

**COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC MEETINGS**

Newport, Oregon

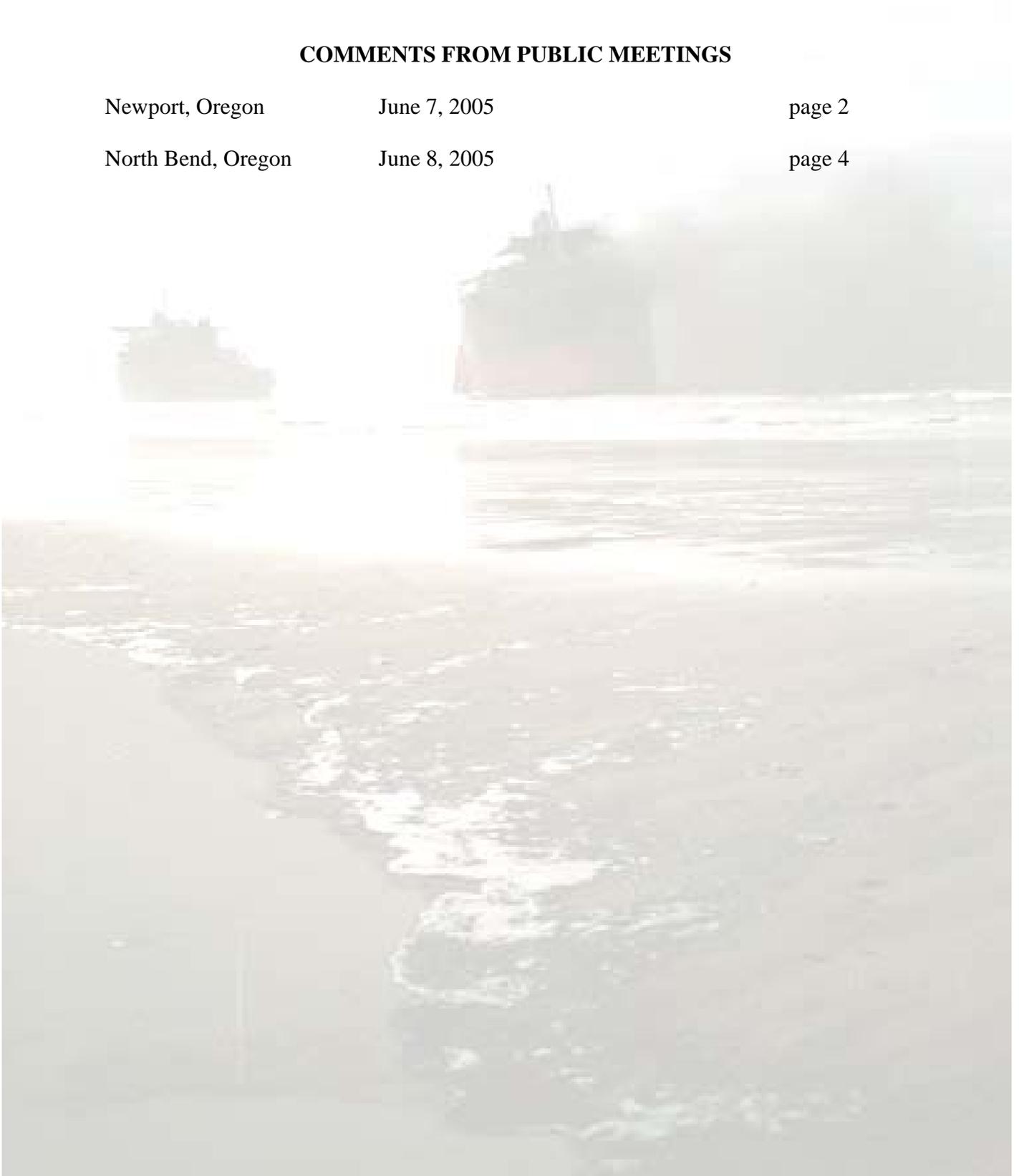
June 7, 2005

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North Bend, Oregon

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## **Oral Comments received at June 7 public meeting at Newport, Oregon, on the Trustees' draft Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan and Environmental Analysis for the New Carissa oil spill.**

NOTE - The comments in italicized text indicate a comment or an idea that was voiced by the group several times.

- Invertebrate and tidepools were not adequately surveyed in Yachats area.
- The Trustees are saying there is no damage in the estuaries, yet the responsible parties are settling damage lawsuits.
- The plan should provide mitigation to compensate for lost seafood sales. Oregon has always been perceived as clean and pristine. That quality perception was decreased by the publicity surrounding the oil spill.
- Oregon coast tourism reputation was soiled by the spill – needs to be mitigated. Confidence in area needs to be bolstered. Trustees could cooperate among agencies to advertise the coast.
- *Cooperate between government and non-profits on research and restoration to make sure money not wasted.*
- You can solidify marbled murrelet habitat in priority area 2 because there are more opportunities there to block-up properties and priority area 2 is closer to damages.
- Trustees propose to spend an extravagant amount of money on a trail at Governor Patterson Park. Suggest that money may be better used elsewhere for nature.
- Trustees should use money to make trails more handicap accessible.
- Ratio of worker time to project time needs to be included in plan.
- Trustees should brief Oregon Coast Zone Management Association to get comments on the plan.
- *Trustees should compensate counties for any loss of property tax revenue. The proposal puts a bigger burden on tax payers*
- Support education efforts of the Sister Shorebird Program. Plays well into cooperation/coordination piece.
- Trustees should formulate a conservation plan for marbled murrelet.
- *Light pollution issue as conservation strategy for birds. Work with hotels.*
- *Management of habitat could be addressed better by local government rather than by the Trustees.*
- Approach people willing to “gift” land rather than buy parcels from willing sellers.
- Trustees should work with non-profits to combine money to make better/larger property acquisitions. Non-profits have a good source of knowledge as well.
- Bayview Oxbow property for sale – good possibility for acquisition.

- *General BLM position on charging \$5 on public lands bad. Locals don't want to pay for access to public lands. Why should we improve the recreation areas when the public has to pay \$5 to reach/use the sites?*
- *There should be better information available and there should be better outreach in local communities on how to acquire recreation permits.*
- Hard to endorse more pavement. Need more recreational projects that don't have pavement.
- Be careful about sign pollution. Make sure signs do not detract from natural areas.
- Natural areas and educational areas are different. Make sure natural areas are natural.
- Use money to restore signs that are already in place when possible.
- Trustees should consider addressing predatory birds in seabird predator management.
- Considers ways to protect already existing marbled murrelet habitat so it can stay protected.
- Consider follow-up research to see if bow sunk off-shore is causing contamination today and its effect, if any, on the off-shore 'dead zone'.
- Consider public education efforts with hotel/bed and breakfast establishment to discourage guests from feeding food scraps to crows up and down coasts.
- Trustees should consider education/cooperation efforts with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife near shorebird projects and Oregon State Parks.
- Make e-mail address for comments readily accessible on the website.

## **Oral comments received at June 8 public meeting at North Bend, Oregon, on the Trustees' draft Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan and Environmental Analysis for the New Carissa oil spill.**

NOTE - The comments with text italicized indicate a comment or an idea that was voiced by the group several times.

- Trustees should work with USFWS on proposed new refuge for the land acquisition as part of the proposal.
- Trustees should consider other acreages along Coquille River for the proposal.
- BLM's current financial situation does not allow for increased cost of maintaining signs, etc.
- Concern for who will manage the acquired lands.
- *Consider non-government organization for management of acquired lands.*
- Acquiring habitat is a good idea.
- *Concern that government cannot manage properly the lands it will acquire. Leave well enough alone. Object to federal and/or state government acquiring more land.*
- Need an EIS for this proposal, not an EA (40 CFR 1508).
- There is a long-term economic impact involved due to taking forest lands out of production.
- Marbled murrelet habitat can be managed better by private owners.
- Look into allowing private owners to retain lands; assist them without actually acquiring land.
- *There already is enough marbled murrelet habitat. Why acquire more habitat and take it out of private hands?*
- Fuel buyers end up paying indirectly through OPA. Polluters pass on tax to consumers.
- Concern that cost of acquiring marbled murrelet habitat is too high.
- Federal agencies have killed more plovers than the oil spill.
- Prioritize plover money by order of success; 1. predator control, 2. maintain existing HRA/s/nest exclosures. Drop proposed docent program.
- Leave money in Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund for future use.
- Concern that all recreation users benefit from the recreational proposals, not just motorized users.
- Want alternatives that offer a positive economic benefit to community; 1. more ATV use, 2. salmonid recovery.
- *Open more areas for ATV use.*

- *Keep beaches open and free to visitors. Maintain open access.*
- Endangered Species Act has not worked, why should this proposal?
- Want to see included in the plan timeframes, end results, total costs (loss of revenues) of the proposal.
- Can't puffins nest on New Carissa?
- Maintain integrated recreation uses. Don't separate users (especially on North Spit).
- Expand trustees to include other organizations.
- *Need local input and, cooperation in the plan*
- The proposed plan contains numerous NEPA violations.
- Too much money spent on birds when people need jobs.
- County needs compensation for loss of property tax revenue.
- Trustees should prepare Economic impact studies on acquisition of land and its effect on counties and cities.
- "Willing seller" – what does that mean? Does it mean coercion, and harassing a landowner into selling? Put in writing "no eminent domain possible".
- Put restoration money into common school fund and don't use it for murrelets or other wildlife.
- Low maintenance land is poor land to acquire. Health and safety of adjacent lands could be a problem.
- Allow non-street legal vehicles to access New Carissa wreck area.
- Need specific definition of what 'management' means.
- What if murrelet gets delisted? Acquire lands currently under a Habitat Conservation Plan land if the marbled murrelet is delisted.
- Recreation mitigation should be for local use and access.
- No signs, no kiosks in the recreation proposed projects.
- Use money to establish a foundation to assist property owners to manage land.
- Tourists come to Oregon beaches for wildlife and the pristine nature of it's beaches; keep it that way.
- Consider building reefs offshore
- *Develop local projects which will create local jobs*
- Not a lot of change in plan despite comments. Poor draft and poor final plan.
- Trustees should consider natural recovery/no action. Use common sense for recovery.
- Don't buy land that is currently available for mitigation. Leave for public or private projects.