

June 9, 2003  
Stretch Island, Puget Sound

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St. Charles Winery, now home to a private museum, and a moderately visionary writer with neighborhood dogs for collective character.

Dear Renee:

It has been awhile since I have surfaced around the issues and opportunities of "interpreting vastness", something that I was attempting to understand when NOAA and the National Geographic were doing their own version of popularizing the ocean with "Sustainable Seas".

I have put 94,000 miles on a Ford Explorer driving the backroads of Colorado, Utah, Arizona, Washington, Oregon and California since late 1999. That is when I first began a process of personal "discovery" of detailed places located in the midst of huge expanses of land, or water. Far less nautical miles have been put on my kayaks around the marsh and river edges of Puget Sound and the Columbia. And some considerable walking achievements as well.

I have sent you a copy of the initial brochure describing the California Coastal National Monument, the Bureau of Land Management string of tiny rocks and islands located just off the California shore, out to 12 nautical miles. I have been working on that project since early last summer, finding the places, and the partners that would make it both a protected place, and a treasured one.

And I split my time about half-and-half between Monterey and Danville, California, and rural parts of Puget Sound near to Gig Harbor and Bainbridge Island, Washington. Both the California Department of Fish and Game and the California Department of Parks and Recreation are partners in the first stages of implementing this monument.

It is apparent that a number of land trusts, universities, school districts, communities and counties, and businesses will eventually end up as participants. If we take the lead on a website covering the entire length of the coast of California, it is likely that it will be more links to the work of others than it will be original research supported by BLM.

But the links issue has brought my awareness back to your project, and so I thought that it might be time to share thoughts at your campus. Or with your other project principals at U. C. Santa Barbara, Stanford or U. C. Santa Cruz. Certainly at your convenience.

Summer regards, from beachfront oyster tidelands, and the oldest winery in Washington State,



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