

Dear legislators,

On behalf of the 36 undersigned concerned scientists, ocean users, community leaders, and conservationists in Oregon, we write to ask you to better protect Oregon's amazing nearshore ecosystems by supporting additional investments in the management of these areas by passing [House Bill 3587](#).

The rocky habitat areas that line Oregon's coast, such as iconic Haystack Rock and Coquille Point, are vital ecosystems that provide essential habitat for a diverse array of marine life, including fish, sea stars, anemones, nesting seabirds, marine mammals and other creatures that rely on these areas for shelter, breeding, and foraging. In addition to biodiversity, rocky habitats support recreational and commercial fisheries, a multi-billion dollar tourism industry and serve as natural buffers against coastal erosion.

Oregon's [updated Rocky Habitat Management Strategy](#) was established to safeguard these important ecosystems, promote biodiversity, and provide areas where scientific research and monitoring can be conducted. The Strategy was recently updated as environmental stressors including marine heat waves and human use on the coast are increasing and putting these habitats at risk. This initiative has already proven to be a vital tool in achieving these goals, as we have over 20 existing sites and eight newly designated ones lining our coast.

With the Rocky Habitat Management Strategy, Oregon can balance protection and responsible use of our iconic coastal rocky habitats. However, **current agency and community capacity is insufficient to fully implement the Strategy**, which is why we're seeking further investment of \$300,000 for the facilitation of a grant program to support site stewardship as well as additional support for a permanent Rocky Habitat Coordinator at the Department of Land Conservation and Development to coordinate management of these sites. The small grants program would provide needed resources to local communities ability to enjoy, visit and responsibly steward these areas and engage in the management and conservation of rocky habitats. [House Bill 3587](#) ensures the rocky habitats will endure and be accessible to all Oregonians now and for future generations.

Sincerely,

1000 Friends of Oregon
Mary Kyle McCurdy, Associate Director

Bird Alliance of Oregon
Joe Liebezeit, Director of Statewide Conservation

Cape Perpetua Collaborative
Talaina King, Director

Coast Range Association
Michael, Marine Programs Director

Defenders of Wildlife
Colin Reynolds, Senior Advisor, Northwest Program

Elakha Alliance
Jane Bacchieri, Executive Director

Endangered Species Coalition
Tara Thornton, Director of Institutional Engagement

Environment Oregon
Ian Giancarlo, Oceans Advocate

Friends of Haystack Rock
Keith Chandler, Board Chair

Friends of Otter Rock Marine Reserve
Dennis White, Board President

Haystack Rock Awareness Program (HRAP)
Kelli Ennis, Director

Kalmiopsis Audubon Society
Ann Vileisis, President

Lane County Audubon Society
Debbie Schlenoff, Conservation Chair

League of Women Voters of Oregon
Lisa Bentson, President

Mid-Willamette Bird Alliance
Karan Fairchild, Co-President

Nestucca, Neskowin & Sand Lake Watersheds Council
Natalie Nites, Executive Director

North Coast Land Conservancy
Katie Voelke, Executive Director

NW Guides and Anglers Association
Bob Rees, Executive Director

Oceana
Ben Enticknap, Pacific Campaign Director

Oregon Coast Alliance
Cameron La Follette, Executive Director

Oregon Kelp Alliance
Carl Hendrickson, Program and Administrative Assistant

Oregon League of Conservation Voters
Eliza Walton, Coalition Director

Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition
Annie Merrill, Marine Conservation Manager

Oregon Wild
Danielle Moser, Wildlife Program Manager

Oregon Zoo
Shervin Hess, Conservation Manager

OSPIRG Students
Sam Broussard, State Board Chair

Redfish Rocks Community Team
Caroline Rice, Program Coordinator

Robertson Environmental LLC
Paul Robertson, Environmental Scientist | Owner

Salem Audubon Society
David Harrison, Conservation Chair

Seven Capes Bird Alliance
Dawn Villaescusa, President

Shoreline Education for Awareness (SEA)
Martha Lane, President

South Coast Rocky Shores Group
Larry Basch, Proposal Author and Coordinator

St. James Santiago School
Juile Fiedler, Director

Surfrider Foundation
Charlie Plybon, Oregon Sr. Policy Manager

The Nature Conservancy
Lauren Link, State Policy Advisor

Tillamook Estuaries Partnership
Kristi Foster, Executive Director