From:	Tabea Goossen
To:	TSP comments
Subject:	Chapman Point and Ecola Point Marine Conservation Area Proposals
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Thank you very much for reviewing the Chapman Point and Ecola Point proposals. Having lived close to these areas for over twenty years, it is important to me that they be protected.

Walking and Climbing on Intertidal Rocks

The Rocky Habitat Working Group noted issues with "restriction on climbing/walking on intertidal rocks", and "Agencies cannot restrict north-south access along the Oregon Coast (ORS 390.610), and climbing on rocks would be required for passage of this site." To access Crescent Beach or Ecola Beach, visitors predominantly use the sand bridge at Chapman Point when it is available, or walk around the first Bird Rock when tides are low. When the sand bridge and low tides are not conducive to access Crescent Beach or Ecola Beach, people use the trail access from Ecola Road, or the trail from Ecola Park to Crescent Beach. The public is fully utilizing these well maintained trails. None of these access points require walking on intertidal rocks. Generally speaking, visitors can access Ecola Point at lower tides without climbing on rocks. Visitors attempting north/south access who have to climb rocks during higher tides are putting themselves at risk. Recently someone was rescued by helicopter after becoming trapped in the rocks at Ecola Beach when tides prevented this person from returning to the trail.

It is reasonable and possible to balance walking on intertidal rocks in a fashion to prevent disruption to nesting birds, resting marine mammals, chicks in the intertidal zone before they can fly, and creatures that live in the tide pools. We need to balance human use and ecological use.

Wildlife Disturbance Issues

Wildlife disturbance issues at Chapman Point and Ecola Beach are significant, including fireworks, drones, and human and dog harassment of wildlife. On July 4th last year, a group brought cases and cases of fireworks to Crescent Beach, in close proximity to seabird nesting sites. We listened to hours and hours of fireworks that night. People routinely fly drones by the rocks. Dogs are too often free to harass and kill wildlife with impunity. Visitors repeatedly harassed an injured pelican as we attempted to rescue him, requiring us to travel quite a distance to capture him for transport to the Wildlife Center. Of seven black oystercatcher nests last year, one nest survived, fledging two chicks. Humans are impacting these locations.

People prefer these two areas because they are able to avoid the city, state, and federal laws that exist but are not enforced. Haystack Rock has a higher requirement to follow current laws. Education would help, but it's not enough.

State Parks has told us that we should not address unlawful behavior, but it is enormously difficult to tolerate illegal, inhumane, and unsafe acts. The wildlife, marine mammals, and the inhabitants of tide pools are paying the price.

The shortage of sufficient labor to monitor these sites is understood, but creative solutions need to be implemented to set standards for legal – and safe – behavior. At a minimum, signage would be a good starting point. We are responsible for the harm we do to animals, the

environment, and other humans, and it is our responsibility to find a way to manage enforcement. Tourism is continually increasing to these two sites, and even though enforcement presents a challenge, we need to find a way forward.

Dog Owners

I made my annual trek to the Wooden Shoe Tulip Farm yesterday. Leashed dogs are allowed on site, and I was struck by the reasonable behavior of dogs and the ease with which dog owners complied with the leash requirement. No dogs jumped on me or damaged my equipment, no dogs attacked other dogs or people, no dogs were lost, and no one was injured. It made me wonder why dog management seemed so effective for the Wooden Shoe while many dog owners behave differently at the beach. If a business – and, quite frankly, most of the country - can require dog leashing, why can't we achieve dog safety at the beach?

Our police force is perpetually required to unnecessarily manage lost dogs, and it would seem better utilization of our law enforcement to be policemen instead of dog owner managers.

Facts regarding dog owner issues were included in the original proposal, based on my first-hand experience at Chapman Point and Ecola Beach, my years of experience as a volunteer at the Wildlife Center, and many hours of participation in bird surveys. I am a knowledgeable resource regarding this topic. While the facts did not carry weight with the Working Group, I am baffled that anyone would say dogs are more important than wildlife. Both domestic and wild animals are worthwhile, and should be able to co-exist safely.

I've watched the destruction of wildlife for over 20 years, and I am completely confident that I am unable to endure witnessing the same unlawful and unsafe behavior for another 20 years. The brutality of watching a dog destroy a defenseless chick – that can't yet fly – as it is foraging out on the intertidal rocks or as it is on the beach defies humanity. Seeing birds with wings ripped off or insides hanging out of their stomachs after a dog attack, left to die slowly, is unacceptable.

The Working Group stated that the need for dog leashing "lacks sufficient evidence for justification, would be difficult to enforce, and may not be implementable." Evidence was provided in the initial proposal, both through direct experience from me and a study of the impact of dogs on wildlife. "Difficult to enforce" – yes, it is. "May not be implementable" – it's time for some effective and creative solutions. Didn't we just recently see space travel to Mars? If we can do that, maybe it's time for us to manage the complexity of requiring people to leash dogs. It is time for beach **SAFETY**!

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