

**Gorse Action Group**  
**Conference Call**  
**Meeting Notes**  
**July 28, 2016**

**Attending:**

Alexis Brickner – Coos Watershed Association  
Jim Seeley – Wild Rivers Coast Alliance  
Sherri Laier – Oregon State Parks  
Hannah McDonald – South Slough

**Mapping Project Update**

The modeling project has been completed. A final report on the project was sent to the group and is included with these minutes. The key takeaway from this report is that gorse was mapped as possibly present to highly likely over 144,619 acres (of 1.2 million acres in the project area) or 11.7% gorse. The 2014 ODA Economic estimate estimated gorse to cover 28,000 acres with a possible spread of 16.5 million acres, or 26.3% of the state. This information will be used for prioritizing control projects and a visual tool for outreach, partners, and funders.

**Demonstration Project**

Alexis, Eric Mruz (USFWS), Rick Berello (All Terrain Brushing), Jim Seeley (WRCA), Liza Ehle (By-the-Sea Gardens), and several USFWS staff met to discuss the demonstration project at Coquille Point. There are several logistical issues that were discussed at length including erosion, fire safety, the use of inmates near million dollar homes, disposal sites, and the steep slopes. Alexis and Eric are working with the City of Bandon, Liza, Rick, and private landowners to work out the logistics. Alexis has emailed Ron Sonnevil of Terra Firma Geologic Services, an engineering geologist, to see if he would be willing to consult on the erosion concerns at the site. In the meantime, Rick will complete a pilot project on the Point near Madison Avenue as a demonstration to landowners and passersby who may have questions.

No movement has been made on the Pacific View Living Center project. Alexis has been in touch with Todd Tripp of the Coquille Tribe to discuss the project in the spring. They also have erosion concerns which is where information from Terra Firma will come into play.

Jim provided an update on the donut hole. A group of city and county representatives will meet with Heidi McGowan of Oregon Solutions to discuss the issues surrounding the donut hole during Heidi's visit in August.

**Oregon Solutions**

Heidi McGowan is the Oregon Solutions representative assigned to the GAG's potential project. She will be coming for a visit on August 15 and 16. Jim and Alexis will take Heidi on a tour of Bandon Dunes, the donut hole, and Coquille Point on the afternoon of August 15. On August 16, Heidi will meet with the donut hole group in the morning and the GAG will hold a face-to-face meeting from 1-2:30pm at Bandon Dunes.

Mayor Schamehorn, Commissioner Sweet, Matt Winkel, Neighborworks Umpqua, Steve Jansen, Alexis, Jim & Marie, Lanny Boston

GAG as OR Solutions but donut hole was discovered, fire hazard, many lot owners, hard to access, hard to hold of landowners, development waiting to happen. Housing is difficult in rural Oregon and south coast. Neighborworks Umpqua has a new idea in terms of housing development and intrigued by donut hole. Heidi wants to assess whether or not donut should be an OR Solutions, meet the main players

involved and how they work together. Heidi can understand how a small number of people can work to get work done a bigger scale.

### **Gorse Blossom Festival**

#### **Fire resistant plant garden**

Alexis has been in touch with Matt Winkel, interim City Manager, about a garden site. He suggested the planned Eastside Park near the Harvard Apartments or in front of city hall off of Highway 101. The Eastside Park site is where the wood vinegar trials were held and would be a great addition to that project but less visible. City hall would be very visible but would require lots of maintenance. Alexis met with Harv Schubotho about how the Greater Bandon Association could be involved with this project. Harv said the role of the GBA was to bring potential partners together and he suggested working with the Cape Arago Audubon Society and Shoreline Education for Awareness (SEA).

Alexis also met with Darcy Grahek from Go Native at Bandon High School. She suggested getting in touch with the Bandon Community Youth Center as a potential site for the garden. The youth that visit the center would have a project to work on and be able to maintain the garden. Darcy put Alexis in touch with Charissa Stokes, the program director and BCYC. Charissa has mentioned interest in the garden and also gorse control on the property. Alexis has not been able to get Charissa on the phone for further discussion of the garden as of this meeting.

#### **Outreach**

Alexis got the GAG pamphlet printed and brought copies to the fair. She is also getting more durable copies printed that will be ready next week to send out to members of the group for outreach events. Alexis has continued to talk with Will Bailey, citizen of Bandon, about gorse control and the GAG. He is very interested in helping out any way he can. Will has looked into having a table at the Farmer's Market in Bandon but insurance issues are complicated. Will needs some kind of liability insurance and he can't use his own. If he could be connected to the Coos Watershed Association or WRCA's insurance, then he could table at the market for the rest of the season. Alexis said she would look into what that would look like on CoosWA's end.

Once Alexis gets the durable pamphlets, she will mail some out to interested members. It may be worth looking into putting these pamphlets at local places in Bandon, Port Orford, and Gold Beach such as coffee shops and libraries.

#### **Oregon Wildfire Risk Explorer**

Alexis was asked by Cindy Kolomechuk of ODF to be on the Steering Committee for the Oregon Wildfire Risk Explorer, a new project that will bring wildfire risk data to community planners and the public through a web-based tool. This project is led by ODF and the Institute for Natural Resources. Alexis has attended two meetings so far. The first meeting was an introductory meeting and the second meeting discussed the current data layers that are available and how they would be useful on the Wildfire Risk Explorer site. Alexis was able to talk about gorse, the lack of data on the extent of gorse and how that relates to this new tool. Alexis is also now part of the GIS/Spatial Data subgroup of the committee which will discuss the data to be used and the overall risk map. This provides a great opportunity to include gorse in the wildfire risk discussion. Alexis was unable to attend the meeting in July.

#### **August Meeting**

The August meeting will be a face-to-face meeting at Bandon Dunes with Heidi McGowan of Oregon Solutions. The meeting will be on Tuesday, August 16 from 1-2:30pm.