

Blacklock Point and Cape Blanco Site Management Plan Workshop Meeting Summary

September 9th, 2024, 5:00pm-7:30pm

Located at Pacific Highschool in Sixes, Oregon (near Port Orford)

In-Person Participants

1. Eva Krukowski, DLCD
2. Andy Lanier, DLCD
3. Laurel Hillmann, OPRD
4. Jamie Fancy, CoastWatch mile adopter, FancyARTfx
5. Jacob Fancy, CoastWatch mile adopter, FancyARTfx
6. Joe Kenick, OPRD
7. Tom Calvanese, Oregon Kelp Alliance
8. Caroline Rice, Redfish Rocks Community Teach
9. Ashely Moore, Sixes Fire District
10. Pete Hockett, OPRD
11. Larry Basch, OIMB, South Coast Rocky Habitat Coalition
12. Justin Helberg, OPRD
13. Luke Toole, Sixes Fire District
14. Fonsy Prescott, Klamiopsis Audubon
15. Shaun Brown, Pacific Highschool
16. Jesse Jones, Oregon Shores

Remote Participants

17. Jen Nelson, Curry Watershed Partnership
18. Summer Henrickson, ODFW
19. Susan Riemer, ODFW
20. Kent Doughty, Seven Capes Bird Alliance
21. Hui Rodomsky, DLCD
22. Peggy Joyce, OPAC
23. Jan Hodder, OIMB
24. Amanda Mcnab, DLCD
25. Valerie Berseth, Oregon Sea Grant
26. Kim Foster, Port Orford Watershed Council, Tourism
27. Lisa Phipps, DLCD
28. Rebecca Malamud-Evans, Cape Blanco Heritage Society

Meeting Notes

Favorite features of the sites:

- View from the sites
- Blanco is unmatched
- Research
- Tidepooling
- Land-sea connection
- Unspoiled land
- Wow-factor
- Sharing the places with new people
- No two days are the same at these sites
- Other worldly, feels like walking to the end of the world
- Favorite place on the coast
- Wildness

- Exposure to the elements
- Grew up there
- Family memories
- Learning about organisms
- Excited to work with local community members to see what volunteer effort
- Flying aerial footage
- Whale watching
- Stellar sea lions haulout
- Seals at Blacklock Point
- Inspire diversity of community interest
- Unspoiled lands are important for the environment and water quality for residents, but also appreciate the value of these sites for tourism
- Birdwatching and foraging
- Wild, windy and remote places
- Blacklock is a great place to keep undiscovered and low key
- It is important to keep the foot traffic down at Blacklock because it is a unique micro climate with interesting biology and flora. We have only just begun to study it.
- Excited to see the connection between the Historic Hughes House, the Cape Blanco Light Station, and the marine research area.

Discussion Notes

Information Sharing

Blanco

- Map of the area should be available with ODFW harvest restrictions
- Info about foraging restrictions is important. Being educated ahead of time.
- A list of to-do's when visiting: tidepool etiquette, safety information – wear appropriate footwear
- Oregon Coast trail provides information about North – South pedestrian access. (trail bypasses Cape Blanco MRA)
- List of what species you may encounter
- Unauthorized use of UAS for either photography or hobby/recreation.
- Training for volunteers at the visitor center – at Battle Rock
- More information about ongoing research, example: “What is that equipment in the water?”
- What are you learning from what you are studying? Opportunity for teaching and learning.
- Signage that could have a QR code on it - if you want to know what the research is about - find out more here.
 - Location of signage is important
 - Too many signs could take away from the beauty
- 1 location for the signage
- Cape Blanco recently switched to same-day reservation
- ODFW – wants people to understand harvest restrictions

- A good map with the borders of the restricted area.
- Potentially an interactive GIS tool. GPS coordinates may be important.
- Trainings & materials at the Cape Blanco visitor center.
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Blacklock

- Map of area and trail signs to improve wayfinding in natural area
- People get lost, fire rescue - no resources to respond to high volume of rescues
- Handouts to pass out at Battle Rock Visitor Center, gift shop at Cape Blanco for Blacklock.
- Unexpected weather/environmental conditions, tides can change the experience dramatically.
- Lack of cell service at Blacklock – people get lost and require rescuing.
- Distance to the point at Blacklock Point from the trailhead.
- Blacklock Point is not a safe place to go tidepooling, make sure information is available for safe visiting. Blacklock Point is best for views
- There are no easy trails – no official trails.
- There is already a lot of information online about Blacklock Pt.; high priority to have interpretation opportunities so that people who go there can “get it right”
- Safety is a serious issue – waves and big rocks and the steepness of the intertidal area make it very challenging.
- You can get to the intertidal area via the from the point at the bluff.
- Soils – impact trail accessibility – water does not easily drain.
- No camping at the top of the bluff.
- Parking at Blacklock: parking by the hangar and road, tire dump, stolen car
 - Parking lot is not OPRD property, agency cannot
 - Lot is airport property
 - Discussion of land transfer? Conversation
- Floras Lake Natural Area forest proposals: wayside is a part of that plan

Both sites

- Oregon Coast trail provides information about North – South pedestrian access.
- List of what species you may encounter
- Unauthorized use of UAS for either photography or hobby/recreation.
- Training for volunteers at the visitor center – at Battle Rock
- AllTrails App/website use this resources to discover the sites, including Blacklock.
- Regular community events.
 - Blacklock: proceed carefully before we start programming there
- Commonality between sites
- How to respect places you visit
- Community member: it is important to have access to local research. Knowledge is power.
- Technology aspect of signage is important - what avenues for public info sharing - radio

- Elements that are the same between sites
- Airport Rd: Emergency services info
 - Blanco: people fall and trip on rock
 - “Stay on trail and watch out for slippery rocks”
 - Blacklock: people get lost on the trail. disturbance to plants and ecosystem
 - “Stay on trail”
- Cultural spirituality for Coquille Tribe: more people will come to these sites and cannot stop it.
- Visitor survey shows there has been increased visitation
- These aren’t beginner-friendly sites, higher-level info available
 - Different levels of signage
- curate, consistency of information
- Accessibility
- QR codes might be inaccessible for some people

Interpretation Goals and Education

Blanco

- Providing research studies and outcomes that were learned.
- Opportunities for engagement in community science and research.
- What are the projects, and volunteer opportunities?
- Log observations on systems like iNaturalist
- We could plan a low-tide event, but it is a challenge to scale a program to be successful
- Cape Blanco themes: research, public safety

Blacklock

- Pinniped observations?
- Traditional knowledge and learning about historical use of the areas.
- Steep hike down to intertidal at Blacklock
- Blacklock themes: Cliffs and forest, geology, incorporating the land-sea connection, public safety
- Blacklock can be interpreted at Cape Blanco State Park

Both

- Traditional knowledge and learning about historical use of the areas.
- Bi-lingual signage, and other DEI opportunities for natural resources education
- Communities are stretched thin so designate days that we have docents
- Integration of interpretation program with high school
- Exposure of ocean science and marine environment
- Opportunities for summer work for students - need for a summer job
- Interpretation doesn’t necessarily have to happen on location
- Interpretation in local community centers: library, restaurants, schools, markets, etc.
- Community is unique

- Find different avenues to reach communities
- Programmatic aspect: how to we administer a volunteer group program
- **Cape Blanco Park for Whole Management Unit (includes Blacklock Point as well) is doing their interpretation evaluation right now**
 - What are the top themes?
 - Blacklock themes: Cliffs and forest, geology, incorporating the land-sea connection, public safety
 - Cape Blanco themes: research, public safety
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- OPRD interpretation videos - accessibility element
- Types of youth engagement with Parks
 - Jr ranger program - OPRD
 - Summer program
 - Internship under a ranger
 - Student work program includes interpretation - OPRD

Monitoring and Community Science

Blanco

- Opportunities for engagement in community science and research.
- What are the projects, and volunteer opportunities? Community events – pub nights
- Log observations on systems like iNaturalist
- MARINE survey training
- Oceanography data collection
- Survey applications from ODFW for citizen observations (follow – up with Susan Reimer)
 - ODFW uses Survey123 App to report sitings
- Bioblitz
- PISCO lab
- Subtidal research on kelp, urchins and abalone
- More monitoring than research
- Menge Lab is doing research at Blanco
- Evolving community interest around sunflower seastars, kelp
- New signs in Port Orford: “look for the urchins, abalone, and sea stars”
- Coordinating opportunities for community trainings with ODFW or PISCO lab

Blacklock

- Connections with local high schools – Pacific High School projects?
- Pacific high school adopting Blacklock for monitoring,
 - In coordination with Curry Watershed and pacific high school science teacher

Both

- Multi-site survey along the coast
- Data collection methods need to be consistent to be usable.

- Collections should respect the ecosystem and not cause harm by removing organisms that shouldn't be moved – coordinate with ODFW to make sure you are not causing harm while monitoring

Enforcement and Compliance

Blanco

- Observations of good enforcement provide some comfort for how this could occur at Blanco.
- BLM involvement?
- Observing the vehicles-people connection for reporting violations or infractions.
- Marine Mammal violations – enforced via OSP. Education is preferable.
- More education is needed at Blanco to enforce new rules
- Park has good ranger coverage compared to Blacklock

Blacklock

- Unlikely to occur, given the remote nature of the site.
- Remote aspect is a challenge
- Pete Hockett goes out there most frequently
- Airport road was ODOT jurisdiction back in the day but now it is County jurisdiction

Both

- No sheriff in north Curry County. Protocols for sending evidence to agencies that can conduct enforcement.
- Lowest level first - education and move up
- When a report is received then OPRD will address it but cannot increase capacity. If the issue is more than park violation then it is Oregon State Police jurisdiction
- OSP or County or Coast Guard – depending on incident
- Volunteers can be the eyes but do not have authority to enforce law – important to focus on safety

Ideas for future discussions from anonymous workshop feedback surveys:

- Developing stewardship/interpretation program that provides both site-based context and coast-wide context.
- Monitoring efforts
- More specifics about planning the implementation of the new designation and updates needed
- Equity
- Empowering the local community
- Job creation/workforce development/ “climate corps”
- Tribal inclusion, Traditional Ecological Knowledge, experimental knowledge



- Marine Protected Areas, Marine Reserves, and de-facto MPAs – how they all relate
- Volunteer education
- Informative programs
- Sea otter reintroduction
- Shared volunteer/interpretive/community science projects coastwide
- Allowing people to travel to the coast and complete community science projects or connect with different interpreters
- Connecting programming & resources across other rocky habitat sites
- Community involvement and volunteer opportunities
- Interpretation
- Onsite monitoring
- Community science integrated into local high school classrooms with younger classrooms learning before high school about what the science is finding
- How to keep the designations on the “down-low” through the management process