Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/10/2020 11:00:00 AM
First name: Coleman Jody
Last name: Phillips
Organization:
Title:
Comments: Michele,

Attached are my original comments on the EA back in June and I want to reinforce my views of the decision not do Landscape level restoration due to the martin. We also need to pull the Dellenback dunes back into the discussion. Like I said, they were not considered due to finding martin in the deflation plain of that area.

Again, I have been a part of the Oregon Dunes for many, many years and saving the big oblique dunes are paramount. The other obliques are 10B open OHV so we are keeping the vegetation at bay. For hiker and non-OHV the Dellenback dunes are the pristine place to enjoy the big dunes. From a common sense prospective, this should be the highest priority for landscape level restoration. There is a "twofer" gain, opening up 5 miles of snowy plover habitat and saving the obliques. Move the martin out of that area and across 101 for new habitat. From all that I have heard, they do not cross rivers so they would not go south across 10 mile creek and they would not go north from there across the Umpqua river.

Thanks for listening,

Jody Phillips

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June 8, 2019

Michele Jones

District Ranger

? Donni Vogel

Siuslaw National Forest

Central Coast Ranger District

1130 Forestry Lane

Waldport, OR 97394-0400

RE: Comments on Siuslaw National Forest Dunes Restoration Project #52946.

Dear Michele,

Please accept these comments from myself, Coleman Jody Phillips. My first visit to the ODNRA was in 1957 so I have a unique view of what the ODNRA should look like. Back then there was open sand as far as you can see from the ocean to the large obliques to the east. This is the natural processes of sand movement that created the Oregon Dunes.

First and foremost, the current EIA has become more of a political decision with long term negative impacts to the ODNRA. Which is more important, open sand, snowy plover or marten? We have an opportunity to look back at decisions made in the 1950s and earlier resulting it what we have today. Then it was a sound decision based on unwanted sand movement. Now in retrospect, it was not a good decision. We have lost almost 60% of the open sand with non-native, man planted European beach grass, scotch broom and shore pine plantations. This rapid destruction will continue without restoration.

When new land managers contemplate this decision 50 years from now, what will they say? My view is they will see that we lost the marten and the ODNRA together at about the same time. They will say that they wished they would have made a better decision in 2019. I implore you to talk to the Fish and Wildlife about the priorities and make the tough call. The open sand of the ODNRA must be of the highest priority. It supports true natural processes. It supports the Snowy Plover. It does not support the non-native marten in non-native vegetation.

The original Oregon Dunes Restoration Collaborative report concluded that there should be 5 landscape level restoration projects. It went through scoping and everyone agreed with the exception of the Dellenback dunes that I was concerned with. That area should be opened up from ocean to the large obliques including removal of the deflation plain. I argued that there were only two large oblique dunes left and one should be protected and restored to natural processes. Some have said that knocking down the foredune the ocean will fill in and destroy the deflation plain. That is simply not true and proved in the 1980s with the removal of the foredune in the lookout area. I was told that the deflation plain in in the Dellenback area held marten in it and was off limits. At the time I did not understand why and how they knew that. I now know through Jeff Malik and Bill Blackwell's research effort where the research came from. It is frustrating that the US Forest Service did not provide those two pieces of research especially with a complete deletion of 4 of the 5 landscape level restorations projects that were approved because of the marten being listed. One of the papers was in Science Findings (Issue two hundred fifteen/April 2019 and the second PeerJ 6:e4530; DOI 10.7717/peerj.4530. After reviewing these two papers I discovered where the research came from that puts the marten in the Dellenback dunes.

Nobody wants to harm any animal especially a threaten species. Period. Therefore we should trap and move the marten from the Dellenback deflation plain to a more natural and native area east of Highway 101 or California. There are currently 50 miles of deflation plain that supports the marten. From what I read, they do not swim so 5-

6 miles of open sand will not be the cause of the martens end. I may be naive, but this seems to be the only solution that will protect all three extinctions facing us now.

I do not want to slow down the EIA. It is sad but I must. Please prioritize the open sand of the ODNRA and subsequent snowy plover habitat. It's the right thing to do.

Thanks,

Coleman Jody Phillips