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Dr. Tom Griggs, botanist
under contract to The Nature Conservancy
Route 2, Box 640-A
Lixon, Ca. 95620

Project: To find in Calif.
endangered areas
of biological quality in
maritime chaparral and
stabilized dunes.

Dear Tom Griggs:

It was a pleasure to talk with you at length on the telephone last week October 29 and to have you come by to pick up some of my maps. Inclosed are xerox copies of the last two maps you wanted.

Dr. Dirk Walters and I have now talked-over your project and have definitely come to the conclusion that Dune Lakes does not qualify as land of prime biological quality, because it has been too manipulated by man: the pest, current and planned continuing heavy and extensive planting of European Beach Grass, ammophila arenaria, has stifled and completely crowded-out native vegetation in the pathway of its spread; it also stabilizes and thus alters the natural flow of the dune formations, thus altering the geology of the area. Perhaps the primary "value" of Dune Lakes, Ltd. property is the interest of freshwater lakes enclosed without outlets in sand dunes, although the presence of these ten lakes is maintained by an elaborate and very costly pumping system; this system raises a lake's water level to "smother" the tules; when dead, the tules are cut and thrown away or have been sometimes given away. Were the tules not controlled these lakelets would eventually become marshes and finally might fill with sand and become moist hollows in the dunes. Peter Churchward, superintendent and manager of Dune Lakes has explained this to me.

Dr. Walters and I feel that the highest biological quality area in the Nipomo Dunes lies southeast of Oso Flaco Lake, beginning with Coreopsis Hill and extending through the dunes, bounded on the east by high production agricultural lands and on the west by the Pacific Ocean, southward to the Leroy Lease of Union Oil Company's active oil drilling field. This area is threatened by some recreation vehicular use. This recreation use has destroyed and altered much of the dune lands from Oso Flaco Lake north all over the acreage recently bought by California Dept. of Parks and Recreation. All vehicular recreation should be halted ^{Now South} ~~North~~ of the Oso Flaco wetlands. I feel that a small team of botanists/naturalists should walk thoroughly the area I have indicated as of prime biological dune quality and report their findings. There will be pockets of endemism and representatives of a variety of native mammals. (There will of course not be the abundance of mammals that are found at Dune Lakes, simply because Dune Lakes not only offers water and cover, but is a carefully guarded