

Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area

Designated Route
Working Group

Welcome

Thank you for giving your time,
knowledge and expertise in helping manage
this very special area.

Some background and context



- Congress designated Oregon Dunes as a National Recreation Area in 1972.
- Congress prescribed that it was to be managed for “...public outdoor recreation use and enjoyment”

and for “...the conservation of scenic, scientific, historic, and other values contributing to public enjoyment...”



National Forest Planning

- National Forest Management Act of 1976
 - Land use determinations (management areas)
 - Management goals and objectives
 - Forest-wide standards and guidelines
 - Specific management area standards and guidelines
- Siuslaw National Forest Plan completed in 1990 (amended by Northwest Forest Plan 1994)

Oregon Dunes NRA Plan

- Completed in 1994
- Tiered to and amends the Siuslaw NF Plan
 - Management Area 10 in Siuslaw NF Plan
 - Management Area 10 further defined by MA 10 (A-L)
 - Management Area **10(C)** ORVs Restricted to Designated Routes

Management Area 10(C)

Purpose: This management area protects vegetated habitats while providing controlled opportunities for ORV touring and travel on designated routes.

Goals: To minimize ORV impacts in vegetated areas while allowing controlled opportunities for riding and travel through the area on designated routes for access to the beach and other areas which are open for ORV use.

MA 10(C) (continued)

Desired Condition: The area is predominately covered with vegetation. There is little evidence of human use, disturbance or management, except for the presence of a limited number of designated routes suitable for use by ORVs. Some large blocks of vegetation are not crossed by designated routes.



Travel Management Rule (36 CFR 212, Subpart B, Designation of Roads, Trails, and Areas for Motor Vehicle Use)

Highlights of the Rule

- The rule requires each national forest or ranger district to designate those roads, trails, and areas open to motor vehicles.
- Designation will include class of vehicle and, if appropriate, time of year for motor vehicle use. A given route, for example, could be designated for use by motorcycles, ATVs, or street-legal vehicles.
- Once designation is complete, the rule will prohibit motor vehicle use off the designated system or inconsistent with the designations.
- Designation decisions will be made locally, with public input and in coordination with state, local, and tribal governments.
- Designations will be shown on a motor vehicle use map. Use inconsistent with the designations will be prohibited.

Travel Management Rule (cont.)

- In designating trails and areas on NF lands, the responsible official shall consider effects on the following, with the objective of minimizing:
 - (1) Damage to soil, watershed, vegetation and other forest resources;
 - (2) Harassment of wildlife and significant disruption of wildlife habitats;
 - (3) Conflicts with other existing or planned recreation uses on NF lands or neighboring Federal lands;
 - (4) Conflicts among different classes of motor vehicles on NF lands or neighboring Federal lands;
 - (5) Compatibility of motor vehicle use with existing conditions in populated areas taking into account sound emissions, and other factors. (36 CFR 212.55b)

Role of Working Group

- Review existing conditions (e.g. what's on the ground now)
- Look at existing designated and user-defined routes
- Recommend what routes should be designated within the three principal 10(C) areas.

Is Consensus Needed?

- If the group can find agreement on some routes, that is great
- Don't expect that all members can agree on all routes
- Minority opinions are valid and will be considered as input from the group

How will group input be used?

- Group input very valuable to the decisionmaker because it is thoughtful and invested
- Group will help decisionmaker understand the views and values associated with the areas
- Group results may be used in a number of ways: adopted as an alternative or some parts included in alternatives considered in detail, adopted as the Forest Service proposed action
- Input from the public will be asked for and accepted as part of SCOPING in the environmental analysis process
- Ultimately, the decision for designated routes rests with the Forest Supervisor

Environmental Analysis Process

- Purpose and need described
- Scoping (group and other public) used to define issues analyzed
- Alternatives, including a proposed action, developed
- Existing condition described (baseline conditions)
- Environmental effects estimated associated with alternatives (how will things change)

Environmental Analysis (cont.)

- Public has the opportunity to review the draft analysis
- Public comments are considered and incorporated as appropriate
- Decision issued
- Appeal period for 45 days
- If appealed, decision reviewed at next level
- If decision upheld, move on to implementation

Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA)

- FACA regulates Federal agency establishment or utilization of a group to obtain consensual advice or recommendations.
- FACA was enacted to deal with a perceived lack of accountability and significant costs associated with advisory committees.
- Advisory committees are chartered by the Secretary of Agriculture in a very formalized process.
- If public interaction is **MANAGED OR CONTROLLED** by the Forest Service we can only seek individual advice or exchange facts or information. The FS can not seek agreement or consensus among the participants. That would make the committee subject to FACA.
- FACA does not apply to groups assembled by an agency contractor to provide advice and recommendations. FACA doesn't apply because the contractor is managing or controlling the group, not the agency.

Thank you for your help and
commitment.



We respect and value
your time,
knowledge and opinions.

QUESTIONS?