From: Bob Rees
To: TSP comments
Subject: Comments
Date: Monday, April 5, 2021 7:26:47 PM

Dear Members of the Rocky Habitat Working Group,

First of all, we'd like to thank you for your work evaluating the proposals for further protections for the rocky habitat protection proposals for the Champan and Ecola Point areas on the north Oregon Coast.

We understand there are many dynamics at play when it comes to balancing recreational opportunity and ecological integrity. There are so few places in our sensitive nearshore where humans and ocean sea life can interact so we wish to respect that, but it's also imperative that users are regulated and educated as to the sensitive nature that these fragile ocean ecosystems try to survive in. Unfortunately, that often means regulations to restrict historical access to these sites but are necessary to keep these areas safe from harm for future generations to enjoy.

We are appreciative of the agreement on restricting intertidal invertebrate harvest but are concerned about the omission of proposed restrictions that allow dogs to wander off the leash in these sensitive areas. We strongly urge the working group to adopt these recommendations. It's a simple ask that shouldn't be burdensome for those that wish to enjoy these intertidal treasures along with their canines. There are plenty of nearby locations where dogs enjoy leash free beaches, this shouldn't be one of them.

Furthermore, visitors can enjoy these intertidal areas without trampling the sensitive species that live here. We urge the working group to utilize the mandate to balance site use with ecological protections by retaining restrictions on walking and climbing on intertidal rocks in these small areas of ecological importance.

Finally, there is a real need to consider innovative solutions to addressing the wildlife disturbance issues on the area. If there's little to no enforcement on these activities in the area, additional, well signed restrictions should STRONGLY be considered to curb the disturbance to wildlife.

Thank you again for your consideration to further protecting Oregon's valuable intertidal areas. They are a treasure for all to enjoy, but not to damage for future generations of Oregonians.

In Gratitude,
Bob Rees, Executive Director

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