

Living at the light

"Laborers painting the roof of workshop and store & chicken house. Also putting wire on fence around bluff."

Keepers' Log, Yaquina Head Light Station, September 13, 1889



The light at Yaquina Head was first lit on August 20, 1873. At that time, the stately tower stood alongside a two-story keepers' dwelling, a barn, and outbuildings.

First keeper

The first keeper, Fayette Crosby, served here for just two years. Crosby was Oregon's first lighthouse keeper. He began service in 1857 at the Umpqua River Lighthouse.

Routine and duty

Maintaining a shipshape station was the primary duty of the lighthouse keepers. Days were filled with polishing, cleaning, and repairing, as well as tending gardens and livestock.

Yaquina Head Lighthouse was automated in 1966, ending the era of station attendants.

Fred J. Booth,
Assistant Keeper
1914-18



Partners in protection and management

The Bureau of Land Management manages and interprets the site, including the Interpretive Center and lighthouse, while the lighthouse lantern is operated by the U.S. Coast Guard. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service monitors off-shore bird rookeries and wildlife, and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife manages intertidal animals. The Oregon Department of State Lands is responsible for the intertidal land.

Join all of these agencies by doing what you can to help preserve and protect Yaquina Head.

Watch for messages on signs that tell you how you can be a "partner in protection."



Hours of Operation

Yaquina Head, open from dawn to dusk, is three miles (5 km) north of Newport on the Oregon Coast, off Highway 101. The Interpretive Center is open daily, but times change during different seasons. There are nominal fees for lighthouse tours and for the Interpretive Center's exhibit hall. Please call or write for details.



Bureau of Land Management

Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area
Post Office Box 936
Newport, Oregon 97365
541 574-3100

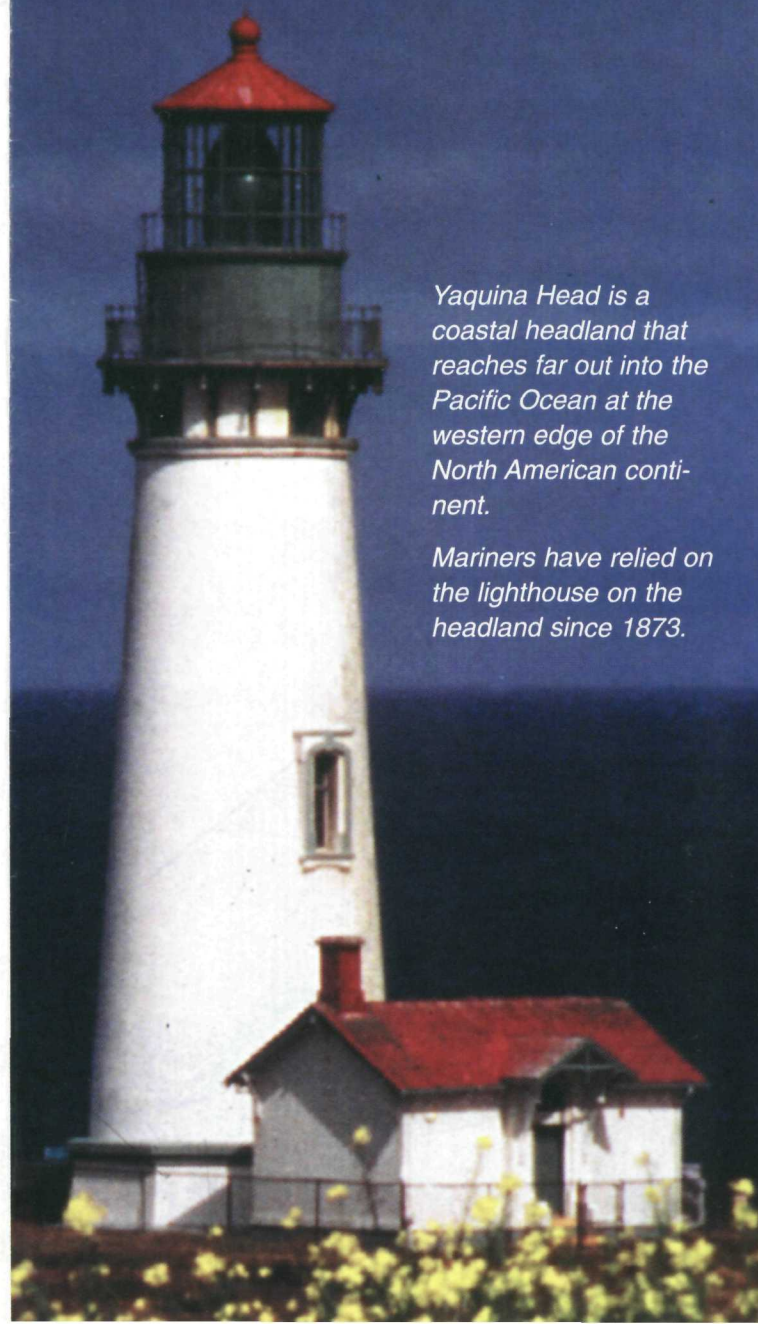
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BLM/OR/WA/GI-97/034-1122.33



Bureau of Land Management

Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area



Yaquina Head is a coastal headland that reaches far out into the Pacific Ocean at the western edge of the North American continent.

Mariners have relied on the lighthouse on the headland since 1873.

Welcome to Yaquina Head

"It is perfectly bare of timber, extends one mile out from the beach, and consists of two conical hills . . ."

Alexander W. Chase,
U.S. Coast Survey, July, 1868

The lighthouse, trails throughout the area, and the Interpretive Center offer many opportunities to explore and discover life at a coastal headland.



Archaeological "dig," 1989

Visitors before

Learn about those who have been here before – artists, scientists, workers, explorers, Native Americans, as well as archaeologists who discovered evidence that people had used this site 4,000 years ago.

Abundant life

Whales, seals, puffins, murres, cormorants, pelicans, and rocky shore intertidal organisms are some of the wildlife you may see in their natural environment.



Harbor seal

Watch the whales go by

Yaquina Head is among the best places along the coast to look for migrating gray whales.

They can be seen from March through May during their northward migration to summer feeding grounds in the Arctic.

A few whales usually remain in this area throughout the summer.

From December to early February, whales pass the headland on their southern migration to breeding and birthing grounds in Baja California.

Harbor seals

Harbor seals live here year round, and are usually seen on or around Seal Island. Look for them from Cobble Beach.



Common murre

Seabirds and shorebirds

Each year, thousands of seabirds nest at Yaquina Head.

Pelagic and Brandt's cormorants, black oystercatchers, glaucous-winged gulls and western gulls live here year-round.

Other birds you might see include common murre, brown pelicans, surf scoters, tufted puffins, pigeon guillemots and rhinoceros auklets.

Historic lighthouse

Completed in 1873, the Yaquina Head Lighthouse has been called one of the most beautiful lighthouses in America. The first-order light is visible 19 miles (31 km) out to sea.



Sunflower star

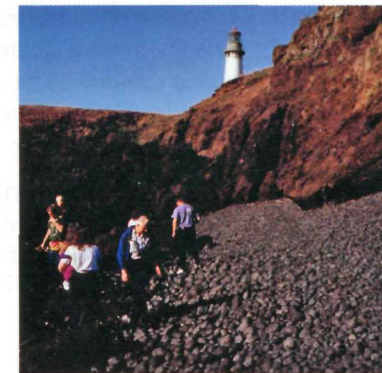
Quarry Cove Tide Pools

In 1992–94, the BLM reclaimed a rock quarry by making it into a rocky intertidal area, and watched to see who would move in! This intertidal area has evolved naturally, and today supports a range of marine organisms – from seaweeds to shore crabs.



Marine Gardens at Cobble Beach

Count all the intertidal creatures and compare our created intertidal area with the rugged, naturally formed rocky intertidal at Cobble Beach. Watch for shorebirds, too!



Yaquina Head Interpretive Center

The Interpretive Center features exhibits on seabirds, marine and intertidal life as well as human history on the headland.

Interpretive exhibits

From the wheelhouse of an historic ship to a recreated rocky island and its inhabitants to a full-

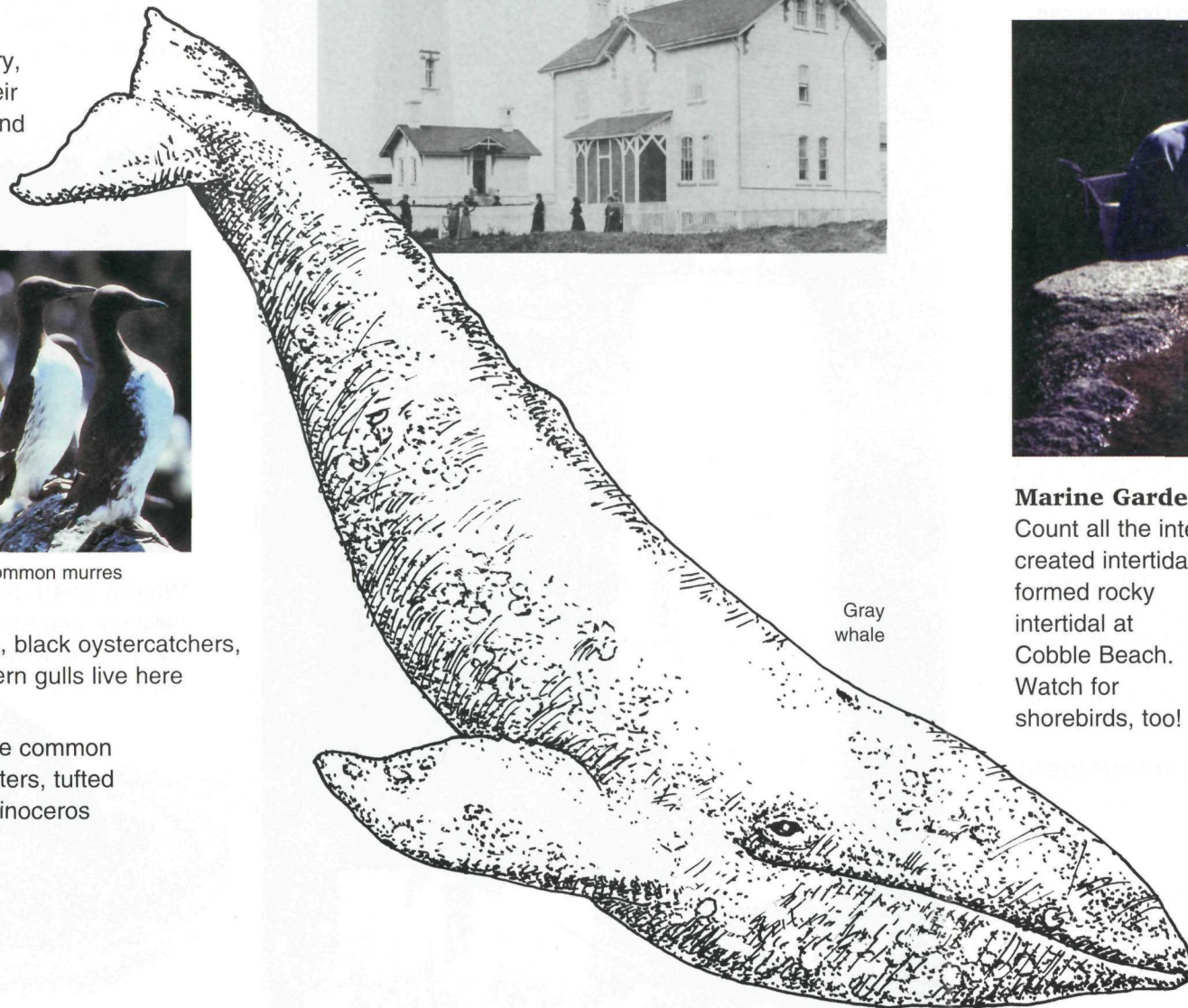


scale replica of the lighthouse lantern – exhibits help visitors appreciate the rich history of Yaquina Head.



The BLM at Yaquina Head

This 100-acre (40-hectare) site was established by Congress as an Outstanding Natural Area in 1980. The Bureau of Land Management manages Yaquina Head to preserve its natural, scenic, historic, educational, and recreational values for present and future generations.



Gray whale