

"I fear that by the time my kids are grown, the dunes will be gone. It's sad to think that something this special, that so many people have enjoyed over the years, could cease to exist"
– Mike Nothrop,
member of the Oregon Dunes Restoration Collaborative



You're invited!

Our mission is to collaboratively support, guide and promote Oregon dunes restoration and the preservation of the open sand, unique habitats and dunes processes that benefit the plants, animals and people who live and play in this special place.

We are actively developing ideas for restoration projects, pursuing funding opportunities and engaging with the community to share this story. We host volunteer work days to remove invasive species, speak to community groups and participate in local events to share why we love the dunes and what's being done to save them. Anyone who cares about the dunes is encouraged to join our group.

SAVE THE OREGON DUNES

How can I get involved?

Educate: Learn about the dunes and share what you know.

Join: Be a part of the Oregon Dunes Restoration Collaborative.

Volunteer: Participate in work parties to eradicate invasive species.

Donate: Help us make a difference in the future of the dunes.

SaveOregonDunes.org

Funding provided by the following partners:



CHILDS-WHITNEY Trust



SAVE THE OREGON DUNES



By acting now, we can save Oregon's sand dunes for generations to come.

The wind-swept sands along Oregon's coast hold a special place in the hearts of Oregonians and travelers from around the world.

Whether you love to explore the dunes on foot or horseback, by wheel or boat, we are united by one thing – the landscape is awe-inspiring.

Our dunes are disappearing. It's up to us to save them.





□ DAY USE AREA □ HWY 101

What makes a dune?

To understand how a sand dune forms, one must travel far back through geological time, to over 45 million years ago, when shifting tectonic plates caused earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and massive floods that led to the formation of the mountains and rivers we see in Oregon today.

These mountain-building events pushed rock up toward the Earth's surface, where they became the Cascades and Coast Range, giving western Oregon its unique form.

Eons of weathering washed rocks and sediment down from these mountains into rivers and streams, where they were flushed into the sea. At the mouths of the Siuslaw, Siltcoos, Tahkenitch, Umpqua and Coos rivers are swathes of sand, where these deposits collected and were ground smooth by waves over time.

A shifting landscape

The dunes have always been in motion, shaping the landscape and providing a unique variety of habitats. There is more than enough room for people to play in nature's giant sandbox and for plants and animals to have a home in the shifting sands.

However, much of that natural motion has stopped, replaced by the steady march of invasive plants that prevent the sand from blowing, dramatically changing the face of this place.

European beachgrass, Scotch broom, gorse and other nonnative plants have quickly taken over the sand and thrown an entire ecosystem out of balance. Those of us who love riding, hiking, camping, and enjoying the dunes risk losing our favorite place. Without intervention, our recreation areas and other places will eventually become mature forest, and the dunes will be lost forever.

The dunes through time

What decades ago was mostly open sand with an isolated tree island and some sparse vegetation, has now become a thick swath of shrubs and trees.

Aerial photos from 1941 and 2006 clearly illustrate changes to the dunes, as seen from the Oregon Dunes Day Use Area on Hwy 101.