Dear Mayor Steidel and City Councilors,

The dunes on the North side of Ecola Creek have become an attractive nuisance. We have individuals camping on the dunes and homeless individuals sitting within the sea grass. Most of all, it has become a safety concern as we watch children dig caves into the 15-30+ foot banks and then crawl in. Yes, caves are a lot of fun to make and hide in but they are dangerous especially when one is guarded only by a little black dog! If a cave were to collapse on a child, WHO would render help in time to save them? We also have children (without helmets) jumping off the top of the banks and flying down the steep slopes on boggy boards. These children had no visual parent supervision and the lifeguard station across the creek is not manned. Who is responsible if a tragic accident occurs? It is my understanding, that The City of Cannon Beach owns three lots in this area and The Oregon Parks the remainder. (I have attached pictures of these children at play.)

Secondly, we have camp fires being built within the dunes because people can no longer access the beach without extreme effort. Dune grass does burn. How will the Cannon Beach Fire Department get down on the beach to access a fire up in the dune grass?

My family and I have been coming to Cannon Beach for over 40 years. It was our dream to own a home and be able to come together as a family. We now have 14 grandchildren who have joined the tradition of coming to Cannon Beach. We love walking the beaches and having family campfires. However Beach access is nearly impossible for parents, grandparents and handicapped individuals seeking to enjoy the beach. For some of us, this necessity for means driving into town to access the beach south of Ecola Creek or finding a neighborhood with steps. The downtown parking spots are prime business spaces and neighborhoods do not want the cars either especially on weekends.

Lastly, I know that all of you have felt the healing powers of listening to the ocean, walking down the beach, putting your feet in the ocean and feeling the "weight of the world" slowly fall off your shoulders. The people on the North end just want to have that opportunity too. But they would freely share the access were it to be possible. The entry at the Sacajewea monument is the best that the beach has to offer on the north side. It seems a shame that only a handful of families can brave the steep descent and the seemingly steeper return.
The many weddings over the last 10 years have dramatically diminished and the beautiful background of the beach and the breakers are simply in capable of full appreciation. The beaches are for Oregonians but if access is diminished fewer get to enjoy them or even see them because of the obscuring dunes that will only continue to grow as Dr. Hacker testified and as the pictures submitted during the hearing clearly show.

I was on the Planning Commission and listened to the debate as the committee simply kept from doing what the task was, update the Grading Plan to the new science. Why change a 20 year process of controlling the dune growth when we should consider it maintenance paid for by a willing land owner.

Thank you for your service to the City of Cannon Beach,

Janet Patrick