

Gorse Action Group
Conference Call
Meeting Notes
August 4th, 2015

Attending:

Alexis Brickner – Coos Watershed Association
Jim Seeley – Wild Rivers Coast Alliance
Marie Simonds – Wild Rivers Coast Alliance
Mike Murphy – Coos County Emergency Management
Jim Auburn – City of Port Orford
Erin Minster – Curry SWCD
Hannah McDonald – South Slough NERR

Grant Update

Alexis submitted a pre-proposal for the Pulling Together Initiative with the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation. She spoke with the grants coordinator for advice on direction to take. The original plan was a control, restoration, and education project with Go Native Plant Nursery in Bandon and The Wetlands Conservancy “Ranch” off of Beach Loop Drive. After a discussion with the NFWF contact, Alexis decided to go a different route for the grant proposal. She is seeking capacity building funding for the next two years for GAG to become a Cooperative Weed Management Area. This will involve setting up a Steering Committee, defining our geographic area based on the mapping project, writing a strategic plan, and continuing outreach and education efforts. This grant will also provide some funding for additional ground truthing for the mapping project. Alexis will wait on the Go Native project and submit a project to the Oregon State Weed Board in December.

Jim commented that we really need to fill in the data gaps to make use of the data we already have.

Erin stated that ground truthing is one thing but data gaps were result of not getting enough points in certain vegetation cover such as dense gorse. We need to talk to Michael Schindel about whether more points need to be generated or would we be doing groundtruthing of points we already have.

Jim suggested that we create a data collection team to have separate call about how to collect the necessary data. Potential team members include Wyatt Williams, Michael Schindel, Janet (Mason Bruce & Girard), Erin Minster, Jim Seeley, Marie Simonds, and Alexis Brickner. Alexis will work on getting everyone together on a call to discuss.

In terms of the Go Native project, Jim mentioned that he and Marie have talked with the Mayor of Bandon, Mary Schamehorn. She says there is great concern about an area called “the donut hole” in Bandon. It is an area between Beach Loop Drive and 101 just outside of the city limits. Michael Murphy said he thinks it is just south of

Seabird Drive but he can look into the exact location and taxlot numbers. Erin Minster said she could look into the assessor's data. Marie asked for more details on Cooperative Weed Management Areas and suggested getting in touch with Dustin Williams with Curry SWCD. He had tried to get one together for Curry County at some point.

Mapping Update

There is no update currently. Jim said we need to find out what additional funding is needed and what will we get for that funding. We will have a call with Michael, Erin, Jim, Marie, Alexis then meet with data collection team previously mentioned to figure out a game plan.

Outreach

Alexis and Hannah will finalize the pamphlet so that it can get sent out to members for outreach events. Alexis would like to have it printed on paper that is nicer than typical printer paper. Marie suggested Coos Bay Printing for a cost estimate. Alexis also wants to draft a pamphlet for "A homeowner's guide to gorse control". She will begin drafting this soon.

Alexis will work on a public presentation for an October meeting in the evening. She thinks starting in Bandon will be a good move. Marie mentioned that the Mayor is very interested in GAG and wants to keep up with the group. Hopefully she will be able to attend this presentation. Alexis will work on a presentation that talks about the history of gorse management in the area (State Parks, OSU Extension, Band Dunes) and then the "who, what, where, when, why" of the GAG. This will hopefully get support and interest from private landowners.

Strategic Plan

Alexis will start working on a plan soon with WRCA funding. Jim said that the Meyer Memorial Trust and the Ford Family Foundation are rewriting their strategic plans and asked WRCA about the needs on the south coast because it has been looked over from a philanthropic perspective. This is a great opportunity to get some recognition for the needs of the southern Oregon coast.

Logo

Marie said #4 was Mayor Jim's. No other votes. Alexis has some in email and will find them for a final tally.

Presentations

Alexis presented at the Oregon Invasive Species Council at the end of June and at the Bio Breakfast last week. Bio Breakfast gathers local natural resource professionals for breakfast and presentation. There were about 20 people in attendance. One person in the group stated that she lived in Bandon and felt the time was right for the public to hear more about GAG.

Next Meeting

Alexis will send out a Doodle poll for a conference call in early September. Alexis wants to have a face-to-face meeting this fall but probably not until November due to busy field and fire seasons that may go through October.

Thanks everyone!