

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

**Parks and Recreation Department
Siuslaw Collaborative Restoration Watershed Program Grant**

On February 19th, the Natural Resources Subcommittee recommended approval of the submission of a federal grant application from the Parks and Recreation Department to the U.S. Forest Service in the amount of \$51,000 for coastal dune ecosystem restoration at Sitka Sedge State Natural Area.

The Parks and Recreation Department has been working to aid the recovery of western snowy plover by restoring and enhancing native habitats in State Natural Areas. Sitka Sedge has been impacted by invasive European beach grass that has altered the previously flat, sparsely vegetated, dry-sand areas, and thus reduced potential breeding sites for the endangered snowy plovers.

In conjunction with existing agency resources, the federal grant funding will allow the Department to remove and eradicate European beach grass on up to 25 acres of coastal dunes within the Sitka Sedge natural area, and to regrade the dunes to a mostly flat surface as existed prior to the beach grass introduction.

The Department was notified of the federal grant opportunity on February 4th and the deadline for grant application is March 30th.

The Natural Resources Subcommittee recommends approval.