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1963 - Route 6 showing trees getting buried



Rte 6 going off toward East Harbor - - 1963

The Advocate, Thursday, November 8, 1979

Seashore planning to battle drifting sand

The Cape Cod National Seashore has to put out to bid a study to determine how to stop the sand now drifting into Pilgrim Lake across Route 6.

When the study is completed the Seashore hopes to have a battle plan ready for attacking the problem of migrating dunes, a plan that will hopefully lead to stabilizing drifting sand within the Province Lands.

The study is an outgrowth of a five-year scientific experiment to determine the impact of vehicles on the coastal dune ecosystem. Jim Killian, chief of environmental planning at the Seashore, proposed the study in 1976, when initial findings of the experiment indicated that man, particularly over-sand vehicles, was causing significant erosion in some places.

At the last Seashore Advisory Commission meeting, Killian reported on the proposed dune stabilization study, saying it took from 1976 until recently just to get money for the project.

When he proposed the study he also requested money to pay for the actual stabilization work. But that part of his proposal is still to be approved. One problem is that he still does not know the extent of the work necessary to start stabilizing the drifting sand. Another problem is the slow-moving federal bureaucracy.

Killian said because of inflation a great number of budget requests are being denied. He said no one is ever sure what the park service's priorities will be when money is doled out.

The study will examine two specific areas of critical concern to the Seashore, the dunes drifting over Route 6

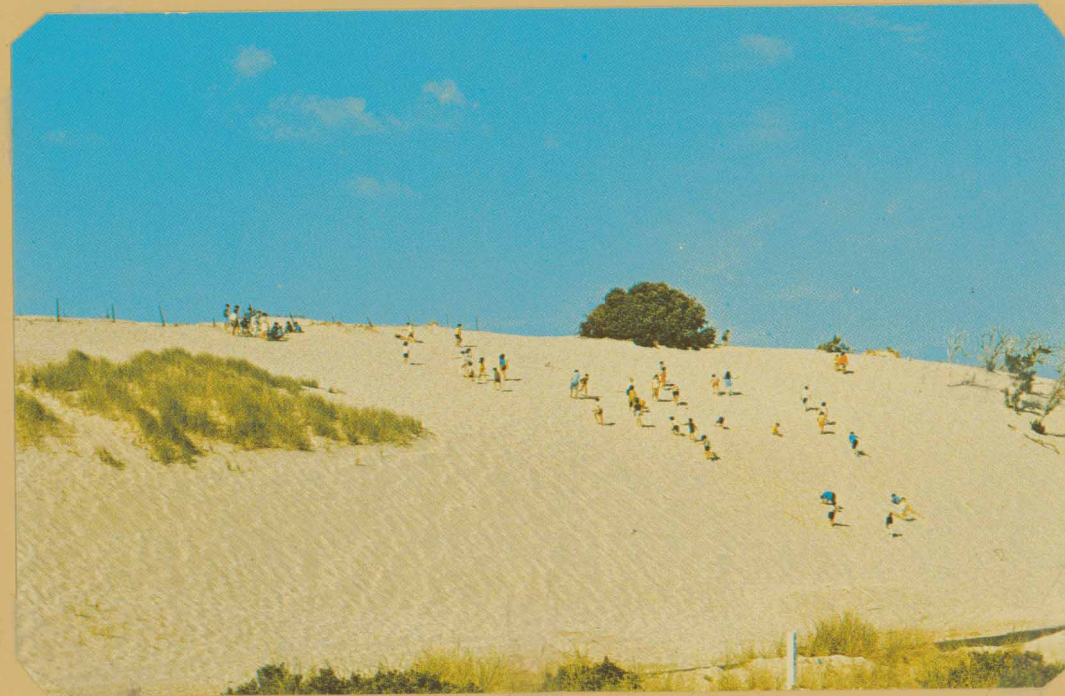
and into Pilgrim Lake. Sand on Route 6 is an enormous headache to the state, which must clean tons of sand off the highway after each northerly or westerly blow. Sand drifting into Pilgrim Lake is threatening to fill the lake.

The study will examine other areas where severe erosion is taking place.

Killian said the focus of the study will be "to attack the problems that are the source of the moving sand." He said that if the amount of drifting sand is lowered the dunes might be able to begin stabilizing themselves naturally through revegetation.

Killian said it would be impossible to stabilize the entire eight-square mile Province Lands area. The best the Seashore can hope for is to stop erosion upwind to cut off the source of sand.

The Seashore put the study out to bid last Wednesday. The Seashore has \$8300 to pay for it. Researchers will outline the areas they propose to study.



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