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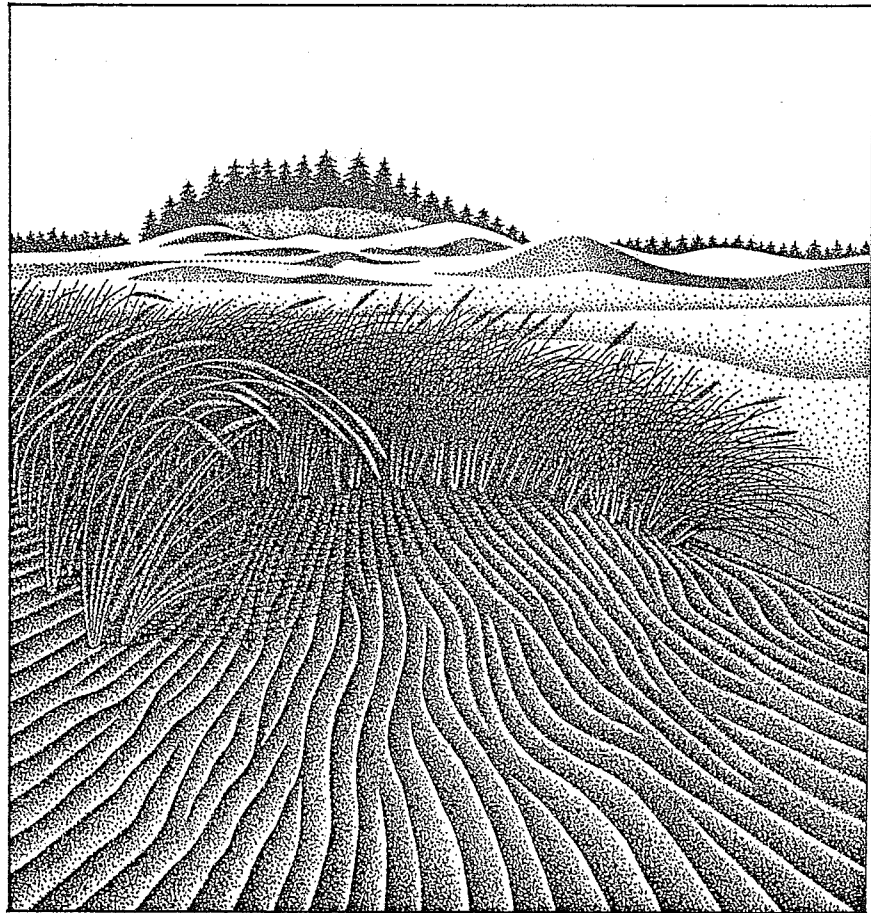
Pacific
Northwest
Region



Record of Decision

Dunes Management Plan

Oregon Dunes NRA
Siuslaw National Forest



Record of Decision

Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area Management Plan

Final Environmental Impact Statement

SIUSLAW NATIONAL FOREST

Coos, Douglas, and Lane Counties
in Oregon

USDA Forest Service
July 12, 1994

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Introduction

The breadth and intensity of public interest during the planning process have reaffirmed that the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area (NRA) occupies a very important place in people's hearts -- it is a rare and beautiful place. The uniqueness and variety of this extensive system of dunes, streams, freshwater lakes, wetlands, and coastal forests on the shores of the Pacific make it a world-class attraction. Not surprisingly, the Oregon Dunes hold opportunities for re-creation and spiritual renewal that I believe are vital to those who choose to visit, whether occasionally or frequently. Its popularity is both a manager's delight and dilemma. It is a great privilege for the Forest Service to be entrusted with management and stewardship of such a treasure. With trust comes responsibility, and we have strived to provide a quality of management that is consistent with the quality of the resource and the expectations of the public we serve. We must ensure that the Oregon Dunes remain into the future so that they may continue to restore, amaze and inspire those who follow us.

This Record of Decision describes future management of the NRA, which occupies a strip of coastal sand dunes primarily west of Highway 101 between North Bend and Florence. It is administered as part of the Siuslaw National Forest. The NRA includes approximately 31,500 acres. The Forest Service manages about 27,450 acres of National Forest land within the NRA boundary and an additional 1,450 acres of National Forest land outside the boundary at the south end of the NRA.

This decision amends current direction for the NRA contained in the Siuslaw National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan). That direction was developed in the mid-1970s and carried over into the Forest Plan. The NRA appears in the Forest Plan as Management Area 10. A need to amend current direction stems from its age and the fact that during the Forest planning process there was broad-based interest in and concern with NRA management.

A Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) analyzing eight different alternatives for future management was released for public review on April 5, 1993. Comments received on the DEIS prompted changes in the draft preferred alternative and in the analysis of effects of alternatives. These changes are reflected in this decision and the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), on which it is based.

Authority

The FEIS and Oregon Dunes NRA Management Plan (Dunes Plan) were developed under the National Forest Management Act (NFMA) and its associated implementing

regulations (36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 219). The FEIS satisfies requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and Council of Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR 1500).

The Dunes Plan will provide guidance for NRA programs and resource management decisions until monitoring results or changing conditions dictate the need for additional changes.

Decision

My decision is to select FEIS Alternative F (Preferred Alternative). Selection of Alternative F includes approval of the Oregon Dunes NRA Management Plan, which accompanies the FEIS and provides direction for implementation of the selected alternative. Key aspects of this decision include the following:

- Establishment of different management emphases and guidelines in specific areas to guide management of NRA ecosystems.
- Establishment of guidelines and habitat management areas for the threatened snowy plover under provisions of the Endangered Species Act.
- Maintenance of a mix of recreation settings and opportunities and management of the NRA to not exceed the use capacity resulting from this mix. The setting/opportunity mix includes: a) roaded and roadless settings, b) settings with and without developed visitor facilities, and c) settings open and closed to off-road vehicle (ORV) operation.
- Establishment of objectives, priorities and target areas for vegetation management including guidelines for management of special forest products.
- Establishment of campground quiet hours, ORV riding curfews, noise control buffers, and stricter ORV noise goals.

Recommendations

I also am recommending decisions regarding Research Natural Areas to the Regional Forester and decisions regarding Wild and Scenic Rivers to Congress (after higher level Agency and Department of Agriculture review). Like my final decisions, recommendations are accompanied by all supporting NEPA analysis and disclosure required by law and regulation. However, authority to make a final decision on these issues is not mine. My recommendations are:

- To include an area near Tenmile Creek in the Research Natural Area system.

- To designate Tahkenitch Creek and a portion of Tenmile Creek as "wild" and "scenic", respectively, under provisions of the Wild and Scenic River Act.

FEIS Alternative F is a modification of the DEIS Preferred Alternative and is a response to public comments and new information. Differences between the draft and final include:

- Changes in facilities and areas for ORV use in the Siltcoos area
- Changes in facilities and areas for ORV use in the Horsfall area
- Nightriding curfews in the South Jetty to Siltcoos and Tenmile to Horsfall areas
- Stricter noise reduction goals for ORV use at the NRA
- More ORV access through managed wetlands between Tenmile and Horsfall
- Reduction of the width of the noise-control buffer between South Jetty and Siltcoos
- Larger areas managed for snowy plover habitat
- Addition of globally significant plant communities to areas of protected habitat (Management Area 10F)
- Reduced motorized dispersed camping opportunities
- More proposed vegetation management (particularly non-native vegetation) and identification of primary treatment areas--treated as an activity instead of a designated management area
- Reduced size for the recommended Tenmile Research Natural Area (RNA)
- Not recommending Siltcoos River for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic River system, and changing the recommended classification of Tahkenitch Creek from "scenic" to "wild"
- Designation of routes for ORV use in South Jetty to Siltcoos and Tenmile to Horsfall deflation plain and wetland areas

- Identification of priorities and strategy for the management of special forest products
- Preliminary allocation and direction to develop more detailed plans for the management of 2,060 acres of lands acquired within the NRA boundary near Tahkenitch Lake.

The Oregon Dunes NRA Management Plan triggers a series of implementation actions. These actions will be phased in and implemented over the anticipated life of this management plan. Some of the actions, especially those involving ground-disturbing activity, will require site-specific planning and environmental analysis, as required by NEPA, before they can be implemented. Other actions that do not require ground disturbance and that fall within existing Forest Service administrative authorities, can and will be implemented without further environmental documentation. Included within this group are actions such as enforcement of vehicle noise standards, enforcement of campground quiet hours, designation and enforcement of designated ORV routes, and the enforcement of curfews for the operation of ORVs. Implementation of actions associated with the NRA Plan are contingent on overall funding levels and Congressional priorities within the Forest Service budget.

The decisions I make here are accompanied by necessary supporting NEPA analysis and disclosure required by law and regulation. In addition, the decisions respond to and comply with legal mandates for management of National Forest lands. Primary laws and regulations include: Organic Administration Act (1897), Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act (1960), Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (1968), Clean Water Act (1972), Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area Act (1972), Endangered Species Act (1973), National Forest Management Act (1976), Executive Order 11990 (1977), and the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 36.

Reasons for Decision

I made these decisions by weighing each of the alternatives against several factors. I reviewed the environmental consequences of the Dunes Plan and alternatives, and I evaluated how the alternatives responded to public issues and management concerns. No single factor was predominant in making the decision. I considered and balanced all of the factors in selecting the alternative that I believe will provide the greatest net public benefit. Factors relating to the decision and a discussion of each are displayed below.

Response to Key Plan- ning Issues

In the course of public involvement and discussions with other agencies, state and local governments, tribes, as well as within the Forest Service, a number of planning issues were identified. Several of these became key issues that were used in designing alternatives. Each alternative responds to key issues in different ways and degrees. The issues are complex and difficult to resolve to the complete satisfaction of all parties. Recognizing this, I have selected the alternative that I feel offers the greatest improvement of the situations. Issues are seen and understood differently among individuals and I have listened to and considered a range of viewpoints in deciding how to deal with these issues. The key issues are identified and discussed below.

1. What mix of recreation settings and opportunities will be provided at the Oregon Dunes NRA?

Lands making up the NRA are capable of providing a broad range of recreation settings and opportunities. The NRA currently provides highly developed, facility-dependent recreation opportunities in places like campgrounds and the Oregon Dunes Overlook. In addition, there are natural-appearing settings that are easily reached along access roads into the NRA off of Highway 101. There are also opportunities for both motorized and non-motorized recreation experiences in undeveloped areas away from roads. This mix of settings and opportunities represents four of the six Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classes (the system used by the Forest Service to classify, plan and manage recreation resources). A broad range of management flexibility exists on this issue. The NRA could be managed for either a broad or a narrow range of recreation settings and opportunities.

To determine the appropriate mix of settings and opportunities to provide at the NRA, I considered a variety of recreation use and trend data. I have used past and current use levels at the NRA and local, state and national recreation trend information in my decision.

Without doubt, the most heated and controversial aspect of the recreation mix question at the Oregon Dunes has been whether or not off-road motorized use should be continued, and if so, where and under what conditions. ORV use has been present on the Oregon Dunes since before the NRA was created by Congress in 1972. The first NRA Management Plan reduced the amount of area available for ORV use. Currently, ORV use constitutes a significant proportion (about 30 percent) of total use at the NRA. It is widely recognized within the ORV recreation community as one of the premier riding areas in the country. It provides unique riding experiences in a unique environment.

Some DEIS commentors stated that ORV use is increasing and offered this as rationale for continuing the use and increasing the amount of area available. Other commentors suggested that ORV use is actually keeping non-ORV visitors away from the area and that overall recreation use would increase if ORV use was halted on the NRA. Recreation use and trend information neither conclusively refutes nor confirms either of these assertions.

There is and has been an interest on the part of some to close the NRA to ORV use entirely. Two of the alternatives I considered in coming to my decision contained that provision. At the same time, there clearly is and has been a strong interest in ORV use at the NRA. ORV use is expected to grow at a moderate rate according to State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) projections. As a result, I do not believe it is in the public interest to eliminate it from the mix of settings and opportunities provided at the NRA. I have, however, decided to slightly reduce the amount of area allocated for ORV use by closing the area south of Horsfall Road and by restricting it to designated routes in other areas, such as wetlands. I do this to respond to public comments suggesting there be a place for quality non-ORV experiences in that portion of the NRA immediately adjacent to the largest population base on the southern Oregon coast (the communities of Coos Bay/North Bend); to respond to comments from adjacent industrial landowners concerned about ORV use and trespass on their lands; to assist in removing ORVs from Horsfall Road where they conflict with highway vehicles; to enable this portion of the NRA close to private sector businesses to better serve several rapidly growing non-ORV recreation activities identified in SCORP; and to better protect some globally significant plant communities located in this portion of the NRA, where incursions by ORVs have occurred.

I believe this change will more effectively separate competing uses and thus enhance the quality of recreation experiences for both motorized and non-motorized visitors to the NRA. This will put the Forest Service in a better position to serve a broader user public and attract growing recreation markets to an area close to private-sector visitor services. It will improve the quality of management by alleviating existing use conflicts and the management effort they require. I have followed a similar strategy in the Siltcoos area by closing Waxmyrtle and Lagoon Campgrounds to ORV use and focusing this activity at the far western end of the corridor in Driftwood II. This maintains the broad mix of opportunities in this area while accomplishing two things: it provides better localized separation between competing recreation uses and it focuses ORV use in facilities with direct sand access and thereby eliminates the need (and associated public safety concerns) for non-street legal vehicles to operate on Siltcoos Road.

Other aspects of the recreation mix issue involved the amount of developed facilities and developed access that should be provided on the NRA. On these aspects there was a much greater consensus that the NRA should not be "over-developed." I have decided that while current levels and amounts of developed access are generally satisfactory, some additional trails can be constructed to provide additional access without compromising the generally undeveloped character of the NRA. Trails are scheduled for development pending more detailed feasibility studies and environmental analysis. Similarly, while the current level and amount of facilities is generally appropriate, additional staging and overflow camping capacity is planned to increase separation between competing uses, to eliminate ORVs on paved roads, and to help alleviate dispersed camping impacts. Small day-use interpretive facilities, such as viewing platforms and interpretive kiosks, are scheduled for development generally in areas slightly away from developed roads. Again, certain projects will undergo more detailed feasibility and environmental analysis prior to implementation.

Ultimately, I have decided to maintain existing recreation settings and opportunities, but in slightly different proportions. I believe this mix will best meet public recreation needs and capabilities of the land.

2. How will off-road vehicles be managed at the Oregon Dunes NRA?

36 CFR, Part 295 provides legal requirements that the Forest Service must meet in managing off-road vehicles on National Forest lands. My decision for ORV management at the Oregon Dunes NRA is intended to ensure Forest Service compliance with this legal direction.

Public involvement as part of the NRA planning effort and as required in 36 CFR 295 indicated the following concerns with ORV use on the NRA:

- Noise impacts, especially at night, to nearby residents and other recreationists.
- Trespass onto adjacent private lands.
- Mixing of ORVs and highway vehicles on the same roadways.
- Mixing ORV and non-ORV recreationists in the same dune areas.
- Adverse impacts on plant/fish/wildlife habitats and unique geologic features.
- Inconsistent ORV management between NRA uplands and adjacent State beaches (causing degraded recreation experiences).

DEIS commentors presented a variety of opinions regarding the extent and severity of these problems. However, I must develop ORV management direction in keeping with the spirit of 36 CFR 295, which is "aimed at resource protection, public safety of all users, minimizing conflicts among users, and provide for diverse use and benefits of the National Forests." I have decided to implement the following ORV management actions at the NRA to address these concerns.

To address ORV-noise concerns I have decided to establish noise reduction goals for the Oregon Dunes NRA that are more stringent than the current Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) standard of 99 decibels. The goals, developed with input and assistance from ORV-community representatives, are for 95 percent of machines to be operating at 95 decibels or less by 1997 and at 90 decibels or less by 1999. They will be phased in over 5 years to allow ORV manufacturers, muffler manufacturers, and ORV users a reasonable time to respond. Noise is a logarithmic function and a decrease of just 9 decibels represents a significant reduction in noise volume. Such an improvement would benefit not only nearby residents and other users, but also the ORV community because noise is a major complaint against ORVs operating on the NRA.

Noise sampling, done on the NRA in 1993, found that many machines are currently operating at below 90 decibels. This indicates to me that quieter machines and stricter goals are technologically achievable now. On the other hand, about 50 percent of the 1,500 machines tested were over the current DEQ standard of 99 decibels. This indicates that coupled with more stringent noise reduction goals the Forest Service will have to continue current efforts in noise education, enforcement, management, and monitoring. I will use Forest Service administrative authorities and seek an Oregon Administrative Rule through the State to ensure there are enforceable standards in place that will encourage movement toward the noise reduction goals I have set.

There are other actions I am implementing, such as the noise-control buffer and nightriding curfews discussed below, which are also directly tied to the noise issue. If, over time, ORV recreationists can achieve the noise reduction goals set under this Plan, the noise-control buffer may be reduced in width or eliminated. As an additional incentive for achieving noise reduction goals, nightriding hours may also be extended in certain areas of the NRA. Conversely, if monitoring indicates little or no improvement on the noise issue, buffers may be widened and curfew hours extended. The agency will do what it can with finite resources to ensure improvement on the ORV noise issue, but ORV users, ORV manufacturers, and after-market muffler manufacturers will bear the primary responsibility for improving this situation.

In addition to stricter ORV noise reduction goals, I have also decided to implement 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. quiet hours in all NRA campgrounds,

except Horsfall and Spinreel where quiet hours will be from midnight to 6:00 a.m. There will be nightriding curfews in the South Jetty to Siltcoos (10:00 p.m. - 6:00 a.m.) and in the Tenmile Creek to Horsfall (midnight - 6:00 a.m.) portions of the NRA. Umpqua Beach area will remain as the only 24-hour riding area to provide for nighttime riding opportunities. Of the three ORV areas, Umpqua Beach is the most remote from other recreationists and nearby residents, making it the most appropriate area for this type of motorized recreation use.

To address specific concerns in the Cleawox and Woahink lakes area, I have decided to establish a noise-control buffer with ORV access restricted to adjacent businesses and private property owners.

ACTION	LOCATION
Campground Quiet Hours	Spinreel & Horsfall (midnight to 6 a.m.) All Others (10 p.m. to 6 a.m.)
NightRiding Curfews	South Jetty to Siltcoos (10 p.m. to 6 a.m.) Umpqua Beach (none) Tenmile to Horsfall (midnight to 6 a.m.)
Noise-Control Buffers	Cleawox-Woahink lakes area
Day-Use Area Designation	South Jetty and Goosepasture Staging, Siltcoos Parking Lot

To address trespass concerns I will continue working through the Oregon Department of Transportation All Terrain Vehicle Accounts Allocation Committee for funding of private land signing. In addition, restricted ORV access in the Cleawox/Woahink noise-control buffer should improve the situation in the primary problem area.

To improve public safety ORVs that are not street legal will no longer be permitted to operate on NRA roadways with highway vehicles. ORV recreationists will be directed to those campgrounds and staging areas that provide direct access to the sand without having to travel on the paved roadway(s). Campgrounds without direct sand access will be available to ORV recreationists, but they will not be permitted to operate ORVs within these campgrounds or on roads between these campgrounds and sand access points.

To help resolve concerns of mixing ORVs and non-ORV recreationists in the same dune areas, non-ORV recreationists will be directed to those portions of the NRA which are closed to ORV use. In addition, signs will be installed at all developed access points advising recreationists that the area is open for ORV use and that caution should be exercised.

I will use three methods to address adverse ORV impacts on habitats.

First, some portions of the NRA will remain closed to ORV use. Indeed, part of my rationale for closing additional area south of Horsfall Road is to protect unique plant communities in this part of the NRA.

Second, I will strengthen implementation and enforcement of the current policy of allowing ORVs only on designated routes in vegetated upland, deflation plain, wetland, and other areas with unique plant communities. It is my intent to protect these areas and meet legal mandates (Clean Water Act, Section 404 and Executive Order 11990; 36 CFR, Part 295) by designating travel routes through such areas. The myriad of ORV trails in some vegetated portions of the NRA will be reduced to a limited number of designated travel routes. Designated routes serve an important function in allowing ORV riders to access different areas in the NRA, such as traveling from the beach through wetlands to the open sand dunes. Excess trails not only unnecessarily fragment habitats, but in some cases lead to draining and drying of wetlands. Use of designated routes will be encouraged through education, signing and maintenance; violations will be discouraged through enforcement. Unnecessary existing trails will be rehabilitated or allowed to revert naturally.

Third, as part of a wider effort to reduce dispersed camping impacts on habitats, again often wetlands, motorized dispersed camping will be allowed only by permit. Permits will be limited in number and use will be permitted only at carefully selected designated dispersed camping locations. Designated dispersed camping will be implemented in the South Jetty to Siltcoos and Umpqua Beach areas within the first year, and implemented in the Tenmile to Horsfall area within the first two years after signature of this document.

To provide more consistent management between State-owned land on the beaches (wet sand) and Forest Service lands adjacent to these beaches (dry sand and inland sector), I intend to petition the State of Oregon to close some additional sections of beach along the NRA to all motorized use. This action is intended to enhance quality of recreation opportunities and also to better meet habitat needs of the threatened snowy plover. These areas include beach south from the Horsfall Beach parking lot to the National Forest boundary and beach south of the Siltcoos River to one mile north of Threemile Road. The Waxmyrtle Road will also be closed year-round in conjunction with the latter stretch of beach. In other sections, the Forest Service will seek restriction of beaches to specific vehicle classes. These include beach

accessed via Threemile Road (street-legal class II and disabled access only) and seasonally-open beach at South Jetty (street-legal class II and disabled access only). Limitation of vehicle access to street-legal class II vehicles and disabled access is intended to continue traditional uses while limiting impacts on non-motorized recreationists and wildlife, especially foraging shorebirds. This effort will be part of a comprehensive ecosystem-based approach to managing dunes and beaches as an integrated system providing not only recreation, but also habitat for a variety of species, including some that are threatened or endangered.

To facilitate implementation of some of these decisions, additional ORV facilities are planned. These include an overflow camping and staging facility at the west end of the Siltcoos corridor (near Driftwood II), additional ORV staging in the Hauser area, and additional staging in the Bull Run portion of the Horsfall corridor. These facilities are intended to eliminate overflow camping from a wetland, eliminate need for ORVs to operate on roadways, and to provide partial replacement of ORV camping capacity lost as a result of dispersed camping restrictions and closure of some developed campgrounds to ORV operation. They will provide roughly the same ORV capacity as is currently available and are high priority because they alleviate significant problems of resource impact, public safety and recreation quality. They are planned for completion within two to three years after Dunes Plan adoption. Prior to development of these facilities, more detailed feasibility and environmental analysis will be conducted.

In addition to the above decisions, I intend to comply with those sections of 36 CFR 295 that require active monitoring of ORV effects, immediate remedial action (including closure if necessary) to correct adverse effects, and annual review of ORV management plans. I believe these actions in conjunction with the above decisions will address most current concerns and result in future ORV management at the NRA that is more consistent with other resource values.

3. How will vegetation be managed at the Oregon Dunes NRA?

Vegetation, its growth, and its colonization in new areas are probably the primary factors affecting change in the diverse dunes landscape and its ecosystems. The characteristic open dune landscape is shrinking as vegetation spreads. Not only has vegetation occupied and stabilized large areas of formerly open sand, it has also formed a vegetated dune at the high tide line that blocks flow of sand from the beach to the inland dune system. At the same time, many lightly vegetated areas further inland are becoming densely vegetated and habitats for plants and animals are changing.

European beachgrass (*Ammophila arenaria*) is having the most profound impact, but other native and non-native species are also contributing to this

situation. European beachgrass and other species were introduced early in the century to stabilize constantly moving dunes and protect human improvements from drifting sand. Native species, such as shore pine (*Pinus contorta*), were also used for stabilization work and are also spreading by natural means.

The Forest Service will manage vegetation at the Oregon Dunes NRA more aggressively than we have been under the current management plan. We will actively seek out research, additional internal and external funding, and partnerships to increase our knowledge and ability to effectively control beachgrass and other vegetation in key locations. We will implement a policy of not using European beachgrass for stabilization work until we have determined that native or less-invasive species are not practical.

Almost everyone involved with review of the DEIS said the Forest Service should do something about this issue. Public and other agency involvement has helped us identify primary areas within the NRA that have potential for vegetation management. We will focus our treatment efforts on approximately 5,000 gross potential acres. Within these primary areas, further evaluation will be done to more specifically identify treatment acres available to best meet each objective by priority. For these reasons, I have decided to treat vegetation management as an activity that may occur in several locations throughout different management areas.

Our overall objective in managing vegetation will be to restore historic geomorphological processes that will naturally rejuvenate the formation of sand dunes unique to the NRA. In attempting to return certain areas of the dunes to natural patterns, careful attention will be given to existing improvements and facilities needing protection from shifting sands. Subordinate to this overall objective, our priorities will be:

- Creation, restoration and maintenance of habitat in localized areas for snowy plover, a threatened species
- Restoration and maintenance of habitat in localized areas for globally significant plant communities
- Reduction of threat of fire to public safety and property
- Restoration and maintenance of dune processes in localized areas to maintain or enhance scenic qualities
- Restoration and maintenance of dune processes in localized areas to promote/re-establish native species and habitat diversity

- Restoration and maintenance of dune processes in localized areas to maintain or enhance recreation opportunities
- Restoration and maintenance of dune processes in localized areas to maintain or enhance aquifer water quality and quantity

Based on the above priorities and input from other agencies, user groups and the general public, I have identified priority treatment areas for vegetation management over the next 10 to 15 years. These areas include:

- Foredunes between Tahkenitch Creek and the Siltcoos River (for snowy plover habitat and restoration of views from the Oregon Dunes Overlook)
- Foredunes south of Tenmile Creek (for snowy plover habitat improvement)
- Foredunes and deflation plain immediately north of the Siltcoos Road (for fire hazard reduction/public safety)
- Foredunes and deflation plain immediately north of Horsfall Road (for fire hazard reduction/public safety)
- Inland areas west of Eel Creek Campground (maintenance/protection of globally significant plant communities)

Areas where sand stabilization is essential to adequately protect structures, roads, improvements, and other features of the NRA will also be identified. These areas will only be treated minimally, if at all, so as to not trigger undesirable movement of sand into areas needing protection.

A vegetation management specialist position has been established at the Oregon Dunes NRA. As part of this program, NRA staff will prepare necessary supplements to the Region 6 Vegetation Management EIS and Mediated Agreement, initiate project plans and environmental analyses, develop partnerships, coordinate volunteer and community involvement efforts, gather information, pursue internal and external funding sources, and identify research needs.

Two additional issues involved in vegetation management are timber and special forest products, such as mushrooms. Both of these could be commercial activities. In reviewing the NRA Act, I find nothing in the language that precludes such uses of the NRA. However, given the fact these activities are not specifically mentioned, I view them as secondary to the primary stated

objectives of the NRA; specifically, those objectives relating to recreation opportunities and conservation of resources discussed in the NRA Act.

Timber has not been harvested commercially on the NRA since its establishment. It is clearly not one of the management missions of the NRA. However, with recent acquisition of about 2,000 acres of upland forest near Tahkenitch Lake and aging of planted shorepine stands elsewhere on the NRA, there may be situations over the life of the Dunes Plan where timber harvesting will be necessary to achieve other resource objectives. These objectives include hazard reduction, visual quality management (e.g., vista clearing), or habitat diversification. In some cases, such management may make a small amount of timber volume available for sale commercially. Such projects will require public involvement and environmental analysis prior to implementation.

Special forest products, such as mushrooms and live transplants, are gathered both recreationally and commercially at the NRA. They are also important components of healthy, functioning ecosystems. I have decided to limit the gathering of special forest products to specific areas of the NRA. I have also decided to implement the following criteria to determine when and how much commercial use of such products is appropriate:

- Ecosystem health is of the highest priority.
- If resources exist beyond functional ecosystem needs, recreational use will be permitted.
- If resources exist beyond ecosystem health and recreational needs, commercial uses may be permitted.

Specific guidelines outlining where and how much special forest products will be available from the NRA will be addressed by subsequent site-specific environmental analysis.

4. How will plant, fish and wildlife habitat be managed at the NRA to maintain or enhance ecosystem diversity and meet legal mandates?

Throughout the planning process there were comments that the Oregon Dunes is an NRA and too much attention was being paid to "non-recreation" resources such as plants, fish, wildlife, and other components of the ecosystem. Section 1 of the NRA Act specifically cites "the conservation of scenic, scientific, historic, and other values contributing to public enjoyment of such lands and waters..." as one of two reasons for establishment of the NRA. Also, while the Oregon Dunes is an NRA, it is also public land and a unit within the National Forest System. As such, it is subject to a variety of federal

laws and agency policies and direction. Some of these require that I consider more than just "recreation" in deciding how to manage the NRA.

In addition to being legally required, this is a wise approach because recreation opportunities are enhanced by diverse and varied wildlife resources. Without proper concern for and conservation of basic land resources, there will eventually also be a loss of the recreation opportunities dependent on that environment. Many commentators mentioned the enjoyment of seeing wildlife while recreating on the Oregon Dunes. But wildlife cannot exist without adequate habitat. So, deciding how and where to balance habitat needs of wildlife, fish and plants with interests of recreationists is not only appropriate to sound ecosystem management, it contributes directly to the recreation potential of the NRA.

I have decided to manage some parts of the NRA with a primary, though not exclusive emphasis, on plants, fish and wildlife habitat. These areas include Management Areas 10E, 10F, and 10G and total approximately 7,000 acres. Forest Service biologists and botanists believe that these areas have high habitat values that should be maintained and enhanced over time. They include: significant acreages of wetland, the most rapidly declining ecosystem type in the United States today; areas of globally significant plant communities, most of which occur only in a very few other locations anywhere else in the world; habitats, such as upland forest and meadows, that are limited in extent on the NRA; and areas that provide important habitat for proposed, endangered, threatened, and sensitive (PETS) species, most notably the snowy plover.

Habitat maintenance and enhancement activities will be focused in these management areas. The intent is to sustain and increase diversity of habitats on the NRA when possible and thus, the NRA's important contribution to regional biodiversity. Additionally, human impacts on habitats within other management areas will be reduced through actions such as limiting ORV use to designated routes in vegetated areas, more strictly regulating dispersed camping in some areas, restricting special forest product gathering in some areas, and locating hiking trails and facilities in less environmentally sensitive areas.

Just prior to publication of the DEIS, the snowy plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus*) was listed as a threatened species under the provisions of the Endangered Species Act. In compliance with that act a Biological Assessment of the proposed action was performed. It found, and there was concurrence from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), that the proposed action (my decision) would have no adverse effects on snowy plover. I have consulted with the USFWS in deciding upon the following management direction for protection and recovery of that species. Management Area 10E is established with a primary emphasis of maintaining snowy plover nesting

habitat. The management area includes currently suitable nesting habitat, as well as "habitat expansion" areas where creation of additional nesting habitat (often through treatment of encroaching vegetation) will be highest priority. In addition, there will be a staged approach to reduce human disturbance to critical nesting, foraging and wintering habitat. Education and voluntary compliance will be the first step, and actions will become increasingly restrictive (if necessary) to eventually include mandatory closure and perhaps removal of developed access and facilities. These actions will be focused primarily around the Tenmile, Tahkenitch, and Siltcoos estuaries.

5. Should the two proposed Research Natural Areas on the NRA be recommended for establishment?

Two 2,000-acre areas on the NRA were proposed several years ago by Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Station scientists as research natural areas (RNAs). One of the areas is west of Eel Creek Campground and is called the Tenmile Proposed RNA. The other area is on the North Spit of the Umpqua River and is called the Umpqua Spit Proposed RNA. Each of these areas would fill a currently unfilled cell in the nationwide network of representative ecosystems that make up the RNA system. The primary focus for these areas would be long-term ecosystem research and monitoring.

Many people questioned the propriety of RNAs in a national recreation area. The NRA Act specifically cites as part of the reason for establishment, "... the conservation of scenic, scientific, historic, and other values contributing to public enjoyment of such lands and waters....". I believe there can be benefits to recreation and public enjoyment of the Oregon Dunes resulting from long-term ecosystem research. Research can help us better understand and thereby more effectively manage dunal ecosystems to assure that they are available for enjoyment by future generations. By maintaining relatively undisturbed control areas we will be able to better assess impacts of management and develop mitigation to minimize them. I also believe that one of the best ways to promote and manage for such research is through the RNA program -- a credible, nationwide, multi-agency program.

Since its initial proposal, 780 acres of land within the Umpqua Spit Proposed RNA have gone into private ownership under provisions of the 1872 Mining Law. As a result of this and excellent wetlands management potential, I have decided that the remaining federal land is no longer suitable as an RNA and thus, am not recommending it for establishment. The federal lands will be managed for wetlands habitat and non-motorized undeveloped recreation.

I will make a recommendation for the Tenmile RNA that is smaller than the originally proposed 2,000 acres. Exceptional scenic quality, presence of a

popular trail, and proximity of a 40-unit campground cause me to believe that the southern portion of the proposed area has greater value for dispersed recreation than for long-term ecosystem research. The more remote northern portion of the proposed area still contains the complete mix of geologic and biologic components that caused the area to be proposed originally. It includes the entire west to east continuum of landforms and vegetative zones (beach to foothills) that exist on the NRA. Agency ecologists and RNA specialists have assured me that the "scaled down" Tenmile RNA will still fill its intended ecosystem cells and be suitable for long-term ecosystem research needs.

6. Should the three eligible streams on the NRA be recommended for addition to the Wild and Scenic River System?

Tahkenitch and Tenmile creeks and a portion of the Siltcoos River are eligible for recommendation to Congress under provisions of the Wild and Scenic River Act. In the course of this planning effort, Tahkenitch Creek and a portion of Tenmile Creek were also determined to be suitable for designation. Therefore, I am making a preliminary administrative recommendation that all of Tahkenitch Creek be added to the system as a "wild river" and that the portion of Tenmile Creek within the NRA be added to the system as a "scenic river." This recommendation will go through additional administrative review both within the Forest Service and the Department of Agriculture. If forwarded on, the final decision on whether or not to designate these streams as part of the wild and scenic river system will be made by Congress. Siltcoos River was determined to be unsuitable for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System for the following primary reasons: (A) the substantial alteration from roads, bridges and recreational development that exists along its banks, (B) the loss of future options for potential recreation development proposals in the corridor if it would be designated, and (C) Tahkenitch and Tenmile Creeks, the two streams in the Oregon Dunes NRA that are being recommended for designation, have somewhat better examples of the same outstandingly remarkable values that the Siltcoos River provides, and these two streams would fully represent the dunes ecosystem.

Some have said none these streams should be recommended because they are such short segments, they would likely never be dammed, and two of them have existing impoundments on them above the eligible stretches. However, these streams are unique on the Oregon Coast and indeed on the entire west coast of the United States because of their association with sand dune ecosystems and geological processes. The geologic and wildlife values associated with these streams in their passage through the active sand dunes are not duplicated anywhere else in Oregon or along the west coast. They provide examples of rare geologic processes (streams flowing through sand dunes) and probably represent the only examples of such systems eligible for inclusion within the national Wild and Scenic River System. In addition, the scenery and recreation opportunities associated with Takenitch and

Tenmile creeks are also unique along the west coast. For these reasons, I believe that both these streams would make worthy additions to that system.

Compatibility with Other Plans and Agency Goals

As the EIS discusses in Chapter IV, this decision was weighed against plans and policies of various federal, state and local agencies. Specifically, the decision was found to be compatible with all applicable U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recovery plans and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife habitat goals. It is consistent with State of Oregon Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan goals. It is generally consistent with the Oregon Coastal Zone Management Program (OCZMP). Where the decision may lead to actions not fully consistent with OCZMP (e.g., potential foredune breaching) the Forest Service will provide objectives and rationale on a project-by-project basis for exceptions to OCZMP goals.

Part of the OCZMP consistency review is determination of consistency with county comprehensive plans. This decision was found to be consistent with comprehensive plans for Coos, Douglas, and Lane counties, the three counties within which the NRA is located. Comments from Coos and Douglas counties did not raise any issues of inconsistency with the county comprehensive plans, although they did lead to some modifications of the draft preferred alternative.

The Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians provided comments reflecting general support of the draft preferred alternative with some minor modifications. The communities of Florence and Reedsport both provided comments that were supportive of Draft Alternative F, again with some modifications. Coos Bay and North Bend did not provide comments on the DEIS. Several modifications suggested by communities, counties and the Confederated Tribes have been incorporated into my decision.

The State of Oregon was also generally supportive of Draft Alternative F stating, "We find the analysis of issues and the proposal developed as a preferred alternative sensitive to the often conflicting resource demands on the NRA. It is also reflective of a reasoned strategy to provide sustainable recreational use and long-term protection to the ecological integrity of the dunes." Again, I have incorporated some of the State's recommended modifications of the draft preferred alternative into my decision.

With the modifications adopted between DEIS and FEIS, I believe my decision is consistent with goals of local and state governments and the Tribes. While there are sure to be points of disagreement in any plan as complex as this, I believe my decision provides a multiple-use, ecosystem-based orientation and a balance between sustainable use and resource protection desired by the State, tribes, counties, and communities associated with the NRA.

Support to Local Communities

Fostering stability and contributing to economies of counties and communities around federal lands has been an inherent objective of Forest Service management since early in the agency's history. Over the years, in a variety of legislative actions, Congress has reaffirmed its intent that national forests contribute to stability of local communities. In recent years, that implicit objective has become more explicit with Congress's passage of the 1990 Omnibus Farm Bill, which specifically directs the Forest Service to assist neighboring communities and counties with rural economic development efforts.

Counties and communities around the Oregon Dunes NRA are currently undergoing major economic restructuring as they develop strategies to become less dependent on traditional resource-based industries, such as logging, lumber production and fishing. Tourism, outdoor recreation, and service-based industries that support them can assist local community and county efforts to diversify their economies, and thereby enhance their long-term stability. The Oregon Dunes NRA, as one of the major tourism and outdoor recreation destinations in the State, obviously has a role to play in these efforts. The NRA is extremely important to economic well-being and quality of life in neighboring communities.

In deciding management direction for the NRA, its economic importance, as well as its "quality of life" importance, to nearby communities was a primary consideration in my thinking. I made a diligent effort to strike a reasonable and sustainable balance between the area's ability to contribute economically and long-term conservation of the resource values that contribute to a positive quality of life and for which Congress designated it an NRA. For example, I decided to try to maintain a broad mix of recreation uses, including both motorized and non-motorized, to provide the broadest possible market for NRA opportunities during this critical time of economic re-orientation for local communities and counties. Monitoring of NRA resource conditions and visitor compliance with regulations will tell if this mix and level of use is sustainable.

A concept that emerged during the public involvement process was to convene a workshop of federal, state, county, and community development specialists. The workshop, focused on the central Oregon coast and dunes region, would explore ideas for developing a coordinated community development strategy involving all or several of the communities around the NRA. The Forest Service is prepared to participate should such a workshop occur. In addition, the Forest Service is willing to assist in efforts to identify business opportunities and potential areas for joint public/private commercial development in the dunes region. Planned developments on the NRA, such as the High Dunes Overlook and the Butterfield Lake Facility may offer opportunities for multi-party, joint public-private sector development and perhaps commercial opportunities for private sector interests.

As with other aspects of this decision, different people will see and have rationale for different balance points than those I have decided upon. In my role as a steward of public lands for future as well as the current generation I must maintain a perspective that balances ecosystem needs with economic interests. My decision must ensure that basic land resources and systems, which are ultimately the source of any economic returns (and continued use and enjoyment by future generations) remain viable and available to people over the long term. While this decision does not maximize economic return from the NRA, it does implement an alternative that provides significant income to local communities and counties while at the same time maintaining or enhancing the quality of NRA resources. I believe it provides the highest net public benefit of any of the alternatives.

Public Involvement Conducted

Public involvement in the planning process leading to this decision began in March 1991. Approximately 3,000 people were contacted via mail and in person during scoping from March through May 1991. Issues, concerns and opportunities later analyzed in the DEIS were identified during this period. Scoping-phase participants were subsequently surveyed via newsletter to ensure that all pertinent issues, concerns and opportunities had been captured.

In January 1992, five draft alternatives were presented to the public via a series of open houses and a newsletter mailed to approximately 2,300 people on the NRA mailing list. Based on public response to the draft alternatives, three additional alternatives were developed.

In April 1993, a DEIS including eight alternatives was published for public review and comment. Approximately 4,200 individuals, agencies and groups submitted comments about the DEIS during the 90-day comment period. In addition, approximately 130 people participated in four public workshops. The workshops were intended to provide a public forum, involving people with varied interests, in which to test ideas and develop collaborative suggestions for improvement of several planning issues at the NRA. Comments about the draft alternatives were then analyzed and incorporated into the FEIS where appropriate.

A detailed discussion of public involvement is included in Appendix B and Forest Service responses to comments are included in Appendix I of the FEIS.

Alternatives Considered

In making this decision I considered eight alternatives (A through H) for future management of the Oregon Dunes NRA. Each alternative is described in Chapter

II of the FEIS and environmental consequences of each are discussed in Chapter IV. Briefly, the alternatives considered are as follows:

**Alternative
A**

Alternative A would enhance ORV recreation opportunities primarily by increasing the amount of area available for ORV use. Many additional facilities would be developed for a broad range of recreation activities and there would be a moderate decrease of undeveloped settings. Amount of access via paved roads, designated ORV routes, and hiking and walking trails would increase from current levels. Other resource activities, such as fish, plant and wildlife habitat management would generally complement and be compatible with the primary focus. Some resource programs, such as RNAs and wild and scenic rivers, would not be compatible. No RNAs or streams would be recommended for designation.

**Alternative
B**

Alternative B would enhance non-motorized recreation opportunities in both developed and undeveloped settings. Amount of access and developed facilities would increase over current levels and there would be a small decrease in undeveloped settings. Amount of area closed to ORVs would increase by about 60 percent from current. There would be about a 20 percent increase in the amount of area managed for plant, fish and wildlife habitat. Umpqua Spit RNA and three streams would be recommended for designation.

**Alternative
C**

Alternative C would continue management under the existing NRA management plan. It is the "no action" alternative. Management would continue to focus primarily on recreation resources with approximately a 50/50 mix in ORV and non-motorized opportunities. Resource programs such as plant, fish and wildlife habitat management would continue with little direction and decisions on RNAs and wild and scenic rivers would be deferred to the next planning cycle.

**Alternative
D**

Alternative D would enhance conditions for plants, fish, wildlife and geologic resources. There would be a tenfold increase in amount of area managed as habitat (over current) and there would be increased protection for unique habitats and geologic features. Amount of undeveloped area would increase as a result of reductions in paved roads and developed facilities. Opportunities for recreation in developed settings and ORV recreation would decrease. Tenmile RNA and three streams would be recommended for designation.

**Alternative
E**

Alternative E would reduce human impacts (including management impacts) more than any other alternative. It would allow natural processes to proceed unimpeded. Amount of undeveloped area would increase as a result of removing most roads and developed facilities from the interior of the NRA. Opportunities for most recreation activities would decline because of reduced access and the entire area would be closed to ORV use. Tenmile and Umpqua Spit would be recommended for RNA designation and Tahkenitch and Tenmile creeks would be recommended for wild and scenic designation.

Alternative F Alternative F (Preferred Alternative) would maintain a broad range of ORV and non-motorized recreation opportunities while enhancing conditions for plants, fish, wildlife and unique geologic features. There would be a sevenfold increase in the amount of area managed primarily for habitat. Amount of area and miles of trails for ORV use would decline slightly. Tenmile RNA, smaller than originally proposed, would be recommended for designation and Tahkenitch and Tenmile creeks would be recommended for addition to the Wild and Scenic River system.

Alternative G Alternative G would enhance ORV recreation opportunities while providing non-motorized recreation and plant, fish and wildlife habitat in areas closed to ORVs. Amount of undeveloped area would decrease slightly and amount of area open to ORVs would increase by about 2,000 acres, primarily in the Umpqua Dunes Scenic area. There would be a slight increase (over current) in amount of developed facilities and access. No proposed RNAs would be recommended for designation. The Siltcoos River and Tahkenitch Creek would be recommended for addition to the Wild and Scenic River system.

Alternative H Alternative H would provide a broad range of non-motorized recreation opportunities, while closing the NRA to ORV use. Conditions for plants, fish, and wildlife would be enhanced. Habitat management areas would be increased by about 450 percent over current. Amount of undeveloped area would decrease slightly because of increases in paved roads and facilities. Both Tenmile and Umpqua Spit would be recommended for RNA designation. The Siltcoos River and Tahkenitch and Tenmile creeks would be recommended for addition to the Wild and Scenic River system.

Mitigation

Mitigation measures have been developed through interdisciplinary efforts and incorporated into all alternatives. Standards and guidelines described in Chapter III of the Dunes Plan are a fundamental part of these measures, and Management Area allocations serve an important role in mitigation through separation of competing uses.

Additional mitigation measures associated with the Forest Plan, such as compliance with the State water quality standards, also apply to the NRA since it is a part of the Siuslaw National Forest. These appear in Forest-wide standards and guidelines in Dunes Plan, Chapter III.

Additional mitigation measures will be developed and implemented at the project level, and will be tiered to and consistent with measures described in the Dunes Plan and the Forest Plan.

Environmentally Preferable Alternative

Identification of the environmentally preferable alternative is required [40 CFR 1505.2(b)]. It is generally defined as the alternative that would least damage the biological and physical environment. In this context, Alternative E is the environmentally preferable alternative. Although all alternatives considered meet minimum legal and environmental standards, Alternative E would most restrict human use of the NRA and thus, most reduce human damage on the biological and physical environment.

I selected Alternative F over Alternative E primarily for the following reasons:

- A. I believe Alternative F is more in keeping with the intent of Congress in establishing the Oregon Dunes as a national recreation area "for the use and enjoyment by present and future generations....". I believe the selected alternative strikes a more "reasonable" balance between use and conservation of NRA resources.
- B. I believe Alternative F better responds to issues, concerns and opportunities identified during the scoping phase of the planning effort. Even the most ardent conservationists, for the most part, felt that the NRA should remain easily accessible to a large segment of the public. Alternative E would significantly reduce easy access to much of the NRA, making the area available to only a small segment of people. This, in turn, has implications for the level of support the NRA provides to nearby communities. Alternative E would minimize management activities on the NRA. In time, as a result of natural processes and an absence of human disturbance, the NRA could become less biologically diverse, which could in turn effect the NRA's contribution to regional biodiversity.

Figure II-17 in Chapter II of the FEIS further displays differences in outputs and effects between my decision (Alternative F) and the environmentally preferable Alternative "E".

Implementation

Schedules

The Dunes Plan will be implemented through identification and scheduling of projects to meet its management goals and objectives. Projects and target implementation dates are displayed in Appendix B of the Dunes Plan. Individual projects will be subject to site-specific analysis in compliance with NEPA. This process may result in a decision not to proceed with the proposed project, even though it is compatible with the Dunes Plan. Other adjustments to schedules may occur based on results of monitoring, budgets, and unforeseen events.

The schedule of proposed projects in the Dunes Plan is translated into multi-year program budget proposals. The program is used for requesting and allocating funds needed to carry out planned management direction. Upon approval of a final budget for the Dunes, the annual program of work is updated and implemented.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring provides information on progress and results of implementation. It involves gathering data, observations and information which can then be evaluated to determine whether conditions are within the bounds and intent set by the Plan. It also provides the basis for assessing needs to adjust management and/or amend the Plan itself. Monitoring and evaluation are discussed in more detail in Chapter IV of the Dunes Plan.

Three types of monitoring will be conducted:

- **Implementation monitoring** will determine if plans, projects and activities are implemented as designed and in compliance with NRA and Forest Plan objectives and standards and guidelines.
- **Effectiveness monitoring** will determine if plans, projects and activities are effective in meeting management direction, objectives, and standards and guidelines.
- **Validation monitoring** will determine whether initial data and assumptions used to develop the Plan are correct; or if there is a better way to meet planning regulations, policies, goals and objectives.

Evaluation of results of the site-specific monitoring program and recommendations for any needed additional action will be documented in an annual report. Results of evaluations will lead to the following types of decisions:

- Continue practice, no change necessary.
- Refer the situation to the proper Forest officer for corrective action.
- Modify the management practice through Plan amendment.
- Modify land designation through Plan amendment.
- Revise the Plan.

If, through monitoring and evaluation, it is determined that management objectives cannot be achieved without violating standards and guidelines, the Dunes Plan will be amended. In amending the Plan, one or more of the following may be changed:

allocations, management prescriptions, projected outputs, or standards and guidelines.

Subject to valid existing rights, all permits, contracts, cooperative agreements, and other instruments for use and occupancy of National Forest System lands within the Oregon Dunes NRA are to be consistent with management direction adopted by this Record of Decision.

Findings Required By Other Laws or Regulations

Consulta- tion Re- quired by the Endan- gered Spe- cies Act

On May 4, 1994 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued their biological opinion on the Dunes Plan and stated on the final page of their opinion, "For these reasons, we concur with the Forest Service's determination that the proposed project is not likely to adversely affect bald eagles, peregrine falcons, brown pelicans, and Aleutian Canada geese and is likely to beneficially affect snowy plovers."

Because this decision does not authorize any site-specific activities, potential effects on threatened, endangered or proposed species will be evaluated through consultation on a project level basis when site-specific information is available. The Dunes Plan establishes snowy plover management areas that contain the constituent habitat elements required by the species. It is anticipated that these elements will also be part of the USFWS critical habitat designations. If there are additional management requirements associated with designation of critical habitat and development of a Recovery Plan, these can be instituted on the NRA through changing management area boundaries (amending the Dunes Plan) or through changing management practices in non-snowy plover management areas that fall within the critical habitat designation.

Review by the EPA

The Environmental Protection Agency reviewed the DEIS and raised no environmental objections. A copy of the EPA comments is included in Appendix I of the FEIS.

Other Guiding Documen- tation

The Dunes Plan is consistent with management goals and objectives of the Forest Plan of March 1990, as amended by the April 13, 1994 Record of Decision on Management of Habitat for Late Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl.

The Dunes Plan complies with the Record of Decision for the Final Environmental Impact Statement for Managing Competing and Unwanted Vegetation, signed December 1988, and the requirements of the Mediated Agreement of May 1989. Unwanted vegetation will be treated using a variety of methods including manual, mechanical, biological, burning, saltwater inundation, burial, and herbicides. Projects will comply with the Mediated Agreement by following direction provided in the Region 6 Guide to Conducting Vegetation Management Projects in the Pacific Northwest Region.

Effective Date and Implementation

This decision will be implemented 30 days after publication of the Notice of Availability of the FEIS in the Federal Register.

Contact Person

For information, contact Mike Harvey, Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area, 855 Highway Avenue, Reedsport, OR 97467
(503) 271-3611; Telephone Device for the Deaf (503) 271-3614.

Right to Administrative Review

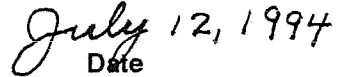
This decision is subject to appeal pursuant to 36 CFR 217. Any written notice of appeal of this decision must be fully consistent with 36 CFR 217.9 (Content of a Notice of Appeal) and must include the reasons for appeal. A written Notice of Appeal, in duplicate, must be filed with the reviewing officer:

Regional Forester
ATTN: 1570 APPEALS
P.O. Box 3623
Portland, OR 97208-3623

within 45 days of the date legal notice of this decision appears in the Corvallis Gazette-Times. The Notice of Appeal must include sufficient narrative evidence and argument as to why this decision should be changed or reversed (36 CFR 217.9).

I encourage anyone who is considering an appeal to consult with me prior to submitting their appeal notice to see if their concerns can be resolved.


JAMES R. FURNISH
Forest Supervisor


Date

The policy of the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age religion, sex or disability, familial status, or political affiliation. Persons believing they have been discriminated against in any Forest Service related activity should write to: Chief, Forest Service, USDA, P.O. Box 96090, Washington, DC 20090-6090.