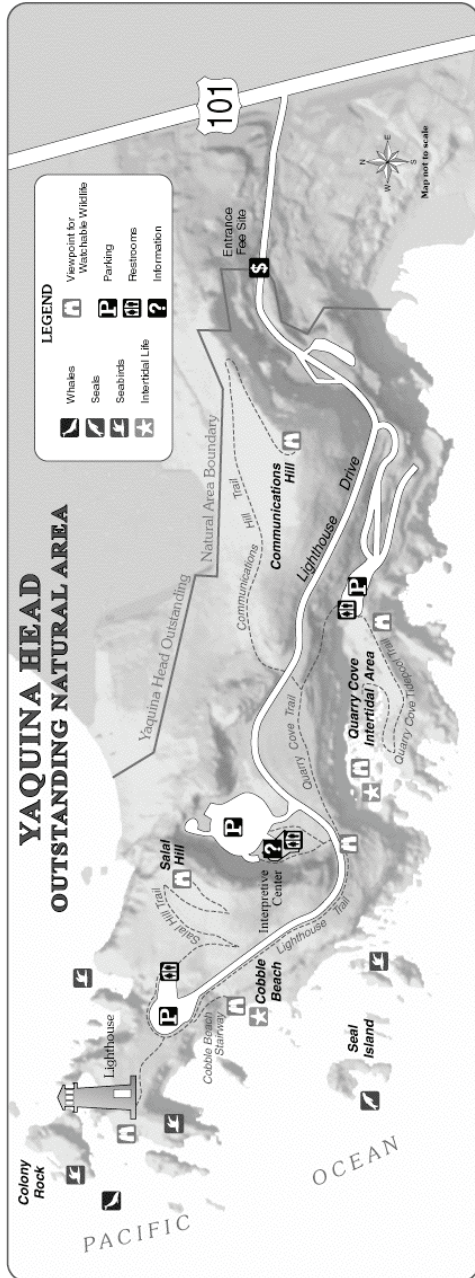
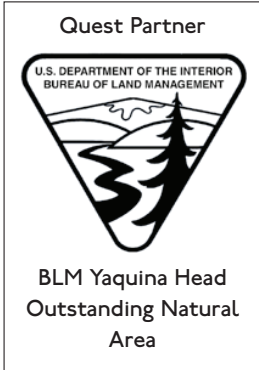


# Yaquina Head Hills Quest

Use this map of Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area to help you solve the following Quest!



# Yaquina Head

## Outstanding Natural Area Quest

This book contains the directions for the Tale of Two Hills Quest located at Yaquina Head. Previous editions of *The Oregon Coast Quests Book* have contained directions for two other Quests in this park, but those Quests are not included in this edition because the park plans to replace many of its signs in 2015, and that would change several of the clues. However, you may be able to go on the “History” or “Stewardship” Quests if you happen to visit the park before the signs are changed. We will continue to keep the clues and boxes in place as long as we can. When you visit, ask at the front desk of the Interpretive Center if there are any unpublished Quests that they can share with you.

Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area is located on a narrow point of land jutting due west into the Pacific Ocean at the north end of Newport, Oregon. This headland provides visitors with one of the most accessible wildlife and ocean viewing locations on the Pacific coast. The U.S. Bureau of Land Management manages Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area.

### Location

750 NW Lighthouse Dr  
Newport, Oregon 97365  
Phone: 541-574-3100 (8:00 AM-4:00 PM)  
<http://www.blm.gov/or/resources/recreation/yaquina/>

### Directions

The park is located off Hwy 101 at the north end of Newport, approximately 4.5 miles north of the intersection of Hwy 20 and Hwy 101. Follow the signs on the highway and at the turn-off to help direct you to Yaquina Head.

## Fees

There is an entrance fee to the park. A three-day pass, which you can purchase for \$7 at the entrance, admits one vehicle and up to nine occupants. Or you can buy a \$15 park pass, which is valid for 1 year from the date of purchase. A variety of other federal park passes also work to gain admission to the park, including the Oregon Pacific Coast Passport; America the Beautiful Pass; and the Golden Eagle, Golden Age, and Golden Access Passports.

## When to Quest

The Tale of Two Hills Quest begins outside the Interpretive Center. Although it is not necessary to enter the Interpretive Center or Lighthouse to complete the Quest, you will likely want to go inside and explore these areas! Contact Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area to find out the current front gate, Interpretive Center, and Lighthouse hours.

Funding for the creation of this Quest was provided by a grant from the Bureau of Land Management's "Take It Outside: Children and Nature Initiative" program.



# Yaquina Head Hills Quest: A Tale of Two Hills

Established: March 2009 by Cait Goodwin

Box Monitor: Yaquina Head Interpretive Center



The Hills Quest will take you from the doors of the Interpretive Center to the top of Communications Hill at Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area. Along the way, you will learn about the many changes that the two hills of the headland have undergone.

This Quest takes about 1 hour to complete (round trip). Before you start the Quest, look at the photographs of Yaquina Head's two hills on the next page. The top photo, taken in the year 1900, shows what Salal Hill and Communications Hill looked like at that time. The lower photo shows what the landscape looked like in the year 2000. How have the hills changed over that 100-year span?

Follow the directions and collect the clues to fill the numbered squares on page 67. At the end of your journey, the words will lead you to the hidden Quest Box. When you find the box, please sign the log book and let us know what you thought of this Quest. Stamp your page as proof of accomplishment, and then put the box back in its hiding place for the next person to find. Enjoy!

This Quest tells the story of change over time. A tale of two hills is revealed in this rhyme.

The 1900 photo (next page) supports this early claim. But 100-plus years later, do these hills look the same?

In eighteen-sixty-eight, coast surveyors made a note: "Two bald hills" stood on this headland, they wrote.

The Interpretive Center is where to begin your Quest. You are standing inside the hill that's furthest west.

# Yaquina Head – 100 Years of Change



Photo supplied by George Collins

## Did You Know?

Salal Hill got its name from the leathery-leaved native shrub that covers it. Salal berries were an important food source for indigenous people. Look for Salal plants on your walk.



What is the first letter in this hill's name?

Write it in square number 1, then continue the game. (Hint: Look at the photo at left.)

Note the steep rock walls that surround this place. How tall was the hill that once filled up this hollow space?

If you said 360 feet, you correctly answered the riddle. And clue 2 is the second letter of the digit in the middle.

What changed Salal Hill? How did the rock disappear? Continue to follow the verse; the answer will soon be clear.

Follow the path behind the Center,  
under the road, toward the sea.  
Turn left at the giant circle  
toward “Comm. Hill” and the “Quarry.”

Walk on the path by the road.  
Look left and right to see  
gouges in the land  
where rock used to be.

Humans dug out the rock.  
This once was a Q\_\_\_\_\_.  
The second letter of the missing word  
Fits into clue square 3.

**Definition: QUARRY**

*Noun* — A place where  
stone is dug from the  
surface of the earth.

*Verb* — To obtain (stone)  
from a quarry, by cutting,  
digging, or blasting.



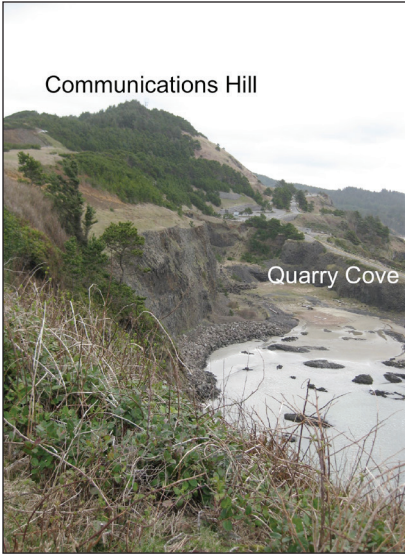
*Quarry Cove, early 20th century.*

Ahead, a second hill looms.  
This one is mostly intact.  
With trees and antennae on top,  
it's Communications Hill, in fact.

The first land managers,  
Native people passing through,  
burned some lands on purpose.  
Fire's benefits they knew.

But wait...didn't we hear  
two BALD hills were here?  
Their former treeless status  
was likely human-engineered.

Today, without much fire,  
trees have been able to grow.  
Comm. Hill is no longer bald  
like it was years ago.



Communications Hill

Quarry Cove

For what reason might native people have purposefully burned land?

- A. To promote the healthy growth of edible plants such as camas and tiger lily bulbs, evergreen huckleberry, and salal.
- B. To promote open habitat that would attract elk and other game.
- C. To allow for easier passage from one place to another.
- D. To make it easier to see approaching enemies.
- E. Any or all of the above.

Take the letter of your answer for clue number 4.



View of Salal Hill, Moolack Beach, and Julia Megginson's home, 1910.

Lincoln County Historical Society

Megginson Homestead



Follow the path to Comm. Hill.  
Cross the road to the “no P.”  
Search here on the gate;  
[clue 5](#) can be found easily.

As you can see in the photo,  
the land still lacked trees.  
The settlers’ grazing livestock  
prevented growth of these.

Pass the gate and walk up  
until at left there is a view.  
You can see Moolack Beach,  
and sometimes Cape Foulweather, too.

After the Megginsons left,  
the hills were still clear,  
so pioneering athletes  
put a golf course here.

Compare your view to the photo  
taken back in 1910.  
The only house here then  
belonged to the Megginsons.

A nine-hole golf course  
lay here in the 1920s.  
Hazards included cliffs  
and a big, strong breeze.

### Yaquina Head’s First White Settlers

Thomas Briggs and George R. Megginson were friends. They married Native American women in a joint ceremony in Corvallis in 1860. After Yaquina Head was opened to homesteading, each claimed land adjacent to the U.S. Lighthouse Reservation and built houses on either side of the headland, where they farmed and raised cattle. They received U.S. patents for individual ownership of the lands in 1879. George Megginson’s wife Julia lived in the house pictured in the 1910 photo, until the land was sold to the Agate Beach Land Company in 1911. She died in 1930 at the age of 93.

*—Historical research courtesy of George Collins*

“Golf players with pneumatic panties  
are quite numerous these days at the  
Agate Beach golf course.”

*—The Yaquina Bay News, July 20, 1927*

What do you suppose the reporter  
meant by “pneumatic panties”? Our  
best guess is in the Quest Box at the  
end of your journey!



*Golfing in Lincoln County.*

Lincoln County Historical Society

## Is this an Ideal Location for a Golf Course?

The Newport-Agate Beach Golf Association opened a golf course on the north side of Yaquina Head in July 1924. The course included the summit of the western-most hill, and offered a view of the lighthouse. The *Yaquina Bay News* reported on the Agate Beach golf course during its brief existence, proclaiming it to be “a good hazardous course” (May 5, 1925) and suggesting “you will be able [to] play on it, if willing to pioneer a bit” (May 26, 1926). Although the views were spectacular, the terrain was steep and the conditions windy. The project was finally abandoned after the clubhouse burned down in 1927.

Please add clue 6 to your clue collection. It's the first letter of the sport discussed in this section.

As you walk up the hill, see salal and shore pine. They were the first to move in under full sunshine.

Continue up the hill, and in the shade you'll see where Sitka spruce trees join the plant community.

Ecological succession changed this once-bald hill to a spruce and pine forest, which is what it is, still.

Turn your attention now to the dark forest floor. Sticks, cones, and needles you cannot ignore.

## An Example of Ecological Succession

When grassy plant communities are left undisturbed, they are gradually replaced by shrubs (like salal), which are then replaced by fast-growing trees (like shore pine), which are eventually replaced by slow-growing trees (like the conifers Sitka spruce and western hemlock).

Of these, which are “leaves” from conifer trees? The answer's first letter fits square 7 with ease.

**Try this:**

Search around the forest floor and see how many different kinds of cones and needles you can find.

Press on, up the hill.  
At the switchback, stop to see both sides of the coastline peeking through the trees.

To your left (that's north),  
Agate Beach homes reside.  
But the *beach* called "Agate"  
is on the other side.

Agate Beach *beach*  
lies south (to your right);  
the trees obscure your view  
so the beach is out of sight.



*This north-facing view shows the Agate Beach community and Moolack and Beverly beaches. The word "Moolack" means "elk" in Chinook jargon.*

Note the warnings here!  
The rule, in its simplicity,  
is to keep away from  
"High Voltage" electricity.

One such warning sign  
shows a word in oval red.  
The first letter of this word  
is clue 8, it is said.

Keep walking up the hill  
in ruts left by wheels.  
Turn the corner to the top  
to see what it reveals.

Communications Hill  
is aptly named, you see,  
for here is a forest of  
modern technology.

At the sign, please enjoy  
the view of land and sea.  
This, too, has changed  
from what it used to be:

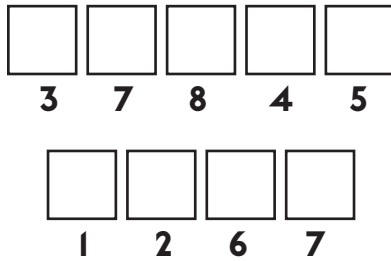
Agate Beach once had agates;  
today they're a rare find.  
Sand is always moving;  
some sand is left behind.

This Quest has told a tale  
of changes over years.  
How land is used (or not)  
affects how it appears.

**"Change is the only  
constant."**

*—Denise McCluggage*

Your Quest is complete,  
and now your hint provides  
where to look to read a note  
telling where the Box resides!



Stamp page 206 of this book to record your find!