

# Devil's Punchbowl State Natural Area



A hollow rock formation shaped like a huge punchbowl filled with churning seawater gives this park its name. It was likely formed by two collapsed sea caves that fill with water as the tide crashes in and slams against the remaining walls. The surf churns, foams and swirls as it mixes a violent brew.

The park is full of surfers and surf watchers. It's a popular whale watching site and scenic picnic spot atop the undulating rocky shoreline. The beach to the south is a popular surfer's destination while the north side offers tidepools at the Otter Crest Marine Gardens.



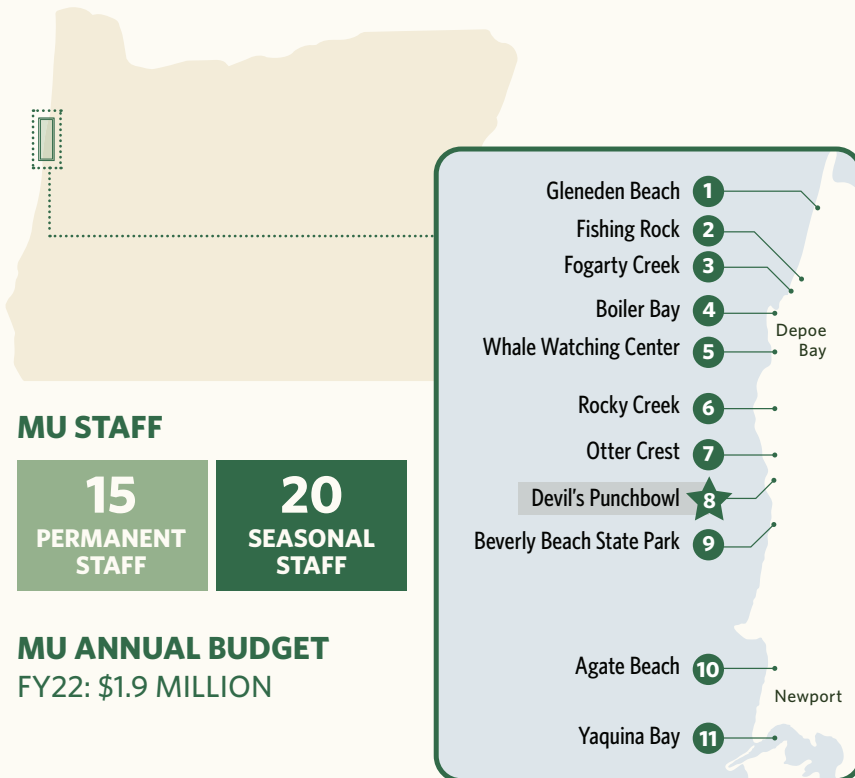
## CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Devil's Punchbowl is so well loved by residents and visitors that it has created some conflicts between user groups. The park is located within the small community of Otter Crest, and despite the park having three parking areas, cars still spill into the neighborhoods. The parking issue, among others, requires a diplomatic touch and a good relationship with Lincoln County so that messaging to the unincorporated neighborhood is the same from OPRD and Lincoln County. There is also conflict among multiple user groups: surfers, wildlife viewers, commercial business owners, beachgoers and visitors just wanting to see the punchbowl. The effort is to create a happy medium. In addition to crowding, the park also faces erosion issues. The beach accesses to the Marine Gardens are eroding from the high tides, and at the same time landslides from above are sliding onto the access. The fence line is also eroding. As for opportunities, the Friends of Otter Rock is a new group that OPRD helped get off the ground. Their main purpose is to educate visitors about the natural and wildlife features of the park for the protection of the Marine Reserve and nesting Black Oystercatchers.

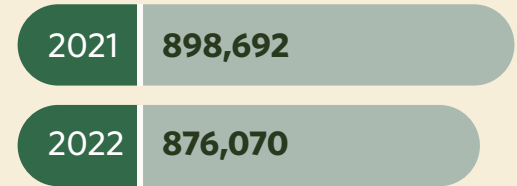


## BEVERLY BEACH MANAGEMENT UNIT

Devil's Punchbowl is a day-use property within the Beverly Beach Management Unit. The management unit also manages a nearly 300-campsite campground, a water treatment plant and a sewage treatment plant, the Depoe Bay Whale Watching Center and several parks and viewpoints known for year-round opportunities to see whales on the Oregon Coast. These popular whale-watching sites include Devil's Punchbowl State Natural Area, Rocky Creek State Scenic Viewpoint and Boiler Bay State Scenic Viewpoint. Every year the MU organizes two Whale Watch Week events, which includes recruiting and training up to 400 volunteers and organizing and managing the coast-wide program. In addition, the management unit includes three historic buildings, including Yaquina Bay Lighthouse, and natural wonders such as the collapsed sea cave Devil's Punchbowl and the nearby Otter Crest Marine Gardens brimming with tidepools.



## DEVIL'S PUNCHBOWL VISITATION\*



\*per calendar year



**56%**  
FROM OREGON\*\*

\*\*2017

