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Title:
Comments: The proposal to consider a 4 decibel (dBA) increase at the Oregon Dunes site presents an unreasonable burden on the adjacent communities and nearby residents. As quoted from your supporting documents, "The decibel scale is logarithmic rather than linear, similar to the Richter scale used to measure earthquakes. This means each point in the scale represents a jump in order of magnitude of loudness rather than simply an increase in equal increments. For example, an increase of just 3 decibels about doubles the overall noise, and an increase of 10 decibels means ten times as much noise".
The Oregon Dunes site is surrounded by several immediately adjacent communities who are already adversely impacted by the OHV noise emissions. If 101 dBA "isn't considered a violation", even though it is deemed excessively loud, how do adjacent neighbors find relief from the newly increased noise emissions if current violations are not considered violations and not enforced? Where is your enforcement?
At Sand Lake the current dBA limit is 97, and as a neighbor residing approximately three or four miles south of this area, I can confirm the noise level adversely affects the surrounding community as well as those who live further away. Routinely, the sound emissions from Sand Lake are a significant noise pollution, especially with a curfew of midnight.
Striving for consistency across OHV areas to reduce confusion to riders should not come at the expense of adjacent communities. Noise pollution from off-road vehicles is a very real concern and recognized as an issue already, please ensure it is considered of equal importance when reviewing your proposal and not ignored.