

Proposed Restoration Design: Cape Poge Old OSV Road 2023

Site Description:

A 575 foot sand road was closed in the 1990s as it bisected “The Cedars” near the “Narrows” across from Tom’s Neck Point (Map 1). The roadbed of this closed road has mostly revegetated as of 2023 (photo 1). Although the area has mostly revegetated the elevation of the old roadbed remains below the surrounding grade by an average of 6-7 inches. As a result, the first 50 – 70 feet is subject to flooding during extreme high tides, mostly during storms as evidenced by old wrack lines. The width of the closed road is approximately 9 feet.

Map 1



Grasses and broadleaved herbaceous plants are the dominant plant species that have recolonized the old road. Beach grass (*Ammophila breviligulata*) is the most common plant species with saltmarsh hay grass (*Spartina patens*) interspersed at the western end, closest to the bay. Seaside goldenrod (*Solidago sempervirens*) is scattered throughout. Woody plants are absent.



Photo 1: Old OSV road looking west to intersection with current bayside OSV road, truck is in pullout.

Proposed Design:

To minimize current and future saltwater intrusion from extreme high tides, The Trustees is proposing to restore 67 feet of the closed OSV road to minimize future negative impact to the surrounding Maritime Juniper Woodland (Map 2 – inset). Restoration will restore the old roadbed closest to the bay to the similar adjacent topography (i.e., elevation) on either side of the closed road, east to a natural change in elevation beyond evidence of storm flooding. The restoration will start at the OSV pullout, leaving the pullout so OSVs can pass. Based on field measurements, 156 cubic yards (4,221 cubic feet) of sand will be needed. Sand will be graded and planted with beach grass 18¹ inches on center.

The Trustees propose using sand for the restoration from one of two sources, either from dredging the adjacent “Narrows” or from upland sand trucked in and sourced from on-island sources. The preferred source is from dredging the Narrows. Recent conversations with the Edgartown Conservation Commission and the Cape Poge DCPC Committee have indicated the dredging of the Narrows is needed

¹ [https://www.mass.gov/service-details/cz-tip-dune-building-with-beachgrass#:~:text=Beachgrass%20culms%20\(the%20single%20plant,up%20and%20enhance%20erosion%20control.](https://www.mass.gov/service-details/cz-tip-dune-building-with-beachgrass#:~:text=Beachgrass%20culms%20(the%20single%20plant,up%20and%20enhance%20erosion%20control.)

and the logical source for the sand. If the Conservation Commission agrees, The Trustees will proceed with planning efforts with the Edgartown Dredge Committee. Alternatively, if the Narrows dredge material is not an option, The Trustees would work with local contractors and the Conservation Commission to truck sand to the project site from appropriate island sources. Planting of beach grass, regardless of sand sources, would be completed in late winter or early spring of 2024 to maximize grass establishing successfully.

In addition, should the dredging of the Narrows produce additional sand, this sand would be used to improve the conditions of the current, adjacent OSV trails including but not limited to the pullout adjacent to the restoration project, further reducing the potential for tidal and groundwater flooding of the restored closed OSV road. These trails are currently in need of sand to raise their elevation as sections are prone to occasional flooding from extreme hightides or high ground water. Based on dredge estimates, The Trustees will submit a priority sites list for dredge material.

Map 2: Inset





Photo 2: Proposed Restoration Area taken from OSV pullout looking east. Trustees staff and stakes represent limits of proposed restoration work.