

PO Box 156
Langlois, OR 97450
April 13, 2021

Rocky Habitat Working Group:

I appreciate this chance to submit comments on the proposed "Rocky Habitat" areas on the Oregon coast. I have lived on the south coast all my life; my siblings and I own and operate a ranch just south of Cape Blanco, and have long supported conservation of irreplaceable terrestrial and marine habitats. I urge you to include both Blacklock Point and Crook Point on your list of Marine Conservation Areas, along with Cape Blanco and Coquille Point. I support the designations being proposed to you coast wide, and am speaking specifically to the ones in my area I know best.

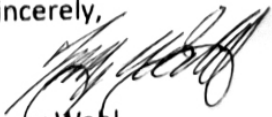
It is worth noting that Blacklock Point, contrary to information you may have received, is accessible. It has long been used as a hiking trail by many in the area, the high school – except in this covid year – frequently uses it as a training run place for cross-country teams, and it is rare now to walk the Blacklock Point trails without encountering out-of-town visitors, including people using the Oregon Coast Trail.

I urge you to recommend Blacklock Point, Crook Point, as well as Cape Blanco and Coquille Point, as Rocky Habitat Conservation Areas, and afford them the protection these critical natural resource areas need. These areas are getting increasing use, and people need to know how important they are for our birds, fish and other wildlife – to say nothing of our own well-being. We need these important components of the coastal ecological systems, and especially with climate change impacts now so evident, we cannot afford to lose more of our natural resources that help make the Oregon coast resilient in the face of climate change.

I have been deeply interested in bird watching for more than 30 years, and can attest to how important these Rocky Habitat areas are for bird nesting, roosting, and foraging. The area off Curry County alone accounts for twenty-five percent of the US west coast nesting seabird habitat, and though most of those nesting areas are outside the proposed Rocky Habitat Conservation Areas, the importance of this area for seabird and other wildlife use cannot be overstated. We need to protect these critical areas so they can continue to be the highly productive areas they are now, and so locals as well as people from across Oregon and the US can enjoy hiking, viewing, and bird and wildlife watching in these areas. They are spectacular and important.

Please assure that these areas are on the list of Rocky Habitat Conservation Areas, and thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,



Terry Wahl
Langlois, Oregon