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June 20, 2023  
TO: Surf Pines  
RE: Dune emergency access fire trail

I am writing to you today to discuss a matter of utmost importance that concerns the preservation and protection of our precious dune ecosystem as well as personal properties. Specifically, I want to emphasize the significance of a dune fire trail and the crucial role it plays in safeguarding our homes and the environment.

A dune fire trail, or firebreak, is a cleared pathway (by way of driving) strategically designed to impede the progress of fires and provide access for firefighters and emergency responders in case of an outbreak or emergency. By establishing a designated fire trail, we create a protective buffer that can help prevent the rapid spread of fires, allowing for more effective fire suppression and minimizing the potential devastation to the dune environment or homes.

Here are a few reasons why a dune fire trail is of paramount importance:

**Fire Prevention:** A well-maintained fire trail significantly reduces the risk of accidental or deliberate fires in the dune areas. It acts as a physical barrier, preventing flames from rapidly advancing through the dunes and endangering the surrounding area.

**Early Fire Detection:** A clear fire trail allows for improved visibility and early detection of any potential fire outbreaks. This early warning system provides firefighters with a greater chance to contain and extinguish the fire before it spreads uncontrollably.

**Access for Firefighting:** During fire emergencies, time is of the essence. A well-established fire trail provides crucial access for fire trucks, equipment, and firefighters to reach the affected areas swiftly. It enables them to efficiently deploy necessary resources and implement firefighting strategies, increasing the chances of successful fire suppression.

**Ecosystem Protection:** Dune ecosystems are fragile and extremely susceptible to damage from fire. By implementing a dune fire trail, we take proactive steps to protect the diverse plant and animal species that call the dunes their home. It preserves their habitats and promotes the overall health and resilience of the ecosystem.

**Public Safety:** Dune areas are often popular recreational destinations, attracting visitors who may not be aware of the potential fire risks. A designated fire trail not only safeguards the environment but also ensures the safety of individuals who enjoy these natural wonders, allowing for timely evacuation if necessary.

Sincerely,

Josh Como | Fire Chief





FIRE ACCESS TRAIL

