From:	Marita Graube
To:	TSP comments
Subject:	Comments for Ecola Point and Chapman Point proposed Marine Conservation Areas
Date:	Monday, April 5, 2021 8:05:58 AM

Dear Rocky Habitat Working Group,

Thank you for your efforts to go through these proposals and agreeing to restrict intertidal invertebrate harvesting. For the Ecola Point and Chapman Point proposed Marine Conservation Areas I have the following comments.

I would like to ask the Working Group to consider placing restrictions on off-leash dogs. I understand that this can present enforcement challenges, but I believe that simply having posted and publicized restrictions would help reduce the number of dogs off-leash, even if it is impossible to enforce. Even one dog being leashed could mean the difference of one more seabird or marine mammal surviving. I have seen marine mammals trying to rest on the beach near Chapman Point and have to quickly shuffle back into the water because of approaching dogs. I have also seen owners let their dogs loose on seagulls trying to rest. I know that dogs love the freedom of running around unrestricted, but they can also get quite excited and difficult to control by voice. I've seen it happen many times with dogs running up to me and my children due to the curious nature of dogs (and the owners being unsuccessful in calling them back). I believe the beach is a wonderful spot for dogs to enjoy their freedom, but it places a great stress on this fragile ecosystem. A designated on-leash area could help create awareness about enjoying the beach responsibly at these protected areas, and also encourage visiting the many other areas of Cannon Beach to run free off leash.

I would also urge the Working Group to restrict walking and climbing on intertidal rocks in these areas. I have seen surfers paddle out to the "Bird Rocks" and walk along their edges. This intertidal zone is such a small slice of the rocks and yet so important to the ecosystem. It can be quickly damaged by people with each footprint. I believe we can still enjoy these intertidal areas without harming wildlife.

Finally, I would like the Working Group to consider how to handle ongoing wildlife disturbances. Cannon Beach has a small police staff and cannot be expected to handle each and every violation when it is reported. This is witnessed every year at the 4th of July when people set off fireworks, it's reported, the police arrive when the fireworks are over, and then as soon as they leave the fireworks start again. 2020 was the worst year of the last five years with hundreds of large scale fireworks going up and down the beach while the murres and seagulls on the Bird Rocks were panicking. Drones are also becoming more popular with people hoping to capture the perfect experience and photos, without considering their impact on the wildlife. It seems to be that the beach is being loved to death as our global population grows.

I believe that increased stewardship of these areas will provide extra awareness about the fragility of the shoreline and help it become a place that humans can enjoy and where wildlife can survive and thrive.

Thank you for your time.

-Marita Graube

Cannon Beach homeowner