

Dunes Restoration Strategy
Meeting Minutes- November 21st, 2014

NOTES/DISCUSSIONS

As we reviewed the draft Table of Contents (TOC) for the strategy book, the following topics were discussed in terms of what are we trying to accomplish with the Strategy and are there any elements missing from the current version of the TOC?

Table of Contents - Section #1 and #2

Jody expressed that open sand should be the main focus as the ODNRA is recreation-centric and suggested that open sand should specifically be added to the TOC, which it is currently lacking.

Greg suggested that the Strategy document should include an acknowledgment that long term maintenance will be needed to ensure success, including a commitment of resources such as time, effort, funding, and people. Mike later reiterated this concern in terms of ensuring that we identify ways to maintain the momentum into the future, including funding, planning, and ability to implement on-the-ground projects.

Jay reiterated a concern widely acknowledged by others that the magnitude of treatments will need to be on a large scale in order to be successful.

Cindy mentioned the 400+ species of wildlife associated with the Dunes environment and posed the question of whether one of the goals of the Strategy is to attempt to bring of the lost species back. Greg added plant species to this discussion as well.

Questions about the overall scale of the project were raised. The answer, reiterated from a previous meeting, is that the project encompasses the ODNRA plus areas directly adjacent to the north with similar dunes, features, and issues. Dina suggested including Heceta, Sutton, and Joshua Lane as areas to Preserve the Best.

Kerrie suggested that whatever the Strategy ends up being, we need to ensure that it is realistic, workable, and that it adheres to the existing ODNRA regulation. It was further stated that some of the sideboards previously laid forth by the Forest is that this effort would not include a plan revision.

Jay identified the need to address political and regulatory barriers; projects will need to be at a large enough scale to be successful in re-establishing the process of the sand movement, including potential effects to existing wetlands.

An idea was brought forth to consider adding an outreach and education element to the TOC.

Table of Contents - Section #3

A suggestion was made to include: an explanation of the introduction of the non-native plant species as well as the climate and wind patterns that create the transverse dune, and how the foredune has developed by European beach grass; an ethnobotany section (mushrooms as a past and present example); and an explanation of why the NW marine open sand is globally unique and significant, particularly in contrast to marine sand in other parts of the world where European beach grass is native and prevents formation of large dunes.

Suggestions were made to use the term human *values* rather than human *uses* and to add a section for *scenic* values; impacts to local aquifers; add modern uses/values to all of the categories; and to split this out into its own section of the document.

Quantify how much open sand has been lost and the rate more is lost each year; include a section/discussion/recommendations to avoid future importation of non-native plant species.

Elevate the concept of Adaptive Management to a goal and objective.

Ensure the southern Oregon coast economy is addressed.

Ideas suggested to include in Preserving the Best: open sand areas; areas for solitude; human – use in term of “fun factor”; specific/unique parts, not too broad of brush (i.e. specific trails being lost).

Include recommendations on what to fund; how to sustain funding; treatment types; and identify who may be able to do the work on the ground.

Clarence suggested that we keep an eye not just on Preserving the Best but also attacking the worst, such as the gorse encroaching from the north, and to not only deal with the past but also anticipate the future.

Kerrie suggested considering research and monitoring opportunities.

The Table of Contents has been updated to reflect our discussions to include, highlight, or separate these items:

What does success look like?

Adaptive management; maintainable; sustainable

Education, community based actions - people and funding

Other needs:

Research & monitoring, funding, education

Maps: better maps of the Dunes "zones"