Dear Cascade Head Property Owner:

In 1974, people who cared deeply about the Cascade Head area had the support of Congress to protect this special place. The Cascade Head Scenic Research Area Act, Public Law 93-535 was enacted, and established Cascade Head as the first Scenic Research Area designated in the United States "to provide present and future generations with the use and enjoyment of certain ocean headlands, rivers, streams, estuaries and forested areas, to ensure the protection, the study of a significant areas for research and scientific purposes and to promote a more sensitive relationship between people and their adjacent environment."

The USDA Forest Service is responsible for the administration of the Cascade Head Scenic-Research Area (CHSRA). Public Law 93-535 established land use standards for retaining landscape subareas within Cascade Head, including on private and public land. The Forest Service is responsible for evaluating proposed activities on non-federally owned properties within the area to meet land use and environmental design criteria.

USDA guidelines were published in accordance to the act and are used to evaluate proposed land use and maintenance activities to ensure these actions do not constitute a substantial change from conditions existing on June 1, 1974. As a landowner in the Cascade Head, you have an important role in preserving this treasured landscape.

The intent of this letter is to share the USDA Forest Service review and recommendation process for construction, alteration and vegetation management activities within the CHSRA. This includes proposals such as new construction, remodeling, vegetation management, new utilities, or other exterior modification of structure(s) and/or property. The goal of the review is to assist landowners with how construction and vegetation changes can be compatible and complementary to the Cascade Head Scenic-Research Area and consistent with the Management Plan and USDA guidelines, and not constitute a substantial change to the Cascade Head Area.

Pursuant to Section 5 (c) of the Cascade Head Scenic-Research Area Act, Public Law 93-535 and Section 3 of the USDA Final Guidelines, owner(s) of non-federally owned land in the Cascade Head Area are required to notify the Hebo District Ranger in writing of any proposed change in use or maintenance at least 30 days before the proposed activity or any potential substantial change. Providing sufficient information including site plans and details (e.g. location and extent of vegetation management/removal) will help expedite the review process. Within 30 days of receipt of a proposal, the Siuslaw Forest Supervisor will make a determination as to whether the proposed activity is considered a substantial change. If additional information is needed to complete the review, the Forest Supervisor will require an additional 30 days to respond with a determination once sufficient information is received.

The goal is to have structures and vegetation management activities remain subordinate to the natural characteristic landscape (agricultural, forests, headland, bluffs, grasslands, and estuary) when viewed from critical viewpoints within the CHSRA and to minimize impact on the natural environment. Landowners can help preserve the scenic values and environmental condition for which this area was designated by thoughtful design and siting to blend and harmonize with the landscape and minimize site impacts to soil, water, and vegetation. Please consider these recommendations while planning to build and/or modify structures or start a significant vegetation removal project on your property:

Caring for the Land and Serving People
• Structures and property modifications that blend into the natural surroundings, in which the design borrows size, shape, and color from the natural landscape best meet standards outlined in the USDA guidelines. Generally, structures which are one or two stories meet the intent of the area; however, there may be exceptions depending on individual property setting, and how much the structure would be screened by topography and vegetation from Highway 101, the Salmon River and estuary, and Three Rocks Road. House or structure forms that are horizontal better suit the low hills of Cascade Head, and do not draw as much attention. Larger structures tend to better fit within the scenic guidelines, if they are constructed as a cluster of smaller shapes and forms, rather than a uniform large box. Projections of unique form, color or shine, particularly high on a building, such as tall gables, tend to be dominant on the landscape and so would unlikely meet environmental design criteria. Structures are best suited if subordinate to the natural landscape and subordinate to the tree canopy found at the building site.

• Structure colors that are similar to the natural tones found in the Cascade Head viewsheds fit best with Cascade Head landscape. Greens, browns, grays and other earth tones blend best with the natural surroundings.

• Materials and textures should be non-reflective to avoid shine or glare in the sun or attract unnecessary attention to a structure. Textures that are small scale, such as shingles and siding, fit well, though other sidings are fine if natural colored.

• Structure locations should be sited or positioned on properties in a manner that retains the views and subarea character within Cascade Head. Often, if a house or structure is moved back on the site, or if the positioning can take advantage of topography and/or vegetation pattern including tree screening, it has less impact on the view and is more compatible.

• Trimming or pruning of trees and vegetation generally have low impact on the viewshed and is preferable to total tree removal. Removal of vegetation is specifically restricted to construction sites in the environmental design criteria of the Act. Removal of single or small groups of alders also tends to have little impact. Evergreen removal is more likely to create an obvious change in the landscape, and structures becoming more visible if present. If evergreen removal is proposed, it most meets standards if done in stages, and with a small number taken at a time, so that the impact can be assessed before more are removed. Trees with safety/stability or wildfire defensible space concerns should be addressed. Wildfire defensible spaces should maintain natural appearing vegetation in shape and form near structures. The goal is to keep the overall appearance of vegetation as natural as possible and structures safe and subordinate within the viewshed. Tree removal requires Forest Service review and proposals shall be sent to the District Ranger. If there is an immediate safety concern to life and property (eg. unstable windblown tree leaning over a residence) it will not require a review before removal; however, the District shall be notified and photographs sent before any removal occurs.

• Planting should generally be locally native trees, shrubs and perennials. Plant singly or in odd numbered groupings, rather than in a row. Planting in a random manner appears more natural and as part of the adjacent natural landscape. It is acceptable for homeowners to plant a few non-native garden plants immediately near their house that do not impact the larger views. Please avoid invasive plants such as gorse or blackberry. Forest Service representatives at the Hebo Ranger Station would be happy to help with the type of plants that work well at Cascade Head. A list of native vegetation to Cascade Head is enclosed.

• Road building and other excavation in general has potential impacts on the scenery and environmental quality of Cascade Head. If you propose to grade slopes around your property, they would look most natural if slightly rolling, and not overly flat. Some soil conservation measures will be recommended if excavation work is proposed. Minimizing cut and fill to the greatest extent possible helps to achieve environmental design criteria. Engineered grading plans and/or soils suitability reports may be required. Darker colors of gravel rather than white, and
more natural appearing riprap of rock that is varied in size are more compatible with the natural setting of Cascade Head. If your property is within the potential unstable slopes mapped area included in the Cascade Head Management Plan and attached to this letter, the review will include review by a Forest Service geologist, hydrologist or soil scientist for potential impacts to the estuary. This review is not for the purposes of structure or slope stability finding.

- All appropriate permit processes with other agencies and state, local, and federal governments must also be followed.

Please consider these recommendations while planning to build and modify structures or start a vegetation project on your Cascade Head property. It is my intent that having this information will help to make the Forest Service review process clearer when you propose a project on Cascade Head.

Please call the Hebo Ranger District front desk at 503-392-5100 or email Traci Merritt, our Recreation and Lands Staff and Landscape architect, at traci.merritt@usda.gov, to schedule a field review or for a preliminary conversation about the Cascade Head Scenic And Research Area Act guidelines, as you begin your project planning.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. CONROY
District Ranger

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Attachments (3)
Cascade Head Scenic Research Area Management Plan Information
Other Cascade Head Property Owner Resources
Cascade Head Scenic Research Area Native Plant List
Cascade Head Scenic Research Area (CHSRA) Management Plan Information

Cascade Head standards and guidelines are contained in the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Management Plan, Cascade Head Scenic Research Area, 1976 found at https://go.usa.gov/xyp7m. The Cascade Head Scenic-Research Area Act, Public Law 93-535 can be found in Appendix I.

Listed below are excerpts from the management plan; and further information and guidance on Scenery and Visual Quality can be found in this document.

Excerpt from the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Management Plan:

D. Management Direction

1. Area Direction
   f. Visual Values (p.65) – Visual values within CHSRA will be managed to meet the visual management objectives discussed on p. 35. These apply basically to new proposals for the area that would constitute a “substantial change” in use as defined in Office of the Secretary, Notice of Final Guidelines for CHSRA (Federal Register Vol. 40-No 194, October 6, 1975) found in Appendix II.

   Most of the Area has the scenery or “visual quality” objective of retention.

10. Visual Resource (p. 35 - 39)
    Retention: “provides for management activities which are not visually evident. Activities may only repeat form, line, color, and texture frequently found in the characteristic landscape.” (p.38, Also see map on p. 39)

2. Subarea Direction (p. 36)
   d. Lower Slope-dispersed residential subarea:

   “Any new development must retain the characteristic landscape for the subarea, as defined on page 36 (of the Plan.) (p. 84)

   “The Act requires maintenance of the scenic, soil, watershed, fish and wildlife values within this subarea.”

   “About 30 percent of the land within this subarea has unstable soil characteristics (see map on page 101). Careful location of any additional developments is required to prevent soil movement and accompanying degradation of the scenic and watershed values.” (page 83.)

   “Any new development must meet all State and county sewer, water, zoning and building requirements.”(p.84.)

   “If a proposed development is in an area of unstable soil, shown on the map on page 101, a soil scientist will be consulted to assure protection of the soil values.” (p. 84.)
• If your property is within the potential unstable slopes mapped area in the Cascade Head Management Plan, a Forest Service hydrologist will review for potential impacts to the estuary. This review is not for the purposes of structure or slope stability finding.
Excerpts from the USDA Secretary Final Guidelines

The USDA guidelines published in the Federal Register, Vol. 40, No. 194 (Oct. 6, 1975) are found in Appendix II of the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Management Plan, Cascade Head Scenic Research Area, 1976  https://go.usa.gov/xyp7m

1. Introduction
   a. Purpose. Public Law 93-535 (88 Stat. 1732), enacted on December 22, 1974, established the Cascade Head Scenic-Research Area. Section 5(b) of the Act requires the Secretary to publish guidelines which shall be used by him to determine what constitutes a substantial change in land use or maintenance for the non-federally owned property within the Area. The general management objectives applicable to the entire Area and the preliminary management objectives of each subarea were used in developing these guidelines.

   b. Scope. These guidelines will be used by the Secretary in determining what constitutes a substantial change in land use purpose, and manner, and maintenance from conditions existing on June 1, 1974. Any change which is proposed or occurs after June 1, 1974, will be evaluated against these guidelines. The date, June 1, 1974, is designated in Public Law 93-535.

   d. Definitions
      (5) Base Property means a single contiguous land ownership existing on June 1, 1974. Property includes the structures and other improvements on the land;

      (7) Environmental Design Criteria include the following standards for construction activities:
          (a) the design borrows colors, shapes, materials, and other conditions from the surrounding natural environment and is planned to complement the natural setting;
          (b) vegetative cover disturbance is limited to the construction site;
          (c) erosion control measures are adequate to protect the soil, water, and other environmental values; and
          (d) roads are located and constructed to minimize impact on the land and should not be wider than necessary.

b. Notification of Substantial Change
   c. Response to Notification of Proposed Change.
       d. Response to Substantial Change if Prior Notice is not given. When an owner(s) make a substantial change under these guidelines without prior notice, Section 5(c) of the Act is violated. The Forest Supervisor may notify the owner(s) that the change is a substantial change and that the Secretary may acquire his property by condemnation. [A substantial change determination is filed and indicates that the property lost the protection granted in Section 5(c) of the Act]

4. Guidelines
   a. Purpose of Use Categories The following Purpose of Use Categories are defined. Each base property in the Area will have at least one of these categories: Agriculture, Forestry, Public, Commercial Service, Recreation and/or Educational, Residential-Occupied,
Residential-Unoccupied, Unimproved Property, Scenic and Scientific. (See Final Guidelines for definitions of each of these categories.)

b. Effect of a Change in Purpose of Use Category A change in the purpose of use of a base property which would have the effect of changing, adding, or deleting a purpose of use category will be considered a substantial change.

c. Effect of a Change in the Manner of Use A substantial change may occur in the manner of use without any change in the purpose of use.

(1) Except as provided in 4.c.(2), the Forest Supervisor will consider but is not limited to the following in determining if there has been a substantial change in manner of use:

(a) Change in the kind of use; i.e., the kind of crops, livestock, services, and other items;
(b) Change in the intensity of use;
(c) Change in the impact on visual quality;
(d) Change in the vegetation, as in the removal or addition of shrubs and trees;
(e) Change in the number of buildings on the property, except the construction of residential amenities such as garages, woodsheds, building additions, etc., which meet the environmental design criteria;
(f) Change in existing structures, as in replacement or reconstruction, and including whether the change approximates conditions existing on June 1, 1974, or meets environmental design criteria;
(g) Changes in the transportation system.

(2) The following will not be considered a substantial change in manner of use:

(a) Construction or placement of a residential building when such residential construction or placement is in accord with the general management objectives for the Area and primary management objectives for the Lower Slope-Dispersed Residential subarea as stated in the Act.
(b) Timber harvest activity which meets the purposes of the Act for research or the preservation of the timber resources when imminently threatened by fire, old age, infestation, or similar natural occurrences, and this harvest activity occurs under conditions approved by the Forest Supervisor.

2. Provisions of Guidelines
   a. Acquisition of Land

   (2) The Act provides that, in all subareas of the Area except the estuary and associated wetlands subarea, the Secretary may not acquire any land or interest in land with the consent of the owner(s) so long as the owner(s) use such land for substantially the same purpose and in the same manner as it was used and maintained on June 1, 1974. However, even if a substantial change has not occurred, the Secretary may acquire any land or interests in land without the consent of the owner(s) when such land is in imminent danger of being used for a different purpose or in a different manner from the use or uses existing on June 1, 1974.
Other Cascade Head Property Owner Resources:

Wildfire and Urban Interface Resources:
Creating natural appearing defensible wildfire space around your home is encouraged. Please refer to national and local Firewise resources on how to best protect your home.

Firewise-USA
https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Wildfire/Firewise-USA

Oregon Department of Forestry
https://www.oregon.gov/odf/fire/Pages/urbaninterface.aspx

Archaeological Sites on Private Lands
Oregon laws protect significant archaeological sites on non-federal public (e.g., state, county, city) and private lands.


For more information contact:
Hebo Ranger District
PO Box 235
Hebo, Oregon 97122
Telephone: 503-392-3161
Native Plants for Recommended for Planting at Cascade Head
April 12, 2013

Scientific name (common names) - best growing locations/habitat noted.

Trees
Picea sitchensis (Sitka Spruce) - all areas
Pinus contorta (Coast Pine) - dune/headland
Pseudotsuga menziesii (Douglas fir) - headland, upland
Tsuga heterophylla (Western Hemlock) - upland complex
Thuja plicata (Western Red Cedar) - moist areas
Acer circinatum (Vine Maple) - upland complex
Alnus rubra (Red Alder) - all areas
Prunus emarginata (Bittercherry) - headland complex
Pyrus fusca (Swamp crabapple) - moist areas
Salix sitchensis (Sitka Willow) - moist areas

Shrubs
Mahonia aquifolium (Oregon Grape) - headland complex
Mahonia nervosa (Cascades Mahonia) - headland, upland
Rhododendron macrophyllum (Coast Rhododendron) - forested areas
Frangula (Rhamnus) (purshiana Cascara) -
Holodiscus discolor (Creambush Rockspirea) - forested areas
Lonicera involucrata (Twinberry) - near estuary
Meziesia ferruginea (Fool’s huckleberry) -
Physocarpus capitatus (Ninebark) -
Ribes sanguineum (Coast Red Currant) - upland complex
Rosa gymnocarpa (Baldhip rose) - upland forest, dry areas
Rosa nutkana (Nootka rose) - open areas along the coast, wet areas
Salix hookeriana (Hooker’s Willow) - wet areas
Salix lucida var. lasiandra (Pacific Willow) - wet areas
Sambucus callicarpa (Red Elderberry, headland) - upland.
Symphoricarpos albus (Snowberry) - headland complex
Vaccinium ovatum (Box Blueberry) - forested areas
Vaccinium ovalifolium (Ovalleaf Whortleberry) - forested areas

Ferns
Adiantum pedatum (Maidenhair fern) - forested areas
Athyrium felix-femina (Lady fern) - moist areas
Blechnum spicant (Deer fern) - forested areas
Dryopteris austriaca (Spreading woodfern) - forested areas
Polypodium glycyrrhiza (Licorice fern) - forested areas
Polystichum munitum (Sword fern) - forested areas
Pteridium aquilinum Bracken fern, open areas.
**Berry Vines**
- *Fragaria chiloensis* (Coast strawberry) - open areas
- *Rubus parviflorus* (Thimbleberry) - forested areas
- *Rubus spectabilis* (Salmonberry) - forested areas

**Ground cover**
- *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi* (Kinnickinick) - dune complex
- *Gualtheria shallon* (Salal) - headland complex
- *Trisetum cernuous* (Trisetum) - forested areas

**Flowering and miscellaneous plants**
- *Achillea millefolium* (Western yarrow) - open areas
- *Chrysoplenium glechomaefolium* (Golden carpet) - moist areas
- *Dicentra formosa* (Bleeding Heart) - forested areas
- *Disporum smithii* (Fairy lanterns) - open areas
- *Gilia capitata* (Blue Thimble Flower) - all areas
- *Iris tenax* (Oregon iris) - forested areas, roadsides
- *Linum lewisii* (Blue Flax) - open areas
- *Lupinus rivularis* (Lupine) - open areas
- *Maianthemum dilatatum* (False Lily of the Valley) - forested areas
- *Montiasibirica* (Candy Flower) - forested areas
- *Oxalis oregano* (Oregon Wood Sorrel) - forested areas
- *Ranunculus occidentalis* (Western buttercup) - open areas
- *Viola adunca* (Blue Violet) - open areas
- *Viola glabella* (Yellow violet) - forested areas
- *Viola sempervirens* (Evergreen Yellow Violet) - forested areas