

Six Things We'd Like You to Know About the Ten Mile Dunes Project



The restoration work planned for the Ten Mile Dunes area is to remove 2.7 miles of remnant haul road, remove two culverts and to hand-pull European beach grass. Both the road and the non-native invasive beach grass continue to degrade natural processes and habitat that are critical to the imperiled plant and wildlife species found there. The project is funded by Proposition 84, approved by the voters of California. Funds are ear-marked for this project.

1. Work is being done in the Inglenook Fen-Ten Mile Dunes Natural Preserve, located in Mackerricher State Park between Ward Avenue and Ten Mile River. The paramount purpose of a State Parks unit that is designated "Natural Preserve" is the protection of features such as rare plant and animal species and their ecosystems.
2. The Preserve contains Inglenook Fen, the only remaining coastal fen in California, and Ten Mile Dunes (one of the few relatively pristine dune ecosystems in California). Invasive beach grass and the haul road interrupt natural dune processes in the Preserve. When the project is under way, the beach will become broader with more gently sloped fore dunes, native plants will re-vegetate these dunes, and the restoration of two streams will begin.
3. Parts of the haul road to be removed are those remnants north of Ward Avenue—all within the Preserve—that have been severely eroded, washed away or covered by drifting sand. The popular walking and biking portion of the road from Ward Avenue south to Pudding Creek will be maintained, with plans for improvement.
4. There are only an estimated 2,100 adult breeding Western Snowy Plovers in the world and the winter flock of these birds in Inglenook Fen-Ten Mile Dunes Preserve has been 50 or more in the past few years—making this area a preserve that is also recognized as part of an Important Bird Area by National and California Audubon. Removal of European beach grass will protect shorebird habitat and encourage nesting in the Preserve.
5. Popular access points and existing trails to the beach and river will be retained. State Parks will explore a feasible route for bikes, such as a bike lane adjacent to Highway One from Ten Mile River to Ward Avenue.
6. The project will restore the unique environment and wetland diversity of the dune ecosystem and rare native plants including pink sand verbena, Menzies' wall-flower and Howell's spineflower (found only in Mackerricher State Park).

The approved Coastal Development Permit for the restoration project was appealed to the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors August 13, 2013. Public comment was heard and then closed. Supervisors postponed their final decision to uphold or deny the appeal until 10 a.m., August 26, 2013, in the Board of Supervisors chambers, 501 Low Gap Road, Room 1010, Ukiah, CA 95482

