

Online and email comments about Cape Kiwanda Safety

Updated 20160321

Important:

- This isn't exhaustive, but it shows the spectrum of top-of-mind thoughts.
- Because of the way some online media comment forums work, the person's name is shown with their employer's name or most recent educational affiliation. Remember these comments are from the **person**, not their job or school.
- Some of this language is rude and profane, and the spelling is off. That hasn't been edited.
- These are not conclusions or decisions ... they are voices. Just because an idea is printed below, doesn't mean it's practical or effective. Likewise, just because an idea popped up in an email or online forum, doesn't mean it lacks value.

Draft summary:

- People will always disregard signs, no matter how they're worded or where they're placed.
- Don't place even more public restrictions on what's supposed to be a wild, natural area.
- Risk taking is not an easily-controlled behavior.
- Put different, more personal, more forthright content on the signs to make the message plainer and more powerful.
- Revise the location of signs and fences to more accurately reflect the riskiest spots.

Original 2016 news coverage (multiple sources):

[Scott Thomas](#) · [Chemeketa community college 1990-91](#)

there needs to be better fencing ,when you first get to the top there's a section with no fencing so most people were on the inside when we were there. no trespassing or do not go beyond this point need to be posted in more places.thanks scott

[Susan Simonsen](#) · [Busines Development Representative](#) at [AmeriTitle, Inc.](#)

Place a memorial with the names of those who have died from going beyond the fence! Say bluntly if you go beyond the fence your name may be added to this memorial!

[Amanda Killian](#)

Agree... That would stop and make me think if I saw the faces of those who lost their lives and why.

[Stu Templeman](#)

Please no more signs, idiots that ignore the ones that are already there are not going to stop and read another one.

[Paige Polzin](#) · [Port Angeles, Washington](#)

Maybe something more morbid like a death count. (llll, etc) Seen on many trails in Hawaii, experts in ignorant tourists.

[Montgomery Hough](#)

Pictures of the dead after their fall would make a statement.

[Karen Grounds](#)

I guess if the signs were more specific....list the names and photos of people that have died. It's sad we have to always protect people in the lowest denominator terms.

[Stu Templeman](#)

I go to the coast to enjoy the beauty, if I wanted to read the names and see pictures of people who have died I'd go to the cemetery

[Tom Thomas](#) · [Pou](#)

Where have you all been? People were falling off there in the 70's and I'm sure many before that. This isn't something new.

[Steve Bridges](#) · [Lane Community College](#)

A solar lite memorial with pic bio, circumstance and cause of death for those who did not heed the DANGER signs warning. That should cause pause for everyone young and old.

[Stu Templeman](#)

So you want to memorialize those that have made bad decisions? If you cannot read a big sign that states the dangers I don't think you are going to stop and read about other idiots.

[Andy Ridderbusch](#) · [Salem, Oregon](#)

A little respect for the outdoors, some knowledge of safety, and self accountability could go along way. Don't ruin it for everyone please.

[Steve Hart](#) · [Dance Instructor/Choreographer](#) at [Lucky's Roadhouse](#)

They need to make the tragedies real. Maybe put up monuments to the victims. Show pictures of thme happy. Picturesearch of their funerals. Convince current visitors that people really do die.

[Stu Templeman](#)

Great idea, let's build a monument to those that don't read, don't follow safety guidelines. Why would you litter the beach with monuments to idiots?

[Jeff Denton](#) · [Web Developer](#) at [Teaching Research Institute](#)

I know the funding might be hard to come up with, but what about guided tours? That area just begs for exploration - not necessarily risk taking - just looking around at all the cool features. This could satisfy visitors' curiosity, provide a regular patrol of the area, and increase awareness of the dangerous spots.

[Stu Templeman](#)

Should be "Slick Rick Nelson, a 17-year-old football player from Sprague High School, fell backward off the cliff at Cape Kiwanda in June 2015 and died from traumatic injuries and poor decisions."

[Marta Crichlow](#) · [Dallas, Oregon](#)

Post pictures of the dead and their ages

[Stu Templeman](#)

It is the coast not a cemetery, don't need to read about what idiots do while at the coast

[Teresa M. Acosta](#) · [Owner](#) at [Self-Employed](#)

I've hiked cliffside trails where permanent Memorials are posted for each person who died at the spot near where they fell. That's a real wakeup call to pay attention.

[Jennifer Yustin](#) · [Oregon State University](#)

My daughter died here. She, like most teenagers, thought this would never happen to her. We relive this tragedy every time this appears on the news. It would be good if the message was stronger than just a sign and flimsy cables.

[Stu Templeman](#)

What hapen to common sense?

[Kiwanda Angels](#)

Jennifer, I'm sorry that you lost your daughter. Will you please visit our facebook.com/kiwandaangels page and add your daughter to the memorial? And we would love to hear any input as the majority are all proactive on the page to work on a solution to prevent more deaths.

[Jennifer Yustin](#) · [Oregon State University](#)

Kiwanda Angels thank you for your your hard work and beautiful, educational, bittersweet page. I find myself going there often. Ellie is there.

[Raena Robertson](#)

Grand Canyon has had great success with a Preventative Search and Rescue program. Volunteers patrol the trails and suggest ill-prepared hikers to turn around.

[Rocha Carlson](#)

Its self evident that walking on a cliff above the ocean is dangerous. More fences, signs, memorials won't protect people who don't use good judgement. There are memorials posted all over the coast for the fisherman that have died at sea... but fisherman still die. What are we supposed to do, fence off the ocean and wrap the coast in bubble wrap?

[Jacob Lucas](#) · [Professional Chainsaw carver](#) at [Self-Employed](#)

Make a giant look out tower that stays open so people could see the cliffs better in hopes that people would draw to it

[Loren King](#) · [FIRST INSPECTION](#) at [Precision Castparts Corp.](#)

The key words here are disregarding fences and safety zones. Yes this is a dangerous place if you go beyond the boundaries. If you stay within the safety zones, you are taking your life in your own hands, which the Rangers have no control of. Don't blame the state if you want to be stupid. It is common sense. Stick your hand into the fire and you will get burned. How hard is that to understand?

[Montgomery Hough](#)

The minute you pass the sign is the minute you take on full responsibility for yourself, if you don't give a shit about dying I don't give a shit about you !

[Harry Besnick](#)

People want to see the view from the cliff edge because you can't see anything from behind the fencing. That's why they ignore the fencing and signs. Not because they are "risk takers". Not because they are teenagers. So, build the observation deck(s) with appropriate safety railing and elevated, stable, railed trail(s) to them already. Not more fencing before a view can be obtained. Not more signs that are just going to be ignored. And ESPECIALLY not a freaking memorial! Memorials are for where people are buried or interred, not where they died. Observation decks at the correct locations with proper trails to them. Problem = solved.

[Julie Lethin-Keyser](#)

This so called fence is not sufficient to be called a safety fence. Danger signs are not sufficient either...they should be red and white, not brown. Give the public a fence and clear concise signs that give a proper warning. If the path leads to the Cape...this is where people are drawn, with people already out on the Cape it is hard for kids to resist when the signs aren't clear, the path "ant trail" leads to the Cape and if there are already adults and child alike on and around the Cape they are even more likely to go. I saw many camps sites on the Cape last summer, kids and adults...camping and drinking...if they aren't supposed to be there where is the enforcement...I never heard one official tell any of them to get away, stay back you aren't supposed to beyond the big brown informational sign....seems like State Parks isn't doing their job! Wake up and do something!!!

[Andrew Esther](#) It would probably help if we didn't constantly glorify extreme stuff and make it seem like it's completely safe if you just drink enough Redbull and strap a GoPro to your head.

[Kimberly Mf Speer](#) I went to a pier in Michigan that had the names and some photos of the people (mostly young kids and teens) who didnt follow the warning signs and died there. Actually seeing their faces was more than enough for me

[Anita Cate Smyth](#) Kids are insulated from a lot of consequences - even playground equipment at my son's PK-8 school is designed up to 5th grade level to make sure no one gets hurt. Most kids don't seem to do anything that requires them to decide whether something is safe to do; it's all organized, supervised sports or other events. Why would kids grow up able to assess risk?

[Garett Gentry](#) Why don't they just post the names and dates of people who have died from falling?

[Scott Camps](#) The sign and fences should be enough. If access is banned the fearless kids will just go anyway. There are many many more dangerous areas on the Coast, just not so accessible

[Starry Smith](#) Start when they are young and going places with parents/adults & taught to respect signs. Especially warning signs. So often it seems parents let their children do anything then defend their actions, blame place/business/park., or sue. So when the child gets older they believe the signs/warnings do not imply to them. It can be deadly.

[Dayle Nelson](#) Signage with names, faces and ages of people who died venturing into unsafe areas, along with a few words from the deceased person's friends, asking the reader to reconsider taking a dumb risk.

[Susan Stelljes](#) I posted this article in our group Lost in Oregon and was a bit surprised by the fact that there are a few who supported their right to take risks. They don't consider that if they were to fall or die, that their families and loved ones would not think it was worth the risk. Nor do they think of the rescue folks who risk their lives trying to save them.

[Norma Piper](#) We were there. There must be something compelling about warning signs and fences. How can human nature be changed or controlled?

[Berma Matteson](#) I wonder how this compares to the number of Grand Canyon deaths. The stats are similar in that people falling tend to be young males. Perhaps adding a sign every few feet that explains the unstable terrain and the average number of deaths at this site per year.

[Darvel Lloyd](#) Fences like this one degrade the wild and beautiful character of the cape. People are going to crawl through no matter what barriers are there.

[Jennette Yauch](#) Well if they can't read the sign too bad. Maybe post a picture of the cliff edge and a guy with a go pro on his head and holding a can of red bull falling off a cliff into the ocean. If they can't figure it out from there too bad.

[Lisa Lane](#) Been there a few times and managed to heed the warning signs. Because I'm not dumb, nor a thrill-seeker.

[Sundari Devi Franklin](#) I have crossed this fence many times. Never considered it dangerous. I was careful of course and didn't get too close to any edges but you have to be either stupid or clumsy to die here.

[Roger Scott](#) In my experience, it's just not just teenagers... Adults can be just as stupid & more entitled!. Also there is not a constitutional right to be in the gene pool long enough to reproduce

[Marice Ann Woodruff](#) I go to Cape Kiwanda often to take surfing pictures. Over the years, I have seen many more young people, including, to my horror, my own relatives, cross the line to take selfies out on the point. I think that a marker placed next to the warning sign, that lists the date of a victim's death and their age (not their name) might deter some. I have seen couples who have halted at the fence and had conversations before crossing. Sometimes, one, stays back while the other goes on. If there was something that would bolster the caution of anyone in a discussion like that, it might help.

[Justus Post](#) We can't save everyone. Some people will always find a way to go around the rope and unfortunately for their loved ones, won't make it home. The world simply isn't child proof.

[Derek Larson](#) Part of the problem is that the site has changed dramatically over the last 40 years...I have photos of friends out at the point in the 70s when it was a simple stroll. My grandmother made the walk in the 80s, Lots of people likely remember (and tell stories about) how it used to be, which may make it seem a small thing to cross the barriers today. But the cape is much different now, much more dangerous, and people even more likely to seek out thrills they aren't prepared to handle than in the past due to glorification in the media.

[Darin Ferguson](#) Put a sign up that simply states that- Anyone who goes of trail to areas that are posted as dangerous or sensitive will be fined if caught and in the case of rescue will be charged for the full cost of first responders. Have a nice day-..

[Travis Reeder](#) There is a steady stream of people of all ages ducking under the fences to go see what's out there. I mean like dozens over there on any nice weekend day. It doesn't seem like an earnest effort to keep people out to me. In Maui, you know the best hiking trails heads by the no trespassing signs. Seems the same with this spot the way they fenced it in such a half-asses way, as if to say go ahead and go over but don't sue us if you get hurt.

[Delaine Mottershead](#) This post asked for suggestions for improvement, not your moralizations and fucked up opinions. Three of you can read and follow directions. The rest of ya'll get Darwin Awards. Evidence that they need to invest in a better fence because signs that actually explain the danger won't be enough.

[Pam Mote-pritchett](#) A big cross with kid's pictures and ages may serve as a reminder that they could be next if they continue beyond this point.

[Joel Johnson](#) That spot is awful. The fence is down half the time from winter storms and leads to a cliff of death. Build a trail and viewpoint

[Olland Tippin](#) Teach them to read and if they still disregard the warnings then the world is better off without these idiots.

[Rene Riback](#) I think a disclosure should be added, that if you step beyond the boundaries, that no rescue will be attempted.

[Ted Fountain](#) Could it be that the area needs more safe trails that lead to the views these people are most likely looking for?

[Tracy Miller Cohen](#) Post the facts... number of fatalities. Some folks just want to die. They will find a way. But for the accidental deaths, a statement like unstable, under cut bluff, it will crumble and you will fall to your death.

[Susan Otcenas](#) It would help if the adults obeyed the signs. Kids see adults do it and think it's ok.

[Keely Killpack](#) Personalize the risk....photos of people lost, a memorial to all of them?

[David Muhl](#) Tell them to quit standing on the edge of the cliffs taking "selfies" and start paying attention to their surroundings.

[Carla Densley Koplein](#) People make their own choices. Why are you making such a big deal out of it?

[Candy Baxter](#) Teen agers ?? You don't.... Might add a sign that keeps a running total of all the "deaths from ignoring the sign "..... Other than that, not much else to do

[Dana Pricher](#) Nature is dangerous, not a disney ride.

[Lauris Villydyr](#) people don't follow warning signs because most of the signs are stupid. it is very hard to tell when a sign is there because someone broke their leg once and sued for a million dollars, or when a sign is there because five people have died there in there in the past eight months (WTF?!). even when you know that one person has died there, you don't know if they died there because they were being reckless or because the place is insanely dangerous. the sign in the photo above is a totally inadequate attempt to communicate that people regularly die beyond the fence. yeah, people will always cross barriers, WE KNOW. but why are so many people dying in this one place? because the signage is totally out of proportion to the danger. at the least, they need to mention what the dangers are, how dangerous they are, and that real people actually die there, doing things that don't seem reckless to them at the time. i think it would be effective if they could use an animated sign or informational kiosk showing people falling into the ocean after the ground gave way, or if they had a sign printed on a mirror, so that it looks like a newspaper with a headline saying "BELOVED COMMUNITY MEMBER PLUMMETS TO DEATH, AFTER 10 SECONDS OF FREEFALL AND REGRET" and a big open spot where your reflection shows up smile emoticon people always think that kind of stuff happens to someone else, so putting a face on it (their face) might give people a little insight (or a really gross pre-death selfie, i guess). kind of morbid. sorry. but i hate how watered down our warning signs are. there are more warnings on plastic packaging than there are on that cliff.

Facebook “Kiwanda Angels”

Kiwanda Angels

What can we do today, considering the efforts in the past, to make a safe enjoyable experience now and for future visitors? Think. Don't react. Be proactive. Everyone wants to get this right.

<https://www.dropbox.com/.../xvq2dg.../AAADpACYCwRoxgAN9WFyeWVXa...>

Comments:

[Sandy Weedman](#) Information is key. One can then make a semi- informed decision. It's not going to help the teens, most of whom have been raised tho think things don't apply to them, being the center of the family. Look up how many fall from other state parks! It isn't just here.

Kiwanda Angels

Possible fence signage. Requires completing a safety education card. Some of the requirements to be in the Cape Kiwanda No-Hike Zone could be wearing a marine approved high visibility buoyant life vest, have a buddy system, each having the ability and device to call 911, and signing a release of liability waiver. There would be safety statements in the permit text, such as no-selfies, no climbing on scenic rock formations, and no high surf loitering, avoid tidal rocks and algae covered rocks, wear sturdy shoes, etc.

Because there is potential loss of life and risk for rescue, there would be a fine for violating the zone without a permit or the equipment. This calls for enforcement and the addition of park personnel, perhaps a couple of junior rangers during peak seasons.



Comments:

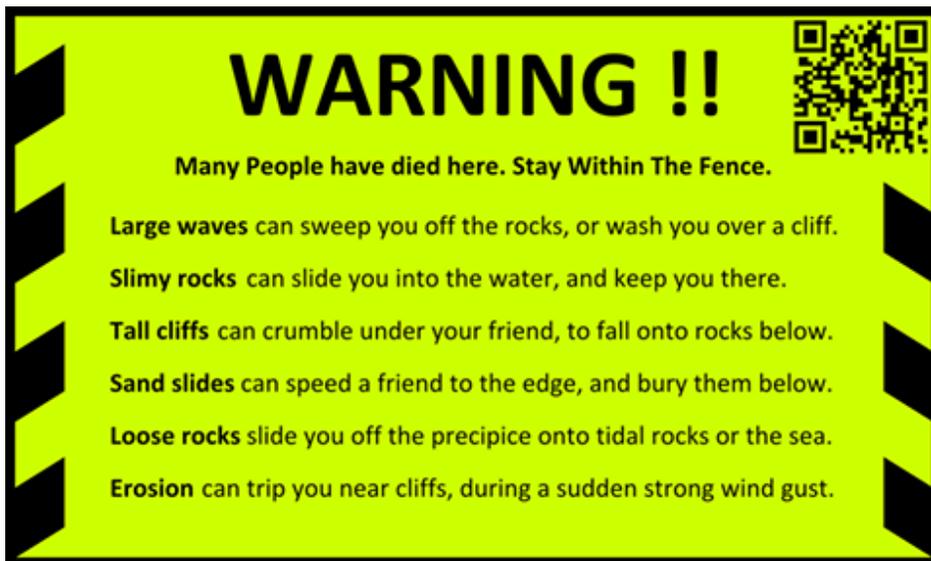
[Ellen Heaton](#) I don't think the life vest will do much good once their heads smack into the rocks a few times! It might make finding the body a little easier .

[Roger Reddekopp](#) Nope - Just more unenforcable laws and money spent in my mind. Many of the accidents do not happen in "Peak" season. Calling for help is usually too late to do any

good. Very few people ever rescued. Often friends end up in the water with them. Everyone wants to help the problem - keep Barnstorming for ideas but I personally don't think this is very feasible short of having a Enforcement person on duty all daylight hours year around issuing permits - checking for proper attire etc. and 2 or 3 more to keep people out of the dangerous areas.

[Kiwanda Angels](#)

This is an idea for a sign could replace the current 3'x5' park information sign of the hazards. The QR Code links to the online memorial (currently www.facebook/kiwandaangels). This sign leaves out the controversial word 'danger'. The best locations for these might be near the sandy trail just left of the south sand hill, on the sandhill ridge, and near the sandy trail on the north side.



Comments:

[Amber Rose Howard](#) maybe something about being sucked into under water caverns in which theres no escape when you do fall

[Theresa Larkins](#) maybe "if you fall , it's going to hurt like hell all the way to the bottom, and then you drown.

[Kari Neese Owens](#) The undercurrent is deadly too.

[Kiwanda Angels](#) I added the undercurrent hazard, but needs refinement.

[Kari Neese Owens](#) This looks great!

[Betty Owens](#) The word undercurrents needs to be bold. It's something people can't see and forget about.

[Betty Owens](#) Ops see its bolded.

[Kiwanda Angels](#) shared [Paige Polzin's photo](#).



[Paige Polzin](#) to [Kiwanda Angels](#)

I lived in PC for 8 years and have seen and yelled at mostly teenagers numerous times for getting close to the edge of the cape. They of coarse roll their eyes ...

Comments:

[Kiwanda Angels](#) What a great idea, especially surrounding the punch bowl. The queens bath plaques appear to be made of concrete from a mold.

[TW Moore](#) Don't wait for government agencies to do this at the Cape!

[Kiwanda Angels](#) As a photographer, are you game for these low profile messages, or not for it? And are you suggesting these messages be installed without state consent, or just saying that the state probably won't be interested in signage other than their typical post style? -thank you

[Patrick Ireton](#) We need a sign like this one. Makes you pay attention.



Related to Statesman editorial (<http://stjr.nl/1pjiEUf>)

[James Mayfield](#)

It's an IQ test, simple as that. We shouldn't worry about the people who fail it.

[Carey Brown](#) · [Pacific City, Oregon](#)

A lot of us here in Pacific City are worried when the local water rescue team members who end up risking their lives because someone acted stupidly up there.

[Carey Brown](#) · [Pacific City, Oregon](#)

Very well researched article with logical conclusions. We could put up a sign which says "It's has been this many days since someone died climbing the Cape." I live in Pacific City. When you hear the Coast Guard helicopter circling for a long time, you know some family is going to hear sad news. A tall pig wire fence with sharp endings on the posts would be much more effective than that joke of a fence which is up there now.

[Spencer Mahnkey](#) · [Salem, Oregon](#)

There is no cure for stupidity. There should be a better fence, but some will try and climb over it anyway.

[Kari Neese Owens](#) · [Ballard High School](#)

My daughter is the one who died on Feb. 1 2016. I know she made a poor choice, but in all fairness calling her stupid is just hurtful. She was a very smart girl. But lets remember the frontal lobe of the brain is also the decision making part which is not fully developed until they are in the mid 20's. It won't happen to me thought is pretty big with the young adult crowd. I wish everyday she didn't fall in the water and get washed out by a wave, but her friends made it out, and lots of others have safely made it over and back. I do not believe a sign will deter everyone, but if a sign that says something about those that have died, deters a few people, then it is worth it. Put a sharp fence, that discourages climbing over it. So what if it blocks the view. There are designated viewing locations. But stop calling people stupid. It just makes you look ignorant. I hope you don't lose someone to a poor choice and have to listen to people make comments about how "stupid" they are.

Comments by email on following pages

To: SUMPTION Lisa * OPRD
Subject: RE: Constituent Services - Cape Kiwanda

*Dear Governor Brown,
I would like to schedule a meeting with you regarding serious safety issues at Cape Kiwanda. 5 lives have been lost since June 2015, including my son in July. I have been in contact with Senator Roblan's office and will be working on something for next session. The sense of urgency is real! In 1972 Governor McCall stepped in to help arrange for immediate safety features. I believe if we wait until next session we will continue to see more lives lost in this dangerous area. Private groups are trying to implement plans of their own but we need the State to step up and I believe we need your help to do it! Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.*

*Sincerely,
Julie Lethin-Keyser*

To Lisa Sumption,
Director
lisa.sumption@oregon.gov

To Pete Marvin,
Cape Lookout and Cape Kiwanda Park Manager
pete.marvin@oregon.gov
503-842-3182 ext. 222

From Rick Cunningham
rentals@sandlaketsunamiatvrental.com
503-965-6572

Dear Pete Marvin,
Dear Lisa Sumption,

There is a contradictory flaw at the sign/barrier/fence in the Cape Kiwanda State Natural Area that must be addressed immediately before Spring Break. I feel strongly that this lifesaving precaution will prevent another fatality. I can rally up some labor if the Oregon State Parks Department will provide the materials. Many of us are eager to help, including a contractor with his company labor. Waiting until after the March 17 meeting to deal with this and other important safety concerns may pose too late. The general public has an ant line to the end of the cape and to the Punch Bowl.

<https://www.facebook.com/kiwandaangels/photos/a.1541018316228996.1073741836.1526693027661525/1541018326228995/?type=3&theater>

Rotate the small danger sign so that it faces perpendicular to the fence, like the other small danger signs.

Close the gap at both ends of the barrier. The general public accepts that a gap is an entrance. If they see that an official line closes off the gap then they might know that this line is not to be crossed. Use temporary orange safety netting until the school break is over. And if you have another 1210' of the netting we will be glad to run it along the existing cable fence line, from gap to gap.

Remove the large warning sign from the south gap and place it centrally in the sandy valley, facing traffic heading from the sandy trail toward the fenced viewpoint and in a level area comfortable for people to stand and pause to read it.

Remove the smaller warning sign from the north gap and place it centered in the safe zone at the ridge of the big sand hill, facing traffic as they finish climbing, and in a level area comfortable for people to stand and pause to read it.

Sincerely,
Rick Cunningham

To Lisa Sumption,
Director
lisa.sumption@oregon.gov

Chris Havel
Associate Director
chris.havel@oregon.gov
(503) 986-0722

To Pete Marvin,
Cape Lookout and Cape Kiwanda Park Manager
pete.marvin@oregon.gov
503-842-3182 ext. 222

From Rick Cunningham
rentals@sandlaketsunamiatvrental.com
503-965-6572

March 11, 2016

Dear Lisa Sumption,
Dear Chris Havel,
Dear Pete Marvin,

Like Mr. Ray Atkeson, and through his letters we have the opportunity to learn from the past, I hope that Cape Kiwanda will be enjoyed into the future by all and be as safe as reasonable for the time.

And unfortunately, as he mentioned, there will continue to be deaths as new recreations emerge and technologies become easier to share and review them. The information age allows us a tour from our chair or blog a trip down the coast. As the population increases, new and exciting adventures will be proclaimed by the new tourism industry, set in motion to grow visitation and the local economy.

I read through the current Kiwanda Park background letter with the proposed options. I reflected on all that I learned from everyone's comments written to my facebook Kiwanda Angels page. I feel there should be another option or combination of the options offered, and here is why. The times have changed. Technology may be part of the culprit, but I am happy to use it for this purpose.

The new generation is invincible. They want to be first to do the new thing, the thing not done before, or do it better or different. They want the spotlight. They want the likes and to be followed. Their phone is their life, a camera to their soul, a call or text away from friends. They are engrossed in the imaginary moment and semi present in their environment. They push the limits to prove they were there, and brag about the sign they chose to ignore when they return. They band together, ramp each other up, tear each other down, form their opinions quickly and change another's with peer pressure.

Of course the headland of the cape is extremely dangerous and will continue to be a danger to the general public at large, accessing areas they are not familiar with, in the absence of a nearly complete meandering perimeter barrier from north to south. I have read the comments on my page and the online news. Regular visitors such as locals, photographers, and families who vacation every year are

usually cognizant of the dangers, and some hike past the barriers. But I feel their presence in the restricted area adds to the collective, as visitors ignorant to the dangers feel they are just as entitled to be there too, signs or not. And then there is frustration with photographers and hikers interested in an unfenced natural park, in contrast to providing the utmost safety possible with restrictions and well placed warning signage that reasonably would be the less cost than a rescue and help prevent lost lives.

I feel that a combination of freedoms and restrictions, along with a formalized permitting program would be beneficial to this or any Oregon coastal state park, or can be useful in other state parks where dangers have increased. The ATV permitting program and flag law is a great example, in my opinion.

I feel strongly that preparation is the only consent that should allow anyone into restricted or dangerous areas. Proper equipment, education, a backup plan, and safety measure is key. There would be a Cape Rule that no one be allowed one step beyond any barrier or semi-barrier. Deem it a No-Hike Zone, off limits to the public. A special use permit, for commercial or scientific research, is required for access. Other reasons could be considered, case by case. The special use permit would be granted after requirements are met, such as completing a safety education card. Some of the requirements to be in the Cape Kiwanda No-Hike Zone could be wearing a marine approved high visibility life vest, have a buddy system, each having the ability and device to call 911, and signing a release of liability waiver.

Because there is potential loss of life and risk for rescue, there would be a fine for violating the zone without a permit or the equipment. This calls for enforcement and the addition of park personnel, perhaps a couple of junior rangers during peak seasons. I believe that just their presence will keep a good portion of the visitors to pay attention to the signs. My wife, Ann, and I experienced this behavior first hand when we were doing fieldwork along the fence, me with my clipboard and her wearing a bright chartreuse fire coat. Hikers instantly turned and corrected their route to the safe side of the fence. But rangers could actively check for permit holders and inform or educate the public of the hazards. Signage for the permit requirement and a descriptive warning of the dangers would be prominent near the park entrance and base of the north and south hills along with other signage, but not lost.

I am currently working on specific sign designs for the areas and a retrofit fence layout.

I noticed from the google map view three distinct animal shapes that amusingly resemble animals, so in discussions with Ann, I found that we referenced these areas as such after a little orientation on the aerial view. The Seahorse is the prominent cape to the south, a Lynx a little farther north between Punch Bowl and salal hill, and the Sleeping Dragon lays to the north. Less restrictive barriers such as the current post and cable fence could outline a safe buffer zone from south to north. It begins with a broad then narrow trail about the first third of the Seahorse with a viewpoint east of the tree line looking east and a small viewpoint in the tail looking south. I think the current south fence gap should be closed as there is a severe erosion tripping hazard next to the cliff. As a matter of fact, that whole steep erosion band should be avoided for a fence-led path. It is difficult to walk on and most people I observed while up there like to walk along the fence. Pulling up and relocating that portion of the barrier to follow the sandy path on up the edge of the sand may work well. I think a small fence should be used to prevent anyone from accidentally being led up the hill on the wrong side of the fence. The current cable fence seems to work as is for the area of the Lynx, again extending the fence line to close the north gap. The Sleeping Dragon area could be safety fenced along the ridge of the sand slide, with a narrowed path down to a viewpoint at the belly, switch-backing to the high northern viewpoint at the neck.

But, this is the general public near dangers and beauty, where parents are engrossed in the view and have children on the ground. And this is a sandstone headland melting away year after year. The Oregon State Park has the job to balance recreation and protection of the land, now and into the future, evaluating to meet the needs of the time. Signs whether read, fences whether barring, must be designed and erected to fit the need at hand and maintained for the general public at large who do pay attention. That is the moral thing to do. But I would go one step further and add a No-Hike zone law with the special use permit as described above. That is the right thing to do.

Sincerely,

Rick Cunningham

From: [Linda Morley](#)
To: [HAVEL Chris](#) * OPRD; [SEN Roblan](#)
Subject: Preventing deaths at Cape Kiwanda
Date: Friday, March 04, 2016 8:45:44 AM

The part of the human brain responsible for good judgment and the ability to anticipate consequences does not develop fully until the early to mid-20s; sooner for females, later for males.

Many in this age group view warning signs as a challenge. They are unable to personalize the danger because their brains are not yet able to fully comprehend and appreciate how it relates to them or anyone like them.

Posting photos and brief bios of past victims at the site would probably be more effective because it would make the danger more tangible.

Rather than expecting the warning sign to process through a part of the brain that is not yet fully developed, it would process through a different part of the brain that is relational. People relate to people.

Adding website addresses to the photos or barcodes with hyperlinks to memorial websites for the victims or to the StatesmanJournal story would amplify the impact.

<http://www.statesmanjournal.com/story/news/2016/03/03/seven-deaths-cape-kiwanda-spark-inquiry/81280180/>

Every one of the teenagers and young adults trespassing beyond the fence is likely to have a smart phone in their pocket that is able to read barcodes or look up websites. In this way, it is the victims themselves who warn of the danger.

I imagine the victims' families and friends would appreciate an opportunity, via a website, to share their memories of the victims and how their lives have been impacted since their loved one died, especially if it might prevent another tragedy.

Linda L Morley, PMHNP
Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner
Office hours vary. Office is closed Thurs & Fri
4035 12th Street Cutoff, Suite 140
Salem, OR 97302
appointments & billing: 503-391-7250
phone: 503-585-1008
fax: (866) 262-1650
email: LindaMorley1@gmail.com



Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
Cape Kiwanda Safety
Cape Kiwanda Community Center
11:15 a.m., March 17, 2016

Sign-in sheet – please print neatly

First name	Last name	Mailing or email address	Check if speaking
Belinda	Williams	belindaj.mk@gmail.com	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rosemary	Firestone	rosemary.p.firestone@uscg.mil	<input type="checkbox"/>
Danny	Keyser	Keyserdan@outlook.com	<input type="checkbox"/>
Katie	Gauthier	Katie_gauthier@merkleysenat.ga	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rick	CUNNINGHAM	rentals@sandlakesunamiatvrental.com	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
MIKE STEIN		OPRD	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cari Bayd	Bayd	OSP- Newport	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dennis	Comfort	OPRD	<input type="checkbox"/>

First name	Last name	Mailing or email address	Check if speaking
0 Temera	Porter	temera5@yahoo.com	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Julie	Lethin-Keyser	julielkeyser@outlook.com	<input type="checkbox"/>
Barb	Taylor	barbtt@centurylink.net	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
0 Ann	Cunningham	ann.cunningham@live.com	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Don	GROTSJAN	TRITANO@EMAIL.COM	<input type="checkbox"/>
MARK	Ellsworth	GOVERNOR'S OFFICE	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jim	Kusz	NORTH LINCOLN FIRE/RESCUE	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alyna	Desmond	hazza11hazza@gmail.com	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
JON	WARREN	DEARMAN@GMAIL.COM	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cheri	Scheelar	cherischeelar@gmail.com	<input type="checkbox"/>

First name	Last name	Mailing or email address	Check if speaking
① Nancy	Bush	P.O. Box 573 Pacific City	<input type="checkbox"/>
① Dan	Shesidan	Po Box 777 Nestkwin 97149	<input type="checkbox"/>
① Doug	Olson	PO Box 1000 AC	<input type="checkbox"/>
James	Loda	6620 SE 63rd Ave Portland 97206	<input type="checkbox"/>
SANDY	WEEFMAN	SLW936 AT COMCAST-NET	<input type="checkbox"/>
Doug	KERR	North Lincoln Fire P.O. Box 200, Lincoln City 97367	<input type="checkbox"/>
① Sarah	Kingsborough	18955 Nestucca Dr Clatskanie OR 97112 Sarahkingsborough@gmail.com	X

	First name	Last name	Mailing or email address	Check if speaking
①	Bob	Horning	Bob@horningshideout.com	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Carolyn	McVicker	mcvicker@teleport.com	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Robyn	LAMPA	rlampa@embargmail.com	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Wil	Lampa	wlampa@embargmail.com	<input type="checkbox"/>
②	Jennifer	Wright	jjustine@msn.com.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Geoff	Ostrove	gbo@uoregon.edu	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Stevie Stephens	Burden	steviesburden@gmail.com	
	Robert	Kliever	KlieverFlooring@yahoo.com	
	Chris	Lehman	clehman@opb.org	
③	MARIE	HEIMBURG	mheimbur@co.tillamook.or.us	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Cape Kiwanda Safety

Cape Kiwanda Community Center

11:15 a.m., March 17, 2016

Sign-in sheet – please print neatly

First name	Last name	Mailing or email address	Check if speaking
MARV	MAZUR	peacenow-1@yahoo.com	<input type="checkbox"/>
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RONALD	WOSTOWIEZ	6605 PACIFIC OVERLOOK DRIVE N.E. STONIN	<input type="checkbox"/>
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DAN	Doyle	ddoyle1974@gmail.com	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ginger	Slavens	29155 Moon Ck Rd BEAVER OR 97108	<input type="checkbox"/>
Garry	Link	PO Box 576 33820 Rip Tide DR Pacific City, OR 97135	<input type="checkbox"/> ?
		Jellean Cox-Rouse	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>

First name	Last name	Mailing or email address	Check if speaking
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Ann	Gutho	P.O. Box 404 Pacific City OR 97135	<input type="checkbox"/>
Anne	Price	neighboranne@icloud.com	<input type="checkbox"/>
TIM	Jos	T Josi Co. Tillamook OR, US	<input type="checkbox"/>
Andy	Long	along@co.tillamook.or.us	<input type="checkbox"/>
LEN	LEIS	LEN@TRIPLELRANCH.NET	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Kyle	Linhares	kjlinhares@gmail.com	<input type="checkbox"/>
Matthew	Stephens	P.O. Box 635 Pacific City Or	<input type="checkbox"/>
Larry	Roux	Bx 1094 TPC 97135	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>

①

If you wish to serve on Advisory Committee

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CAPE KIWANDA SAFETY

WHEREAS, The Cape Kiwanda State Recreation Area has become a very popular and dangerous tourist attraction resulting in 2 deaths in February 2016, and 5 deaths in 2015; and

WHEREAS, the current barrier fence is aging and easy to go around or through to the cliffs. The "danger do not go beyond this point" sign is not sufficiently preventing people from going around either; and

WHEREAS, local emergency services are being taxed with more frequent needs for rescues and recoveries by individuals who are not realizing the severity of the dangers imminent at Cape Kiwanda; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that we support a new or extended fence, barrier, or blockade that will prevent people from going around to the dangerous points on Cape Kiwanda which will save lives and protect this beautiful natural resource; and be it further

RESOLVED, that signage in the Cape Kiwanda State Recreation Area more appropriately reflect the significant dangers of the cliffs including a memorial for those who have lost their lives on the cape; and be it further

RESOLVED, that information published on the Oregon State Parks website and other travel websites about Cape Kiwanda include appropriate safety warnings.

Adopted by Sandra Grange

Date: 3/1/2016

Secretary: Shirley M. Heer

Master: [Signature]

Cape Kiwanda State Natural Area



DANGEROUS AREA For Your Safety:

- Beware of Unstable Areas
Erosion and Shifting Sand
- Stay Back from Cliff Edges
- Be Alert for High Waves

These People Ignored This Sign and Died
Please Do Not Add To This Sign

April 2014, James Alejandro 25 year old male

June 2014, Rick Nelson 17 year old male

July 2015, Sean Yamaguchi 22 year old male

July 2015, Elise Dickey 18 year old female

Feb 2016, Megan Owens 17 year old female

Feb 2016, David Lopez 19 year old male

Coastal Jetties

Coastal Jetties were constructed to aid ships traveling between rivers and the ocean, and were never intended to be used for recreational purposes. Sudden large waves, even on calm days, can knock a person into the water; strong currents exist near jetties, slippery rock surfaces are an additional hazard & sinkholes caused by eroding of stones and sand can cause collapse. **BE BEACH SMART:** Stay off coastal rock jetties.

Know your Limits and the Rules

Tragic water accidents can happen quickly. The most common reason for aquatic mishaps is a lack of safety knowledge. Follow these safety tips:

- Remember, the ocean is not a swimming pool, always wear a USCG approved flotation device.
- Never play at the beach alone.
- Supervise children closely and keep them away from the surf.
- If caught in a rip current, swim sideways until free, don't swim against the pull of the current.
- Never turn your back to the ocean--you may be swept off coastal bluffs or tide pool areas and into the water by waves that can come without warning.
- If you are in trouble, call or wave for help.
- Follow Oregon State Parks warnings and regulations.
- Avoid using glass containers at the beach -- broken glass and bare feet don't mix.
- Keep beach fires small and only in designated areas. Fire residue and superheated sand can severely burn bare feet and large fires can burn for days and threaten homes with embers picked up by coastal winds.
- Report hazardous conditions to the Oregon State Parks immediately.
- Stay clear of coastal bluffs, they can collapse and cause injury.

Want to Learn More?

Ask yourself: Are you SET for the next natural disaster to hit?

If not, to assist you in understanding and preparing for natural threats to our region, North Lincoln Fire & Rescue District #1 has established the Severe Event Training (S.E.T.) book. This book will help you plan for different disasters such as winter storms, floods, wildfires, earthquakes and tsunamis.

The S.E.T. book helps you plan ways to "weather" these events and create different strategies for your unique situation.

North Lincoln Fire & Rescue District #1 has used the books at lectures about disaster preparedness to civic organizations, schools and businesses.

You can pick up a copy at North Lincoln Fire & Rescue's Administrative Station.

For more information, you can contact:

Capt. Jim Kusz

North Lincoln Fire & Rescue

541-996-2233

Sponsored By:



www.usia.com

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J.A.W.S.

Just Add Water Safety



Beach Safety Guide



PO Box 200
Lincoln City, OR 97367
541-996-2233

Just Add Water Safety

People seem to fear what lurks deep in the ocean. In reality, there is very little to fear undersea or on our beaches, if you take a few little precautions.

Our coast is a fascinating and beautiful place to visit. The sound of the waves, the sand under your feet and smell of the ocean is almost magical as you play in the surf, explore tide pools or hunt for shells or glass floats. People forget just how powerful the ocean is and make mistakes that can turn a pleasant day at the beach into a tragedy.

Here are a few tips to help you
“BE BEACH SMART”!

Sneaker Waves

They appear without warning, often surging high up on the beach with deadly force, and are impossible to predict. Sneaker waves also carry a large amount of sand that can saturate your clothes, weighing you down and making escape difficult if not impossible.

BE BEACH SMART: Never turn your back on the ocean.

Logs

The ocean is strong enough to pick up even the biggest log and place it down on top of you. Some logs might look small, but even tiny ones can be waterlogged and weigh tons. It only takes 4 inches of water to move a 5-ton log!

BE BEACH SMART: If you see a log in the surf or on wet sand, stay off it.

High Tides & Waves

Tides and waves can sweep over rocks, jetties and headlands, knocking you off and carrying you out to sea.

BE BEACH SMART: Assume nothing is “high enough” and avoid exposed rocks, jetties and headlands during strong wave action.

Rip Currents

Rip currents are strong currents of water that rush out to sea. They are stronger than even the best swimmer. These currents can swiftly sweep unwary beachcombers and waders off their feet and out to sea. Rip currents may appear as dark, choppy water.

BE BEACH SMART: Parents, keep your kids close when playing in the ocean. If caught in a rip current, don't panic. Swim parallel to the beach until you are out of the current, then head for the beach.

Know the Tides

Incoming tides isolate rocks from headlands and the shore. Avoid the temptation of strolling out to an interesting rock without knowing when the tide rolls back in. Free tide tables are readily available at state park offices, information centers and many shops, motels, restaurants and some local papers.

BE BEACH SMART: Stay off rocks and small, enclosed beaches. Know when the tide is coming in by picking up a tide table.

Beware of Cliffs

Assume that all cliff edges are unstable. Wet trails or soft sand and earth can make for unstable footing. Rocks can be slippery even when it isn't raining.

BE BEACH SMART: Make sure you wear proper footwear, and stick to the trails. Stay behind fences and railings, and do not get too close to the edge.

Look Up

Standing at the base of an ocean-side cliff can be dangerous, especially if it has an overhang. In some places, winter storms and high waves have eroded the shoreline, increasing the chance of collapse and slides.

BE BEACH SMART: Beware of falling rocks, and do not climb on bluffs or eroding hillsides. Do not walk along the base of cliffs.

Tsunamis

The Oregon, Washington and northern California coast has some of the most scenic vistas in the world. Much of this beauty has been made by seasonal rains, pounding waves and seismic activity. Research indicates that tsunamis have struck the Oregon coast on a regular basis.

A tsunami (Japanese for “harbor wave”) is a series of waves, usually caused by a displacement of the ocean floor by an undersea earthquake or landslide. As tsunamis enter shallow water near land, they increase in height and can cause great loss of life and property damage.

We distinguish between a tsunami caused by an undersea earthquake in two ways: an undersea earthquake near the coast that we feel creates a “local tsunami” and one far away from our coast that we don't feel creates a “distant tsunami”.

Local Tsunami

A local tsunami could come ashore within 15-20 minutes after a quake—before there is time for any official warning. The ground shaking from the earthquake may be the only warning you have. Do not pack or delay; evacuate quickly!

- Drop, cover and hold on until the earthquake is over.
- Move immediately inland to higher ground.
- Go on foot if at all possible.
- Do not wait for an official warning.
- Wait to hear from local emergency officials before returning to low lying areas.

BE BEACH SMART: Find out where the nearest high ground is from your location and practice your evacuation routes on foot. A tsunami can occur any time, day or night, so know where to go!

Get a free map at www.OregonTsunami.org

Distant Tsunami

A distant tsunami may take 3 to 4 hours or more to come ashore. You will feel no earthquake. Typically, there is time for an official warning and evacuation to safety. If you hear a continuous siren wail for more than a minute, it is a tsunami warning. Turn your radio to 102.7 FM or check your NOAA weather radio tuned to frequency 162.55 for further information. **If you're in the hazard zone, evacuate to higher ground!**

BE BEACH SMART: Know if you are in a tsunami zone. Pick up a tsunami evacuation map at North Lincoln Fire & Rescue or at City Hall or go to www.OregonTsunami.org