From: Karen Meyer
To: TSP comments
Subject: public comment on critical rocky habitats along the Oregon coast
Date: Thursday, March 25, 2021 2:24:58 PM

I am submitting the following comments and ask the Rocky Habitat Working Group and the Ocean Policy Advisory Council to do the following:

- Please work with site proposers to clarify any misrepresented information in the initial site proposal evaluation summaries that are currently available for the public to review. Any misinformation should be corrected and updated as soon as possible and prior to the working groups re-evaluation of proposals after the 30-day comment period.
- Please do not evaluate proposals based on funding or the capacity of agencies' programmatic support for implementation. The proposals were meant to help shape long-term efforts and goals to improve site management. The rocky habitat plan clearly states that proposals cannot be rejected based on funding or capacity concerns.
- I recommend strong consideration for 8 of the 12 proposals that have gotten significant stakeholder and community support, expert input, and include clear long-term goals and objectives. This includes: Ecola Point MCA, Chapman Point MCA, Cape Lookout MCA, Cape Foulweather MCA, Coquille Point MG, Blacklock Point MCA, Cape Blanco MRA, and Crook Point/Mack Reef MCA. Six of these sites were recommended for designation in the original 1994 Rocky Habitat Management Strategy so now is time for the State to follow through.
- In the future, I recommend DLCD use an objective evaluation rubric that is similar to other state agency frameworks. DLCD staff can take ideas from other state or federal agency public proposal processes. Objective evaluation processes are essential to any state-run public proposal process and would minimize much of the politicization of the process that has emerged.

I have lived for many years on the Oregon coast, have worked with communities from north to south, and it is vitally important to protect rocky habitats as you update the Rocky Habitat Management Strategy – these areas are vital to biodiversity, to enrich the local communities and for the public to enjoy the Oregon coast.

Sincerely,
Karen Meyer