

Coquille Point Site Management Plan
Workshop Meeting Summary

October 22nd, 2024, 2:30pm-5:00pm

Located at Bandon Public Library

Workshop Materials can be found in the [Google Folder](#) or on the Oregon Ocean Information website.

In-Person Participants

1. Eva Krukowski, DLCD
2. Andy Lanier, DLCD
3. Laurel Hillmann, OPRD
4. Hui Rodomsky, DLCD
5. Jason Kral, City of Bandon
6. Nick Schoeppner, OPRD
7. Mary Garrett, Shoreline Education for Awareness (SEA)
8. Laurie Friedman, SEA
9. Carol Maude, SEA, USFWS Volunteer
10. Nancy Mesner, SEA
11. Diane Bilderback, Local Black Oystercatcher nest monitor
12. Martha Lane, SEA

13. Robin Ann McCreery, SEA
14. Kate Iaquinta, USFWS
15. Alex Cook, USFWS
16. Tom Arsey, Planning Commission
17. Paul Maldonado, SEA
18. Rob Brasie, OPRD

Remote Participants

19. Dawn Harris, USFWS
20. Dr. Jared Schmidt, Coquille Indian Tribe
21. Mandy Macnab, DLCD
22. Susan Riemer, ODFW
23. Kaedra Emmons, local resident
24. Joe Liebrecht, Oregon Bird Alliance

Meeting Notes

Favorite features of the sites:

- Vast landscape from the cliffs to the islands, complete experience when you visit
- Pigeon guillemots that nest on the nose of elephant rock
- Brining infant daughter to the top of the stairs at Coquille Point and having their minds blown because it was the first time seeing the Oregon Coast.
- Magical, love everything about it
- Love walking around Coquille Point everyday
- Walking dogs from South Jetty to Face Rock
- Sand-rock connection is so great for exploring because you can stand on the sand and observe the rocky ecosystem closely without disturbing it. Not many places like that.
- Watching the people
- Photography
- Accessible
- Seal pup watch
- Seeing people's reactions to Coquille Point and giving them that "ah ha" moment
- The view is different every day
- Wild magnificence

- Trail
- Selling point and convinced us to move there
- Daily walk, renewing
- More dynamic than other rocks because of the curve and wildlife
- Always different and there is always a bird
- Love seeing the people there
- Windy
- Geology
- Photography of tidepool life
- The marine debris statue of Cosmo the tufted puffin
- Working with the tribe and SEA to do language revitalization and do some great interpretation work
- A place that my family has enjoyed every year
- Low tide and surfing
- Density of oyster catchers

Discussion Notes

- Andy read out a description of the Marine Garden designation, which can be found on the handout [here](#).
- Question about marine plant collection. Are there restrictions on collecting plants like bull kelp that washed up on shore?
 - Laurel Hillmann, OPRD: Coast-wide there is a limitation on the amount of personal souvenir collection of kelp that has washed up on shore; that is not specific to rocky habitats.
 - The only place that has restrictions on collecting bull kelp that washed up on shore is in Plover Nesting Areas during plover nesting season.
 - Current rocky habitat regulations apply to **living vegetation that is attached to rocky substrate**.
- Are there restrictions on driftwood collection?
 - Nick Schoeppner, OPRD: Collection of drift wood is allowed up to 1 cubic yard per person per day up to three times in a calendar year. Hand collection of wood only, no mechanized equipment like a chainsaw.
- Jared Schmidt asked how the gathering regulations pertain to tribal members and the harvesting of traditional cultural materials like basketry materials or mussels. Relevant to interpretive panel for the tribe.
 - Andy Lanier, DLCD: Thank you for the question, this came up during Government-to-Government discussions with Tribal Governments during designation process of the new rocky habitats. What came out of those discussions was a letter from the Governor's office should not impact tribal ceremonial or subsistence use of the area that has been ongoing. This is true across all the sites.

- Indigenous Interpretive Signage: Would an image of tribal members harvesting at the site send the wrong message to members of the general public? This balance of education about traditional tribal harvest and public education is an important part of the conversation.

Information Sharing

- Laurel gave information on the OPRD project for signage and format.
 - Draft regulation signage available for review [here](#)
 - Laurel recommended maybe we add a USFWS logo on this sign because it is shared jurisdiction.
 - Recommendation to put that sign at the bottom of the stairs to inform people fo the Marine Garden status. No climbing symbol and other etiquette symbology on the regulation sign

How do people already find out about the site? What can people discover before visiting?

- Shoreline Education for Awareness (SEA) website, QR code is on the new signs.
 - Includes appropriate ways in interacting with the landscape to avoid damaging the site
 - Facts sheets are available for most of the commonly seen animals and plants – representative or iconic species
- The whole proposal is on the website
- Expand on the website, to make it all more accessible
- USFWS has pamphlets about the top of the site next to the parking lot
- Bandon Chamber of commerce website has information about Coquille Point
 - Chamber of Commerce would be a good place to provide materials
- Oregon Islands has a website and a facebook page. Hitting tourists that are coming to Bandon who may not know that this is an attraction or that they might need the tide charts to visit or even how to read tide charts.
- Would be nice to have - Brochures for placing in hotels for people visiting Bandon

What can people learn when visiting?

- Signage halfway down the stairs provides interpretive materials about rocky habitat organisms: QR code on critter panel leads to fact sheets about the organisms found at the site. [Invertebrates – Shoreline Education for Awareness, Inc.](#) Intend to use the fact sheet in future education programs
 - Great learning opportunity
- Volunteers on the beach conducting rocky shores interpretation – especially during the summer months – interpreters provide a positive viewing experience for both the people and wildlife.

What resources are available after visiting?

- People can return to the SEA webpage after leaving.

Question about a recommendation that came out of the proposal – put a sign on Elephant Rock that says, “no climbing” or “do not disturb the wildlife”. Could be counter-productive to put a sign on a rock if it damages the ecosystem, is it legal?

- Kate I., USFWS: Offshore rocks and Islands above the barnacle line are designated as Wilderness and they are part of the Oregon Islands Refuge. To put something permanent within Wilderness, the reason must be compatible with the Wilderness Act.
- If there is not a conflict yet, then we might not need to put a sign up. We can see overtime what the need is. For example, if there are many cases of over-harvesting, then that might be a justifiable reason.
- No climbing or no disturbance signage would be a possibility if necessary – based upon observation

Interpretation Goals and Education

Goals:

- USFWS – Comprehensive Conservation Plan – Access is important for getting people to the site.
 - Goals of protecting the wilderness designation
 - Safe and enjoyable experience when visiting the site
 - Property was originally purchased to provide a buffer for seabird nesting sites (to prevent further development of homes and roads)
 - Reduction in light pollution – dark skies initiative – landscape architecture was used to design parking lot to reduce impacts of car headlights point out towards the point and islands to preserve wilderness
- SEA Goal – commitment to education
- Goal for State investment – intertidal curriculum focused on rocky shores ecosystems
 - Training the teachers would be an effective way to communicate
 - King tide awareness – the highest high tides of the year – for a public safety perspective
- Marine Mammal Interpretation
 - Volunteers can really enhance an experience in learning about pinnipeds – especially during pupping season
- Charleston marine life center – another opportunity for education
- Opportunities for local colleges – internships or other ways to invite their participation
- Coquille – opportunity to engage tribes in any interpretation – languages, traditional knowledge, as it relates.

Monitoring and Community Science

What’s already happening in the area?

- Marine Mammal Stranding network, volunteers report when they find a deceased animal

- Trained volunteers do basic exam of the animal and report to Rob and Nick OPRD about the animals
- COASST – survey of dead seabirds
- Sea Star CoastWatch mile 101 (Carole Maude has adopted the mile for CoastWatch)
- Black Oystercatchers – 4 nests that typically you can see from the headlands or near (Elephant Rock, North Coquille, and the Middle Coquille area)
- Nesting seabird surveys
- ODFW Coastal harbor seal population survey – pupping or rearing sites, May – June
 - Where is that information available to view?
 - Oregon & WA coastal population – public map of all the haul out sites. Some really big sites that are driving the healthy population of seals
 - Decline in numbers of seals at Coquille Point.

Opportunities to grow?

- Develop a website for people to get involved in community science efforts
- Nurdle Monitoring – plastics debris
- Species list compiles for invertebrates at the site
 - List of sightings – bioblitz
 - OIMB students
- Tracking disturbances like climbing, illegal collecting, drones, disturbance events (wildlife & pets), violations of regulations
 - Tracking how successful the outreach is
 - Observing nefarious behavior
- Tracking visitation at the site – including intercepts as well as total visitation
- Template needed for observation tracking – could copy model from Haystack Rock Awareness Program

Enforcement and Compliance

What are challenges or behaviors you have observed?

- It is helpful to have some signage on the beach, when possible, to help with compliance and enforcement. When beach rangers are people can say it says right there no disturbing wildlife, there are seabirds nesting there.
- Verbal Judo class training from OPRD staff
- Education is more important
- Scott Newman was the USFWS cost-wide enforcement office, but his region has moved to WA
- USFWS enforcement has jurisdiction above the high tide line
 - But they have an interest in dogs who disturb nesting seabirds
- NOAA species and ODFW – marine mammal violations
- Invertebrates
- Oregon State Police does enforcement

- OPRD can handle a code violation
- Invite OSP on to the beach more often
- NOAA has an officer close by and they would be happy to respond to marine mammal violations
 - Strandings – Jim Rice from the stranding network is contacted first.
 - It is a big deal
 - NOAA officer based in Charleston who is around most of the time
 - Good to provide contact information for Jim Rice, Susan Reimer, and NOAA officers
- Marked enforcement vehicle on the beach
- USFWS has an agreement with Bandon police. Yes, USFWS can go to the beach and write tickets
 - Cannon Beach has an MOU between OSP and city police, does that exist here?
 - Unknown – Kate will find out
- OPRD enforces OARs
- Crimes – OPS
- ODFW does not have enforcement – they do monitoring
- Fish and Wildlife trooper
- Resource violations tend to be lower priority
 - Preserve calls to law enforcement that really triggers a quick response
- Deter violations: Lean on education aspect to understand the why and not get the point of violation
 - Most people are trying to do the right thing
- ODFW contracts OSP officers to do our enforcement. We don't do our own enforcement. There are Fish and Wildlife enforcement officers through OSP.
- USFWS has a trashcan on the trail, there has been discussion about putting a trashcan in the parking lot. But USFWS is not interested at this time to put trashcan in the parking lot because of the risk of public dumping.
- Signage needs to be clear enough for everyone in town to understand the basic regulations and can share with others. Volunteers need to have good signage to refer to
 - Local needs to understand the regs
 - Locals should understand the reason behind the regulations

Public Comment

None

Final Questions/Comments

- Drone restrictions – it would be good to add that to info shared with tourists, info to have on the QR code as well
- What is the process for changing the marine garden designation?
 - The intertidal around Cat and Kitten Rock is not accessible but it could potentially be protected
 - Process for changing the boundary would have to come up at an OPAC meeting

- The plan has an adaptive management aspect to it – we will come back to OPAC with another opportunity for site designations with would include the opportunity to evaluate current site and boundaries.
- Get as much out there in this first year as we can, even if we cannot maintain it, it's important to get all the information and education out there. If we give little bits of info over time then people might think the regulations are constantly changing.
- Local news? It's a good idea to send a press release or social media announcement closer to low tide.
 - Opportunity this coming Spring for catalog of interpretive materials. Coordinated news announcement before summer low-tide series to celebrate the new sites coast-wide.
- Farmers Market or local events tabling
- Share resources between the different Marine Gardens
- Top priority is to make a flyer or 1 pager for Coquille Point to have available at new sites

Ideas for future discussions from anonymous workshop feedback surveys:

- “I started visualizing a location-based app that would provide recorded interpretation (possibly varied by season) that would tell people where to look, and what to see. It would also include images so people could identify what they see, and perhaps sounds to listen for. There used to be an app called 'Detour' that provided city tours. That's probably more of a long-term goal, but a short-term goal would be to do this on the SEA website.”
- “Ideas about enforcement and support for volunteers”
- “More discussion on future signage and enforcement.”
- “Additional clarification on each state agency's role: DLCDC vs OPRD vs ODFW. I think it can be confusing to the public on who to call or who has jurisdiction over certain policies or regulations.”
- “I was particularly glad to hear that there will be opportunities for evaluation of how the Coquille Point Marine Garden is fairing such as are the resources being protected, does there need to be more information about drones and where should that be placed and more.”