

**Gorse Action Group**  
**Conference Call**  
**Meeting Notes**  
**February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

**Attending:**

Alexis Brickner – Coos Watershed Association  
Don Kendall – Curry County  
Sherri Laier – Oregon State Parks  
Jim Seeley – Wild Rivers Coast Alliance  
Marie Simonds – Wild Rivers Coast Alliance  
Mike Murphy – Coos County  
Amy Wilson - NRCS  
Carri Pirosko – Oregon Department of Agriculture  
Erin Minster – Curry SWCD

**Grant Update Update**

Alexis spoke with Jeff Burns who is the Grants Operations Coordinator with ODF in Salem. He suggested several grant opportunities to look into. The first is the National Fire Plan Wildland-Urban Interface Community Assistance Grant. This application is due March 13<sup>th</sup>, funding comes from Region 6 Federal Funding split between WA & OR and looks for collaborative efforts. The criteria for scoring includes:

- Project is identified in a CWPP completed by March 15, 2015.
- Adjacent to Forest Service fuels reduction project completed within the last three years or planned within the next three years.
- In a high priority landscape area as identified in the State-wide Assessment.
- Include electronic map clearly identifying the project area on non-federal ground and the adjacent Forest Service projects

The first question asked is whether or not our area for the mapping project is in a State-wide Assessment? Mike answered that we are not in a high priority area. Marie asked about Siskiyou Forest and mentioned that the Forest Collaborative has been working has been working on that area. Mike thinks it might be. Jim said he thinks we dropped out of the high priority area with gorse because of lack of mapping which is what drove the current mapping project.

Sherri reported that Curry County has a map that shows it having a high priority area which helped fund Cedar Terrace.

Amy believes we weren't on the map so it's been difficult to get fire related funding for the CWPT.

Mike agreed that if we're not on the state map then we won't be competitive for these types of grants.

This grant, the WUI Community Assistance Grant, funded the CWPT originally.

Jim will be at the OISC on Thursday and presenting to the Regional Solutions Team on Friday about GAG and our situation.

Alexis asked the question, who does this mapping, how often do they update the map and maybe we could get our mapping results to the appropriate group for updates.

Erin thinks that gorse was misrepresented in the model to make the previous maps so our data will help create up-to-date maps.

The remaining question is to determine if we are in a high priority area identified in the State-wide assessment to make sure our application won't get screened out immediately. Alexis will call Jeff Burns and check in with Wyatt Williams at ODF.

The second grant up for discussion was the U.S. Forest Service State & Private Forestry Western Competitive Grant through ODF. Projects under this proposal would address one or more of the S&PF National Themes; can be linked to opportunities identified in Oregon's Statewide Forest Action Plan; and cross boundaries between Department programs, various agencies, stakeholders, and partner organizations. This grant has a pre-proposal due on April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015 and may be worth applying for. It has a 1:1 nonfederal funds match requirement to which Jim responded that WRCA is open for Letters of Inquiry for funding projects. Alexis will work on this letter of inquiry which is due on Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup>.

This led to a general discussion of the budget for these grant opportunities. Alexis mentioned that in previous grant applications, she had asked for \$14,000 for the part-time coordinator position to write the management plan. Amy asked if \$14,000 was a typical amount to ask for when writing a management plan. Erin mentioned that at the face-to-face meeting in December, we decided that that was not sufficient funding. Jim said we have been waiting for the mapping program to be complete so that we can fully determine what it might take to write the management plan. We may need to attack in steps and address the short term need and follow up with the long term need.

Amy asked if there had been any attempt to attach the importance of this to the Elk River area since it has a special status and special plan with the Forest Service. Fire angle is one angle but the special nature of this ecological community that is being overrun at Elk River might be another angle.

It was mentioned that maybe aren't enough people in our area to be too worried about a gorse fire since fire damages reported often includes the number of homes damaged.

Amy commented that it is helpful to understand what is needed to qualify for the kind of funding we need. How do we utilize and leverage the mapping to get funding for the projects. And what is the funding need to get us to that point. What are the steps and how do we achieve that.

Mike mentioned that they are updating their national hazard mitigation plan and it would be good to include projects related to GAG. They are meeting this week and so is Curry County.

The overall thought is that the management plan would tie in invasive species, working landscapes, biodiversity, and fire management.

Mike commented that there seems to be quite a bit of funding for planning and on-the-ground projects.

Oregon Forest Resources Institute might have funding so Alexis will look into that group.

### **Field Collection**

Alexis and Hannah have collected about 50 points and will keep at it through March. Erin hasn't heard from Fred in awhile so Jim will check in with him. She spoke with Janet at Mason Brucs & Gerard and she has been looking at the data that we have collected so far.

### **Declaration of Cooperation**

The group agreed that the DOC reads well and is well put together.

Amy had some questions about the Steering Committee. She suggested that we simply say the Committee will be "x" number of people to be made of members who signed the declaration. She has had experience with this and found that sometimes a new person enters the group and would be a great addition to the Committee. Why not keep it open for consideration so that no one feels excluded and loses interest.

The general consensus was that we would take this route and have an annual review of the committee. The number of members may go up or down depending on the year but remain around 12. That way, if someone develops an issue, they know they will have a chance to have their voice heard within a year.

Alexis said she will change the language on the draft DOC to reflect this discussion and the DOC will be available for signing at the April face-to-face meeting.

### **Logo Update**

Marie stated that the Bandon Dunes graphic designer will work on the GAG logo in the next week or so and she will send them to Alexis. Alexis will then send out the logos for comments.

### **General Comments**

Amy suggested including private landowner perspective and understanding as it will be very important to our initiative. She's spoken with landowners who have gorse but they have too much or not the manpower to control it. She has also met with landowners who have worked tenaciously at controlling gorse on their property. Amy also suggested that a public outreach event to introduce ourselves and get input and get landowners in the group would be a good step to take. Alexis said she had written this into previous grant proposals and it is an excellent idea.

Erin also mentioned that she has spoken with lots of landowners but that we don't want to wear them out too early, before we can get funds for on-the-ground projects.

**Next Meeting**

Conference Call  
Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015  
9-10am

**Save the Date!**

Face-to Face Meeting  
Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015  
Time & Location TBD