

Gorse Action Group
Conference Call
Meeting Notes
January 25, 2016

Attending:

Alexis Brickner – Coos Watershed Association
Jim Seeley – Wild Rivers Coast Alliance
Marie Simonds – Wild Rivers Coast Alliance
Mike Murphy – Coos County Emergency Services
Hannah McDonald – South Slough
Carri Pirsoko – ODA
Erin Minster – Curry SWCD

National Fish & Wildlife Foundation Grant

Alexis has signed the grant agreement and funding will become available on April 1, 2016. Two components under this grant include forming a Steering Committee and installing a fire resistant native plant garden. Alexis would like to work with Darcy Grahek from Go Native! and the City of Bandon to install the garden. Alexis will meet with Darcy in early February and talk with the City and Mayor Schamehorn about a location. The garden will hopefully be installed with volunteer help on a Saturday this fall.

Jim suggested visiting the previous gardens to see how they are doing. Maintenance is another concern. This could be accomplished by the City or students.

Marie suggested the Greater Bandon Association as a partner.

The Steering Committee formation may be a good topic for the next face-to-face meeting.

Mapping Project Update

Alexis worked with Mason Bruce & Girard to update the mobile mapping unit so it is ready for fieldwork. Jimmy Kagan of the Institute for Natural Resources has received funding from WRCA to complete the Random Forest Modeling with the data. Additional data that Alexis will collect will help with this effort. Alexis will collect the data in early February.

Marie asked about the role that MB&G was playing in this part of the project. Alexis said they provided technical assistance in upgrading the mapping program on the mobile tablet for data collection.

Donut Hole/Demonstration Project

Jim met with Hedley Prince who owns 22 lots within the donut hole. The lots were platted 100 years ago when it was thought that Bandon would be the new San Francisco. Many of these lots are 2500 square foot lots. Julia Prince, sister of Hedley Prince, is also willing to work with GAG because they are trying to move ahead with

development. Jim is wondering if they are really zoned for those parcels and asked if Michael could work on determining what these plots are zoned for. Michael will talk with the County Assessor office. Another landowner, Anita Yao, may also be interested. These parcels are located close to fire station.

Eric Mruz with USFWS is submitting a grant for gorse work at Coquille Point in Bandon. The grant is for \$15,000 and WRCA will match this proposal with an additional \$15,000. Staff will work on relatively easy areas of gorse removal and a contractor to do the steep slopes. Jim has found 3 contractors who may be able to do this work. This will help us determine some costs for this type of work moving into the future. Jim will also meet with the manager of Pacific View, owned by Coquille Tribe but leased out to a management company.

Another potential site is gorse on city owned property near the wood vinegar test sites.

Michael noted that he was driving past flowering gorse and upon closer look, realized it was similar but not gorse but another yellow flowering plant near Croft Lake Road off the highway.

Jim mentioned on Highway 101 coming up from the south, on the east side, there is a lot of gorse under a variety of ownerships, in unincorporated Coos County. This could be another site for a demonstration project. Michael mentioned that all the area near the weigh scales is owned by John Guynup and that his daughter runs Currydale Farms; they might be interested in a project as well.

Strategic Action Plan Update

Nothing new to report here. Alexis will work on a draft plan with help from the committee this spring. Alexis will line out a timeline for SAP and will present that on February call.

Outreach

Alexis will plan to hold another public meeting in the spring, probably during the last week of April. The meeting will most likely be in Bandon. The purpose of the meeting will be to update the public on what GAG has accomplished since the previous meeting held in October. This meeting will probably focus around the NFWF grant activities.

February Conference Call

Alexis will send out a Doodle poll for scheduling a conference call in February.

Face-to-Face Meeting

The group thought that April would be a good time for another face-to-face meeting. Alexis will send out a Doodle poll.