From:	Mindy Hardwick
To:	TSP comments
Subject:	Comments for Proposed Sites Ecola Point Marine Conservation and Chapman Point Marine Conservation
Date:	Thursday, March 18, 2021 10:30:07 AM

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing in regard to the proposed sites: Ecola Point Marine Conservation and Chapman Point Marine Conservation sites.

I live in the north end of Cannon Beach and know these areas very well as I walk them almost daily. I have also been a HRAP volunteer for three seasons and served on the board of Friends of Haystack Rock. I am an avid believer in conservation and preservation of our ocean and shoreline in Cannon Beach. I have been a part of the Friends of the Dunes since 2014 for this exact reason of preserving our natural habitat in which we did preserve our dunes by getting the City Beach Council to enact a no dune grading ordinance.

However, I have some concerns I'd like to voice and be on record and to be considered as you look at whether you will support both of these proposals.

I am not currently in favor of either one of these proposals as it stands which I will outline in this letter.

The two areas being proposed as a protected marine garden are Chapman Point/Seal Rock area and Ecola Point. I have linked the video that was presented to this email for specific maps of both areas.

I live in the North End of Cannon Beach and walk Chapman Point beach daily with my dog year-round which I have done for the last eight years. I am very familiar with Chapman Point beach. In the summer low tides, I walk to the Ecola Point area on a regular basis.

The proposed marine gardens outlines specific rules which are being written into the proposal and include such things as leashing dogs, needs for volunteers to monitor the area during low tides, fishing rules and mussel collecting rules, prohibiting drones, fireworks etc. (Basically, the same rules as Haystack Rock Marine Garden which is already a protected area in Cannon Beach).

Besides from the issue of having to leash all dogs around both Chapman Point/Seal Rock and Ecola Point, which I oppose for obvious personal reasons and also from a monitoring standpoint (This is a huge off-leash dog area especially for locals who use this stretch of the beach to avoid the crowds).

Here are my primary concerns:

First, the proposed plan seems to be the size and scope of the Haystack Rock Awareness Program(HRAP)...especially for the Chapman Point/Seal Rock area. I am very concerned this will pull needed resources especially money and volunteers from HRAP. HRAP often struggles to get enough coverage and volunteers as it is during the low tide summer days. Adding in Chapman Point/Seal Rock with needing similar amounts of resources is concerning. Looking at that area, there would need to be at least three volunteers per shift to surround the different Seal Rocks at low tide.

It is also concerning how volunteers would access these proposed marine garden areas as many may find it challenging to walk from Les Shirley park where there is sometimes parking. If you park in the north end neighborhood, you must walk up a large hill by Breakers Condos to even get to the beach. The same is true on Seventh and N. Laurel. And while I use these

hills as my workout for the day to get to the beach, I'm not sure volunteers may feel this way, especially those who may struggle with accessibility issues and if they need to bring necessary supplies with them such as large billboard signs telling people it is a protected marine garden. There is no easy access to these parts of the beach to bring this type of equipment onto the beach.

Second, Access. Access to the Ecola site is very limited. The Ecola Point site is accessible at the minus tides during the summer and occasionally through Indian Beach. The road leading up to Ecola Park and Indian Beach has very little, if any parking and is already heavily used. Oregon State Parks maintains this road. How do they see additional traffic? Do they have resources to maintain the road and extra people coming to visit? Indian Beach is frequently full during the summer so again no access to the Ecola site without parking on the shoulders of the Ecola Road and walking from Crescent Beach—and that is also dependent on the tide.

Access to Chapman Point/Seal Rock. There is no parking like what is at Haystack Rock for the Chapman Point area. There is some parking at Seventh Street but it is often full early in the day by the surfers who use Chapman Point beach. Any other parking by visitors wishing to visit a marine garden at Chapman Point will be in the north end streets which are occupied by local people.

One of the reasons there are so many locals in the north end is because it's not midtown Cannon Beach where the tourists go. My cottage real estate listing when I bought it in 2013 said, "located in the quiet north end." A marine garden will draw more people and traffic into the north end streets which are primarily gravel. We saw this during this past COVID 19 summer as the Chamber recommended people go to Chapman Point beach to get away from the crowds. Our streets became overfilled with parking issues especially on Larch and Seventh street.

Chapman Point beach is also used by surfers specifically in the area which is being designated a marine garden. I assume this would be off limits to them or with restrictions? And if so, have any of the surfer communities been given this information? What is their response?

Third, Restrooms. Les Shirley park with one public restroom is the only restroom available in the north end. This summer we saw a huge amount of human waste and fecal matter on Chapman Point beaches and dunes. People also use the Porta potties in the north end neighborhoods which belong to the companies who are building in the area. I had a Porta potty across from my house and we put in a blow-up reindeer with a sign tacked to the outside telling people not to use it. This didn't deter people from using it. They just tossed the blow-up reindeer on the ground and did their business.

By designating these two sites as protected marine gardens it will draw more people into an area with limited parking available and one limited public restroom at Les Shirley park. Ironically, although we may protect that area of shoreline and ocean, we are increasing other problems, problems which the city will have to deal with in terms of trash, human waste and parking. Does the city of Cannon Beach have adequate police staffing to handle this if it were to occur? Have they weighed in on this proposal?

Haystack Rock has a public parking lot across the street from the beach access. That is not an option for Chapman Point/Seal Rock areas.

This proposal for both sites was developed primarily by people who do not live in this area of Cannon Beach--many live in Portland or other parts of the coast and had only visited this area a handful of times.

My other concern is there was not adequate time given to public hearings on this matter. While there were one or two presentations given to the City of Cannon Beach council, where were the public meetings? We were in the middle of COVID 19 shut downs and a few Zoom presentations were given, but again, where were the Cannon Beach voices of the stakeholders involved in this project? A good majority of what I saw was on Facebook as if it was a popularity contest to support this project.

Again, I am a strong proponent for marine and shore conservation, however, not these proposals due to the concerns expressed above.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

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