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# Secondary flow deflection in the lee of transverse dunes with implications for dune morphodynamics and migration

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1 **Can transverse dunes move sideways? Secondary flow deflection in the lee of transverse**  
2 **dunes with implications for dune alignment and migration**

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33 **ABSTRACT**

34 Measurements of lee-side airflow response from an extensive array of meteorological instruments  
35 combined with smoke and flow streamer visualization is used to examine the development and  
36 morphodynamic significance of the lee-side separation vortex over closely spaced transverse dune  
37 ridges. A differential deflection mechanism is presented that explains the three-dimensional pattern  
38 of lee-side airflow structure for a variety of incident flow angles. These flow patterns produce  
39 reversed, along-dune and deflected surface sand transport in the lee that result in a net 'lateral  
40 diversion' of sand mass transport over one dune wavelength for incident angles as small as  $10^\circ$   
41 from crest-transverse (i.e.,  $80^\circ$  from the crest line). This lateral displacement in fluid mass transport  
42 increases markedly with incident flow angle, when expressed as the absolute value of the total  
43 deflection in degrees. Reversed flow and multidirectional sand transport occur for incident angles  
44 between  $90^\circ$  and  $50^\circ$ . These results document the three-dimensional nature of flow and sand  
45 transport over transverse dunes and provide empirical evidence for an oblique migration model that  
46 challenges the applicability of the 'gross bedform-normal' rule for explaining transverse dune  
47 morphodynamics and migration.

48  
49 **KEYWORDS:** dunes, airflow, deflection, lee-side, interdune, dune migration

## 50 INTRODUCTION

51 The relations between the near-surface airflow field (i.e., height < 10 m), particularly  
52 complex secondary lee-side flows, and sediment transport over dunes remain an elusive challenge  
53 for modeling dune morphodynamics and migration (Walker and Nickling, 2002; Baddock et al.,  
54 2007; Livingstone et al., 2007). It is known that dune form, alignment, and spacing are controlled by  
55 the magnitude, frequency, and directionality of transporting surface wind (e.g. Bagnold, 1941;  
56 Fryberger and Dean, 1979; Lancaster, 1983; Bullard et al., 1996; Ould Ahmedou et al., 2007) as  
57 well as sediment characteristics (size and sorting) (Wilson, 1972) and availability (Wasson and  
58 Hyde, 1983), moisture effects (Kocurek et al., 1992), topographic barriers (McCauley and Breed,  
59 1980), and the presence of vegetation (Hesp, 1981; 1983; Wiggs et al., 1996). Other studies have  
60 linked dune alignment to coherent atmospheric circulation patterns such as Ekman spirals (Hanna,  
61 1969; Mabbut et al., 1969; Warren, 1976) and to the strongest transporting winds in the regime  
62 (Glennie, 1970). Ultimately, however, dune alignment and migration is the net result of complex,  
63 three dimensional sand transport patterns driven by all competent surface winds – including  
64 secondary lee-side flows (Sweet and Kocurek, 1990; Frank and Kocurek, 1996; Walker and  
65 Nickling, 2002; Baddock et al., 2007; Livingstone et al., 2007; Baddock et al., 2011; Weaver and  
66 Wiggs, 2011). Nearly 30 years ago, Rubin and Hunter (1985), and later Hesp et al. (1989) and  
67 Rubin (1990), observed that longitudinal dunes can migrate laterally, contrary to the prevailing  
68 thought that such dunes advance downwind, or else extend at the terminal end (e.g. Bagnold,  
69 1941; Tsoar, 1983). To date, however, there is limited research that links deflected airflow and  
70 sediment flux in the lee of transverse dunes to their morphodynamics and migration (Walker, 1999;  
71 Walker and Nickling, 2002; Baddock et al., 2007).

72 Morphodynamically, dunes are often classified based on their orientation to some  
73 resultant transport direction as transverse (perpendicular to the transport direction), longitudinal  
74 (transport-parallel), and oblique (15 – 75° to the resultant transport direction) forms (Fryberger

75 and Dean, 1979; Hunter et al., 1983; Lancaster, 1983; Rubin and Ikeda, 1990). Fryberger and  
76 Dean's (1979) widely cited global assessment attributed the development and maintenance of  
77 specific dune types to the ratio of the resultant vector of sand transport, or drift potential (RDP), to  
78 total drift potential from all wind directions (DP). Fryberger and Dean found that simpler dune forms  
79 (e.g., barchans, transverse ridges) develop in less variable wind regimes with high sand transport  
80 potential (RDP/DP) while more complex dunes (e.g., star dunes) occur in highly variable wind  
81 regimes where the transport potential is lower.

82 Regional winds used to describe dune form using Fryberger and Dean's (1979) technique  
83 are usually measured at a standard height of 10 m, often from locations tens to hundreds of  
84 kilometers away from actual dune features (Hunter et al., 1983; Carson and MacLean, 1986).  
85 However, localized secondary airflow patterns such as flow deflection, topographic steering, and  
86 flow separation and reversal, often diverge greatly from the regional trend (e.g. Pearce and Walker,  
87 2005; Lynch et al., 2008; 2009; Walker et al., 2009; Jackson et al., 2011) and can be competent  
88 enough to drive deflected interdune sand transport (Walker, 1999) and, thus, contribute to three-  
89 dimensional variations in dune sediment budgets. Thus, simple regional assessments of wind  
90 regime – dune form relations may be insufficient as they do not accommodate more complex  
91 natural flow – form – transport interactions (Walker and Nickling, 2002).

92 This has generated some debate in the literature on wind regime – dune form relations  
93 (Hunter et al., 1983; Carson and MacLean, 1985; Hunter et al., 1985; Carson and MacLean, 1986).  
94 For instance, Carson and McLean (1986) noted an increase in oblique dune size in a reversing  
95 wind regime toward the direction of an along-dune oriented resultant transport vector (shown in  
96 their Figure 5). This complicated their interpretation of these dunes as true flow-transverse forms  
97 and they suggested the term 'hybrid' dunes as both longitudinal and transverse transport  
98 processes appeared to be contributing to their morphodynamics. This is essentially synonymous  
99 with the 'oblique' dunes documented earlier by Hunter et al. (1983) in coastal Oregon. In either

100 case, it is possible that the resultant sand transport vector (RDP), driven by winds transverse or  
101 slightly oblique to the dune crest, may actually align more so with deflected, along-dune oriented  
102 lee-side secondary flow patterns. Sand transport by such secondary winds may be responsible for  
103 the downwind 'bulking' of Carson and MacLean's dunes (1986, see p.1983-1984).

104 Other studies have shown that directional variability (i.e., dominant modes in the regional  
105 wind regime) control dune morphodynamics and alignment. For instance, Rubin and Hunter  
106 (1987) and Rubin and Ikeda (1990) showed that dune alignment follows a gross bedform-  
107 normal rule such that, under variable flow directions, bedforms align so as to maximize the  
108 amount of crestline-normal transport. In other words, bedforms orient as transverse as possible  
109 to the resultant of all bedform-normal transport components and not necessarily to the resultant  
110 transport vector. Rubin and Ikeda (1990) stressed that opposing vector components in the  
111 transport regime should not be cancelled out (as in the RDP approach) as they may both be  
112 formative in maintaining a single dune orientation. For instance, transverse forms are  
113 maintained for divergence angles (i.e., angle between dominant direction modes) up to  $90^\circ$  or  
114 equal to  $180^\circ$  (i.e., a reversing regime), or when transport is dominated by one direction mode.  
115 Longitudinal dunes often orient with the dune axis within  $15^\circ$  of the mean wind direction (Hunter et  
116 al., 1983) and are maintained in bi-modal wind regimes with divergence angles  $>90^\circ$  providing  
117 equivalent transport in both directions. As such, dune-parallel wind flow is not a requirement for  
118 longitudinal bedform maintenance (Lancaster, 1982; Tsoar, 1983; Rubin and Ikeda, 1990).  
119 Transitional, or oblique dunes occur for intermediate divergence angles from  $90$  to  $112.5^\circ$  (or  
120 'obtuse-bimodal' per Fryberger and Dean, 1979) and are controlled by both transverse and  
121 along-dune oriented transport processes (Carson and MacLean, 1986). Rubin and Ikeda (1990)  
122 conclude that, despite alignment, all free dune forms are governed by the same essential  
123 dynamics in that they will orient as perpendicular as possible to the maximum bedform-normal  
124 components of transport. As such, divergence between directional modes and the ratio of sand

125 transport by these modes is more important in dune maintenance and migration than the net  
126 resultant vector.

127 As recognized by Fryberger and Dean (1979, p.145), however, it is important to note that  
128 the regional scale sand transport regime assessments provide only a first order estimate of the  
129 transport regime and are unable to incorporate other key transport- and supply-limiting factors  
130 (including grain size, soil moisture, vegetation, surface roughness) as has been explored by  
131 subsequent research on aeolian sand transport potential and dune mobility (e.g. Muhs and Maat,  
132 1993; Gaylord and Stetler, 1994; Muhs and Holliday, 1995; Wiggs et al., 1995; Bullard et al., 1996;  
133 Wolfe, 1997; Tsoar and Illenberger, 1998; Kocurek and Lancaster, 1999; Muhs and Wolfe, 1999;  
134 Lancaster and Helm, 2000; Tsoar, 2002). These factors are particularly important when examining  
135 regional to landform-scale characterizations of sand transport behaviour in vegetated, temperate  
136 and/or coastal environments (Pearce and Walker, 2005; Lynch et al., 2008; 2009; Walker et al.,  
137 2009; Jackson et al., 2011).

138 Emphasis has shifted from research on regional scale flow regime – dune form relations to  
139 examining landform scale interactions between near-surface secondary flow and resulting sand  
140 transport patterns that drive dune morphodynamics in both coastal and desert settings (e.g. Tsoar,  
141 1983; Howard, 1985; Hesp et al., 1989; Rasmussen, 1989; Cooke et al., 1993; Arens et al., 1995;  
142 Lancaster, 1995; Hesp and Hyde, 1996; Wiggs, 2001; Walker and Nickling, 2002; Baddock et al.,  
143 2007; Ould Ahmedou et al., 2007; Lynch et al., 2008; 2009; Walker et al., 2009; Weaver and  
144 Wiggs, 2011). Despite this recognition, very few models of secondary flow and dune  
145 morphodynamics exist, particularly on how these flow and sand transport patterns change with the  
146 incident flow angle and what this means for dune sediment budgets and migration (Walker and  
147 Nickling, 2002; Hesp and Walker, In press). Instead, most existing models of flow over bedforms  
148 view the system as two-dimensional and consider only limited flow conditions (i.e., transverse,  
149 unseparated) over relatively isolated dunes (Sweet and Kocurek, 1990; Frank and Kocurek, 1996;

150 Baddock et al., 2011). However, in nature secondary flows and closely spaced dune configurations  
151 generate mass and energy transfers that are three-dimensional. For instance, Walker (1999)  
152 showed that appreciable sand transport can occur in deflected, reversed, and along-dune  
153 directions within the interdune and cautioned that secondary lee flows create additional mass  
154 transport components that must be considered for sediment continuity and, hence, for  
155 interpretation of dune dynamics, maintenance, and migration.

156 This study measures and examines the responses of three-dimensional lee-side flow  
157 structure and interdune sand transport to changes in incident flow angle. Flow visualization and  
158 concurrent measurements of lee-side sediment transport over the same dune (Walker, 1999) are  
159 used to show a lateral diversion of sand mass transfer over flow-transverse dunes. From this, a  
160 differential deflection mechanism is presented that explains secondary lee-side flow structure  
161 implications for dune maintenance and migration. An empirical model for oblique migration of  
162 transverse dunes is presented that challenges the applicability of the 'gross bedform-normal' rule  
163 for explaining dune morphodynamics. The convention to describe flow direction for this study is  
164 such that incident wind direction,  $i$ , measured at the crest of the dune is transverse to the crestline  
165 at  $90^\circ$  and parallel to the crestline at  $0^\circ$  (west) or  $180^\circ$  (east). When discussing deflected flow,  $d$ , in  
166 the lee of the study dune on the stoss slope of the downwind dune, we use the same coordinate  
167 system as for incident flow. For example, incident flow transverse to the crest ( $i = 90^\circ$ ) might be  
168 deflected  $10^\circ$  ( $d = 100^\circ$ ) in the lee.

Comment [D1]: Ian, how's this expanded description of  $i$  and  $d$ ?

Comment [IW2]: Presumably, you wanted to add the symbol  $i$  here? I also thinned e/w text a bit.

Comment [IW3]: This font looks weird in my vers.

169

## 170 METHODS

171 Wind speed and direction were measured along two crest-transverse transects spaced  
172 approximately 18 m apart in the lee of a small reversing dune in the Silver Peak dunefield, Clayton  
173 Valley, west-central Nevada (Walker, 1999) (Figure 1). Dune geometry differed slightly between  
174 sampling transects, as the east dune profile was slightly larger ( $h = 1.36$  m) than the west ( $h = 1.2$



175 m). The study dune was located within a successive grouping of similarly sized ( $h = 1$  to  $2$  m),  
176 unvegetated, transverse ridges composed of fine sands ( $D = 150 \mu\text{m}$ ) and oriented transverse ( $75^\circ$   
177 or approximately E-W) to a relatively consistent north-south reversing wind regime. During the  
178 period of study the dune profile had a sharp crestline with a distinct, southward facing lee slope.

179 Each instrument transect extended  $12$  m leeward and perpendicular to the crest and  
180 consisted of  $25$  RM Young cup anemometers and six wind vanes strategically located to capture  
181 windspeed and direction variations in the immediate lee (Figures 2, 3). Instruments were extended  
182 on  $1.2$ -m booms from one of four aluminum masts and were connected to dataloggers via cable.  
183 Near-surface anemometers were placed at  $0.3$  m to characterize transporting windspeeds ( $u_{0.3}$ ).  
184 Further details of the study site and sampling design are discussed in Walker (1999; 2000).

185 Extended periods of consistent winds ranging in duration from  $1$  to  $10$  hours were sampled  
186 at  $1$  Hz and recorded as one-minute averages by datalogger. All speeds were normalized by an  
187 outer windspeed ( $u_{10h}$ ) measured at  $12.4$  m (approximately  $10h$ ) above the interdune datum atop  
188 an observation tower located between the sampling transects, where wind speeds ranged from  $2$   
189 to  $15 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  during the period of study. Incident flow speed and direction data were also measured  
190 at  $3.8$  m above the dune on the crest profile (i.e.,  $u_{5.2h}$  on east and  $u_{4.6h}$  on west profiles,  
191 respectively). In total,  $45$  events were recorded over a  $15$ -day period in May 1997 to yield an  
192 extensive dataset of over  $22,000$  minutes of flow measurements for a variety of incident flow  
193 speeds and directions. Contiguous transporting flow events (i.e., above an assumed transport  
194 threshold of  $6 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ ) ranging  $7$  to  $24$  minutes in duration and spanning incident flow angles were  
195 identified (Table 1). These events all occurred on the same day and, as such, dune form remained  
196 essentially constant between events.

197 Flow patterns during the events presented here were also visualized using smoke tracers  
198 and a vertical array of streamer flags (Figure 4), which was essential for reconstructing lee side  
199 flow structure within the measurement array. A transect of  $9$  flow streamer towers was erected  $2$  m

**Comment [D4]:** I think I've now fixed everything to  $U_{5.2h}$  and  $U_{4.6h}$

**Comment [IW5]:** OK... now, do we refer to these  $5.2$  and  $4.6h$  measurements or is everything always normalized by  $u_{outer}/10h$ ? For e.g., I think the vectors are normalized by their respective crest outer measurements, not  $10h$ ., whereas the profiles may have been. Doublecheck and clarify.

200 east of a 12-m observation tower in the centre of the study site (Figure 2b). The streamer towers  
201 were spaced 1 m apart and extended leeward from the crestline. Each tower was 3 m tall and had  
202 5 streamer flags each. Flow streamer behaviour in plan view at different heights above the  
203 interdune surface was recorded by video camera from atop the observation tower in the centre of  
204 the instrument array. Smoke tracer patterns were photographed in profile from the interdune  
205 corridor. Both sources of flow visualization were used to qualitatively confirm measured flow  
206 responses and help construct the extent and behaviour of interpreted flow patterns from the  
207 instrument array.

208

## 209 **RESULTS**

### 210 *Time-averaged velocity profiles*

211 Time-averaged, normalized wind speed profiles for six locations on each dune transect are  
212 shown in Figure 5. For clarity, data from only three events (2, 4, and 7) ranging from transverse ( $i$   
213  $\approx 90^\circ$ ) to crest-parallel ( $i \approx 180^\circ$ ) are shown. Summary statistics are provided in Table 1. Profile  
214 gradient responses provide a good relative indicator of momentum extraction and fluid shear  
215 generated by the form as well as subsequent internal boundary layer redevelopment after  
216 reattachment.

217 For relatively transverse (event 2,  $i \approx 90^\circ$ ) and slightly oblique (event 4,  $i \approx 110^\circ$ ) winds, flow  
218 over the crest was nearly uniform with increasing height above the surface for both east and west  
219 transects, whereas for crest-parallel flow (event 7,  $i \approx 180^\circ$ ), a slightly kinked velocity profile was  
220 observed over the crest on both transects. On the east profile, the inflection point occurred only 0.7  
221 m above the crest surface (1.5h above interdune datum) for event 7, while on the west profile, it  
222 occurred at 1.6 m above the surface (2.4h). On the east profile, the crest-parallel incident flow

223 (event 7) was fastest at the highest sensor, 3.8 m above the crest surface (5.2h), while on the west  
224 profile, crest-parallel incident flow was slightly less than the transverse incident flow (4.6h, event 2).

225 All three events shown in Figure 5 exhibited similar general trends in lee-side flow profile  
226 response, although magnitudes differed. Flow visualization confirmed that flow separation and  
227 intermittent reversal was present for all transverse wind events. In general, crest-parallel incident  
228 flows were faster over lee slope (near-surface) and stoss locations than other flows. Lee slope  
229 profiles for crest-transverse and oblique flows were inflected with a very steep gradient below dune  
230 height. This is due to flow separation and wake sheltering effects and indicates a region of high  
231 shear along the line of separation. The speed-height gradient was steeper for transverse incident  
232 flow (event 2) than for crest-parallel incident flow (event 7). On the east profile, near-surface flow  
233 was slowest in event 2, and fastest for event 7. Higher into the flow over the lee slope of the east  
234 profile, flow during event 7 (crest-parallel incident flow) was only marginally slower than other  
235 incident conditions. Over the lee slope of the west profile, near-surface speeds were generally  
236 faster than over the east transect, but during event 4 (initially slightly oblique to the crest), flow was  
237 slightly faster than during crest-parallel incident flow (event 7). As on the east profile, flow during  
238 event 7 had the shallowest gradient.

239 The well-developed separation cell extended to about the stoss base, at which point the  
240 flow returned to a linear velocity profile. Flow visualization and onsite ripple patterns revealed that  
241 flow reattachment occurred between the interdune and stoss base locations on the east transect  
242 and further downwind between the stoss base and lower stoss | profiles on the west transect.

#### 243 244 *Lee-side flow vectors*

245 Time-averaged flow vectors were derived from direction and speed data obtained at  
246 locations in the flow field where a wind vane and anemometer were co-located (see Figures 2, 3b).  
247 These vectors and associated summary statistics are displayed in plan view (Figures 6-8) and

248 provide useful indications of flow variability and directional response at different heights in the  
249 secondary flow region compared to outer flow above the dune crest.

250 Figure 6 shows lee-side flow vector response for three crest-transverse events that increase  
251 in speed (events 1-3). Incident flow speeds at the top of the crest profiles ( $u_{5,2h}$  on east,  $u_{4,6h}$  on  
252 west) ranged from 0.84 – 0.92 of the outer flow (10h) and variability was less than 10% (i.e.,  $CV_{ui} <$   
253 0.10). Incident direction ranged  $\pm 2^\circ$  from transverse (e.g.  $i = 88$  to  $92^\circ$ ) and directional variability  
254 was less than  $6^\circ$  for all events. Overall variability in direction increased with incident speed  
255 although steadiness in flow speed was highest at faster speeds (see  $CV_u$  values in Figure 6c).

256 Near-surface ( $z = 0.3$  m) vectors on the lee slope for these events show net downwind flow  
257 with bi- or multi-modal directional variation indicating flow deflection and unsteadiness. Intermittent  
258 upslope (reversed) flow was observed at these locations but is not reflected in the vectors because  
259 of the relatively long (1 min.) averaging intervals. Speeds on the lee slope ranged approximately 30  
260 to 70% that of the outer flow at 10h and were slower on the east transect due to the increased  
261 sheltering offered by the taller dune. This sheltering effect increased with incident speed at all lee  
262 slope locations. The amount of flow deflection on the lee slope also increased with speed and dune  
263 height.

264 There are two flow vector measurement points on the interdune and stoss base profiles  
265 that are staggered slightly for strategic placement within the separation region (see Figures 2, 3b).  
266 The interdune vectors, located just downwind of the lee slope base, characterized flow in the core  
267 of the separation cell (2<sup>nd</sup> sensor, 0.8 m above surface) and just above crest height (4<sup>th</sup> sensor, 1.8  
268 m). Vectors on the stoss base profile were located on the toe of the downwind dune the surface  
269 (0.3 m) and just above dune height (1.3 m). Over the interdune, flow at half-dune height was  
270 deflected more than that on the lee slope surface. Variability in direction at this location increased  
271 with incident speed and reversed flow occurred within the separation cell at the highest incident  
272 speed on the west transect (Figure 6c). Highly variable, multi-modal reversed flow was also

**Comment [IW6]:** Double check the figure numbers throughout have been updated.

273 observed just above dune height (“upper” arrow) at this location for all events. The high  $SD^\circ$  values  
274 at this location (particularly on the west transect) indicate high turbulence along the shear zone, as  
275 described above from Figure 5. Speeds above the separation cell in the interdune were  
276 comparable to incident speeds 3.8 m above the crest ( $u_{5.2h}$  and  $u_{4.6h}$  for east and west profiles,  
277 respectively) and, in general, were faster than at the stoss base location downwind due to flow  
278 expansion (and deceleration) downwind of separation at the crest.

279 Surface vectors at the toe of the downwind dune (stoss base) were multi-modal on the east  
280 transect and strongly oblique to incident flow. Flow visualization and surface ripple patterns showed  
281 that this location was just downwind of flow re-attachment. Upper and half-height flow vectors were  
282 also multi-modal but more aligned sub-parallel to incident flow. Half-height vectors on the west  
283 transect were deflected more than those on the east transect. These vectors show that near-  
284 surface deflection is greater (at the toe of the downwind dune, or near the point of re-attachment)  
285 over the taller dune (east) and that this pattern increased with faster incident speeds. This suggests  
286 that the flow separation cell was slightly larger over the taller dune and for faster wind speeds, as  
287 expected. Flow direction above this location (upper height) was less variable and less deflected  
288 than at half-height. The lower stoss vector (furthest downwind), which was higher above the  
289 surface, showed low variability in direction, was aligned more crest-transverse, and had slower  
290 relative speeds than the stoss base location. This indicates flow direction returning to crest-  
291 transverse up the stoss of the downwind dune.

292 Figure 7 shows lee-side flow vector response for two oblique flow events with incident  
293 angles of approximately  $110^\circ$  (event 4, Figure 7a) and  $130^\circ$  (event 5, Figure 7b). These events  
294 show that the amount of flow deflection on the lee slope increased with the angle of obliquity  
295 (approximately doubling with a twofold increase in obliquity angle from transverse) and for the taller  
296 dune (e.g., from  $24^\circ$  to  $40^\circ$  on the taller east transect compared to only  $3^\circ$  to  $7^\circ$  on the shorter west  
297 transect, for the  $110^\circ$  and  $130^\circ$  events, respectively). Thus, under the same incident flow

Comment [IW7]: This sentence needs simplification

298 conditions, deflection of oblique flows was greater over the larger dune and the angle of deflection  
299 on the lee slope was approximately the same as the angle from transverse. For example, for event  
300 4 with an angle of  $\sim 20^\circ$  from transverse over the crest of the east dune transect ( $i = 111^\circ$ ), the flow  
301 was deflected  $\sim 25^\circ$  ( $d = 135^\circ$ ), while for event 5, with an angle of  $\sim 40^\circ$  from transverse over the  
302 crest ( $i = 131^\circ$ ), the flow was deflected  $40^\circ$  ( $d = 171^\circ$ ). Overall directional variability for both events  
303 is very low ( $SD^\circ < 11^\circ$ ) compared to the transverse condition ( $SD^\circ ??$ ). Flow vector orientations in  
304 the lee slope through stoss slope regions show that flow deflection was greatest near the surface  
305 (reaching a maximum at the stoss base surface location) and decreased with height and beyond  
306 the interdune toward the downwind dune. The half height sensor on the west transect  
307 malfunctioned partway through data collection, so those vectors are not shown for events 4–7  
308 inclusive (Figures 7, 8).

309 Flow vector response for highly oblique to crest-parallel events 6 ( $i \approx 145^\circ$ ) and 7 ( $i \approx 0^\circ$ ) are  
310 shown in Figure 8. Event 6 exhibited a similar deflection trend as events 4 and 5. Although the  
311 absolute magnitudes of deflection angles were greater, they generally decreased with height and  
312 distance beyond the interdune. Lee slope flow deflected by about  $30^\circ$  on the taller (east) dune ( $i =$   
313  $146^\circ$ ,  $d = 177^\circ$ ) but was deflected negligibly over the shorter (west) dune ( $i = 146^\circ$ ,  $d = 147^\circ$ ).  
314 Normalized windspeeds elsewhere in the lee (from anemometer-only locations that could not be  
315 converted to vectors, see Figure 5a for velocity profiles) were faster than crest values at all  
316 locations beyond the lee slope on the east transect and in the immediate lee and interdune regions  
317 on the west transect. Near-surface lee slope speeds during this event were 0.59 and 0.84 that of  
318 the outer flow on east and west transects respectively. Speeds and flow deflection were greatest  
319 within the interdune to stoss base regions on both transects, which indicates strong along-dune  
320 flow within the interdune corridor.

321 Flow direction for event 7 (Figure 8b) was aligned approximately parallel to the crest and  
322 unlike all other events was from the west ( $i = 2^\circ$ – $3^\circ$ ). All lee-side locations recorded faster flow than

**Comment [D8]:** OK Ian – does this make sense? I changed the wording a fair bit from the thesis (p94). Or maybe we should just delete these half dozen lines b/c as you said in a comment it's repetitious? What's not clear to me is what the smaller dune (and not that much smaller) produced such negligible deflection.

**Comment [IW9]:** Let's just leave for reviewer to decide.

**Comment [D10]:** This bit was lifted direct from your thesis, but I don't understand it at all. You don't specify what the directional variability is for the transverse conditions, but from Table 1, it appears to be ranging from 2.6-5.8. What's odd about it, is that there is nothing like 11deg for SD in that table. There is a value of 0.11 for CV. Did you mean CV instead of SD? Check out Table 1 and see what you think.

**Comment [IW11]:** Beats me. Perhaps an error in my earlier interp of the text? I do recall that directional variability was still low, regardless, so update with SD values in the table, ok?

323 those near the crest surface and the west transect showed lee-side deflection back toward the  
324 dune and up the lee slope on the west transect ( $i = 3^\circ$ ,  $d = 346^\circ$ ). This pattern is similar to those  
325 documented by Tsoar (1983: 570, Figure 4) over a linear (seif) dune.

326

## 327 DISCUSSION

### 328 *Lee-side flow deflection and secondary flow structures*

329 Flow-form interactions over complex dune terrain generate significant alterations in the  
330 magnitude and direction of near-surface sand-transporting winds. This results from topographically  
331 forced variations in the pressure field over dunes and creates various secondary flow patterns  
332 including flow accelerations on the stoss slope; flow separation, expansion, and reversal in the  
333 lee; and directional variations of attached, near-surface flow that is deflected or steered in  
334 directions that differ significantly from the regional wind (Walker and Nickling, 2002; Walker et  
335 al., 2006; Walker et al., 2009). Research on flow over coastal foredunes has shown that,  
336 generally, winds approaching at an oblique angle tend to be deflected toward crest-normal  
337 (Svasek and Terwindt, 1974; Jackson, 1977; Rasmussen, 1989; Arens et al., 1995) and that this  
338 steering effect is greatest when incident angles are between  $30$  to  $60^\circ$  to the crestline. Winds  
339 with approach angles less than  $30^\circ$  (i.e., highly oblique) are often deflected parallel to the crest  
340 (e.g. Mikkelsen, 1989; Arens et al., 1995). Crestward steering on the stoss slope occurs  
341 essentially because perturbation pressures and resulting topographic flow accelerations  
342 increase the crest-normal (transverse) component of local flow vectors up the stoss slope  
343 (Jackson, 1977; Tsoar, 1983). Beyond the crest, abrupt changes in surface slope and potential  
344 flow separation, expansion, and deceleration cause a reduction in the transverse component of  
345 local flow vectors that, in turn, causes flow to deflect in a more crest-parallel direction (Tsoar,  
346 1983; Walker, 1999). The morphodynamic implications of flow deflection are twofold. First,  
347 under increasingly oblique (i.e., less crest-transverse) conditions, the dune appears less steep

**Comment [IW12]:** I think there is a walker et al ref 2006 maybe that also shows this and should be added.

**Comment [IW13]:** Again, I think one of our PEI papers also showed this... don't have access to them at the mo, however. Add if you can.

**Comment [IW14]:** Svasek and Terwindt 1974 may also have said this... I should have a copy or could find online. Can't log in to library website for pDF access for some damn reason and my Mendeley won't work tonight either... ugh.

348 to oncoming flow, which results in less flow acceleration up the stoss slope and, in turn, reduced  
349 sand transport potential up the stoss slope. Second, incident flow angle determines the effective  
350 fetch for sand transport development (see discussion in Walker et al., 2006). In coastal settings,  
351 offshore to oblique onshore winds can be steered alongshore on the beach and even deflected  
352 back toward the foredune, resulting in sand being cycled along the beach and back to the dune,  
353 thus promoting dune maintenance (Walker et al., 2006).

354 This study shows that the degree of flow deflection is a function of the incident wind angle  
355 and dune form, which corresponds with observations by Sweet and Kocurek (1990) and Lancaster  
356 (1995). More transverse incident winds appear to be deflected more than airflow aligned oblique or  
357 parallel to the crest. This results from steeper pressure gradients over the dune under more  
358 transverse flow conditions. In other words, the apparent 'steepness' (or aspect ratio) of the dune as  
359 experienced by incoming airflow varies significantly depending on the incidence angle and dune  
360 height; airflow perpendicular to the crest will encounter a much steeper dune and will generate a  
361 larger separation cell than will airflow that approaches at more oblique incident angles (Baddock et  
362 al., 2011; Walker and Hesp, In press). This can result in less flow deceleration in the lower stoss  
363 and reduced transport potential up the stoss slope (see discussion in Walker et al., 2006). In  
364 this study, lee-side flows were fastest when incident flow over the crest was crest-parallel,  
365 reflecting a lower aspect ratio and reduced, or non-existent separation (and recirculation) cell.  
366 Over transverse dunes, Sweet and Kocurek (1990) documented that lee slope windspeeds  
367 approached zero as incident angle became more transverse (i.e., as  $i$  approaches  $90^\circ$ ) due to  
368 flow separation. Lee slope speeds increased rapidly between  $i = 70$  to  $90^\circ$ . Sweet and Kocurek  
369 (1990) concluded that dune shape was an important control on lee flow response such that dunes  
370 with low aspect ratios and/or oblique incident winds favoured attached and relatively high lee-side  
371 surface windspeeds while dunes with high aspect ratios and/or transverse incident flows  
372 demonstrated lower speeds (e.g. Best and Kostaschuk, 2002). In terms of sediment transport,

**Comment [IW15]:** I find this a bit weak for a couple reasons. First, morphodynamic implications (i.e., how the process [flow] pattern relates to form response via transport and deposition patterns) are not fully expanded/explained. Second, the fetch effect from coastal is not fully applicable here as it imposes supply limiting conditions (i.e., water line or increased moisture content limits sand supply to otherwise competent winds) that do not always exist in desert settings. See what you can do to boost this. On the first point, sort of... for the same incident wind speed, more oblique flow will experience less flow acceleration and may result in lower sand transport toward the crest... however, and relating to the second point, there is a longer fetch development distance under oblique conditions which could result in increased supply IFF the interdune is not bare (i.e., hardpan or water table controlled).

**Comment [IW16]:** Seems vague to me and I might prefer the previous iteration where we expand a bit on what this function looks like... is it inverse? For example... elaborate.

**Comment [IW17]:** I think Parsons et al. 2004 also explored this.



373 Sweet and Kocurek (1990) observed that deflected lee flow speeds were 60-80% of crest speeds  
374 and were associated with along-slope sediment transport. Transverse flows favoured sediment  
375 avalanching and fallout

376 Near-surface flow patterns for a full range of events spanning transverse to highly oblique  
377 incident wind conditions documented in this study show that lee-side flow deflection often aligned  
378 sub-parallel to the crest. At three sites in the Netherlands, Arens et al. (1995) found similar  
379 deflection to crest-parallel in the lee of coastal foredunes during offshore winds, but towards crest-  
380 normal during onshore winds. Over a 12-m high, steep foredune in Prince Edward Island, Canada,  
381 Walker et al. (2009) observed significant onshore steering of near-surface flow towards crest-  
382 normal. In an earlier study on a nearby 9-m high foredune, Walker et al. (2006) observed  
383 offshore to oblique onshore winds being steered alongshore on the beach and even deflected  
384 back toward the foredune, resulting in sand being cycled along the beach and back to the dune,  
385 thus promoting dune maintenance. A series of studies at Magilligan Strand, Northern Ireland,  
386 have shown that lee-side flow response is also governed by variations in morphology as well as  
387 incident flow angle (Lynch et al., 2008; 2010; Jackson et al., 2011), where attached and  
388 deflected lee-side flow is thought to arise when the abrupt break in slope required for separation  
389 is absent. Lynch et al. (2010) observed varying flow response over dunes of different heights  
390 and shapes. A tall (11.4-m) sharp-crested foredune produced flow separation and a recirculation  
391 cell. A smaller (6.6-m tall), rounded foredune exhibited attached lee-side flow that was deflected  
392 towards crest-parallel, while flow over a lower (4.6-m tall), incipient foredune exhibited no flow  
393 deflection in the lee. In an earlier study, Lynch et al. (2008) demonstrated that offshore winds  
394 that result in flow reversal do not significantly contribute to sand drift potential. Instead, it was  
395 winds deflected alongshore that were associated with the most saltation activity. They conclude  
396 therefore, that these deflected flows should be considered a key variable when linking micro-  
397 and meso-scale sediment transport studies.

**Comment [IW18]:** These are the refs I was referring to cite earlier, as you see fit.

**Comment [IW19]:** This is pretty good. Thanks for working it in. Just watch, though, someone will criticize us for incorporating the coastal lit as these dunes have veg (additional roughness) and are typically more steep than any desert dunes (which results in steeper pressure gradients). Perhaps a sentence or 2 to highlight the differences at the end would be a good idea, thereby stressing the point that more work on deflection and morphology need be done in desert settings, perhaps?

398 In this study, a twofold increase in the amount of lee-side flow deflection for obliquity angles  
399 in the range of 20 to 40° was observed (Figure 8). Others have found that the magnitude of  
400 deflected flow on the lee slope is a cosine function of the angle of incidence and crest speed  
401 (Tsoar, 1983; Tsoar et al., 1985; Sweet and Kocurek, 1990; Lancaster, 1995). A wind tunnel study  
402 by Tsoar et al. (1985) explored the influence of 3 incident flow angles (15°, 25°, and 35° relative to  
403 the crest) on lee-side flow separation and deflection over linear dunes. They found that lee-side  
404 flow deflects from the incident direction toward that aligned with the crest and that sediment  
405 transport patterns follow this deflection pattern. Earlier field research by Tsoar (1983) showed that  
406 the rate of sand transport increased for more oblique angles when  $i < 40^\circ$  and that deposition on  
407 the lee flank of a longitudinal (seif) dune occurred as incident flow angles became more transverse.  
408 Over transverse dunes, Sweet and Kocurek (1990) documented that lee slope windspeeds  
409 approached zero as incident angle became more transverse due to flow separation. Lee slope  
410 speeds increased rapidly as  $i$  approached 70° and Sweet and Kocurek (1990) concluded that dune  
411 shape was an important control on lee flow response such that dunes with low aspect ratios and/or  
412 oblique incident winds favoured attached and relatively high lee-side surface windspeeds, while  
413 dunes with high aspect ratios and/or transverse incident flows demonstrated lower speeds. These  
414 observations are similar to those made in fluvial environments (e.g. Best and Kostaschuk, 2002;  
415 Kostaschuk et al., 2009); where flow over low angle dunes tends to remain attached and flow  
416 reversal is relatively rare. Compiling data from several rivers, Kostaschuk (2005) concluded that  
417 deposition of suspended sediment in the trough and on the dune lee side acts to reduce dune  
418 height and lower the lee slope angle, thus underscoring earlier studies (e.g. Smith and McLean,  
419 1977; Kostaschuk and Villard, 1996; Kostaschuk, 2000) that showed that increased suspended  
420 sand transport relative to bedload, was associated with flatter dunes and lower lee slope angles. In  
421 terms of aeolian sediment transport, Sweet and Kocurek (1990) observed that deflected lee flow  
422 speeds were 60 to 80% of crest speeds and were associated with appreciable along-slope

**Comment [IW20]:** Don't think we need to ital. for the draft and some journals don't anyway.

**Comment [IW21]:** fix/replace: e.g., and i.e., always have commas.

**Comment [IW22]:** Hmm... maybe I'm missing something but not sure how this relates to aeolian where there is essentially no susp transport... revise. The analogy to aeolian dunes is best made with studies that focus on (only) bedload transport and (as reviewed in my Treatise chapter or our CFS II chapter) there are relatively few of these.

423 sediment transport, whereas, transverse flows favoured sediment avalanching and fallout  
424 deposition in weak back-eddy flows.

425 In terms of three-dimensional flow behaviour, results presented here indicate that lee-side  
426 flow deflection is greatest at the surface near the base of the lee slope and on the interdune  
427 corridor upwind of flow re-attachment where maximum flow expansion and deceleration occur. In  
428 this region, the crest-parallel component of the net flow vector has a greater effect on flow  
429 deflection, thereby promoting more along-dune oriented flow within the separation cell. As surface  
430 flow accelerates beyond re-attachment, vectors gradually deflect back toward bedform-normal up  
431 the stoss slope of the downwind dune in response to increases in the crest-transverse component  
432 of the net flow vector. This rather simple deflection mechanism explains why, in part, longitudinal  
433 flows are observed in the lee (Sharp, 1966; Tsoar, 1983; Tsoar et al., 1985) and, in this case,  
434 under relatively transverse incident flow conditions.

Comment [IW23]: Add e.g., in front of these refs

435 The lee-side flow responses and flow visualizations described above were used to compile  
436 a differential flow deflection model in the lee of transverse and relatively straight-crested dunes,  
437 which is demonstrated conceptually in Figure 9. Based on several non-continuous measurements,  
438 which is still common in aeolian research as continuous profiling technologies do not yet exist, this  
439 model assumes a linear change in deflection and flow speed with increases in height above the  
440 surface. In this conceptual model, flow deflection on the lee slope occurs toward an angle that is  
441 more oblique than that of the incident wind, thereby increasing the bedform-parallel component of  
442 secondary flow and, if competent, sand transport (discussed further in the following section). Flow  
443 vectors and visualization observations both show that the amount of lee-side flow deflection  
444 decreases with height above the surface such that flow at/above dune height is less deflected than  
445 near-surface flows in response to relatively faster overshoot flow above the separation cell (c.f.  
446 Walker and Nickling, 2002). Hence, dune-parallel components of the local flow vectors are  
447 proportionately less. The relative amount of deflection also increases with incident speed and dune

448 height due to the greater overall speed differentials (i.e., greater flow sheltering) that occur in the  
449 separation region. Under transverse flow conditions, a high-speed shear zone extends further  
450 leeward with increased incident speed, causing the point of maximum deflection above dune height  
451 to progress downwind (see Figure 4). Thus, maximum deflection occurs closer to the dune near  
452 the surface and further downwind in the upper wake region (approximately over the toe of the  
453 downwind dune). This differential deflection mechanism likely contributes to the development of  
454 roller and/or helical vortices in the separation region. Thus, even under relatively transverse flow  
455 conditions, longitudinal components of secondary flow patterns may contribute significantly to lee-  
456 side momentum transfers and must be considered for characterization and modeling of flow and  
457 sediment transport continuity.

458 Results from other studies show that lee-side flow shifts from a closed-loop recycling roller  
459 vortex to a longitudinal (along-dune) helix (c.f. Walker and Nickling, 2002) under slight increases in  
460 flow obliquity from transverse (i.e. from  $i = 90 \pm 10^\circ$  to  $\pm 20^\circ$ ). For instance, profiles and vectors for  
461 event 4 ( $i = 110^\circ$ , Figures 5, 7) suggest that flow is separated and has a strong deflected  
462 component in the lee. However, the separation region appears to be less extensive, particularly  
463 over the larger (east) dune transect. Qualitative flow streamer visualization observations under  
464 similar conditions (not shown here) indicated that the helical vortex was not only less extensive, but  
465 also less coherent (i.e. intermittent and poorly developed). Although a recycling helical pattern was  
466 observed, it is suggested that this pattern is an intermittent transitional phase between the roller  
467 vortex and the attached, deflected flow of more oblique incident conditions. This does not detract,  
468 however, from the observation that both deflected along-dune and recycling upslope flow and  
469 sediment transport may occur under relatively transverse incident flows (i.e.  $70 \leq i \leq 110^\circ$ ) (c.f.  
470 Walker, 1999). It follows that, under transporting windspeeds, these patterns could contribute  
471 appreciably to dune sediment dynamics, morphology, and migration.

472

**Comment [D24]:** Ian, did you mean Fig 4, which is now photos of the vis setup or fig 6 (old 4), which is the vectors for events 1-3?

**Comment [IW25]:** Not sure, but it would seem to make sense that we were talking about the profiles here... should also cite W&N 2002 flow model, specifically the figure, from that paper for reference as it was derived from the same dunes.

**Comment [IW26]:** Cite the specific figure from that paper that shows this conceptually

**Comment [IW27]:** See my earlier question on the same... I thought you fixed this for consistency? If so, it was not clear to me earlier in the text... you seem to use it to define incident angle relative to transverse  $i=90$ , whereas I think in the lit (e.g., Tsoar, sweet and kocurek, etc.) and in the prev. draft I meant some measure of obliquity FROM crest transverse... can you fix for consistency throughout??

**Comment [D28]:** I'm not sure I completely understand your comment, but how's this now?

474 The lee-side flow patterns discussed above have important implications for sediment mass  
 475 transport patterns and the resulting migration of closely spaced transverse dune forms. This study  
 476 and concurrent research on sand transport patterns by Walker (1999) at the same site shows that  
 477 competent, deflected secondary interdune flow patterns can transport appreciable amounts of  
 478 sediment parallel to the crest along the interdune corridor, even under relatively transverse flow  
 479 conditions. Morphodynamically, then, these patterns may have a significant influence on the  
 480 direction of dune migration. For instance, along-dune oriented sediment transport and ripple  
 481 migration were observed during a high-speed storm event that caused migration of the dune crest  
 482 by approximately 1.25 m downwind (Figure 10). Direct measurements of lee-side sediment flux  
 483 during subsequent transporting events at the same study site (Walker, 1999) suggest a three-  
 484 dimensional sediment budget that, under relatively consistent conditions, would promote  
 485 migration in an oblique direction, rather than in a bedform-normal direction (e.g. Rubin and  
 486 Hunter, 1987; Rubin and Ikeda, 1990; Lancaster, 1991) (Figure 10). This study shows that in  
 487 addition to conventional fallout deposition and lee slope avalanching (Anderson, 1988;  
 488 Anderson and Walker, 2006), other longitudinally oriented transport mechanisms (e.g. along-  
 489 dune ripple migration, deflected interdune saltation and fallout transport) contribute to  
 490 transverse dune migration and morphodynamics.

491 Figure 11 is a stylized empirical model of near surface flow (solid arrows) and deflected  
 492 sediment transport vectors (dashed short arrows) that occur in the lee of relatively straight  
 493 transverse dunes. Sediment transport vectors were interpreted and/or directly measured  
 494 (from ripples and/or trap measurements, see Walker, 1999) and their patterns represent where  
 495 sediment mass is directed during the respective driving incident flow conditions. As incident flow  
 496 becomes less transverse to the crest, lee-side separation cells become less extensive, and flow  
 497 remains attached for nearly crest-parallel incident flows (e.g.  $i = 140^\circ$ - $160^\circ$ ). Similarly, as incident

**Comment [IW29]:** At least 2 key studies by the Nickling, Lancaster and Mckenna neuman group need to be cited here... again, I think they were cited in the Anderson and walker paper or in the Treatise chapter.

**Comment [IW30]:** Again, check fig numbers because in the files, fig 10 shows the deflection and transport patterns (with implications we're discussing here). Fix please.

**Comment [IW31]:** Remove the text part, leave only Walker 1999 in brackets.

498 flow becomes less transverse, flow speeds in the lee increase due to the apparent reduction in  
499 dune aspect ratio. The effectiveness or overall contribution of these mechanisms, and their  
500 relation to migration rates, depends though on secondary flow magnitude, duration, and incident  
501 direction and requires more extensive research. Future work should also incorporate issues of  
502 dune spacing, as Baddock et al. (2007) have shown that interdune dynamics are strongly  
503 influenced by interactions between reattachment and downwind dune stoss positions.

504

## 505 CONCLUSIONS

506 In order to conserve fluid momentum and sediment mass, deflected components of  
507 secondary flow and interdune sand transport must be considered in approaches to model airflow  
508 and sediment transport over dunes. Flow separation, reversal, and lateral deflection cause three-  
509 dimensional variations that, in terms of a budget approach, represent a deficit of fluid mass and  
510 transported sediment from simple two-dimensional models. Even under relatively transverse flow  
511 conditions, where lee-side flow above the separation cell and downstream of re-attachment may  
512 travel in an essentially streamwise direction, lateral deflection occurs in near-surface surface flow  
513 and resulting sediment transport. Thus, budget approaches to conceptualizing flow and net  
514 sediment transport over dunes should not be viewed simply as a two-dimensional system of  
515 bedform-normal components. This study has demonstrated that flow over transverse dunes is  
516 deflected in the lee to a degree that increases as incident flow becomes less transverse. As flow  
517 becomes increasingly oblique to the crest, the effective aspect ratio (and, hence, form roughness)  
518 encountered by the wind decreases and patterns of flow acceleration, separation, and potential  
519 recirculation on sediment transport are diminished. Further, oblique incident conditions offer a  
520 greater fetch. The implications for sediment transport and dune migration are that transport  
521 potential increases with increasing flow obliquity (towards crest-parallel) compared with transverse  
522 flows, and that transverse dunes can migrate sideways.

**Comment [IW32]:** Could make some brief linkage here to Baddock's work and his summary model on interdune regions?

**Comment [D33]:** You've tried to get me to include discussion of Baddock's stuff a few times now, to the point that I think I'm missing something in his papers! As far as I could remember, he never discusses deflection and his interdune model (2007 paper) is all about dune spacing, which we don't delve into here at all. Am I missing something? Or maybe you get a kickback if you cite him ;)

**Comment [IW34]:** Also, supply as they had hard interdune surfaces... some review/mention of this in the treatise chapter.

**Comment [IW35]:** Should elaborate and clarify a bit more with direct reference and explanation of patterns a-d in the figure.

**Comment [IW36]:** Can't put my finger on it, but I don't like how this ends. The last sentence is off. See earlier wording re: sediment mass transfers, etc. Generally, see what you can do to beef it up, give it some pizaaaz, up the octane, whatever. Also, generally, we should pepper the conclusion with some facts or bullet points to be more concise (for those lazy readers who will only skim the abstract and conclusions).

523 **FIGURE CAPTIONS**

Comment [IW37]: Update as needed.

- 524 Figure 1: Map of study area showing location of the sampling array within transverse ridges on the  
525 northern end of the Silver Peak dunefield in western Nevada, USA.
- 526 Figure 2: Instrument deployment over west and east sampling transects including location of the  
527 flow visualization tower array. Instrument profiles characterize flow within discrete flow  
528 regions shown in the upper figure. Vertical axis indicates height of instruments above the  
529 lowest elevation in the interdune.
- 530 Figure 3: Study site setup. Unwind view (a) of instrument arrays (E=east, W=west), observation  
531 tower (O), flow streamer towers (F); b) dense spacing of vanes and anemometers in the lee  
532 on the east transect; c) view of transverse ridges looking NE into the study area (from  
533 Walker and Nickling, 2002)
- 534 Figure 4: Flow visualization methods. a) 12-m observation tower with perch for aerial viewing of  
535 streamer response; b) smoke tracer visualization of lee-side flow patterns and extent of  
536 separation cell; c) flow streamer towers extending 9 m leeward from the crest. Five heights  
537 relative to the dune are identified by different symbols. Observation of streamer deflection  
538 and smoke patterns were used to complement limited wind vane data in the lee.
- 539 Figure 5: Time-averaged wind speed ( $u/u_{10h}$ ) profiles for a series of events (2, 4, 7) spanning  
540 transverse to crest-parallel flow conditions. Note that vertical axis shows sampling heights  
541 relative to underlying surface not the interdune datum.
- 542 Figure 6: Time-averaged flow vectors for events 1 through 3. Upper values indicate direction (SD)  
543 and lower italicised values are speed and [coefficient of variation]. Vectors show directions  
544 at 3 levels: surface, crest height ( $\pm 30$  cm), and at half dune height. White arrows at crest  
545 locations are at outer flow (5.2h on east and 4.6h on west profiles). Dashed vertical line  
546 shows lee slope base and interdune
- 547 Figure 7: Time-averaged flow vectors for events 4 and 5. Upper values indicate direction (SD) and  
548 lower italicised values are speed and [coefficient of variation]. Vectors show directions at 3  
549 levels: surface, crest height ( $\pm 30$  cm), and at half dune height. White arrows at crest  
550 locations are at outer flow (5.2h on east and 4.6h on west profiles). Dashed vertical line  
551 shows lee slope base and interdune.
- 552 Figure 8: Time-averaged flow vectors for events 6 and 7. Upper values indicate direction (SD) and  
553 lower italicised values are speed and [coefficient of variation]. Vectors show directions at 3  
554 levels: surface, crest height ( $\pm 30$  cm), and at half dune height. White arrows at crest  
555 locations are at outer flow (5.2h on east and 4.6h on west profiles). Dashed vertical line  
556 shows lee slope base and interdune.
- 557 Figure 9: Differential deflection of lee-side flow over closely spaced dunes for various incident  
558 angles. Vectors are proportionally sized to normalized windspeed and show directional  
559 variation from the surface (black) to above dune height (grey). Intermittent (white) and  
560 transitional (lines) vectors are also shown.
- 561 Figure 10: Evidence for lee-side sediment transport processes over a transverse dune in the Silver  
562 Peak dunefield, Nevada. A) active flow separation, suspended fallout, and deflected ripples  
563 formed under approximately crest-transverse flow ( $i \approx 90^\circ$ ); b) along-dune oriented ripples  
564 on the lee slope looking east; c) small, bifurcated ripples on the upper lee slope and larger,  
565 coarse granule ripples on the base (5 cm lens cap for scale). All photos taken in May 1997.  
566 Photos b and c were taken after the transporting event shown in a.

567 Figure 11: Lateral diversion of secondary lee-side flows and surface winds in response to various  
568 incidence angles over closely spaced dunes. Short arrows indicate sediment transport  
569 direction and dashed arrows indicate intermittent transport.  
570



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758 Table 1: Summary of wind events recorded on east (E) and west (W) sampling transects ordered  
 759 from relatively transverse conditions to crest-parallel flow. Note that flow from the west is 0°,  
 760 east is 180°. Data are based on 1 minute averages sampled at 1 Hz (e.g.  $u_{5,2h}$  = incident  
 761 speed at 3.8 m above east dune crest, SD = standard deviation, CV = coefficient of  
 762 variation =  $SD_{u_{5,2h}}/u_{5,2h}$ ). All events were recorded on the same day (1997 JD 155).

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Event	Time [duration]	Direction (°)	SD (°)	Incident speed ( $u_{5,2h}$ , $m s^{-1}$ ) [average]	CV ( $u_i$ )	crest speed $u_{0.3}/u_{12}$	lee-side speeds $u_{0.3}/u_{12}$
1E	19:18 - 19:35	91	4.9	3.8 - 5.5 [4.59]	0.10	0.82	0.41 - 0.59
1W	[0:19]	89	5.8	4.2 - 5.6 [4.84]	0.09	0.90	0.47 - 0.73
2E	19:43 - 20:01	89	3.5	5.4 - 7.7 [6.54]	0.10	0.79	0.30 - 0.52
2W	[0:20]	88	2.6	5.6 - 8.0 [6.91]	0.10	0.87	0.37 - 0.53
3E	21:03 - 21:23	89	5.5	7.6 - 10.0 [8.83]	0.09	0.73	0.27 - 0.51
3W	[0:21]	89	5.6	8.2 - 10.5 [9.17]	0.07	0.80	0.35 - 0.50
4E	3:10 - 3:33	111	3.6	3.9 - 5.6 [6.27]	0.09	0.79	0.44 - 0.61
4W	[0:24]	110	3.5	5.5 - 7.3 [6.52]	0.08	0.88	0.54 - 0.81
5E	4:51 - 5:11	131	3.9	4.7 - 6.7 [5.74]	0.11	0.70	0.52 - 0.78
5W	[0:21]	130	3.9	4.9 - 7.1 [5.98]	0.09	0.77	0.53 - 0.79
6E	2:34 - 2:52	146	5.3	5.4 - 7.6 [6.52]	0.10	0.69	0.59 - 0.80
6W	[0:19]	146	5.3	5.1 - 7.3 [6.32]	0.10	0.73	0.61 - 0.84
7E	1:29 - 1:35	3	2.6	4.5 - 5.5 [4.96]	0.08	0.60	0.63 - 0.67
7W	[0:07]	2	3.6	3.9 - 5.1 [4.47]	0.10	0.58	0.59 - 0.75

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