

To whom it may concern,

November 19, 2020

My mother and I wander down the steps at Coquille Point for an adventure today. It is low tide and we want to see what animals of the sea we can find. These animals are attached to the rocks and living in the tide pools. We peer deeply into this colorful world of wonder. We laugh with delight when we see something new. We are not experts and usually don't know all the names, but we know it is something new to us. The plants are a whole other beauty. The great variety of textures and deep green and brown seaweed frame the scene. I wish I knew more.

We are so lucky to live on the Rocky Oregon coast. The intertidal zone is so full of life. Sea life resilient against the sun and air and the crash of waves as the tide moves in and out. Yet at the same time so fragile in many ways. We watch our step as we move about the rocks. Many of these animals can live long lives, but will be damaged or killed by a misstep.

Some of my first memories of learning about nature as a child were poking around tide pools. Amazed at the variety of life and strategies for survival that my Mom pointed out to me. What starts out as a vacation to the beach to play in the sand can end up as a life changing experience for a child who stumbles on a tide pool with a person there to reveal the new world that they are seeing.

I could go into depth about the wide variety of benefits the intertidal ecosystem gives us. These include: Economic (healthy fisheries), scientific information, ecosystem services, biodiversity, nesting location for birds and resting place for seals, etc. I could go on and on.

The above issues are very important, but I want to focus on education in a setting that brings these issues alive. Understanding is so important for the average person to build an appreciation about the natural world and then to care about it. My mother's effort to bring us children close to nature forever changed the way we see. Experiential learning is an important opportunity in a place like Coquille Point.

The other side of this is protection. These ecosystems need to be saved for the future. Rocky shores are scarce and they are fragile. We need these places and we need them intact.

Please designate Coquille Point as a Marine Garden?

Sincerely, Dulce Havill

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