

Dear Rocky Habitat Working Group,

April 6, 2021

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. The residents of Cannon Beach and those that want to protect the birds can ask people to put their dogs on leashes and point out these restrictions if they are publicized and posted.

I hope you will also restrict walking and climbing on intertidal rocks in these areas. This intertidal zone is such a small slice of the rocks and yet so important to the ecosystem. It can be quickly damaged by human footprints. 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 on 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 murre 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.

These types of restrictions would help us establish and maintain our bird population in and around the "Bird Rocks".

Thank you for all your work on this. I applaud you for taking the time and energy to protect our wildlife.

Ireta Sitts Graube

(I lived full time at Breakers Point for 10 years and still have a place there)