From:	Nancy and Mike Thomas
To:	TSP comments
Cc:	Nancy and Mike Thomas
Subject:	Oregon Rocky Habitat Management Strategy
Date:	Thursday, April 15, 2021 8:47:32 PM

Hello Rocky Habitat Working Group,

Thank you for providing me the opportunity to express my views regarding the proposals to protect coastal areas that are part of The Oregon Rocky Management Strategy. I fully agree that the areas brought forth are in need of protection. The area that particularly stands out for me is the Marine Conservation Area designation for **Seal Rock Marine Conservation Area** under the Oregon Rocky Habitat Management Strategy. I have observed first-hand the use of this area on a bi-weekly basis in 2020 as I did a nest Survey on a pair of Black Oystercatchers. The beach around the area was extremely busy with people and dogs. Many people climbed on the rocks and were not careful of their impacts on the tide pools and their inhabitants. Especially worrisome was the disturbance to the Black Oystercatchers. Many nests are abandoned or or chicks and eggs taken by predators as the adult Oystercatchers are flushed off of their nests due to disturbance or the presence of humans and dogs too close to the nesting rocks. The threatened Snowy Plover have nested just South of Seal Rock and have also experienced a lot of disturbance from humans or dogs. I have also witnessed people who take large amounts of mussels from the rocks. In addition, the tide pools closest to the shore no longer hold the diversity of tide pools that experience less public visitor attention/visits.

At a minimum this area needs to have more monitoring to educate people and maybe put out some additional signage. The Oregon Coast is getting many more visitors and my experience has been when I have visited some of the proposed areas that there definitely is a **public visitor** lack of understanding and fragility of the environment they are enjoying.

One recommendation would be to possible recruit interns or volunteers to be present in these sensitive areas during peak visitor times.

These are habitat areas of special value, and it is important that they be recognized and that the public be educated about their value before they are loved to death. I also urge that all current proposals coastwide be reviewed fairly and transparently by the Rocky Habitat Working Group in a timely way, using objective evaluation criteria." The Oregon Rocky Habitat are an economic boom for the Coast and to preserve that resource it is necessary to protect it.

Thank you for giving me a voice,

Nancy Thomas, Waldport, Oregon