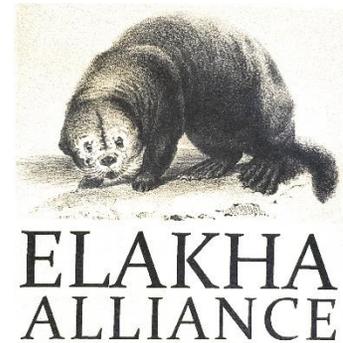


March 14, 2018

Elakha Alliance
PO Box 704
Siletz, Oregon 97380



Louise Solliday, Chair
Oregon Ocean Science Trust
775 Summer St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Ocean Science Trust Members:

I am writing to inform you that the Elakha Alliance has been recently formally organized to advocate for the restoration of sea otters and Oregon's nearshore marine ecosystem and to invite your support for a status of knowledge scientific symposium we are planning.

As our board and I have talked with many individuals, groups, and agencies about sea otters on the Oregon coast, we have come to understand that there are a host of scientific research questions that need to be answered to plan for the future return of sea otters to Oregon. We believe a first step is to convene research scientists, agency experts, and others to discuss the current level of knowledge of sea otters on the Oregon coast and elsewhere along the Pacific coast, keystone relationships and impacts of sea otters on the nearshore ecosystem, and potential effects on ocean users and coastal communities. We see this as necessary to identify key information gaps and potential research needs. We are currently planning to convene a symposium for late September 2018 in Newport, Oregon.

There appears to be a strong coincidence of research interests of the Elakha Alliance related to sea otters and nearshore ecosystems and the research interests of the Ocean Science Trust to support sustainable management of Oregon's nearshore marine environment. For this reason I wanted let you know of our plans and invite you to support this symposium. We have received expressions of support from the Oregon Coast Aquarium, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, OSU Marine Mammal Lab, Coquille Indians, and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz and are currently seeking funding to underwrite costs.

I have attached a two-page document that explains a bit about the Elakha Alliance and its membership and mission. I would be pleased to answer any questions at your next meeting..

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Bailey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" and last name "Bailey" clearly legible.

Robert Bailey, President
Board of Directors
Elakha Alliance

Attachment