

News Release

Oregon International Port of Coos Bay Bureau of Land Management, Coos Bay District

Contact: Martin Callery, Oregon International Port of Coos Bay, 541 267-7678
Megan Harper, Bureau of Land Management Coos Bay, 541 751-4353

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rail Damage Prompts Access Enforcement on North Spit

North Bend, OR – The Oregon International Port of Coos Bay plans to install sand fencing along the rail corridor right-of-way on the northern boundary of an isolated 80-acre parcel of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) managed property on the North Spit early in the week of June 9th. The fencing will protect the rail line located adjacent to TransPacific Parkway on the North Spit.

This action will help prevent damage to the ballast and ties of the rail line caused by sand intrusion from drifting sand and illegal crossing of the rail line at the site. BLM will begin enforcing unauthorized vehicle access on the same parcel and install “no motorized access” signs.

“Off highway vehicles crossing the railroad tracks to access this area are causing sand to drift across the tracks, which will ultimately compromise the railbed,” said Martin Callery, the Port’s Director of Communications and Freight Mobility. “There is also not a legal ATV crossing at this location, and we want to help insure public safety when rail traffic resumes.”

“Off-highway vehicle use has not been allowed in the open sand on this dune for the past thirteen years, but our access enforcement was focused on other areas,” said Dennis Turowski, Umpqua Field Manager for the BLM. “We really need to focus on this area now. The railbed is being damaged and we need to enforce the rules to protect this important infrastructure.”

The parcel of public land is located on the south side of TransPacific Parkway, adjacent to the former Weyerhaeuser Paper Mill site and just north of the Roseburg chip facility.

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