

Curry Wildfire Preparation Team
Meeting Notes
Bandon Dunes Golf Resort
November 13 2013
DRAFT

Attending:

Name	Agency	Position	e-mail address
Don Kendall	Curry County	Emergency Services	kendalld@co.curry.or.us
Brett Weidemiller	CFPA – Gold Beach	Assistant Unit Forester	bweidemiller@odf.state.or.us
Eric Hamner	CFPA – Brookings	Forest Officer	Eric.hamner@odf.state.or.us
John Flannigan	CFPA – Coos Bay	District Manager	jflannigan@odf.state.or.us
Mike Pope	BLM- Coos Bay	Advisor	micheal_pope@blm.gov
Drew Harper	Curry SWCD	Vegetation Manager	Drew.harper@currywatersheds.org
Dustin Williams	Curry SWCD	Vegetation Foreman	dustin.williams@currywatersheds.org
Frank Burris	OSU Extension	Watershed Specialist	Frank.burris@oregonstate.edu
Tristan Huff	OSU Extension	Forestry Specialist	tristan.huff@oregonstate.edu
Jim Seeley	WRCA	Executive Director	jseeley@wildriverscoastalliance.com
Marie Simonds	WRCA	Executive Assistant	msimonds@wildriverscoastalliance.com
Jeff Wilson	WRCA	Vegetation Specialist	jwilson@wildriverscoastalliance.com
Keith Massie	Columbia Cartographic	Curry County GIS	keith.oregon@gmail.com
John Hawkins	ReMediation	GIS specialist	jhcville@gmail.com
Jordan Fanning	City of Brookings	GIS specialist	jfanning@brookings.or.us
Scott Adams	Coos Curry Electric		scotta@cooscurryelectric.com
Dawn Weekly	Coquille WC	Program Manager	CWAprogrammanager@outlook.com
Mike Murphy	Coos County	Emergency Services	mmurphy@co.coos.or.us
Kim Hunter	USDAFS – Gold Beach	Partnership Coordinator	kimmariehunter@fs.fed.us
Clint Emerson	USDAFS – Gold Beach	Botanist	cemerson@fs.fed.us
Ken Nice	WRCA	Agronomist	knice@wildriverscoastalliance.com
Maggie McHugh	CSWCD	Facilitator	maggierville@gmail.com

Introductions – Maggie provided a synopsis of the Curry Wildfire Preparation Team and reason for the emphasis on gorse management in Curry County. The meeting participants introduced themselves. The Team thanked Jim and Wild Rivers Coast Alliance for hosting the meeting and providing lunch and a field tour after the meeting.

Gorse Mapping Project – Maggie and John Hawkins described the different options explored for doing aerial photos to map gorse in the Counties, and shared estimates from several contractors. The two preferred options are:

1. *CoosCurry_inland*; drawn to pick up most of the private property plus the northern part of Coos which doesn't really have any data points (not sure if that is due to no reporting or it's just not there). It extends inland to where you should pick up most of what's out there.
2. *CoosCurry_inland2*; This one is similar to one above except that it drops the northern part of Coos and jogged the eastern line to include the "urban" rural areas while still covering most of the reported sites

At this time, the team does not have enough funding to fly the entirety of both Counties, and is short funds to do the preferred option (a combination of options 2

and 3, with coastal extension into Douglas County). Several participants said that their agencies may be able to help with the funding, including Curry County, Cities of Port Orford, Brookings, and Gold Beach, and Oregon Emergency Management. OSU Extension and the Forest Service said they may be able to help with the analyses that will be required to delineate gorse on the photos, and CFPA offered assistance with ground verification. Clint reported on his conversation with a representative from the USDA Farm Service Agency who offered to help the Team contract out the aerial flights. Clint will send Maggie more information. Kim said there may be an option for the County to deal directly with that agency instead of going through Forest Service contracting first, which would speed the process. Kim also mentioned that the Regional Forest Service office will fly special areas of 100 mi² for no cost if approved. This might be very useful for smaller areas on the fringes of the National Forest, although it may be difficult to coordinate the flights with peak bloom of gorse.

The Team decided to begin the contracting process immediately.

Tasks:

- Don and Keith will draft an RFP or RFO
- Maggie will request a new shape file from Erin at CCSWCD
- Keith will request funding from OEM
- Clint will explore FS analysis capability and availability
- Tristan will apply for a Small Grant from the Agricultural Research Foundation

The Team then discussed where the data would be held and maintained. Keith and John said that the data probably would be delivered from the contractor on external thumb drives, and suggested that it also be loaded on Curry County GIS to make it widely available and so that gorse maps can be overlain on zoning and property layers. The Team agreed that they wanted the maps and information available to as many as possible.

The Team also discussed when the optimal timing for gorse bloom would be, and how frequently monitoring flights would need to be done.

Tasks:

- Keith will check with Curry County to make sure that they would be willing to host the information and to share it with Coos County.
- Tristan and Sherri will research timing of gorse bloom e.g. does it bloom at different times from south to north, or from west to east?

Sketch Map – Maggie offered a proposal from Wyatt Williams for ODF to do a test plot of up to 300,000 acres to map gorse. The Team agreed that this might be a good method for the State to develop an accurate and less expensive mapping technique for gorse that could be used for out-year monitoring. This could be applied to monitoring the effectiveness of treatments and to map the spread or containment of gorse.

Task:

- Maggie will notify Wyatt that funding of up to \$5000 was approved for developing a mapping technique for gorse using Sketch Map.

Next Steps for GAG – Jim stated that the GAG efforts need to be a bi- or tri-County effort. Dawn asked who the contact would be for all the Counties. Maggie suggested that the Team needs to begin researching community capacity grants to fund someone to function as a coordinator, management plan writer/editor, and grant writer. She suggested several foundations to which the Team might apply, but they would require the application to go through a governmental agency and/or a non-profit organization. The Team discussed several possibilities, such as the Curry Soil & Water Conservation District, South Coast Watersheds, the Coos or Coquille Watershed Council. Kim asked how the Weed Boards might function in this effort. Drew and Clint suggested that they might help be focusing their efforts on gorse, but that neither are high power groups.

Tasks:

- Maggie and Marie will begin exploring grant opportunities, including community capacity grants that might fund an economic analysis of the cost of gorse
- Tristan will ask the Coos Weed Board to become involved in GAG
- Dawn will inquire how the Coquille Watershed Council would like to be involved in GAG (i.e. fiscal agency, grant management)
- Maggie will inquire the same from South Coast Watersheds and the Curry SWCD

Updates – Brett reported on Harris Beach; the contractor is finished with the masticator. A separate landowner did some clearing and had his fire escape; he will follow-up with seeding. CFPA crew piled the gorse from the rocky point and will burn it when possible and funding is available.

There have been 3 additional pre-inspections for Defensible Space, and 3 post-inspections. All payments are up to date. Brett reported that there has been an upswing in interest in this program, and recommended that we manage the remaining NFP funding to cover this renewed interest.

Cedar Terrace – Dustin completed the boom spraying, but felt that there were 3 acres where the gorse had re-sprouted to a height where the spraying was not effective. He recommended going back into the unit and mowing or weed-eating the gorse, then using a backpack sprayer. Drew expressed concerns over planting the OWEB sites, feeling that the gorse still offered too much competition for the seedlings.

Tasks:

- Brett will revisit the site and give recommendations
- Drew will check on the status of the OWEB grant and see what can be done to ensure success with planting

Next Meeting:

December 10, 2013; 1100 – 1200; Conference Call

Please send all corrections or edits on the notes, and **agenda items** for the December meeting to me by **12/5**. You can contact me at maggierville@gmail.com; or call at 541/247-074 or my cell 541/698-6663.

Maggie