

Gorse Action Group
Conference Call
Meeting Notes
June 25th, 2015

Attending:

Alexis Brickner – Coos Watershed Association
Jim Seeley – Wild Rivers Coast Alliance
Marie Simonds – Wild Rivers Coast Alliance
Michael Schindel – The Nature Conservancy
Mary Finnerty – The Nature Conservancy
Mike Murphy – Coos County
Don Kendall – Curry County
Sherri Laier – Oregon State Parks
Jim Auburn – City of Port Orford

Grant Update

Alexis reported that she has not found any new grants to apply for or to add to the grant spreadsheet. She did speak with Esther Lev of The Wetlands Conservancy and she would be happy to have their property in Bandon be available for gorse control. Alexis also spoke with Darcy of the Go Native Nursery at Bandon High School. The Wetlands Conservancy site is a bit far from the school for regular visits, a field trip would be required, but they are still interested in working with GAG.

Jim reported that the Oregon Invasive Species Council has some funding available and he will talk to Wyatt Williams at the OISC meeting next week to get the details.

Mapping Project Update

Mary with TNC has been working with the data. They started by looking at the imagery to ID scotch broom using two sets of imagery: The David Smith & Associates 4-band imagery for used for gorse identification and NAIP imagery which is flown during the agriculture growing season. She used this to visually assess sites where scotch broom was identified during the field data collection and identified 15 sites from the field data. The end result was that they couldn't positively identify scotch broom from this imagery and couldn't find any flowering broom.

Jim mentioned that David Smith & Associates flew while scotch broom in bloom and Mary said they didn't have enough data to able to pull out scotch broom from the imagery.

Michael commented that they couldn't really tell where the 2nd flight started vs. the first flight. It would be great if we could get locations where scotch broom exists and then they can look at the imagery to identify sites. He said that low lying and warmer sites where the broom probably bloomed earlier in the season would be good. 10 additional sites would be great to have.

Alexis suggested the North Spit near Coos Bay which is pretty heavily infested with scotch broom. She will send this information to TNC.

Jim asked if we needed to find an intern to find more sites.

Alexis will send out a message to the group asking for broom sites.

Jim asked Michael about what he saw as negatives from the Mason Bruce & Girard report. Michael thinks the work that Janet did was solid and that we can get good accuracies from the data. Determining the ratio bands for classification will take some effort but he feels we can meet the needs of the project. We do need some more data points where scotch broom is concerned. Marie suggested that we reach out to ODF because they have been trained in the data collection. Perhaps their crews could collect some data while they are out on their routes. Alexis will get in touch with ODF about this.

Sherri announced that their GIS guys have been working with the David Smith & Associates and MB&G to get the aerial imagery and classification data published for people to look at online. There will be a map available on OPRD website soon with aerial imagery and classification data developed by MB&G. This will provide easy access to those who don't have GIS tools available to them.

Weedmapper may provide some data on sites with scotch broom. Jim will send out the maps from David Smith of the 2nd flight with the dates so that we can use that for scotch broom sites.

Educational Pamphlet

Mike suggested that we quantify what it means for gorse to have the 3rd highest impact on the economy with a dollar amount. It may help get the message across more strongly.

Alexis said that she will work with Craig Cornu at South Slough to work on the layout and design of the pamphlet once the content is complete. Craig has worked a lot on things such as this and is next door to Alexis for convenience. She will try to have a final draft complete as soon as possible so that it can get handed out at various summer events along the coast.

Strategic Planning

Strategic planning is on hold for now. Wild Rivers Coast Alliance and the OISC are working on funding for the writing of the strategic plan. Alexis will be able to sit in on CoosWA's strategic planning meetings so that she can get ideas for the direction for the plan for the Group.

Logo

Mike suggested that we change the leaves in the designs to more closely match the thorns of gorse. Marie will pass that along to the graphic designers.

Jim suggested that folks send their thoughts to Marie on logos to exclude and suggested edits on the survivors, then we will put it to a vote.

The group liked the Oregon State logo but felt that the placement of the gorse graphic didn't represent the gorse threat to the whole state.

Oregon Invasive Species Council

Alexis will be presenting at the OISC meeting on the morning of July 1st in Central Point, Oregon. She will discuss the history of GAG as well as both mapping projects. She will also include what OPRD has been doing with the data on their website.

Missing Person in Port Orford

Over the weekend, Don Kendall requested some data from the gorse project to help in the search of a missing woman in the P.O. area. He provided an update to the group: The missing woman was found in a patch of gorse. She is an avid walker and crawled through some animal trails in some gorse and got trapped in an open area surrounded by gorse. Don said they considered using the gorse to overlay maps to find unsearchable areas. He thinks that the Sketchmap program would be effective for this type of issue.

Next Meeting: July conference call, see Doodle poll link.

Thanks!