# Text Oregon Coast Marine Science Educator Alliance logo 2020-21

# Beachgrass Ecosystem Services

## Identifying Impacts

**Essential Question 1:  What ecosystem services do beachgrasses and dunes provide?**   
What are some of the potential positive and negative impacts of beachgrasses and dune formation?

**Positive:**

* Beachgrasses build dunes that protect against sea level rise and storms, which are becoming more frequent/intense due to climate change.
* Dunes provide habitat for native species, such as the endangered Western snowy plover.
* Beachgrasses and dunes store carbon, which can help mitigate the effects of climate change.
* Dunes provide recreation areas for humans.

**Negative:**

* Beachgrasses outcompete and reduce habitat for native and endangered dune species.
* The dunes that beachgrasses build often block views for homes on the coast (many of these homes, such as at Pacific City, are vacation or second homes).