



**OPAC TERRITORIAL SEA PLAN
ROCKY HABITAT MANAGEMENT STRATEGY
BLACKLOCK POINT MCA - FURTHER EVALUATION WORKSHOP SUMMARY**

April 28, 2022, 1:00 PM Pacific Time

WORKSHOP SUMMARY

The Blacklock Point Marine Conservation Area Further Evaluation Workshop was an opportunity to discuss the rocky habitat proposal identified by OPAC for further evaluation. The workshop provided an opportunity for the entity who proposed the site to have discussions around and work through considerations identified in the Rocky Habitat Working Group proposal evaluation process. The workshop was structured to:

- Allow the proposer to present modifications of their site proposals to the management agencies
- To identify whether the site proposal as configured is a concern to management agencies who would be required to implement new rules or regulations.
- To help prepare proponents for the opportunity to present their proposals to the Ocean Policy Advisory Council (OPAC) in 2022.

MEETING LOGISTICS

Date & Time: April 28, 2022, 1:00 PM – 4:30 PM Pacific Time

Location: Virtually via Zoom

Workshop Participants: Andy Lanier – DLCD, Michael Moses – DLCD, Laurel Hillmann – OPRD, Guy Rodrigue - OPRD, Joe Kenick – OPRD, Chris Parkins – OPRD, David Fox – ODFW, Shawn Stephensen – USFWS, Larry Basch – Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition, Jesse Jones – Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition

Members of the Public: Phillip Johnson – Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition, Peggy Joyce – OPAC, Fran Recht – OPAC, Dick Vanderschaaf – TNC, Charlie Plybon – Surfrider & OPAC, Joe Liebezeit – Portland Audubon & OPAC, Jamie Fereday – OPAC

Meeting Video Link: <https://youtu.be/l6ROjh2jCHI>

Proposal Presentation: <https://youtu.be/l6ROjh2jCHI?t=836>

Wrap-up summary of the discussion: <https://youtu.be/l6ROjh2jCHI?t=9328>

Public Comment: <https://youtu.be/l6ROjh2jCHI?t=555> , <https://youtu.be/l6ROjh2jCHI?t=9835>

PROPOSAL MODIFICATIONS:

The Proposal Team agreed with the recommendation to use the Mean High-Water Level for the landward boundary of the site, thereby eliminating the northernmost portion of the site which had previously included the base of the cliffs.

DISCUSSION SUMMARY:

The discussion was centered on the following considerations (which were recommendations for implementation of this site):

- **Management changes with respect to status quo, balance between site goals and use, upland management**

The Proposers argue that there is “little to no ability for existing regulatory management measures to achieve the balance between rocky habitat site goals and uses.” And that the “non-regulatory management measures at Blacklock Point that are proposed is adaptive to use patterns and environmental conditions, and will change the status quo with volunteer efforts that bolster much needed best management practices...”

The Proposers also argue that there is a “data-based upward trend in visitation that will continue regardless of management or designation type into the foreseeable future.” The proposal team is therefore hopeful that a “designation will increase rocky coast observation, education, and protection capacity.” The agencies acknowledged the fact that actual usage (number of people making it down into the intertidal area) is unknown – though anecdotal evidence from current OPRD staff indicates it’s one of the lowest used sites in the State Parks south coast management unit. Specific observations about visitation would be helpful in understanding potential impact to the site via human disturbance.

OPRD highlighted the fact that Blacklock Point is already proposed as a State Natural Area (pSNA) in the Oregon Natural Heritage Plan, and that the proposal team could use that designation for its organizing and fundraising goals. The USFWS also pointed out that there are several offshore islands within the area, and that those are designated as wilderness areas (part of the Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge), so they have existing regulatory management rules to protect those resources.

The agencies did recognize the fact that every little thing can help, and that “helping in one spot is one increment in helping to solve some of the problems...” which are a challenge at a coastwide scale. The agencies pointed out that Blacklock Point has much less visitation (a couple of orders of magnitude) than other nearby sites, where the allocation of educational effort could have more of an impact.

In summary, the assembled panelists agreed with the potential of a new site designation to generate capacity for education and interpretation with the goal of stewardship of the site to protect its natural resources from the impacts associated with increasing visitation. There remains concern from the agencies that designation of the site will not result in increased capacity and will therefore be a “paper park” without any additional stewardship value associated with the designation.

- **Challenges to stewardship program implementation (e.g., access, enforcement, infrastructure, agency capacity, support)**

The proposal team respectfully argued that “there are no access-related stewardship program challenges with respect to safety, ongoing and future volunteer capacity, or stakeholder engagement at Blacklock Point.

The proposal team also respectfully argues that there are “no challenges to stewardship program implementation with respect to infrastructure. Paved roads, adequate capacity public parking areas, multiple trailheads, and many mostly flat trails provide easy access to Blacklock Point. No other onsite infrastructure is required beyond informational and interpretive signage...” Further along in the discussion, the group agreed that there are three parking lots that could provide an opportunity for visitor education and the delivery of interpretive messages. Vandalism and tribal consultation are further considerations to address if the proposal were to move forwards to implementation and both issues would require agency involvement.

The proposers state that “implementation of a trained volunteer cadre and non-government funding” will be “accessible after designation and will balance site goals, uses, and visitor and resources protection.”

The proposal team also states that “Locals need social benefits of coastal recreation. Visitors are vital to the local economy, but visitors will impact resources without the proposed management measures, especially the volunteer program.” The group discussed the reality of low agency capacity with the management agencies to address challenging issues at the site, and that a volunteer stewardship program could be helpful by promoting best practices.

The proposal team states that “Several coastal volunteer stewardship and education programs and resources exist locally and coastwide (Coastwatch and Shoreline Education for Awareness are specifically

mentioned). All are fully operational, demonstrably effective, committed, and ready to contribute to a rocky coast volunteer program at Blacklock Point.” They also go further and state that “There are strong indications of the ability and support of our partner groups to obtain funding to implement the program...” and they conclude by asking that, “The interest, desire, and good faith pledges of south coast and other stakeholders to support OPRD and protect rocky coast habitats at Blacklock Point should not be underestimated.”

- **Reconciliation of boundaries with respect to statutory vegetation line (SVL), inclusion of northern cliffs**

The Proposal Team agreed with the agency recommendation and “We support this recommended consideration for a landward boundary change to the MHW line for the proposed Blacklock Point MCA.” And while not stated, this would remove the northern portion of the site consisting of the base of the cliffs on the north side of the Blacklock Point headland (as shown on the proposal area map on the presentation slide).

Andy Lanier | Marine Affairs Coordinator | Oregon Coastal Management Program
Direct: (503) 206-2291 | Andy.Lanier@dlcd.Oregon.gov