

To: Shoreline Education for Awareness, Inc.

I want to thank you for the effort you have been devoting to Coquille Point (CP) for the past 30 years, devoting time and talent to educating visitors to CP and especially to the rocks and tidepools around Elephant Rock, Coquille Rock, and North Coquille Rock. I understand that this area is rich in marine life all year round, and especially rich in the Spring and Summer when seals are having pups and birds are laying eggs. While the area is biologically rich and robust, I realize that it is also fragile. Visitors who are excited to walk in the midst of this beautiful marine habitat can unintentionally harm the wild residents here and do immense damage to their reproductive efforts. I have seen visitors walking in tidepools and climbing on rocks, crushing hundreds of living organisms and letting their dogs chase birds. In the excitement of the moment, I've seen people approach bird nest, scaring the adult from the nest and exposing the egg or the baby to predation from gulls. Our beach in Bandon is a treasure to humans and marine life. I support you in your intention to have Coquille Point's Elephant Rock area protected and given a special designation by the State of Oregon as a Marine Garden.

Sincerely,

Steve Garrett
Bandon, OR