

To: Shoreline Education for Awareness, Inc.

I want to thank you for the effort you have been devoting to Coquille Point (CP) for the past 30 years, devoting time and talent to educating visitors to CP and especially to the rocks and tidepools around Elephant Rock, Coquille Rock, and North Coquille Rock. I understand that this area is rich in marine life all year round, and especially rich in the Spring and Summer when seals are having pups and birds are laying eggs. It is part of the reason we decided to purchase a home in Bandon near Coquille Point 6 years ago.

While the area is biologically rich and robust, I realize that it is also fragile. Visitors who are excited to walk in the midst of this beautiful marine habitat can unintentionally harm the wild residents here and do immense damage to their reproductive efforts. I have seen visitors letting their dogs run loose and harass wildlife, walking in tidepools and climbing on rocks, flying drones over the wildlife refuge. In the excitement of the moment, I've seen people approach bird nest, scaring the adult from the nest and exposing the egg or the baby to predation from gulls. With the number of visitors that the area receives it deserves to have a special designation to help inform visitors and tourists the importance of the rocks and tidepools for the marine life and be able to provide additional educational and interpretative opportunities while enhancing visitor services for Bandon's tourist's economy. Doing so will also complement the existing Coquille Point Federal National Wildlife refuge.

Our beach in Bandon is a treasure to humans and marine life. I support you in your intention to have Coquille Point's Elephant Rock area protected and given a special designation by the State of Oregon as a Marine Garden.

Sincerely,
Robert and Lisa Schroeter