropriate stewardship behavior into the education program at Chapman Point.

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, we propose to support these mechanisms primarily through off-site education, including:

- The proposed education program at Chapman Point would support implementation of Ecola Point Marine Conservation Area by serving as a “gateway” where visitors would learn about environmental stewardship and the special protections at Ecola Point on their way up the beach to the site.
- The Old School House in Cannon Beach will be available in the future for a wide variety of community projects. It is possible there will be space for outreach and education there. It is situated on the north end of town, next to the welcoming pole and not far from Chapman Point and the walk up to Ecola Point. This is next to one of the busiest parts of town. It may be possible to partner with Haystack Rock Awareness Program and Friends of Haystack Rock to provide outreach and education there.
- Posters throughout the community with messages about issues facing rocky habitats.
- Outreach to Cannon Beach Academy and other schools.

To meet any increased demand for enforcement and monitoring, our group will work with partners like Oregon Coast Visitors Association (OCVA), Oregon Shores CoastWatch, Portland Audubon, OPRD, Haystack Rock Awareness Program (City of Cannon Beach), North Coast Watershed Association Coastal Council, USFWS, and others to explore collaborative opportunities and funding sources.

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 19 testimonials in favor of the designation at Ecola Point and Tillamook Head (of which Ecola Point is a part) 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 increasing. 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.
- 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.
- Concern of leash laws being too harsh
- 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 most needed 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.
- 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 our initial proposed site boundaries and restrictions on crabbing would remove these areas from their crab grounds. We revised the boundaries of the site to not include the crab 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 about this proposal 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.”

Outreach to press:

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

(2) “North Coast Rocky Habitat Coalition hopes to protect beach wildlife.” *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

(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

(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 including data from MARINE Program, data compiled and analyzed by PISCO interns, data gathered by Portland Audubon community scientists, data gathered by eBird users, USFWS seabird survey and pinniped survey data available in SeaSketch, and observations by community science volunteers and 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 for the neighboring site to the south, Chapman Point, 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 within the site boundaries. 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, etc. 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:

We are not proposing an education program at Ecola Point because we do not want to attract attention and increased visitation to the site. To foster stewardship and education, our proposal supports off-site education and on-site community science projects, thereby facilitating increased stewardship. As described in the “Support for Management Mechanisms” section above, the proposed education program at Chapman Point Marine Conservation Area, just south of Ecola Point, would support implementation of Ecola Point Marine Conservation Area by serving as a “gateway” where visitors would learn about environmental stewardship and the special protections at Ecola Point on their way up the beach to the site. Possibilities for off-site education include posters throughout the community on issues facing rocky shores in general, outreach to local schools, and a space for outreach and education at the new community center in Cannon Beach.

The volunteer outreach we propose at Chapman Point that would influence Ecola Point 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 Ecola Point that many members of the public access 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 Ecola 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 potential intercept surveys performed via the Chapman Point education program that would also measure Ecola point usage). 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 and to not impinge on the survey site currently run by MARINE. 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 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 is the current situation).

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 ferns 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 (ODF) 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 as 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 Ecola State Park and surrounds, but does not overlap, many offshore/intertidal islands that are protected as part of Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge.

Site Characteristics

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

Ecola Point and Chapman Point are located in a region that has 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 sites. 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: 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 site are all part of the larger Tillamook Head ecosystem.

Just to the south lies the proposed Rainforest Reserve that the North Coast Land Conservancy 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 2.35 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. Just over 8 miles to the south lies Cape Falcon Marine Reserve, 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 Ecola 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 life cycles include 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.

Ecola Point and Sea Lion Rock were 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, just offshore of Ecola Point, was designated as a “priority rock for possible study and future management measures.” However, those studies and assessments were not done and no designation was put in place. This highly biodiverse and unique area remains without a special designation, despite its proximity to high visitation areas, increasing visitation, and high failure rate of Black Oystercatcher nests.

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 Chapman 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.

The proposed education program at Chapman Point would support implementation of Ecola Point Marine Conservation Area by serving as a “gateway” where visitors would learn about environmental stewardship and the special protections at Ecola Point on their way up the beach to the site.

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.

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.’” *Oregon Historical Quarterly*. 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.