



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).