

Appreciate Rare Habitats: GREAT LAKES SAND DUNES

American Beachgrass (*Ammophila breviligulata*) is a special grass that grows on sand dunes along the Atlantic Ocean and Great Lakes. It thrives on shifting sands, high winds, and even getting buried by sand. It spreads on runners and can withstand the heat, drought, and storm damage that comes with its precarious habitat. Grass communities help create beautiful sand dunes which protect inland areas from coastal water intrusion. They are able to absorb the impact and protect inland areas from high energy storms and act as a resilient barrier to the destructive forces of wind and waves.

The biggest threats to sand dunes and beachgrass are human development and motor vehicle traffic. Bay Mills Biological Services is working to restore beachgrass and this sand dune ecosystem with a number of planting projects. Do your part by giving sand dunes the space they need to grow and shift.

American Beachgrass (*Ammophila breviligulata*)



Contact Bay Mills Biological Services with questions or concerns. 906 248 8652