

Gorse Action Group
Conference Call
Meeting Notes
November 17, 2014

Attendees

Alexis Brickner – Coos Watershed Association
Michael Murphy – Coos County
Michael Schindel – The Nature Conservancy
Clint Emerson – USFS
Marie Simonds – Wild Rivers Coast Alliance
Jim Seeley – Wild Rivers Coast Alliance
Erin Minster – Curry SWCD
Carri Piroso – Oregon Department of Agriculture
Robert Franson - CFPA
Brett Weidemiller - CFPA

Grant Writing Update

Alexis has not been able to research grants too closely lately. She did look into the Oregon State Weed Board grant to see if the Coordinator position would fit into their requirements but it did not seem likely. Jim mentioned that WRCA has a grant writing consultant and he will meet with her to discuss potential funding opportunities. OWEB was mentioned, Jim will follow up but Erin also stated that she thinks OWEB gives weed grants through the State Weed Board unless it is directly tied to a riparian grant. OWEB's Focused Investment Partnership may be a possibility.

Steering Committee Update

Jim suggested we see what the mapping project show to set priorities for committee members. Amy Wilson (NRCS) has previously asked what the role of the committee would be and this will be discussed in further detail at the face-to-face meeting in December. Erin suggested drafting an MOU/MOA for legitimacy and include an official list of partners. Also, a record of involvement so that current and past partners can have access to data sets. Erin, Alexis, and Carri will find examples of MOA's and Alexis will get some ideas together for the December meeting. Mike Murphy suggested keeping it informal but covering the basic formalities. Jim said a document such as this will probably be required for some grant applications and it should be written with grants in mind.

Political Contacts

Jim spoke with Wayne Kreiger to keep him in the loop and inform him of the GAG. Jim also spoke with Jeff Griffin in the governor's office for guidance on the regional solutions team, if and when we want the GAG to be a regional solutions project. Marie will reach out to Kathy Erickson, DeFazio's representative, now that elections are over. On a side note, Jim mentioned getting a member of Douglas County to join the GAG. Alexis has contacted Chrissy Morgan (Douglas SWCD) in the past but did not get a response. She will try Chrissy again.

Field Data Collection Project

Erin gave a great update on the field data collection project. They are close to finishing point collection in the pilot area with 192 of 237 points collected. The remaining points are east of

101. Tim with CFPA is getting to them this week. This is Tim's last week of work so Curry SWCD will pick up any remaining points. All of the points collected so far have been primary points; no substitute points have been needed yet. Mason, Bruce & Girard feels good about the timeline. Erin is working on coordinating the data collection from outside the pilot area with Alexis, Hannah (South Slough), and Austin (City of Brookings). Curry SWCD and CoosWA are working on an agreement for collecting points. Fred with WRCA is starting to collect points outside of the pilot area. Austin in Brookings is checking on his range for collecting points outside of the city limits. Points will be collected throughout this winter.

Jim mentioned that a recent OSU graduate, a caddy at Bandon Dunes, is taking a post-graduate GIS course and would like to be part of the project as an intern. WRCA has its own mobile mapping unit and he will work with Fred.

Erin mentioned that a landowner letter and permission postcard have been drafted up and are available to send to landowners. All landowners she has spoken with have been very positive and receptive to allowing team to collect data points on their property. She has had some good conversations with landowners who all want to get rid of gorse. Their main limiting factor is time and manpower for controlling gorse. Finally, Erin mentioned that David Smith & Associates has 1-1.5 TB of data for photos. Something to keep in mind for those who might want some photos.

Interagency Noxious Weed Symposium Poster

Alexis has almost finished the poster after feedback from GAG members. She hopes to have the printed poster in hand before Thanksgiving. Marie suggested adding a sentence in about how GAG is a strong collaborative group working towards a common solution to the gorse problem on the Oregon coast.

Brett Weidemiller with CFPA is stepping out the group. Robert Franson with the Fourmile Station will be taking his place.

The call ended with a discussion on creating a spreadsheet of in-kind and cash match contributed thus far to all CWPT and GAG activities. This would be good proof of the collaborative efforts so far. Alexis will work on requesting this information and getting it into a spreadsheet that can be referenced for grant applications.

Next Meeting

Face to Face

Monday, December 15th, 2014

11am-3pm

Bandon Dunes Golf Course

Hosted by Wild Rivers Coast Alliance

Meet in lobby of Main Lodge at 11am

***"A lunch worth traveling for" provided by Wild Rivers Coast Alliance**

Hope to see you there!

Alexis