

RECREATION NICHE – SIUSLAW NATIONAL FOREST

“It’s Time to Coast – from the summit to the surf”

135 miles of stunning Pacific Coast distinguishes the western edge of the Siuslaw National Forest, while the eastern edge provides a forested backdrop for the Willamette Valley.

Scenic Hwy 101 stretches the entire length and ties together history, communities, and natural landscape, and provides visitors year round opportunities to explore the coast.

The dramatic sand dunes, undeveloped coastal headlands and beaches are spectacular areas for hiking, viewing wildflowers, wildlife & tidepools, quiet contemplation, and a whale of an ocean view. Large areas of sand dunes offer a fantastic opportunity for OHV riding and camping.

Major rivers with their headwaters in the Coast & Cascade Ranges become ocean estuaries – the lifeblood of coastal towns. Paved highways paralleling these rivers provide a scenic experience for visitors traveling through to the coast, as well as access to the river for outstanding anadromous fishing and water related camping and picnicking

Forest-wide Settings, Special Places, and Values: The Siuslaw is a forest on the move, and people are moving into coastal areas! Rivers flow from their headwaters in the Coast Range to ocean estuaries and the Willamette Valley. Coastal winds shape vegetation and sculpt the open sand dunes, while ocean waves relentlessly pound the rocky headlands. And people move along Highway 101, an All American Road, stopping and taking in the spectacular scenery and historic features of times past. Anglers follow the fish runs upstream into the forest of the Coast Range. Like American Indians before them, locals from the coast and valley travel into the temperate forest for respite from the coastal fog and valley heat.

Coastal Corridor -- The corridor is a sequence of picturesque landscapes including: Sculpted sand dunes towering to 500' above sea level with spectacular scenery. Within the dunes are thick forests, tree islands, open dunes, marsh-like deflation plains and beaches. Tidal influenced, fresh water creeks, lakes & estuaries provide outstanding habitat for fish and birds, as well as pockets of protection from the ocean wind. The central corridor includes rugged bluffs plunging to the water, and rocky shoreline worn away by powerful waves, persistent wind, salt and rain. Small towns hang on the ocean edge, linked by scenic Hwy 101. Facilities build in the CCC era along with light houses maintain the strong historic coastal link.

OHV Sands – Located at Sand Lake and portions of the Oregon Dunes NRA and a part of the coastal corridor, this setting is unique to the Pacific NW, and offers concentrated groups of Off-Highway Vehicle enthusiasts a place for adventure on the open sand in a highly social setting.

River/Travel Corridors – Clear, clean rivers on the Forest provide essential habitat for the survival of native steelhead and salmon. River bottomlands have supported agricultural use for generations and are framed by the solid green forested hills. Highways, major travel routes from valley to coast, closely follow the river and are dotted with small rural communities traditionally linked to the natural resources of the area. Rivers become rich estuaries emptying into the Pacific and are the lifeblood of the communities built around them.

Coast Range – Mountains dissected by clear clean streams provide habitat for fish, wildlife and plants. Conifer and hardwoods, interspersed with old growth pockets, and lush, dense understory vegetation provides the physical setting for almost year-round use. Waterfall vistas are little gems within the setting. Drift Cr, Cummins Cr, and Rock Cr Wildernesses show the Coast Range as it once was, primitive & untrammled.

Marys Peak – Icon for the Central Willamette Valley, highest point of the Coast Range at 4100 ft, and designated as a Scenic Botanic Area, it includes old growth noble fir forest and sub-alpine meadows. Marys Peak is representative of other unique Coast Range peaks including Mt Hebo SIA.

Forest-wide Activities/Opportunities/Experiences: A continuous thread of recreation opportunities and the cultural stories & natural resource learning are offered along the dynamic seascape edge by multiple partners including public, communities and private. These partnerships help accommodate increasing growth. Communities act as portals providing travel information and interpretation to Hwy 101 visitors. Oregon State, BLM, and Counties provide day use and high amenity camping. Resorts and hotels offer overnight lodging. Local citizens contribute back to this special place. Day use occurs **forest-wide** with hiking, driving for pleasure, picnicking and sightseeing.

Coastal Corridor – Viewing ocean vistas from Hwy 101, Cascade Head, Cape Perpetua. Interpretation & natural resource learning at Cape Perpetua & historic sites. Camping, hiking, water trails, fishing, beachcombing, birding, community festivals.

OHV Sands – OHV use predominates. Camping occurs in traditional campgrounds, large paved lots and dispersed sand areas.

River/Travel Corridors – Primarily day use hiking, picnicking and some camping are provided with access points to the river for birding, fishing & boating. Travel routes provide access to the temperate forest for locals - from the coast seeking a break from the wind and from the Willamette Valley seeking a respite from the urban areas.

Coast Range Temperate Forest – Day use predominates. Trailheads are easily reached via forest roads. Trails follow streams to waterfall vistas. Gathering forest products and hunting are traditional uses of this area.

Marys Peak – Its historic use by central valley residents & American Indians as a destination continues today. Short hikes can be taken along meadow edges. Hikes to the summit offer breathtaking 360 degree views of the Cascade Range and Pacific Ocean. Marys Peak is a summer respite and winter snow play area.

Primary Visitors

Local/adjacent communities	Communities contiguous to the Forest. Backyard users, anglers, dune dwellers
Willamette Valley & I-5 Corridor	Day trippers, Weekend Warriors, Family Adventurers, Windshield travelers
National/International	Destination visitors to the Oregon coast, travelers from California to Washington

Siuslaw NF Niche Bridge for Developed Recreation

Niche Emphasis: Coastal related viewing & hiking, sand-based OHV riding, river related fishing, and camping, picnicking, and corridor driving for pleasure

Question #1

SETTING NAMES:												
Coastal Corridor		OHV Sands		River/Travel Corridors		Coast Range Temperate Forest		Marys Peak				
SETTING PRIORITY Which setting(s) best support recreation sites? <i>Question #2</i>		High		High		Moderate		Low		Moderate		
SITE FUNCTION/ THEME: How sites are designed & managed to best meet the Niche <i>Question #3</i>		Facilitates visitor enjoyment and learning about forest/natural resources in partnership with other providers		Facilitates safe motorized use of open dunes and camping in defined areas to protect resources		Facilitates use of water along major travelways and access between coast and valley. Access to temperate forest		Facilitates fishing, hunting, access and use of roads and trails in general forest areas		Facilitates enjoyment of unique scenery near urban area while protecting resources		
KEY ACTIVITIES: In support of the Niche for the coming decade <i>Question #4</i>		Viewing scenery & wildlife, hiking, fishing, beachcombing, birding, driving for pleasure, horseback riding, camping, picnicking, visiting historic sites		OHV use, camping		Driving for pleasure, water related day use including fishing, boating, birding, picnicking, with some camping.		Driving for pleasure, hiking to waterfalls, fishing, gathering forest products, hunting, camping		Viewing scenery & wildlife, hiking, driving for pleasure, walk-in snow play, spiritual renewal		
INFRASTRUCTURE	SITE TYPE/ DEVELOPMENT SCALE Needed to provide key activities <i>Questions #5&6</i> (Sites will be the lowest dev scale possible to maintain visitor experience & protect the resource)		Site Type	Dev Scale	Site Type	Dev Scale	Site Type	Dev Scale	Site Type	Dev Scale	Site Type	Dev Scale
	Picnic Sites		3	Camp-grounds	3-5	Picnic Sites	2-3	Trail-heads	2-3	Trailheads	2-3	
	Scenic vistas		3-4	Staging Parking	3	Trailheads	2-3	Camp-grounds	1-3	Parking/Picnic	2-3	
	Trailheads		2-3			Camp-grounds near water	2-3			Campgrounds	1-2	
	Visitor Centers		5			Boat Launches	2-3					
	Boating Sites		3-4									
	Camp-grounds		3-4									
SITE CAPACITY Low <50, Medium 50-100, High >100 <i>Question #6</i>		Medium-High		Medium -High		Medium-Low		Low		Medium - Low		

Programmatic Strategies:

Recreation information and delivery will include improved web-based information. Future decisions will be made on how best to provide integrated interpretive program with all partners along the coast.

Forest Supervisor Signature and Date:

**** - Development Scale** The classification of the scale of development of recreation sites. Scale ranges from 0, "No Site Modification" to 5, "Extensive Site Modification". Development scales are defined by levels of site modifications, type of construction materials used, management controls, design style, development density, and services.