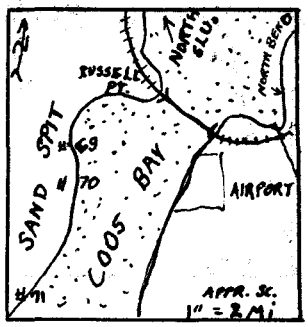
State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

702 Woodlark Building
Portland, Oregon

DUNE SANDS Coos, Douglas & Lane Counties, Oregon

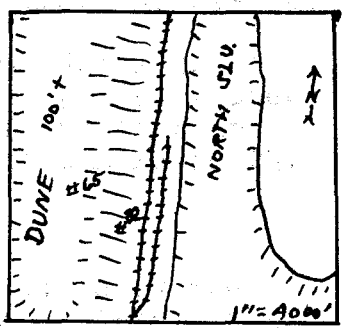
The area included in this report extends northward from the entrance to Coos Bay along the sand-dune deposits of the coast to the mouth of the Siuslaw River near Florence, Oregon. The total dune area is up to three miles in width. However, the dunes which were considered are located at the back of the dune area where they would have been transported farther and therefore are probably better sorted than the dunes closer to the beach. Paralleling this area for most of its extent, is the Southern Pacific Railroad and the Pacific Coast Highway. The following locations, in order northward, were examined and sampled.

Sand spit west of Empire and North Bend, Oregon, in secs. 5 & 7, R13W, T25S., from ½ to 2½ miles from the railroad and at least 4 miles from a road.



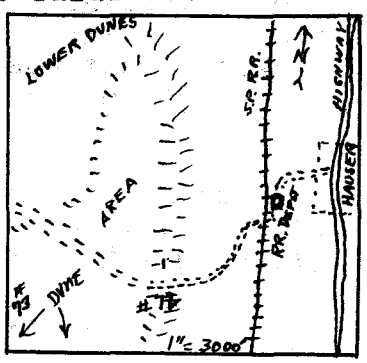
This area of several hundred acres would be available for barging to a plant on Coos Bay. A short spur of the railroad would also reach this area. The dunes are of clean sand, and up to 75 feet in height. Road building would be difficult and sufficient sand can be secured closer to Marshfield or North Bend by hiway. (Samples # 69, 70 and 71).

North Slough area in secs. 27 & 28, R13W, T24S near adequate railroad sidings (about 200 feet), at least three miles from the paved hiway at Hauser.



Clean sand dunes over 100 feet high and half a mile wide parallel the railroad for over a mile, covering a least 200 acres. A long spur of the railroad is situated at the south end of the dunes. If of equal quality, this area is unsurpassed for availibility by rail or water. About 2 to 3 miles of road would be required to reach the paved hiway at Hauser. (# 82 & 65)

Hauser area in sec. 15, R13W, T24S, about ¼ mile from a railroad siding and less than ½ mile from the paved hiway.



Dunes 30 to 50 feet high parallel the railroad at Hauser siding. The dune area is from 500 to 2000 feet wide and over a mile in length with smaller dunes adjoining. It is 11 miles by hiway to Marshfield, and all but ¼ to ½ mile being on the coast highway. This area is the closest sand dune deposit available by highway to the Coos Bay area. The tonnage is deemed to be adequate altho spread out in smaller dunes than the North Sough area. (Samples # 72 & 73)

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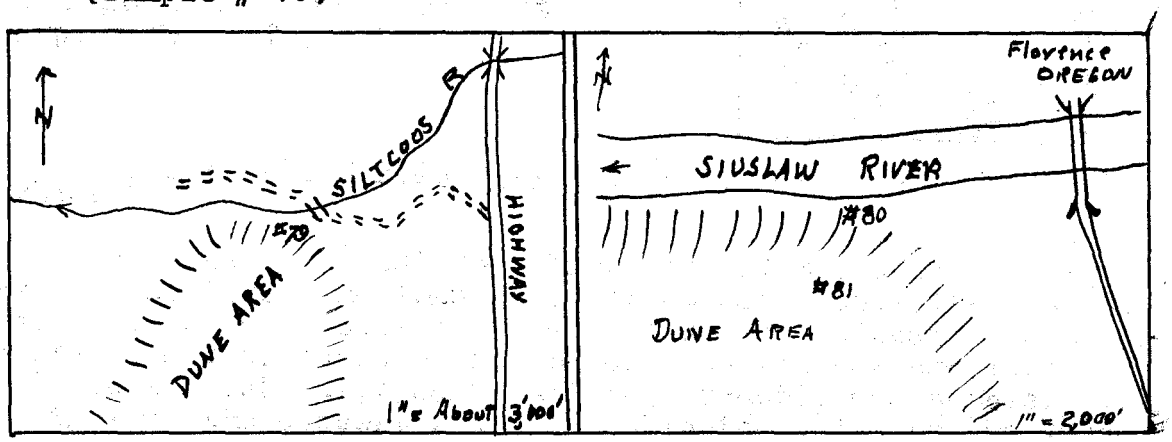
Sand dunes on the Siltcoos River, .6 mile west of Highway.

Sand dunes, about 100 feet high, extend over a mile south of the bridge on the Siltcoos River on the side road. Although near the highway, the closest railroad transportation is to be reached at Florence. A closer siding might be reached east of Siltcoos Lake, but the roads would not be as good.
(Sample # 79)



Sand dunes south of Siuslaw River near Florence, Oregon.

This area consists of nearly a section of dunes up to 150 feet in height. The dunes can be reached by making about ¼ mile of road from the main highway south of the highway bridge. A shipping point at Florence is about 1 mile north.
(Samples # 80, 81)

Remarks: Most of the dune area cited is owned by the U.S. government according to the Metzger maps, but this has not been checked.

Unless the quality of sand is the deciding factor, the North Slough area is probably the best source of sand for the Coos Bay area either by rail or water. Likewise, the Hauser area is more accessible by truck. A nearly continuous dune area exists for the 2 to 3 miles between these areas so that the total area could be reached by either type of transportation.

Estimates of tonnage were not attempted. An acre of of sand, 100 feet high, calculated on the density of quartz, 2.6, would yield 56,628 tons of sand, x factor for porosity. This porosity might be 30 %.

By: Ewart M. Baldwin, January 1, 1944.

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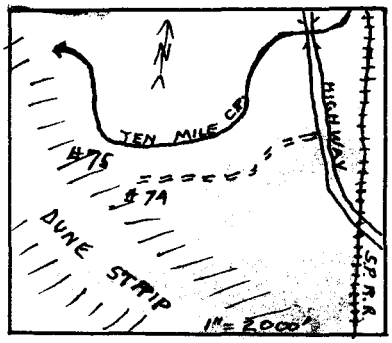
Ten Mile Creek area in sec. 14, 23, R13W, T23S, 16 miles from Marshfield by the coast highway and about two miles from a railroad siding at Lakeside.

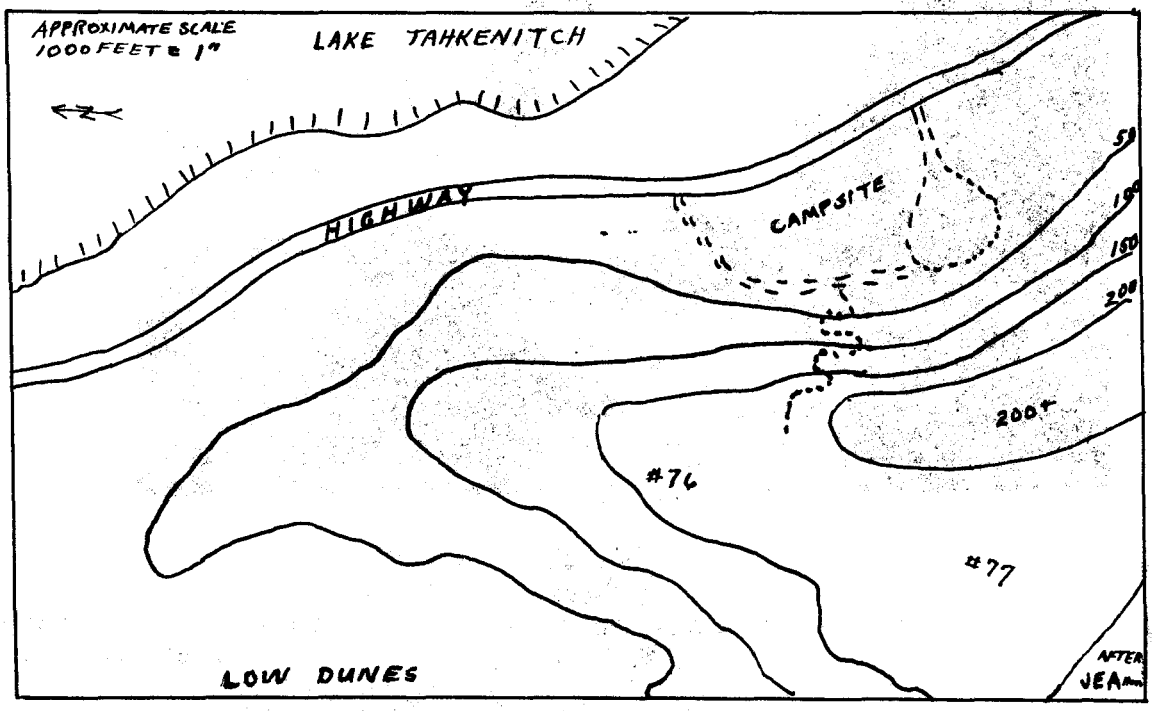


More than a hundred acres of dunes 80 to 100 feet in height are located south of Ten Mile Cr. and less than ½ mile from the highway. The road from the highway is poor at present. (Samples 74, & 75).

Lake Tahkenitch area sec. 29, T20S, R12W hear the coast highway.

Sand dunes over 200 feet high are located near the highway west of the lake. The tonnage is practically unlimited as the dunes extend for a mile or more both north and south. Some vegetable matter included in the dune on its eastern edge would be a slight draw back. Although readily accessible by highway, the closest practical shipping point to the Coos Bay area would probably be Reedsport about 8 miles to the south. (Samples 76, 77)

Sample No. 78 was taken two miles north of the outlet of L. Tahkenitch from a large dune area just west of the highway.



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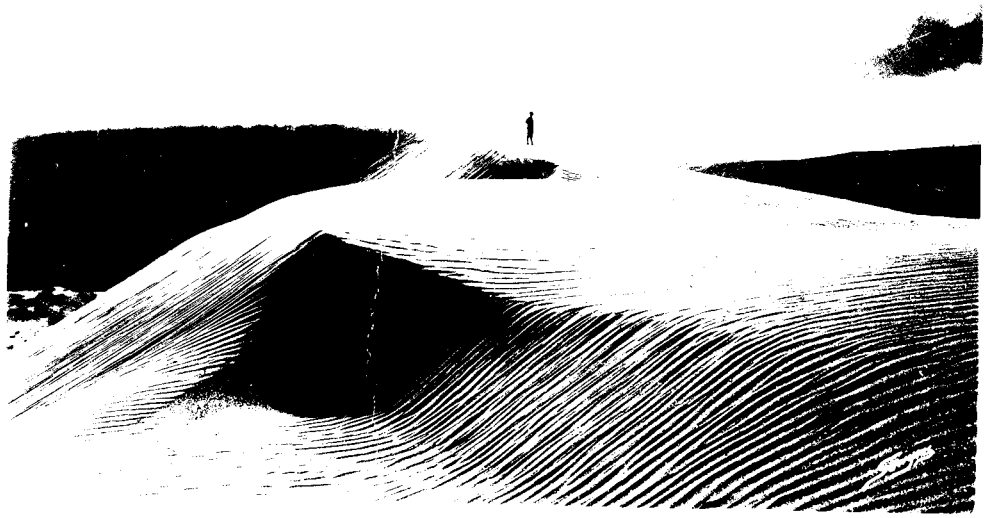

Characteristic scenes of the dune areas along the coast north of Coos Bay.