

Gorse Action Group
Conference Call
Meeting Notes
January 20th, 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
Hannah McDonald – South Slough NERR
Robert Franson – Coos Forest Protective Association
Erin Minster – Curry SWCD
Frank Burris – OSU Extension

Grant Writing Update

Alexis did not apply for Three Rivers Foundation. After further review, she did not feel the coordinator position would meet the requirements of the grant.

Hannah McDonald will follow up Kristen Babb, president of Keep Oregon Green, to see if we could apply for funding from them.

Jim Seeley suggested that the new ODA Economic Assessment will be a great asset for providing information on economic impacts of gorse for grant applications.

Marie Simonds is wondering what other weed groups are trying to write management plan and maybe get in touch with them. Alexis will make contact with ODA regional managers for suggestions as well as the Yellowtuft Alyssum Working Group.

Sherri suggested looking into the Institute for Applied Ecology for noxious weed working groups.

Jim said they may have some funding but is waiting for results from aerial mapping project so that we can show what we have done with funds so far.

Field Data Collection Update

Alexis and Hannah are going out today (01/20/2015) to begin collecting points and assess how long it may take to complete the project so that the data can be completed and finalized.

Jim reported that Fred with Bandon Dunes is working on points but also getting frustrated. Erin said that points outside of pilot area are further apart and may take more work to get to but there are substitutions.

Erin also spoke with Janet from MB&G in December and gave her pilot points. She will look through data to determine the number of codes that they may need more data on.

Declaration of Cooperation

Alexis is still working on a draft document. So far it includes a Statement of Purpose, Goals & Objectives, The Problem/Background, and Organizational Structure. She will make it a priority in the next week to get out to members for discussion at the next conference call.

Steering Committee

Once the DOC is nearly final, we will discuss which groups we would like to see represented on the Steering Committee and then work on Committee structure and function.

State Parks Proposal

Jim reported that the Mr. & Mrs. Michael L. Keiser Foundation has been giving out grants before WRCA for education and health care. This proposal was probably submitted under the education component. They are basically asking for a grant for 2016 which will help them establish a volunteer work day and they want to know if a gorse control work day would be possible. Since gorse is difficult to control by hand, it may be a hard plant to work with for volunteers. But it could be a good idea to get the idea of gorse into people's heads.

Mike agrees that it would be good for showing people how nasty gorse really is, even though it is quite pretty from afar.

Sherri reported that she has used inmates and volunteers to collect seeds of replacement plants, such as grasses and sedges, for revegetation projects. However, volunteers have to be trained/educated in seed collection. Also, after mass cutting, there is some hand removal work but that can be difficult. Overall, collecting native seeds is a positive thing for showing a monoculture of gorse on one side and new, native plants establishing on another side.

Hannah asked Jim if this project would take place at a State Park or Reserve or Bandon Dunes. Jim said the details are still to be determined.

A state-wide, volunteer day using gorse as a focus would be a good opportunity to introduce the public to noxious weeds, discuss the economic assessment, and show the problem of gorse. However, actual pulling of gorse might not be the best activity.

Mike said it would be great for increasing awareness locally.

Sherri said it is good to be showing positive results.

Jim will keep the group updated and maybe work with Sherri and Mike to determine what the day could look like.

Logo

Marie has spoken with the graphic designer at Bandon Dunes and will ask him come up with a few ideas for presenting to the group.

Next Meeting

Conference call

Tuesday, February 24th, 2015

9am-10am

Face to Face in April after mapping project data is available to review.