

March 30, 2021

Re: Proposed amendments to Rocky Habitat Management Strategy

Dear Members of the TSP Working Group:

We've recently become aware of proposals by the North Coast Rocky Habitat Coalition to amend the Oregon Territorial Sea Plan's Rocky Habitat Management Strategy.

We don't disagree with the North Coast Rocky Habitat Coalition (NCRHC) goals to protect coastal habitat from significant harmful human disturbance. We wonder, though, if the threat to rocky habitat is as great as NCRHC claims. More than 350,000 visitors may well have come to Ecola Point State Park in 2016, but few of them venture further than the asphalted viewpoint, for instance.

Parts of the NCRHC proposal offer significant protection for rocky habitat without imposing much diminishment of recreational enjoyment. Prohibiting unleashed dogs, fireworks, drones and kites, for example.

Other parts of the NCRHC proposal impose significant restrictions that may not be necessary and that dramatically compromise people's access, a keen concern of many local residents who, too, want to preserve rocky habitat. Will crab, razor clam and butter clam harvest be prohibited on all but the contiguous sandy beach? Will kayaks, surfboards be prohibited as well as boats? And fishing? Though the NCRHC proposes no additional fish harvest regulations, they effectively render fishing impossible by prohibiting climbing in the intertidal zone or access by boat.

Already public has lost coastal recreational access at recently established Marine Reserves.

Local residents who currently enjoy responsible public access to Chapman and Ecola Points risk becoming tourists in their own backyard if North Coast Rocky Habitat Coalition's proposal is adopted in its entirety.

In addition to educating the public about respectful shoreline behavior, other efforts like strategic, limited seasonal closure of rocky intertidal habitat and limited, permitted public access are compromises that should allow people and animals to co-exist successfully in intertidal rocky habitat.

Thank you for your good work preserving the coast we cherish,

Sincerely,

Jon Broderick and family  
Pete Huddleston and family  
Peter Lindsey  
Cannon Beach, OR