

Curry Wildfire Preparation Team
Meeting Notes
Gold Beach Ranger District
March 4, 2014
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	ehamner@odf.state.or.us
Liesl Coleman	CCSWCD – Gold Beach	District Manager	Liesl.coleman@currywatersheds.org
Chris Cline	CFPA – Gold Beach	Unit Forester	ccline@odf.state.or.us
Drew Harper	Curry SWCD	Vegetation Manager	Drew.harper@currywatersheds.org
Alexis Brickner	Coos Watershed Association	Riparian Manager	abrickner@cooswatershed.org
Wyatt Williams	ODF	Invasive Species Specialist	wwilliams@odf.state.or.us
Cassie Bouska	Coquille Watershed Association	Environmental Specialist	Cassie.bouska@gmail.com
Jim Seeley	WRCA	Executive Director	jseeley@wildriverscoastalliance.com
Jim Amador	Flora Pacifica	Landscape Designer	jim@florapacifica.com
Keith Massie (via speaker phone)	Columbia Cartographic	Curry County GIS	keith.oregon@gmail.com
Sherri Laier	OR State Parks	Vegetation Manager	sherri.laier@state.or.us
Amy Wilson	NRCS	District Conservationist	amy.wilson@or.usda.gov
Kim Hunter	USDAFS – Gold Beach	Partnership Coordinator	kimmariehunter@fs.fed.us
Maggie McHugh	CSWCD	Facilitator	maggierville@gmail.com

Introductions and agenda – The meeting participants introduced themselves. Several participants needed to leave early, so the agenda was arranged to accommodate their schedules as much as possible.

Demonstration Gardens – Eric introduced Jim Amador, the landscape designer at Flora Pacifica. Jim has extensive experience working in northern California and southern Oregon. Eric and Jim have been working together to design demonstration gardens for the Gold Beach and Brookings CFPA offices that would utilize and showcase fire-resistant plants. The gardens could be part of the CFPA open houses, Master Gardener and other Garden tours. Eric requested Title III Firewise Outreach funds to purchase the plants. Flora Pacifica has offered to do the design as an in-kind contribution and to also offer a 15% discount on any plants purchased for the demo gardens. Flora Pacifica would also stock the plants for the local community. Eric and Jim requested input from the other partners on their draft plant list. Sherri and Wyatt both had concerns about using invasive, non-native plants, and offered their assistance to help with the list. Wyatt also suggested contacting Carri Piroso, the ODA Integrated Weed Management Coordinator for SW Oregon.

The team agreed that plants used for the demonstration garden should be: 1) Fire-Resistant, 2) Native, and 3) Non-invasive.

Kim suggested that funding also be used to provide interpretive signing such as a kiosk to promote the use of fire-resistant landscaping to help create/maintain defensible space. Wyatt suggested that Eric contact the Oregon Invasive Species Council who have an excellent education and outreach program to help with wording for signage re: native species. He also suggested that Eric and Jim utilize OSU's 2002-2003 Garden Smart brochure.

Kim recommended considering a site in Port Orford as well. Eric and Chris offered to check on possible sites in North County. Brett offered a time line of the last week in September so the gardens would be ready for the CFPA annual open house.

Tasks:

Eric – Collaborate with Sherri, Wyatt, and Carri Piroosko (cpirosko@oda.state.or.us) on plant selections for demo gardens

Research OSU Garden Smart brochure

Contact Oregon Invasive Species Council (Oregoninvasivespeciescouncil.com) for education and outreach recommendations

Check on possible demonstration site in Port Orford.

Brett and Don – will check on status of Title III Firewise Outreach grant funding

Maggie – check for award letters from the County on the Title III grants

Gorse Mapping Project – Keith Massie joined the group on speaker phone to report on the status of the aerial photo mapping contract. Two bids were received by the County – the aerial photo mapping portion only differed by \$2000; flights alone were estimated at \$100,000, with the optional mapping areas ranging from \$30,000 to \$32,000. The analysis and model creation for gorse mapping ranged from \$13,000 to \$140,000.

The contract was awarded to David Smith & Associates. Keith felt the key item was to complete the aerial photo flights, have a start on the gorse mapping, and have the contractor supply training sessions with GIS personnel from interested agencies. Kim expressed concern about the time and money commitment that may be required of various agencies to attend workshops and learn the mapping technique. Jim reported that WRCA will supply some additional funds toward the project and hoped that the Douglas County portion would be included in the flights. The Team discussed a number of negotiation items with Keith over how the funding should be spent, including

Mapping the core area plus southern Douglas County

Developing a user-friendly analysis model for mapping gorse

Providing workshops for learning a consistent mapping strategy

Wyatt recommended keeping ODF and ODA (Weedmapper, Alex Park) in the loop.

The Team agreed on the follow negotiation points for Keith to use in his conversation with Smith & Associates:

1. Provide aerial flights and photos of the core area identified, including eastern Coos and southern coastal Douglas Counties
2. Use the Elk - Sixes River corridors to develop an analysis and computer model for mapping gorse
3. Provide a 1 to 2-day workshop to teach the method to GIS specialists from interested agencies

Keith asked for Team contacts to check with his negotiations: Jim, Don, and Maggie volunteered to help Keith.

Sketch Map – Wyatt gave a presentation on ODF's Sketch Mapping technique that is used for mapping invasive species and diseases such as Sudden Oak Death. Flight lines are 4 miles apart, with an operator doing mapping on a specialized iPad. ODF has cooperative agreements with other agencies and private landowners to do the mapping and supply information. More information can be found on Sketch Map and the mapping products in the Forest Health Highlights, the annual report from ODF.

The Team recommended \$4700 be used to produce a Sketch Map product for identifying gorse in 300,000 acres in Coos and Curry Counties. The funding would pay for the pilot and plane, other expenses are in-kind contributions from ODF. Wyatt did some field observations on the status of gorse bloom on his trip to Gold Beach and felt that along the coast there was already 50 – 75% bloom. He reported that Scotch Broom is also starting to bloom. He would like more information on the higher elevations, and help with ground-truthing differences between gorse and broom blooms. Wyatt feels that the flights should be done in the next two weeks to see peak bloom for gorse. Curry County needs to have a cooperative agreement signed with ODF to authorize payment from the NFP grant. Don has been working with County Counsel for appropriate wording, and then the agreement must be signed by the BOC in a regular BOC meeting.

Tasks:

- Don – finalize agreement with County, present for signature at the next Commissioners' meeting.

Addendum from Wyatt on March 5:

I kept thinking about how far along the gorse is in its flowering stage. We really need to fly the survey within the next two weeks if we are going to do it this year (i.e. within the next 2 weeks). After talking with my supervisor, Jim Cathcart, he OK'd a plan for us to fly the survey without having the cooperative agreement signed. This will give us a lot of flexibility. If we have a good weather day for flying, and the surveyors are all available, we can fly the survey anytime. My agency is doing this in

good faith without having the funds in place because we feel strongly about this project. If the money fails to come through, our program will take the direct cost of the plane and pilot, not to mention the in-kind contribution of the surveyors' time and GIS products. Unlike our division's personnel and equipment, the ODF plane and pilot are a shared resource with fire protection and other programs. Each program has to pay for their use.

Hopefully, the Curry County commissioners will soon sign the agreement and we can get the \$4700 to cover the plane and pilot from the National Fire Plan grant instead of our small program taking the hit.

Updates –

Wood Vinegar/Gorse Herbicide - Tristan reported via email that his Small Grant application with the Oregon Research Foundation for help with Sketch Map was not funded. He also sent an update on the research project using wood vinegar for gorse control. Mowing/mastication of the site (opposite Harvard Street apartments in Bandon) will be done next week. Wood vinegar spraying will begin at petal drop and will be announced in the paper before spraying begins.

Out year spraying funding for Cedar Terrace – Liesl reported that she worked with Mike Pope and Don Kendall to obligate funding for out-year herbicide spraying at the Cedar Terrace project site.

Title III Grants – Don is still researching the amount of funding left in each of the three outstanding Firewise Grants. He is also looking for additional information to use with the Firewise Assistance grant with the newly formed HERT (Health Emergency Response Team) and is hoping that they will give the Team some guidance on how the grant monies can be used to help provide wildfire response assistance to the vulnerable population in Curry County.

Cedar Terrace - At the end of the meeting, Brett gave a presentation on the work done and planned for the immediate future at Cedar Terrace, Port Orford. He used Google Maps to show the areas treated by a combination of 'masticator', hand work, and spraying. Brett reported that 6,000 trees will be planted this week. Drew reported that the area covered by the OWEB small grant will be planted within the next 2 weeks.

Gorse Action Group (GAG)

The Team discussed the next steps for the Gorse Action Group. Liesl reported a somewhat 'ambiguous' response from the Curry County SWCD for being the lead/fiscal agency for the GAG, and that no staff member was anxious to step up as lead. Maggie has not heard back from Dawn Weekly, Coquille Watershed Association, so assumes that her board is not interested. Alexis Brickner, Coos Watershed Association, reported that their executive director is fully supportive of the GAG, and has recommended Alexis as coordinator for the GAG. Alexis is the Riparian and Wetland Project Manager for CWA, and has an MS in botany from OSU. Although enthusiastic about this collaborative opportunity, funding for Alexis time is a consideration, making grant applications to cover this expense a priority for the GAG.

Maggie recommended that the group begin to consider those areas that grantors look for in applications – a committed board or steering committee, strong partnerships, guiding principles and/or mission statement, goals, measurable objectives. Team members volunteered to serve on a steering committee, and offered other names that should be considered. The draft list includes:

- Jim Seeley – Wild Rivers Coast Alliance

- Clint Emerson – USDA FS Gold Beach
- Drew Harper – Curry SWCD (the SWCD's are important to represent private ranchers, farmers, wood lot owners, etc)
- Curry, Coos, and Douglas Counties
- Jeanne Standley – BLM
- Carri Pirosko – ODA
- Chris Cline – CFPA
- Tristan Huff – OSU Extension (and/or Fritzie Grebstad)
- Sherri Laier – State Parks
- Cassie Bouska – Coquille Watershed Association
- Coos SWCD
- Wyatt Williams – ODF

Amy Wilson, facilitator par excellence, kindly offered to lead the group in a brainstorming session to begin developing a mission statement, goals, and objectives.

Amy's notes are attached to the minutes; Alexis's and Maggie's edited version will be attached to the draft agenda for the next meeting.

Next Meeting:

April 8, 2014; 1100 – 1200; Conference Call

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

Maggie