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Cannon Beach City Councilors
P.O BOX 368
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For Distribution to the Cannon Beach Councilors and public records,

Dear Councilors,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this issue. I feel it’s important to remind ourselves about the qualities that make Cannon Beach the magical town that we all care so much about and where I’ve lived part of my life for the past 30 years.

Obviously, it’s the majesty of its setting, the wide stretches of white sand, easy access to the beaches and its truly iconic views. But it’s also the warm, welcoming community whether people are here for 365 days, 3 months or 3 days of the year- the sense of peace and security and public pride in its city.

But today, just like the issues facing the world’s climate, I feel that we are at an inflection point, that the beauty of our environment and values of our city are being questioned and tested.

We are starting to see the beginnings of an ecological disaster north of Ecola Creek. The broad, beautiful beach is rapidly diminishing as the uncontrolled growth of the dunes encroach more and more onto the beach. Oregon’s promise of public access to its beaches is also in question. At the 5th Street public beach access, one must first walk 300 yards over soft sand through a high tunnel of dunes, then battle down and later, up, a 52 foot sand cliff to reach the beach.
And where once, one could stand at the end of the road and view the vast expanse of sea, sky, sand rocks and north and south, or watch the setting sun from a gentle incline, today that vista is no more; it’s just a wall of sand,

So here we are at the inflection point. Is the degradation taking place north of Ecola Creek an early warning of what the city’s entire seaside will become, on the assumption that your decisions will effect equally and without discrimination all its beach fronts and all its citizens?

Can Cannon Beach afford to lose the 3 foundations of its success and well-being—its beaches, its access and its views?

I implore you to let logic and common sense dictate your decisions:

1. Follow the scientific recommendations outlined in the Allen Report and implement a responsible Sand Management Plan.
2. Plant the correct dune grass
3) Restore love, dignity, compassion and common sense to this community and put this divisive episode behind us.

Thank you.

Lydia Lipman