

Gorse Action Group
Conference Call
Meeting Notes
February 25, 2016

Attending:

Alexis Brickner – Coos Watershed Association
Marie Simonds – Wild Rivers Coast Alliance
Hannah McDonald – South Slough
Mike Murphy – Coos County Emergency Services
Don Kendall – Curry County
Carri Pirosko – ODA

Grants & Projects

The National Fish & Wildlife Foundation funding will become available on April 1, 2016. Alexis has talked with Bandon City Manager Chris Good about the fire resistant plant demonstration garden project. He will talk with the Parks Department about an appropriate site. Ideally, this garden would be installed this fall with help from local volunteers and students in the Go Native program.

Marie noted that the Greater Bandon Association would be a good contact for the garden project. Marie also said that a Gorse Blossom Festival is in the works for late February next year. The garden project could be at a site near the Festival site. Alexis will work with the Festival organizers to determine how GAG can be involved.

Mapping Project Update

Alexis has been talking with Emilie Henderson of the Institute for Natural Resources. Emilie is working with Jimmy Kagan on the Random Forest Modeling. Emilie is working with Weedmapper points for gorse and she needs gorse absence points to contrast with the presence points. Because the Weedmapper points are often collected next to a road, the model is currently saying gorse is associated with roads. At the scale that she is working at (10 meters), she needs points collected at least 20 meters off of any roads. Emilie has selected some potential areas for more data collection and Alexis will continue to work with her on determining the next course of action.

Marie asked if there was a timeline for the modeling. Alexis said a specific timeline has not been determined yet. Marie mentioned the outreach meeting at the end of April and that would be a good timeline to shoot for. Alexis agreed and said she will keep working on this project with that timeline in mind. Hopefully, some new developments with mapping and modeling will be available at that time to present to the public.

Donut Hole/Demonstration Project

Jim has met with ED of Pacific View who is keen on finding solutions to the gorse around the living center. Jim and Marie have talked with Todd Trip, real estate agent for Coquille Tribes and Bryan Duggan, natural resource manager. Todd & Bryan will look into gorse removal. Hopefully the project can be approved as a land project instead of going in front of the Tribal Council. Either way, there is definitely interest on behalf of the tribe in pursuing a gorse removal project.

Marie also mentioned developing a project at the end of Madison Avenue, going towards Beach Loop. This is a Tsunami evacuation route and gorse is making the route narrower than it should be. Jim met with City of Bandon to determine how to get work done there.

The US Fish & Wildlife Service Coquille Point gorse removal project is still in the works. WRCA is providing match funds that will be used to hire contractors, not fund USFWS employees.

Jim has had some follow up conversations on the Donut Hole project but there is still a lot of work to be done with this project. Jim has had some discussions with Liza on using inmate crews for gorse removal.

Finally Jim and Marie have been working on a project with the County. Lance, Coos County Forester, and a consultant have been looking for an area to remove gorse and make mountain bike trails. This could provide another type of recreation/tourism in Coos County.

Strategic Action Plan

Alexis has been reviewing plans from Australia that Sherri Laier provided. They provide an excellent model for the GAG's plan. Alexis will have a timeline developed for the next meeting.

Outreach

Alexis has set a date for the next public outreach meeting: Thursday, April 21, 2016 from 6-8pm at the Bandon Public Library. She plans on updating the public on the mapping/modeling project and demonstration projects.

Alexis was asked to speak at the Society of American Foresters meeting on March 17, 2016 in Coos Bay. She will discuss the GAG and the mapping project.

March Conference Call

Alexis will send out a Doodle poll for setting a call towards the end of March.

April Face-to-Face Meeting

Ideally, the next face-to-face meeting will be the last week of April. Marie mentioned that her and Jim are quite busy that week. Alexis will send out several options for late April or early May for the next face to face.

Other Business

Marie said she has had some good discussion with The Ford Family Foundation about field coordinator positions. These are field based positions that represent TFFF throughout Oregon and help communities take action. If anyone hears of a good local person, send them the information as it would be great to have a representative on the coast.