

**Gorse Action Group**  
**Conference Call**  
**Meeting Notes**  
**March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

**Attending:**

Alexis Brickner – Coos Watershed Association  
Wyatt Williams – ODF  
Michael Murphy – Coos County Emergency Services  
Amy Wilson – NRCS  
Robert Franson – CFPA  
Don Kendall – Curry County

**Grant Update**

Alexis submitted a proposal to the USFS through ODF for the National Fire Plan Community Assistance grant. It was difficult to get specific treatment sites selected with a short time frame. The timeframe for projects is 3 years. Therefore, the approach was to spend the first 6-9 months of the grant life planning and drafting a strategic plan. From that draft, up to 50 acres would be selected for treatment (mowing, mulching, herbicide, grass seed). Estimates of cost/acre were used from Sherri Laier's experience. The total grant request was for \$306,896. The majority of these funds will be used to hire a contract to complete treatment work. Alexis also submitted a grant to Wild Rivers Coast Alliance for \$15,000 for support in her role as Coordinator for the group.

Wyatt comments that controlling gorse has such a high cost and he thinks this is a very important project to be involved with. Another opportunity is the Western Competitive grant with ODF. Each state (of about 17) can submit 3 grants. A one-page proposal is due on April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Alexis will work with ODF to submit a pre-proposal for a control and restoration project. Wyatt wants to re-plant with timber. He works within the private forests division at ODF, which helps landowners with reforestation. Wyatt spoke with Jim Cathcart who leads the private landowners section with helping landowners maintain and sustain their private timberlands for production. His specialty is reforestation and this incentive program. Jim will work with Alexis to submit this grant. Jim has been working with NRCS to leverage funds to get landowners funds for reforestation. Jim is in full support of the GAG. Amy said that NRCS would have some funding to support landowners with revegetation but not a lot, but they could transfer funds to offset staff cost for other groups/agencies. Finding landowners who want to actively manage their land will be great for continued gorse control and we can provide them with some funds to help with initial control efforts. Commitment to long-term maintenance will be necessary when working with private landowners.

Wyatt had some thoughts on experimental methods for gorse control since it is so expensive. There are tried and true methods but there is also room to gain more knowledge. In New Zealand and Australia, they have had a lot of success with controlled burning of gorse to deplete the seed bank over time. Wyatt thought about an experimental

design that involves burning, mowing, herbicide, and revegetation. He has emailed some professors at OSU to see if there might be any graduate students who would be interested in doing these experiments. He has not heard back yet but it is spring break for OSU this week so maybe next week.

Mike commented that after years of watching gorse, you see a fire go through and burn it but it comes back vigorously. If you can get it shaded, you can attempt to shade out seedlings. Seedlings could be sprayed with herbicide and a lot less of herbicide would be used in this situation. It will take an innovative approach and it will take time. Amy commented that land value and land use will be a big part of the formula. Real estate, farmland, cranberry bogs are all land uses that are being suppressed by gorse.

### **Field Collection Update**

Erin is slowly coming back from having a baby earlier this month (Congratulations Erin!). She is going to look into extending the contract for data collection points. Alexis still has quite a bit of funds remaining and needs to get out to collect more data but has recently had trouble finding time to collect more points. If the contract was extended through April, she could collect more points.

Michael Schindel emailed the following information:

- As Erin re-engages (post baby), she will ensure all the plot data is uploaded to ArcGIS online and send me the link where I can retrieve it. That will probably be done mid-April.
- I received the gdb of imagery from David Smith Associates last week.
- Once we have the plot data we will use it with the imagery to develop the spectral library for gorse.
- I am looking into which shops around town have the capability to run an unsupervised classification across the entire project area using the imagery and the spectral library. It would also be super cool to use the data, along with a bunch of other environmental data, to build a random forest model for gorse. The feasibility of that depends on how well the field crews did at sampling across the full range of environmental factors I built into the sampling protocol.

Amy said NRCS can help identify landowners that they are already working with, once the need to find control projects is present.

### **Declaration of Cooperation**

The draft DOC is complete and ready to be signed. Alexis suggested bringing individual signing pages for each group to the face-to-face meeting. Amy said that she has worked on the Jackson & Josephine Counties DOC's. Their methods were to have one signing page and include a table of a list of people who had signed with the date. This is a list that could continually grow. Alexis said we could try that or we could just add additional pages when more members join. Since attendance on this call was less than usual, Alexis will query the group as to which method they would prefer.

## **Logo**

Marie was unavailable for the call but spoke with Alexis on Monday. The graphic designer at Bandon Dunes is still working on a logo. Once ideas are complete, she will send them out to the group.

Amy commented that all of these conversations have moved the group forward with a real sense of purpose.

## **Oregon Invasive Species Council**

Wyatt announced that the summer Oregon Invasive Species Council meeting will be in Medford, OR on June 20<sup>th</sup>-July 1<sup>st</sup>. Alexis will be presenting on GAG to the Council on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **Face-to-Face Meeting**

The April meeting will be a face-to-face meeting on Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup>.