



Friends of Haystack Rock  
PO Box 1222  
Cannon Beach, OR 97110

February 28, 2020

Walter Chuck, Chair  
Oregon Ocean Policy Advisory Council  
C/O Andy Lanier, Marine Affairs Coordinator  
635 Capitol St. NE, Suite 150  
Salem, OR 97301-2540

Dear Walter and Members of the Council,

Friends of Haystack Rock supports the Ocean Policy Advisory Council's efforts to update the management of rocky habitats under Oregon's Territorial Sea Plan Part 3: Rocky Habitats Management Strategy. Focusing on the ecological, social and economic health of Oregon's rocky habitats is critical to securing their long-term viability. These public areas should be managed to ensure they thrive, continuing to provide benefits to the public long into the future. The focus of Friends of Haystack Rock, a volunteer led non-profit, is to ensure the species that exist at Haystack Rock and the Marine Garden thrive and continue to be available for future generations to enjoy and appreciate. The purpose of this letter is to comment on the Draft Rocky Habitats Management Strategy during this, the public comment period.

Friends of Haystack Rock supports the continuance of the Marine Garden designation at Haystack Rock, in light of the critical habitat, high visitation, and successful educational program at that site. We believe that protections offered a Marine Garden should continue at Haystack Rock. Our recommendation includes revising the no harvest rule at the Marine Garden to eliminate the provision allowing the removal of single mussels. Given the tens of thousands of visitors to the Marine Garden at Haystack Rock, this provision is difficult to enforce and confusing to visitors since other species cannot be collected in the area. Additionally, collection of a single mussel by even a subset of tens of thousands of visitors could potentially wipe out the intertidal zone of mussels.

Friends of Haystack Rock appreciates the time and energy of the working group participants and Department of Land Conservation staff that have worked on this draft strategy. We look forward to continuing to engage as this process moves forward.

Sincerely,

Angela Benton  
Friends of Haystack Rock  
Board Chair

Friends of Haystack Rock promotes the preservation and protection of the intertidal life & birds that inhabit the Marine Garden and Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge at Haystack Rock. We do this in cooperation with Haystack Rock Awareness Program and other partnerships.