




# The Oregon Dunes

A Vanishing Landscape

# OREGON DUNES

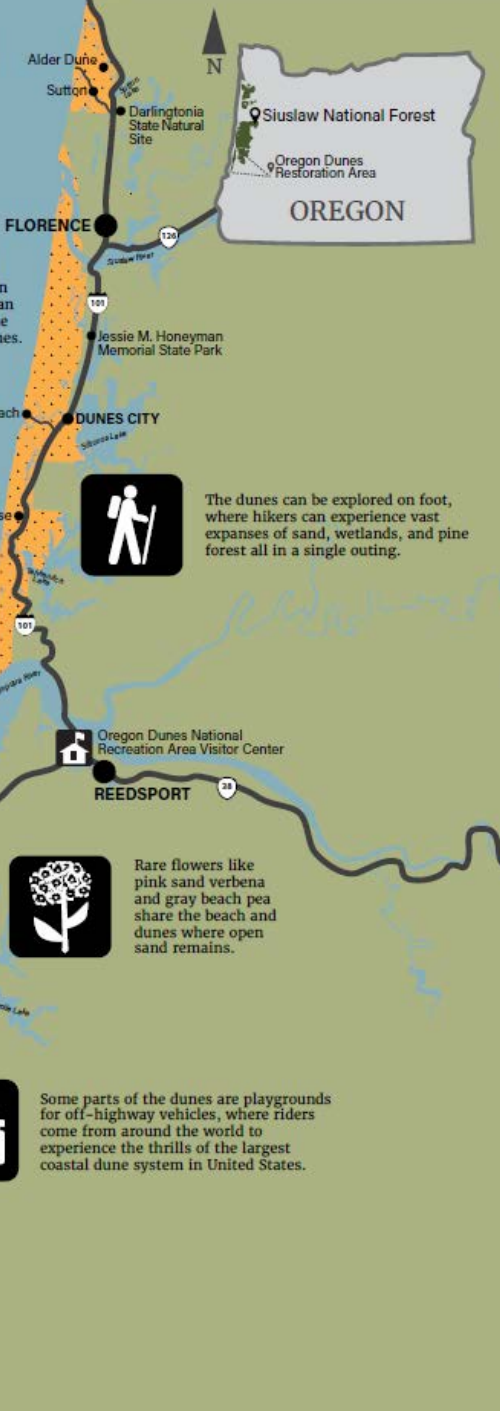
 Restoration Areas



Western snowy plover, a threatened species, raise their chicks in the open sand of beaches and dunes. Adults can sometimes be seen feeding along the high tide line and upper sandy beaches.



Among the dunes are dozens of freshwater lakes, streams, and rivers, which provide important habitat - and great fishing - for salmon and steelhead.



The dunes can be explored on foot, where hikers can experience vast expanses of sand, wetlands, and pine forest all in a single outing.



Rare flowers like pink sand verbena and gray beach pea share the beach and dunes where open sand remains.



Some parts of the dunes are playgrounds for off-highway vehicles, where riders come from around the world to experience the thrills of the largest coastal dune system in United States.

# Oregon Dunes Restoration Collaborative

- Scope of the restoration strategy: Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area + other USFS land (majority), BLM, Army Corps, State Parks, county & private properties
- Largest remaining expanse of coastal sand dunes in North America
- Lane, Douglas, Coos Counties

# Structure of a Healthy Dune System

## Structure of a functioning dune system

The dunes ecosystem is directly tied to the shape of the landscape. Today that shape is dramatically altered, and it is no longer considered a functional system. With every passing year, the dunes look less like they used to.



**Wrack Line** – Line of debris left on the beach by high tides. Snowy plover forage for small insects here and nest in the open sand above it.



**Foredune** – Low hummocks of sand parallel to the ocean with scattered driftwood and vegetation. Once European beachgrass is established, hummocks become long ridge up to 25 feet high, impeding movement of sand behind it and altering entire system.



**Deflation Plain** – Area behind foredune where wind has scoured away sand to the water table. Temporary ponds may form. Once ephemeral, deflation plains here have grown broad, more permanent, and eventually fill in with vegetation as foredune height increases and inputs of new sand cease.



**Transverse Dunes** – Wave-like ridges created by the dry winds of summer, these dunes rise about six feet and change with shifting winds.



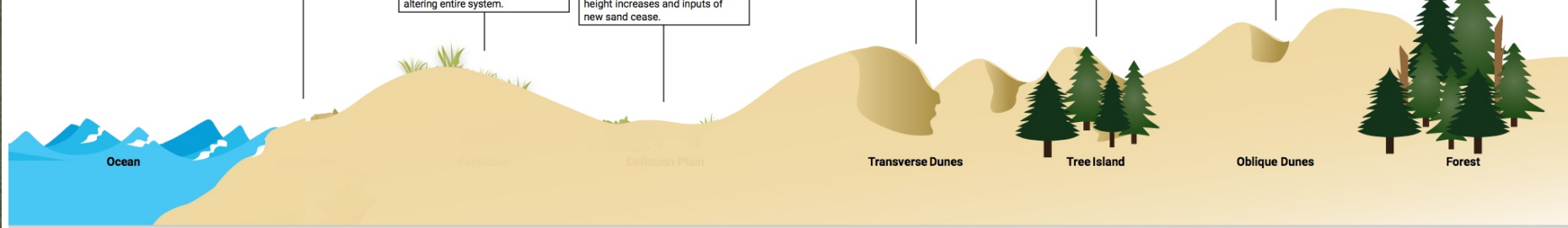
**Tree Island** – Isolated remnants of coastal forest that have been almost entirely buried by blowing sand. They are proof that in the past this landscape was an ever-shifting mosaic of different land forms and habitat types.



**Oblique Dunes** – Historically the largest of the dunes formations, these dunes can average 80 to 190 feet high and be a mile long. Most often created by winter winds, they form parallel series and are constantly in motion.



**Forest** – Evidence of ancient dunes can be found deep beneath the soil here at the edge of the Coast Range mountains.



Beach

Deflation  
Plain

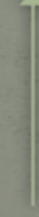
Tree  
Island

Retention  
Ridge &  
Forest

Foredune

Transverse  
Dunes

Oblique  
Dunes



A healthy dune system has...



1930's CCC Planting



1948? Mechanical Planting



# Introducing beach grass

- Planting began in late 1800's
- Attempt to protect infrastructure from moving sand
- Dunes not valued for recreation or landscape at that time
- 1930's-1950 large-scale government plantings
- Private plantings continue today

1970's Private Planting





# A growing problem with beach grass



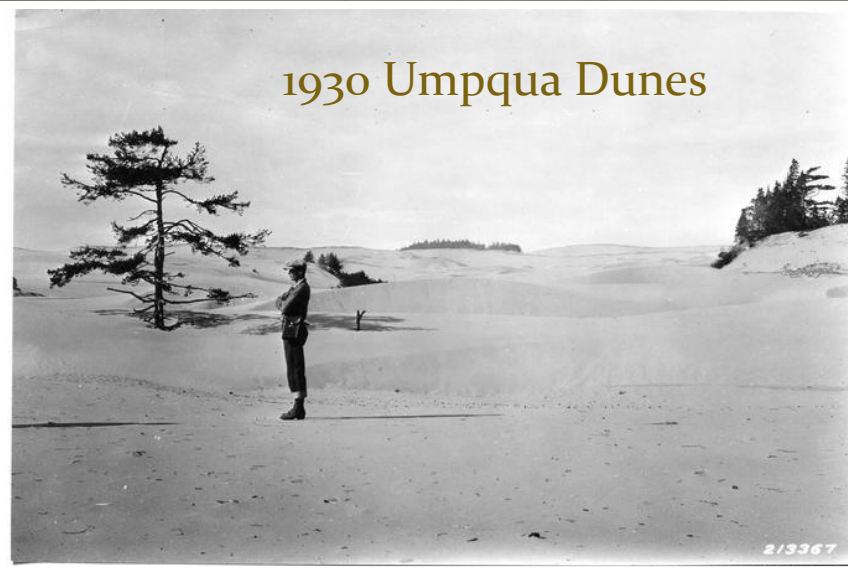


An unhealthy dune system has...

- Tall, Stable Foredunes
- Large Deflation Plains/Wetlands
- Hummocks



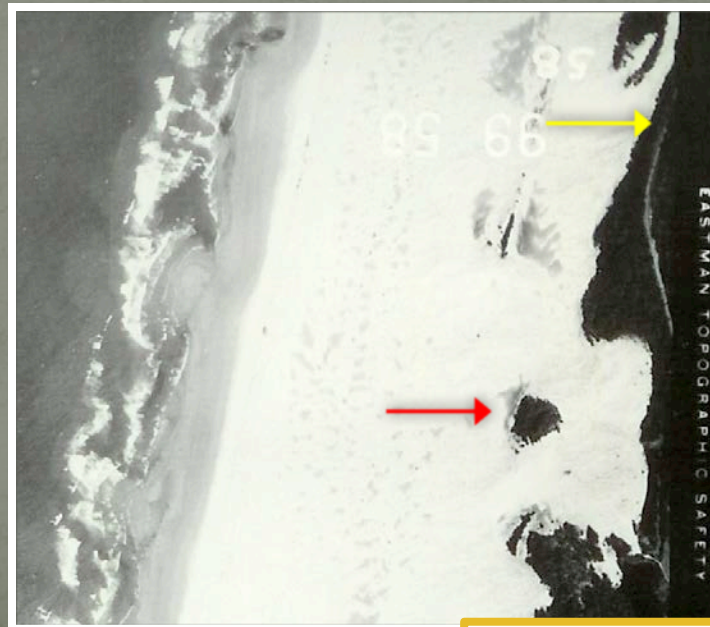
1930 Umpqua Dunes



2003 Umpqua Dunes



The  
Oregon  
Dunes  
Then &  
Now!



Day Use Area 1941 & 2006



# Loss of Natural & Recreational Assets

- Our sand dunes could be lost in less than 100 years
- Loss of habitat for 400+ native plant & animal species
- Many rare and threatened species
- No more OHV playground!
- No more hiking trails!
- No more sand camping!
- No more sandboarding or biking!
- 500,000+ annual visitors to ODNRA
- \$250 million+ in visitor spending
- 3,000+ tourism jobs
- \$5 million+ in taxes collected



# 2014 - Oregon Dunes Restoration Collaborative (ODRC) is born!

- Diverse stakeholder group – anyone that cares about the dunes is welcome!
- Formed after multiple user groups all noticed dramatic changes to the landscape and a loss of open sand
- Siuslaw National Forest convened meetings, but the ODRC is much more than the Forest Service
- Development of strategic goals & objectives

## Working Groups:

- Outreach & Education
- Volunteers
- Funding
- Monitoring
- CWMA (Cooperative Weed Management Area)



**SAVE THE**  
OREGON  
**DUNES**

# Goals of the ODRC

- “Preserve the Best” – maintain remaining open sand and natural plant habitats
- “Restore site-specific conditions and processes” – target areas of importance for recreational use, animal habitat, and dune formations
- “Restore landscape-scale natural processes” – restore areas that will allow for natural sand movement and promote the diverse natural ecosystem

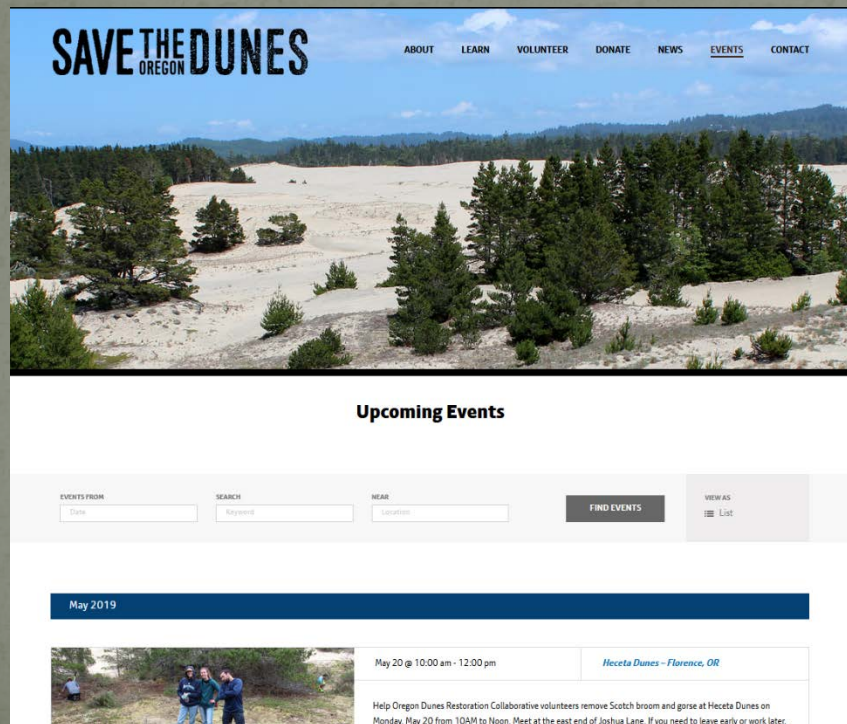


# Restoration Projects – Large & Small



# Outreach & Education Efforts

- Travel Oregon grant funded design of website; initial printing of brochures, rack cards, posters, etc...



# ODRC Accomplishments

- *Restoring Oregon's Dunes: The Bid to Save a National Treasure* published
  - Won "Publication of the Year" award from Public Lands Alliance
- 25+ presentations to stakeholders & public outreach events
- 16+ stories in local, regional, and state media outlets
- 36+ local businesses displaying "Save the Oregon Dunes" brochures, posters
- Launch of website, e-newsletter, and social media platforms
- 2,134+ volunteer hours contributed
- 30+ "work parties" at 10 different locations.

# Important Dates

- Field trip with stakeholders & elected officials
- Tentatively August 2019
  
- ODRC quarterly meeting
- October 18, 2019
- Community Baptist Church, Florence

# Partnering with the State

- How can we best work with State Parks within the Oregon Dunes?
- What support can the State provide as ODRC seeks funding for large-scale restoration?
- What information does this committee or the legislature need from ODRC?



# Thank You!

For more information:

[www.saveoregondunes.org](http://www.saveoregondunes.org)

[info@saveoregondunes.org](mailto:info@saveoregondunes.org)



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