

This correspondence file includes 14 documents sent to southcoastrockyshores@gmail.com and/or jesse@oregonshores.com. CoastWatch volunteer, Jesse Jones, assisted with outreach for all groups putting in proposals as CoastWatch volunteers act as stewards in nearly all rocky habitats.

12/18/2020

To whom it may concern:

I am a Curry County resident within easy walking distance to Blacklock Point writing in support of the Blacklock Point proposal recommending a Marine Conservation site designation.

My family and I have been visiting the Floras Lake area for more than 20 years and the hike from the lake to Blacklock Point is one of our favorites. Five years ago, we purchased a home in Langlois and now hike to Blacklock on a regular basis. Sometimes we hike part of the way on the beach past the spectacular sandstone cliffs and cut up to the Oregon Coast Trail at "secret cove." Other times we hike around Floras Lake and follow the winding trail through the woods. Along the way we birdwatch, forage for mushrooms, take pictures of flowers and plants, eat huckleberries, and relish in the peace and tranquility.

Once we reach Blacklock, we have a snack on the cliffs and are awestruck with the mind-blowing views of the sea and coast below. Sea lions, seals, shore birds, and a host of other flora and fauna are often there to greet us. If we are lucky, we see a whale swim by. A steep path to the beach below reveals more majesty. Boulders, huge piles of driftwood, knots of bull kelp, a sandy beach, tide pools, and rocks coated in life: sea stars, urchins, mussels, chitons, limpets, algae, and crabs to name just a few.

Several years ago, I attended a rocky habitat citizen science exploration hosted by the Oregon Aquarium, Coastwatch, and Redfish Rocks Community Team. As a result, I became a Coastwatch volunteer and now report on the mile of beach and rocky habitat immediately north of Blacklock Point to Floras Lake. As a former teacher, exploring all the ecological niches of "my" stretch of coastline has been one of the most enjoyable learning experiences of my life.

Along with adding new species to my personal observation list, I have also learned that Blacklock Point is currently “Not Yet Designated” in the Oregon Rocky Habitat Management Strategy. However, because it is a place of significant ecological importance and wonder, it has drawn scientific and management attention for potential conservation on many occasions. It was first recommended for protection by the state Natural Area Preserve Advisory Committee in 1978 and has been a high priority for protection ever since.

It used to be that when we walked to Blacklock we would not see another soul. Over the years, that changed, and we encountered more and more people with every hike. This year we saw people every time we went to Blacklock. Perhaps some of those visitors were a byproduct of the pandemic but there is no doubt that Blacklock and the entire Oregon coast is under the pressure of more and more visitors.

So, as we look to the future, now is the time to take another step forward to protect Blacklock Point. It is rare to find such ecological diversity in just a short stretch of Oregon coast. Upland forest, 100' sandstone cliffs, a black sand beach, rock benches, rocky tide pools, and sea stacks make this a very unique place.

Please consider safeguarding Blacklock Point by accepting the proposal to designate it as a Marine Conservation Area.

Sincerely,
Chip Shepherd
47591 Leeward St.
Langlois, OR 97450
cshepherd50@comcast.net
541-551-5098
December 9, 2020

To whom it may concern:

I am a Coos county resident, CoastWatch volunteer and a member of Surfrider writing in support of the Blackrock Point proposal recommending a Marine Conservation site designation. I have visited on average at least two times a year for the past 15 years. I hike, birdwatch, walk kayak, collect mussels and seaweeds, and watch for whales & other marine mammals.

I see a noticeable increase in the amount of people at Blacklock Point, and with this comes a considerable increase in the number of irresponsible behaviors. Evidence of these includes: large increases in trash, human waste including toilet paper, pet waste,

Blacklock Point is currently “Not Yet Designated” in the Oregon Rocky Habitat Management Strategy, yet it is a unique place of ecological importance and wonder with a history of scientific and management attention for potential conservation of the uplands, which were first recommended for protection by the state Natural Area Preserve Advisory Committee in 1978,

and have been a high priority for protection ever since, because it is one of the most unique and significant natural areas in Oregon. The same is true for the adjacent rocky shore and offshore areas because of the diverse rocky intertidal habitats, subtidal rocky reefs, kelp beds, seabird colonies, shorebird nesting areas, pinniped haul outs, and other marine species of concern.

Blacklock Point rocky marine habitats deserve to be designated as part of the Rocky Habitat Management Strategy. Broad cliffs, a black sand beach, rock benches and tide pools are accessible by a short hike from a parking area. Here, one can watch numerous species of seabirds and shorebirds including Brown Pelicans. Blacklock Point is considered one of 31 Important Ecological Areas in Oregon as documented in a 2005 report by Oceana. The rocks are home to Black Oystercatcher nests, a shorebird species of concern that uses rocky intertidal habitats almost exclusively to forage. Pelagic and Brandts Cormorants and Pigeon Guillemots also live on the nearby rocks and utilize the intertidal area. A critical snowy plover area exists on the beach. Visitation to Blacklock Point is increasing, as more and more people flock to the coast to experience nature. The 2020 pandemic brought more visitors than ever recorded along the Oregon coast, including the south coast. As we look to the future, we can prepare and safeguard this wild place while also sharing it with everyone.

Please consider recommending the Blacklock Point proposal for the designation of Marine Conservation Area.

Sincerely,

Jamie Fereday
1017 Elm Ave.
Coos Bay, OR 97420
541 290-0223



KALMIOPSIS AUDUBON SOCIETY

Dec. 20, 2020

P.O. Box 1265 • Port Orford OR • 97465

To: Rocky Habitat Working Group

From: Kalmiopsis Audubon Society

Re: Support for increased protections for rocky intertidal sites on the South Coast

Greetings:

I am writing on behalf of the Kalmiopsis Audubon Society, based in Curry County, on Oregon's

South Coast. Our group has about 400 local members who care about conserving habitat for birds, fish, and wildlife. Our members enjoy birdwatching and other outdoor nature study based on unique plants and animals in our local ecosystems, including our rocky shorelines.

We support the State of Oregon's strategy of marine zoning to assure that areas with the highest natural values for marine life can be protected and conserved while other areas may incur greater use—rather than allowing for incremental degradation everywhere. We also strongly support the Rocky Shores Strategy goal: "To protect the ecological values and coastal biodiversity within and among Oregon's rocky shores while allowing appropriate use."

Our members have long participated in Black Oystercatcher surveys, and so we know that rocky shorelines of Oregon's South Coast host some of the richest and most important habitat for this beloved bird, an Oregon species-of-concern. Black Oystercatchers rely almost exclusively on rocky intertidal habitats to forage, as do our Black and Ruddy Turnstones and Surfbirds. Many of our offshore rocks (part of the Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge system) also host rocky intertidal habitat important for these shorebirds. They also host some of the largest seabird nesting colonies in Oregon. Clean cold water and upwelling make our ocean areas especially productive, and while these nesting seabirds generally forage on small fishes, the structure of rocky intertidal habitat, including algae and invertebrate life, are important for larger marine food webs that support birds, fish, and even whales. In addition, we are aware that our most remote shorelines host remarkable seaweed biodiversity, something that calls out for more study and seems particularly important at this time when changing ocean conditions have significantly impacted some species of marine algae. Many of these algal species have little known life histories.

1

Because southern Oregon is an ecological transition zone between rocky shore invertebrate species communities from California ecosystems and those of the Pacific Northwest, there is highly valuable biodiversity in the intertidal zones in our local area.

In recent years, especially in this past pandemic year, we've noticed increased visitation to a number of formerly remote and little-known shoreline areas. As a result, in some places, we've seen new paths opened up, and an increase in plastic trash and human waste. Some of our members have reported removal of marine life, including mussels and seaweeds, and online videos specifically encouraging people to forage for limpets in still rich intertidal areas of the South Coast! We are aware that rocky shore habitats not far north up the coast have already been degraded by overuse and so we are concerned that these habitats on the south coast could become vulnerable.

In addition, Oregon's marine life is already confronting some of the perils of the climate crisis, with the collapse of kelp forests in many areas. Our members have reported seeing invertebrates from deeper waters, in particular purple urchins and red and flat abalone, now up

in shallower areas, seeking out food. In the intertidal zone. As a result, these animals are far more vulnerable to take by humans. And these are the kinds of animals that people notice. There may well be other marine invertebrates now at higher risk owing to changing ocean conditions.

To help protect our still-rich and unique marine ecosystems, we support designation for several key areas on the South Coast for greater conservation in the Oregon Rocky Habitat Management Strategy. In general, it seems that areas that already have protection of upland terrestrial habitats should merit strong consideration for rocky shores protection, too.

That said, we also have concerns that special designation could inadvertently draw greater attention, increased visitation, and more damaging uses to now remote and little-known areas. We urge you to carefully weigh the best practices and methods for conservation of these valuable marine resources, especially given that there now seems to be insufficient capacity for enforcement of rules our South Coast area—something we have seen with seasonal closures for western snowy plovers and other state laws. This has been especially pronounced in this pandemic year with so many state parks understaffed. We urge you to draw upon knowledge of other places, perhaps from north up the coast or from natural resource professionals with experience in other vulnerable marine environments, to inform the best approaches for proactively conserving outstanding rocky shores values on Oregon’s South Coast. The most effective approach may be to actively direct visitors to “marine gardens” where tide pools or unique rocky habitat are most accessible rather than to highlight more remote, significant and pristine areas, as might happen with special designations marked on a map.

We recognize that this Rocky Shores Management Strategy public process is focused on designation of zones, but we appreciate some other important approaches to conservation of rocky intertidal areas that we urge the State to adopt together with designations. For example, we appreciate that Oregon has worked with NGO partners and has invested in providing for education and interpretation at some high use areas with vulnerable intertidal habitats; this

2

approach may be invaluable not only for conserving those sites in particular but for others as well. And of course, having more state park rangers to patrol, talk to visitors, and keep an eye on rocky habitat areas at state parks, would also be very helpful to protecting our intertidal zones.

Proposals

To help protect our still-rich and unique marine ecosystems, we support designation, we support the following designations:

Blacklock Point area as a Marine Conservation Area

Our group has long been engaged with efforts to conserve the upland areas adjacent to the rocky shores of Blacklock Point, known as Floras Lake State Natural Area, a unique wild Oregon State Park that residents and visitors enjoy for its wildness, stunning views, unique ecological attributes—including highly unusual botany related to distinctive geology. The adjacent rocky shore and offshore areas are also unique, owing to unusual sandstone geology --with diverse rocky intertidal habitats, subtidal rocky reefs, kelp beds, and seabird colonies. Blacklock Point has been part of our Christmas Bird Count for 40 years, and is a place where people can observe many species of seabirds in a remote setting, since it takes a good walk to reach overlook points and intertidal zones. Marine Mammals also use this area. In a 2005 report, the group Oceana recognized Blacklock Point as one of 31 Important Ecological Areas in Oregon. The current land use as a State Natural area is compatible with conservation, but there are areas where vandalism has occurred, for example on sand stone cliff walls north of the point. There has also been an increase in visitation to this remote area. We support the South Coast Rocky Shores Group proposal to designate Blacklock Point as a Marine Conservation Area.

Crook Point area as a Marine Conservation Area

In the past, our group has engaged with efforts to conserve the seabird colonies adjacent to the rocky shores of Crook Point. Crook Point, including the Crook Point Unit of the Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge is located south of Pistol River State Park. Because the NWR is closed to the public and much of the south part of point is privately owned, access to the intertidal zone in this area is already constrained. It takes walking in from Pistol River State park more than one-half mile on a steep narrow beach (constrained by beach grass) —and then trespassing beyond closure signs —to reach this remote area, or obtaining special permission from the National Wildlife Refuge or private landowners.

For this reason, the rocky shores of Crook Point may host pristine and “reference quality” intertidal habitats. From what we understand, the areas has a high concentration of diverse intertidal habitat types. Also the area from here south to the north end of Boardman State Park hosts high marine algae biodiversity. In addition, the nearshore rocks here have hosted some of the most significant colonies of Leach’s Storm petrels on the West Coast, and is recognized as an Important Bird Area. Marine mammals are also known to haul out here. In a 2005 report, the group Oceana recognized Crook Point as one of 31 Important Ecological Areas in Oregon.

The current upland uses of Crook Point are generally compatible with conservation of outstanding intertidal natural resources, but potential future development could put these values at high risk. We hope that MCA designation could help protect these resources into the future if it could help to require positive mitigation measures to avoid polluted runoff that would degrade and damage marine life. Ideally, this designation would not antagonize private property owners whose current land management is compatible with the high conservation values of the rocky intertidal zone; hopefully they will continue to derive benefit from hosting visitors who cherish the unique opportunity to access this remarkable and hard to reach rocky

shore and beach area. We support the South Coast Rocky Shores Group proposal to designate Crook Point as a Marine Conservation Area.

Cape Blanco as a Marine Research Reserve

The intertidal zone around Cape Blanco is also extraordinary. One of the westernmost points in the lower 48 states, Cape Blanco is an important geographic and topographic feature in our region —jutting out into the ocean so as to structure and demarcate populations of salmon and steelhead. Our members have enjoyed low tide field trips to explore this area with marine biologists —learning about some of the remarkable and beautiful denizens of its intertidal zone. This rocky shore area is adjacent to the beloved Cape Blanco State Park, famous for its lighthouse, and so it is subject to greater visitation and potential impacts than other areas.

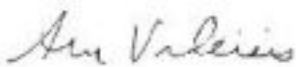
Cape Blanco has been the location of an important PISCO research site for over 30 years. Ongoing monitoring here helped scientists to recognize early on the sea star wasting disease that became so consequential for the entire West Coast.

We support PISCO's proposal to designate Cape Blanco as a Marine Research Reserve. This designation would help ensure that people can continue to enjoy the remarkable natural beauty of the site, but would preclude collecting of animals or algae. This will help the ecosystem remain intact for generations of citizens and visitors to come.

We appreciate the State of Oregon's proactive approach to marine conservation. Thank you for the opportunity to provide public input, and we look forward to learning more about this public process as it moves forward.

Sincerely,

Ann Vileisis
President Kalmiopsis Audubon Society



December 15, 2020

To whom it may concern:

~I am a resident of Langlois in Curry County and am writing in support of the Blacklock Point proposal recommending a Marine Conservation site designation. I live at Floras Lake area and hike the beach or Airport Route trail to Blacklock Point several times a year for the past 30 years. Hiking and enjoying viewing the abundant tide pools, birds, and sea life with family, children, and now grandchildren has always been a life enrichment for us. We have also watched whales and sat on the Indian middens above enjoying the present and deep history of the area. This is a very special place, one that has taught my children and grandchildren awe and respect for the balance of the coastland and ocean.

Blacklock Point is currently "Not Yet Designated" in the Oregon Rocky Habitat Management Strategy, yet it is a unique place of ecological importance and wonder with a history of scientific and management attention for potential conservation of the uplands, which were first recommended for protection by the state Natural Area Preserve Advisory Committee in 1978, and have been a high priority for protection ever since, because it is one of the most unique and significant natural areas in Oregon. The same is true for the adjacent rocky shore and offshore areas because of the diverse rocky intertidal habitats, subtidal rocky reefs, kelp beds, seabird colonies, shorebird nesting areas, pinniped haul outs, and other marine species of concern.

I support and recommend Blacklock Point rocky marine habitats to be designated as part of the Rocky Habitat Management Strategy. As we look to the future, we can prepare and safeguard this wild place while also sharing it with everyone in a responsible manner.

~Please consider recommending the Blacklock Point proposal for the designation of Marine Conservation Area.

Sincerely,

Carol Bakkensen
47206 Lakes End DR
Langlois, Or 97450
541-953-0168

December 11, 2020

To whom it may concern:

I am a Curry County resident writing in support of the Blacklock Point proposal recommending a Marine Conservation site designation. I have visited about 5-10 times a year

for the past 20 years. I hike, run trails, birdwatch, walk my dog, kayak, clam, collect mussels and seaweeds, and watch for whales & other marine mammals. It is a very important area to myself, my family, and my community.

I see a noticeable increase in the amount of people at Blacklock Point, and with this comes a considerable increase in the number of irresponsible behaviors. Evidence of these includes: large increases in trash, human waste including toilet paper, pet waste, ORV and bicycle use, wood cutting, short cutting or creating social trails, trampling around tide pools, wildlife hazing including changes in behavior of birds and pinnipeds, and removing large quantities of marine life including mussels and seaweeds.

Blacklock Point is currently “Not Yet Designated” in the Oregon Rocky Habitat Management Strategy, yet it is a unique place of ecological importance and wonder with a history of scientific and management attention for potential conservation of the uplands, which were first recommended for protection by the state Natural Area Preserve Advisory Committee in 1978, and have been a high priority for protection ever since, because it is one of the most unique and significant natural areas in Oregon. The same is true for the adjacent rocky shore and offshore areas because of the diverse rocky intertidal habitats, subtidal rocky reefs, kelp beds, seabird colonies, shorebird nesting areas, pinniped haul outs, and other marine species of concern.

Blacklock Point rocky marine habitats deserve to be designated as part of the Rocky Habitat Management Strategy. Broad cliffs, a black sand beach, rock benches and tide pools are accessible by a short hike from a parking area. Here, one can watch numerous species of seabirds and shorebirds including Brown Pelicans. Blacklock Point is considered one of 31 Important Ecological Areas in Oregon as documented in a 2005 report by Oceana. The rocks are home to Black Oystercatcher nests, a shorebird species of concern that uses rocky intertidal habitats almost exclusively to forage. Pelagic and Brandts Cormorants and Pigeon Guillemots also live on the nearby rocks and utilize the intertidal area. A critical snowy plover area exists on the beach. Visitation to Blacklock Point is increasing, as more and more people flock to the coast to experience nature. The 2020 pandemic brought more visitors than ever recorded along the Oregon coast, including the south coast. As we look to the future, we can prepare and safeguard this wild place while also sharing it with everyone.

Please consider recommending the Blacklock Point proposal for the designation of Marine Conservation Area.

Sincerely,

Makenzie Shepherd
47591 Leeward Street, Langlois, OR
908-797-4759
shepherdmakenzie@gmail.com

December 15, 2020

To whom it may concern:

I am a Coos county resident; and CoastWatch volunteer & coast/beach enthusiast. I am writing in support of the Blacklock Point proposal recommending a Marine Conservation site designation. I plan to visit this sight often. I hike, tidepool, kayak, watch for whales & other marine mammals.

With increasing numbers of people at Blacklock Point comes a considerable increase in the number of irresponsible behaviors. Evidence of these includes: large increases in trash, human waste, including toilet paper, pet waste, ORV and bicycle use, wood cutting, short cutting or creating social trails, trampling around tide pools, wildlife hazing including changes in behavior of birds and pinnipeds, and removing large quantities of marine life including mussels and seaweeds.

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Please consider recommending the Blacklock Point proposal for the designation of Marine Conservation Area.

Sincerely,
Brent Lerwill, Coos Bay, Oregon, brentwoodhome@gmail.com

December 3, 2020

To who it may concern:

I am a Coos County resident, amateur botanist, a hiker and a member of the SouthCoast Striders hiking group. I am writing in support of the Blacklock Point proposal, recommending a Marine Conservation site designation. I have visited twice during this past year. I hike, birdwatch and botanize with family and friends.

Some of the special things I have seen include a new to me thistle, which I believe is Klamath Thistle, wonderful mushrooms, paintbrush and other wildflowers. I enjoy exploring this area, the vistas from the bench above the point. I find the cultural history of the area interesting. I did a bit of research on the geology and found that the Blacklock soils are unusual and influence the vegetation. Although I have only been hiking there for a year, I notice quite a bit of trash, human waste, including toilet paper, pet waste, camping and social trail building. I have seen people on the beach with loose dogs hazing wildlife.

Blacklock Point is currently "Not Yet Designated" in the Oregon Rocky Habitat Management Strategy, yet it is a unique place of ecological importance and wonder with a history of scientific and management attention for potential conservation of the uplands, which were first recommended for protection by the state Natural Area Preserve Advisory Committee in 1978. It has been a high priority for protection ever since, because it is one of the most unique and significant natural areas in Oregon. The same is true for the adjacent rock shore and offshore areas because of the diverse rocky intertidal habitats, sub-tidal rocky reefs, kelp beds, seabird colonies, shorebird nesting areas, pinniped haul outs, and other marine species of concern. Blacklock Point rocky marine habitats deserve to be designated as part of the Rocky Habitat Management Strategy. Broad cliffs, a black sand beach, rock benches and tide pools are accessible by a short hike from a parking area. Here one can watch numerous species of seabirds and shorebirds including Brown Pelicans. Blacklock Point is considered one of the 31 important Ecological Areas in Oregon as documented in a 2005 report by Oceana. The rocks are home to Black Oystercatcher nests, a shorebird species of concern that uses rocky intertidal habitats almost exclusively for forage. Pelagic and Brandts Cormorants and Pigeon Guillemots also live on the nearby rocks and utilize the intertidal area. A critical snowy plover area exists on the beach. Visitation to Blackrock Point is increasing, as more and more people flock to the coast to experience nature. The 2020 pandemic brought more visitors than ever recorded along

the Oregon coast, including the south coast. As we look to the future, we can prepare and safeguard this wild place while also sharing it with everyone.

Because I enjoy and value this area, I would be interesting in participating in any future docent programs to help educate people and help protect this site.

Please consider recommending the Blacklock Point proposal or the designation of Marine Conservation Area.

Sincerely,

Lynn Jackson
88692 Tupelo Ln
Bandon, OR 97411
(541) 347-7008

Blacklock Point

Emilie Brooke | thistleamy5@gmail.com | Zip code: 97116

This is one of the most spectacular spots on the Oregon coast. Not only is it sacred for its beauty and quiet - it is also home to many birds who call our coast home. Perhaps not the most famous spot on the Oregon coast it is one of our gems and should be protected. Thank you.

William Gorham, Ph.D.

14834 Oceanview Dr.
Brookings, OR 97415

13 December 2020

To whom it may concern:

I am a Curry county resident, a marine biologist by training and vocation, the Co-facilitator for Coastal SOCAN (Southern Oregon Climate Action Now), and member of the Board of Directors and the Chair for the Environment Subcommittee for OCEAN (Oregon Coast Energy Alliance Network). I've supported the protection of marine coastal areas for my entire life since vacationing in Maine in the 50s. With this letter, I'm writing in support of the Blackrock Point proposal recommending a Marine Conservation site designation. I have lived and worked in coastal areas from the tropics to the arctic, in all the oceans save the Antarctic, and on both rocky headlands and protected sandy beaches. I know well the incredible value that protected marine areas provide to the marine ecosystem, but also to us humans dependent on our

ocean.

Based on discussions with colleagues, I understand that there has been a noticeable increase in the number of people at Blacklock Point, and with this increased usage has come a considerable increase in the number of irresponsible behaviors. Evidence of these includes: large increases in trash, human waste including toilet paper, pet waste, off-road vehicle (ORV) and bicycle use, wood cutting, short cutting or creating social trails, trampling around tide pools, wildlife hazing including changes in behavior of birds and pinnipeds, and removing large quantities of marine life including mussels and seaweeds.

Blacklock Point is currently "Not Yet Designated" in the Oregon Rocky Habitat Management Strategy, yet it is a unique place of ecological importance and wonder with a history of scientific and management attention for potential conservation of the uplands. The area was first recommended for protection by the state Natural Area Preserve Advisory Committee in 1978, and has been a high priority for protection ever since, because it is one of the most unique and significant natural areas in Oregon. The same is true for the adjacent rocky shore and offshore areas because of the diverse rocky intertidal habitats, subtidal rocky reefs, kelp beds, seabird colonies, shorebird nesting areas, pinniped haul outs, and other marine species of concern.

Blacklock Point rocky marine habitats deserve to be designated as part of the Rocky Habitat Management Strategy. Broad cliffs, a black sand beach, rock benches and tide pools are accessible by a short hike from a parking area. Here, one can watch numerous species of seabirds and shorebirds including Brown Pelicans. Blacklock Point is considered one of 31 Important Ecological Areas in Oregon as documented in a 2005 report by Oceana. The rocks are home to Black Oystercatcher nests, a shorebird species of concern that uses rocky intertidal habitats almost exclusively to forage. Pelagic and Brandt's Cormorants and Pigeon Guillemots also live on the nearby rocks and utilize the intertidal area. A critical snowy plover area exists on the beach. Visitation to Blacklock Point is increasing, as more and more people flock to the coast to experience nature. The 2020 pandemic brought more visitors than ever recorded along the Oregon coast, including the south coast. As we look to the future, we can prepare and safeguard this wild place while also sharing it with everyone.

Please consider recommending the Blacklock Point proposal for the designation of Marine Conservation Area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Gorham". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a dark ink on a white background.

William Gorham, Ph.D.
805-377-9336
Gorham.bill@gmail.com

December 10, 2020

To whom it may concern:

I am a former 28-year Curry county resident, currently living in neighboring Del Norte County, California. I am a retired U.S. Forest Service Forest Technician, a CoastWatch volunteer, a University of Washington COASST volunteer, an Audubon Society member, a hiker, a birder and an advocate for open spaces that are vanishing due to increasing development. I am writing in support of the Blackrock Point proposal recommending a Marine Conservation site designation.

I hiked Blackrock Point when I was a Curry County resident and was awed by the ocean vistas and rocky shoreline and I delighted in the meandering trails through coastal shrub and shore pine habitat. The experiences I had there led me to become ever passionate about the place, a little paradise in my observation. It was a hidden jewel. However, with increasing visitation in the ensuing years and the potential for and/or currently occurring harmful impacts, it is a place that deserves extra protection.

Blacklock Point is currently "Not Yet Designated" in the Oregon Rocky Habitat Management Strategy, yet it is a unique place of ecological importance and wonder with a history of scientific and management attention for potential conservation of the uplands, which were first recommended for protection by the state Natural Area Preserve Advisory Committee in 1978, and have been a high priority for protection ever since, because it is one of the most unique and significant natural areas in Oregon. The same is true for the adjacent rocky shore and offshore areas because of the diverse rocky intertidal habitats, subtidal rocky reefs, kelp beds, seabird colonies, shorebird nesting areas, pinniped haul outs, and other marine species of concern.

Blacklock Point rocky marine habitats deserve to be designated as part of the Rocky Habitat Management Strategy. Broad cliffs, a black sand beach, rock benches and tide pools are accessible by a short hike from a parking area. Here, one can watch numerous species of seabirds and shorebirds including Brown Pelicans. Blacklock Point is considered one of 31 Important Ecological Areas in Oregon as documented in a 2005 report by Oceana. The rocks are home to Black Oystercatcher nests, a shorebird species of concern that uses rocky intertidal habitats almost exclusively to forage. Pelagic and Brandts Cormorants and Pigeon Guillemots also live on the nearby rocks and utilize the intertidal area. A critical snowy plover area exists on the beach. Visitation to Blacklock Point is increasing, as more and more people flock to the coast to experience nature. The 2020 pandemic brought more visitors than ever recorded along the Oregon coast, including the south coast. As we look to the future, we can prepare and safeguard this wild place while also sharing it with everyone.

Please consider recommending the Blacklock Point proposal for the designation of Marine Conservation Area.

Sincerely,

Melissa McDowell
1291 Reddy Ave., Crescent City, CA 95531
707-951-3857
Mmcdowell1955@charter.net

December 4, 2020

To whom it may concern:

I am a Coos county resident and am writing in support of a Marine Conservation Area designation for Blacklock Point. I visit Blacklock Point 4-6 times a year to hike, walk the beach, or just hang out at this place of spectacular beauty. I go with friends or family, but also take visitors from out of town to this special place.

Blacklock has a wild beauty that touches my soul. The remote feel affects me in a very deep and primitive way. It is a place of ecological importance and wonder. Because of the diverse rocky intertidal habitats, subtidal rocky reefs, kelp beds, seabird colonies, shorebird nesting areas, pinniped haul outs, and other marine species it is one of the most unique and significant natural areas in Oregon. The rocks are home to Black Oystercatcher nests, a shorebird species of concern that uses rocky intertidal habitats almost exclusively to forage. Pelagic and Brandts Cormorants and Pigeon Guillemots live on the nearby rocks and utilize the intertidal area. A critical snowy plover area also exists on the beach.

Places like this don't stay pristine by accident. Broad cliffs, a black sand beach, rock benches and tide pools are accessible by a hike from a parking area. Over the years I have seen an increase in visitation to Blacklock. Most people are responsible, but I do find some trash. I fear especially for the tide pools and marine life in the Rocky habitat. Blacklock Point is being discovered and use is increasing as more and more people come to the coast to experience nature. It needs to be protected.

Blacklock Point is considered one of 31 Important Ecological Areas in Oregon as documented in a 2005 report by Oceana. These rocky marine habitats deserve to be designated as part of the Rocky Habitat Management Strategy. As we look to the future, we can prepare and safeguard this wild place while also sharing it with everyone.

Please consider recommending the Blacklock Point proposal for the designation of Marine Conservation Area.

Sincerely,
Dulce Havill
520 Douglas Ave. SW
541-404-7213
dulcehavill@yahoo.com

12/9/2020

To whom it may concern:

I am a Curry county resident (Brookings), neighbor, a hiker and a CoastWatch volunteer writing in support of the Blackrock Point proposal recommending a Marine Conservation site designation.

Blacklock Point is currently "Not Yet Designated" in the Oregon Rocky Habitat Management Strategy, but should be, IMHO. It is a unique place of ecological importance and wonder with a history of scientific and management attention for potential conservation of the uplands, which were first recommended for protection by the state's Natural Area Preserve Advisory Committee in 1978. It has had a high priority for protection ever since, because it is one of the most unique and significant natural areas in Oregon. The same is true for the adjacent rocky shore and offshore areas because of the diverse rocky intertidal habitats, subtidal rocky reefs, kelp beds, seabird colonies, shorebird nesting areas, pinniped haul outs, and other marine species of concern.

Blacklock Point rocky marine habitats deserve to be designated as part of the Rocky Habitat Management Strategy. Broad cliffs, a black sand beach, rock benches and tide pools are accessible by a short hike from a parking area. Here, one can watch numerous species of seabirds and shorebirds including Brown Pelicans. Blacklock Point is considered one of 31 Important Ecological Areas in Oregon as documented in a 2005 report by Oceana. The rocks are home to Black Oystercatcher nests, a shorebird species of concern that uses rocky intertidal habitats almost exclusively to forage. Pelagic and Brandts Cormorants and Pigeon Guillemots also live on the nearby rocks and utilize the intertidal area. A critical snowy plover area exists on the beach. Visitation to Blacklock Point is increasing, as more and more people flock to the coast to experience nature. The 2020 pandemic brought more visitors than ever recorded along the Oregon coast, including the south coast. As we look to the future, we can prepare and safeguard this wild place while also sharing it with everyone.

Please consider recommending the Blacklock Point proposal for the designation of Marine Conservation Area. To borrow from Mark Twain, Guard and protect our National/State Parks, Forests, Monuments and ALL wild lands, lakes, oceans and waterways. They are not being made anymore...

Sincerely,

Harry Freiberg

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Brookings, OR 97415

514 469 9879

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A Proposed Marine Conservation Area: Blacklock Point December 9, 2020

CoastWatch

I am a Coos County resident and a CoastWatch Volunteer & a Cape Arago Audubon Society Member writing in support of the Blacklock Point proposal recommending a Marine Conservation site designation. I have visited this site about 2 times a year for the 8 years. I hike, birdwatch, walk my dogs tidepool, watch for Whales & other marine mammals.

Some of the special things I've seen there include numerous species of nesting & roosting Sea Birds, high & low tides, intertidal areas and the coastal flora. I see a noticeable increase in the amount of people at Blacklock Point, and with this comes a considerable increase in trash, human waste including toilet paper, pet waste, ORV and bicycle use, wood cutting, short cutting or creating social trails, tramping around tide pools, wildlife hazing including changes in behavior of birds and pinnipeds, and removing large quantities of marine life including mussels and seaweeds.

Blacklock Point is currently "Not Yet Designated" in the Oregon Rocky Habitat Management Strategy, yet it is a unique place of ecological importance and wonder with a history of scientific and management attention for potential conservation of the uplands, which were first recommended for protection by the state Natural Area Preserve Advisory Committee in 1978, and have been a high priority for protection ever since, because it is one of the most unique and significant natural areas in Oregon. The same is true for the adjacent rocky shore and offshore areas because of the diverse rocky intertidal habitats, subtidal rocky reefs, kelp beds, seabird colonies, shorebird nesting areas, pinniped haul outs, and other marine species of concern.

Blacklock Point rocky marine habitats deserve to be designated as part of the Rocky Habitat Management Strategy. Broad cliffs, a black sand beach, rock benches and tide pools are accessible by a short hike from a parking area. Here, one can watch numerous species of seabirds, and shorebirds including Brown Pelicans. Blacklock Point is considered one of 31 Important Ecological Areas in Oregon as documented in a 2005 report by Oceana. The rocks are

home to Black Oystercatcher nests, a shorebird species of concern that uses rocky intertidal habitats almost exclusively to forage. Pelagic and Brandt Cormorant and Pigeon Guillemots also live on the nearby rocks and utilize the intertidal area. A critical Snowy Plover area exists on the beach. Visitation to Blacklock Point is increasing, as more and more people flock to the coast to experience nature. The 2020 pandemic brought more visitors than ever recorded along the Oregon coast, including the south coast. As we look to the future, we can prepare and safeguard this wild place while also sharing it with everyone.

Please consider recommending the Blacklock Point proposal for the designation of Marine Conservation Area.

Sincerely,
Mike Mueller
335 Miller Street, Lakeside, Oregon 97449
541-514-6587
Correspondence via email Dec 26, 2020

Via Facebook December 24, 2020

Hi all,
Just found this group. I'm a volunteer with Oregon Kelp Alliance www.oregonkelp.com. Mostly divers, we're acutely aware of the rolling underwater catastrophe hitting the Calif and Oregon rocky shore subtidal habitat. With the near extinction of the last predator of purple sea urchin in 2014-15 (sunflower sea stars) kelp forests on our coast are being predated towards extinction. We want to prevent that. There are 3 possible tools to do that, and only ONE tool that has a hope of saving just a few reefs worth of kelp in the next decade - that's volunteer divers culling purple urchins on select reefs (we're working on a proposal to ODFW to allow us to eradicate purples on a few select reefs, instead of ODFW regs that (shockingly) protect those rampaging hordes of purples and encourage harvest of nearly extinct sunflower stars (10/day in both cases).
Since this group is an influencer on the rocky habitats plans, I'm asking one favor of this group. ## Do not encourage a blanket boating restriction around rocky shores/reefs (or at least have an exception for self-identified OCA divers flying dive flags). ## Already we are forbidden to access all of the quite large Arch Rocks area (during the part of the year when sea conditions allow diving) due to just a small inshore rock being used by breeding Stellar sea lions. The Oregon coast is a harsh environment for divers, with often big swells, surge and poor visibility underwater, don't make it even harder to save our kelp forest ecosystems from extinction. Note that purple urchin barrens seen in this photo are one way trips for the ecosystem. Purples have the ability to go dormant and eat any kelp that tries to grow back. One reef in Port Orford now has 350 MILLION purple urchins and large urchin barrens. Help us save a few oases of kelp for breeding stock.

Leigh Anderson

