

## Oregon's Statewide Planning Goals & Guidelines

### GOAL 18: BEACHES AND DUNES

OAR 660-015-0010(3)

To conserve, protect, where appropriate develop, and where appropriate restore the resources and benefits of coastal beach and dune areas; and

To reduce the hazard to human life and property from natural or man-induced actions associated with these areas. Coastal comprehensive plans and implementing actions shall provide for diverse and appropriate use of beach and dune areas consistent with their ecological, recreational, aesthetic, water resource, and economic values, and consistent with the natural limitations of beaches, dunes, and dune vegetation for development.

#### **INVENTORY REQUIREMENTS**

Inventories shall be conducted to provide information necessary for identifying and designating beach and dune uses and policies. Inventories shall describe the stability, movement, groundwater resource, hazards and values of the beach and dune areas in sufficient detail to establish a sound basis for planning and management. For beach and dune areas adjacent to coastal waters, inventories shall also address the inventory requirements of the Coastal Shorelands Goal.

#### **COMPREHENSIVE PLAN REQUIREMENTS**

Based upon the inventory, comprehensive plans for coastal areas shall:

1. Identify beach and dune areas; and
2. Establish policies and uses for these areas consistent with the provisions of this goal.

#### **IDENTIFICATION OF BEACHES AND DUNES**

Coastal areas subject to this goal shall include beaches, active dune forms, recently stabilized dune forms, older stabilized dune forms and interdune forms.

#### **USES**

Uses shall be based on the capabilities and limitations of beach and dune areas to sustain different levels of use or development, and the need to protect areas of critical environmental concern, areas having scenic, scientific, or biological importance, and significant wildlife habitat as identified through application of Goals 5 and 17.

#### **IMPLEMENTATION REQUIREMENTS**

1. Local governments and state and federal agencies shall base decisions on plans, ordinances and land use actions in beach and dune areas, other than older stabilized dunes, on specific findings that shall include at least:
  - (a) The type of use proposed and the adverse effects it might have on the site and adjacent areas;
  - (b) Temporary & permanent stabilization programs and the planned maintenance of new and existing vegetation;
  - (c) Methods for protecting the surrounding area from any adverse effects of the development; and
  - (d) Hazards to life, public & private property, and the natural environment which may be caused by proposed use.
2. Local governments and state and federal agencies shall prohibit residential developments and commercial and industrial buildings on beaches, active foredunes, on other foredunes which are conditionally stable and that are subject to ocean undercutting or wave overtopping, and on interdune areas (deflation plains) that are subject to ocean flooding. Other development in these areas shall be permitted only if the findings required in (1) above are presented and it is demonstrated that the proposed development:
  - (a) Is adequately protected from any geologic hazards, wind erosion, undercutting, ocean flooding and storm waves; or is of minimal value; and
  - (b) Is designed to minimize adverse environmental effects.
3. Local governments and state and federal agencies shall regulate actions in beach and dune areas to minimize the resulting erosion. Such actions include, but are not limited to, the destruction of desirable vegetation (including inadvertent destruction by moisture loss or root damage), the exposure of stable and conditionally stable areas to erosion, and construction of shore structures which modify current or wave patterns leading to beach erosion.
4. Local, state and federal plans, implementing actions and permit reviews shall protect the groundwater from

drawdown which would lead to loss of stabilizing vegetation, loss of water quality, or intrusion of salt water into water supplies. Building permits for single family dwellings are exempt from this requirement if appropriate findings are provided in the comprehensive plan or at the time of subdivision approval.

5. Permits for beachfront protective structures shall be issued only where development existed on January 1, 1977. Local comprehensive plans shall identify areas where development existed on January 1, 1977. For the purposes of this requirement and Implementation Requirement 7 “development” means houses, commercial and industrial buildings, and vacant subdivision lots which are physically improved through construction of streets and provision of utilities to the lot and includes areas where an exception to (2) above has been approved. The criteria for review of all shore and beachfront protective structures shall provide that:

- (a) visual impacts are minimized;
- (b) necessary access to the beach is maintained;
- (c) negative impacts on adjacent property are minimized; and
- (d) long-term or recurring costs to the public are avoided.

6. Foredunes shall be breached only to replenish sand supply in interdune areas, or on a temporary basis in an emergency (e.g., fire control, cleaning up oil spills, draining farm lands, and alleviating flood hazards), and only if the breaching and restoration after breaching is consistent with sound principles of conservation.

7. Grading or sand movement necessary to maintain views or to prevent sand inundation may be allowed for structures in foredune areas only if the area is committed to development or is within an acknowledged urban growth boundary and only as part of an overall plan for managing foredune grading. A foredune grading plan shall include the following elements based on consideration of factors affecting the stability of the shoreline to be managed including sources of sand, ocean flooding, and patterns of accretion and erosion (including wind erosion), and effects of beachfront protective structures and jetties. The plan shall:

- (a) Cover an entire beach and foredune area subject to an accretion problem, including adjacent areas potentially affected by changes in flooding, erosion, or accretion as a result of dune grading;
- (b) Specify minimum dune height and width requirements to be maintained for protection from flooding and erosion. The minimum height for flood protection is 4 feet above the 100 year flood elevation;
- (c) Identify and set priorities for low and narrow dune areas which need to be built up;
- (d) Prescribe standards for redistribution of sand and temporary and permanent stabilization measures including the timing of these activities; and (e) Prohibit removal of sand from the beach-foredune system.

The Commission shall, by January 1, 1987, evaluate plans and actions which implement this requirement and determine whether or not they have interfered with maintaining the integrity of beach and dune areas and minimize flooding and erosion problems. If the Commission determines that these measures have interfered it shall initiate Goal amendment proceedings to revise or repeal these requirements.

## **GUIDELINES FOR GOAL 18**

The requirements of the Beaches and Dunes Goal should be addressed with the same consideration applied to previously adopted goals and guidelines. The planning process described in the Land Use Planning Goal (Goal 2), including the exceptions provisions described in Goal 2, applies to beaches and dune areas and implementation of the Beaches and Dunes Goal.

Beaches and dunes, especially interdune areas (deflation plains) provide many unique or exceptional resources which should be addressed in the inventories and planning requirements of other goals, especially the Goals for Open Space, Scenic and Historic Areas and Natural Resources; and Recreational Needs. Habitat provided by these areas for coastal and migratory species is of special importance.

### **A. INVENTORIES**

Local government should begin the beach and dune inventory with a review of Beaches and Dunes of the Oregon Coast, USDA Soil Conservation Service and OCCDC, March 1975, and determine what additional information is necessary to identify and describe:

1. The geologic nature and stability of the beach and dune landforms;

2. Patterns of erosion, accretion, and migration;
3. Storm and ocean flood hazards;
4. Existing and projected use, development and economic activity on the beach and dune landforms; and
5. Areas of significant biological importance.

#### **B. EXAMPLES OF MINIMAL DEVELOPMENT**

Examples of development activity which are of minimal value and suitable for development of conditionally stable dunes and deflation plains include beach and dune boardwalks, fences which do not affect sand erosion or migration, and temporary open-sided shelters.

#### **C. EVALUATING BEACH AND DUNE PLANS AND ACTIONS**

Local government should adopt strict controls for carrying out the Implementation Requirements of this goal. The controls could include:

1. Requirement of a site investigation report financed by the developer;
2. Posting of performance bonds to assure that adverse effects can be corrected; and
3. Requirement of re-establishing vegetation within a specific time.

#### **D. SAND BY-PASS**

In developing structures that might excessively reduce the sand supply or interrupt the longshore transport or littoral drift, the developer should investigate, and where possible, provide methods of sand by-pass.

#### **E. PUBLIC ACCESS**

Where appropriate, local government should require new developments to dedicate easements for public access to public beaches,

dunes and associated waters. Access into or through dune areas, particularly conditionally stable dunes and dune complexes, should be controlled or designed to maintain the stability of the area, protect scenic values and avoid fire hazards.

#### **F. DUNE STABILIZATION**

Dune stabilization programs should be allowed only when in conformance with the comprehensive plan, and only after assessment of their potential impact.

#### **G. OFF-ROAD VEHICLES**

Appropriate levels of government should designate specific areas for the recreational use of off-road vehicles (ORVs). This use should be restricted to limit damage to natural resources and avoid conflict with other activities, including other recreational use.

#### **H. FOREDUNE GRADING PLANS**

Plans which allow foredune grading should be based on clear consideration of the fragility and ever-changing nature of the foredune and its importance for protection from flooding and erosion. Foredune grading needs to be planned for on an area-wide basis because the geologic processes of flooding, erosion, sand movement, wind patterns, and littoral drift affect entire stretches of shoreline. Dune grading cannot be carried out effectively on a lot-by-lot basis because of these areawide processes and the off-site effects of changes to the dunes.

Plans should also address in detail the findings specified in Implementation Requirement (1) of this Goal with special emphasis placed on the following:

- Identification of appropriate measures for stabilization of graded areas and areas of deposition, including use of fire-resistant vegetation;
- Avoiding or minimizing grading or deposition which could adversely affect surrounding properties by changing wind, ocean erosion, or flooding patterns;
- Identifying appropriate sites for public and emergency access to the beach.

