

**Gorse Action Group**  
**Conference Call**  
**Tuesday, November 29, 2016**

Attending:

Alexis Brickner – Coos Watershed Association  
Jim Seeley – Wild Rivers Coast Alliance  
Marie Simonds – Wild Rivers Coast Alliance  
John Bragg – South Slough  
Don Kendall – Curry County Emergency Services  
Jeanne Standley – BLM  
Hannah Schrager – South Slough  
Jef Chase – Coos Forest Protective Association  
Mike Murphy – Coos County Emergency Services  
Robert Franson – Coos Forest Protective Association  
Carri Pirosko – ODA  
Will Bailey – Coos County Weed Board  
Norma Kline – OSU Extension

**Oregon Solutions**

Jim, Marie, and Alexis have been working Heidi McGowan, of Oregon Solutions, since August to get ready to request that Governor Brown designate gorse as an Oregon Solutions project. Heidi feels very positive that gorse will become an Oregon Solutions project. A letter to the Governor was sent out earlier this month. The Governor's office was looking for verification on a few groups support and that support has been verified. Jim also said some language was changed that made it sound like we would work toward eradicating gorse which is nearly impossible so that language was adjusted. We expect smooth sailing during the rest of the process. There is no specific time frame for the approval but it should be a go.

Jeanne Standley asked about the purpose of the letter. Jim responded that it was requesting that the Governor designate the GAG and gorse as an Oregon Solutions project.

**Demonstration Project Update**

The Coquille Point demonstration project will continue in early December. Contractors Rick Berello and Liza Ehle are assessing the site today and will contact Alexis this week with the expected schedule. The project should get wrapped up by the end of the year. Follow up control will include spot spraying and planting.

Jim stated that another objective of this project was to look at gorse removal on steep slopes. There have been heavy rains lately and no erosion appears to have occurred. This will be a great story to tell with lots of visual documentation from WRCA's drone photographs.

Some wrap up and analysis would be great on this project to present to the public, especially in terms of addressing landowner concerns on erosion after gorse removal.

Jim thinks we need to work on a long-term maintenance program with landowners that will ensure that they continue control after the initial control has been completed. Carri mentioned the Coos County Weed Board's herbicide cost share program as being a potential partner.

No concrete movements have been done on the Pacific View Living Center, although the chairperson of the Coquille Tribe, Brenda Meade, signed Oregon Solutions letter which is an official signing on board.

The donut hole project is still in the works, especially with the Oregon Solutions designation.

Alexis met with Leesa Cobb of the Port Orford Ocean Resources Team. Leesa's family owns quite a bit of property on the Elk River and she is interested in gorse control. They are interested in growing berries and they are very concerned about the fire risk. They had a good meeting. They also talked about biological controls for gorse and Alexis asked the group for the contact at OSU who is researching bio controls. Carri stated that her name is Fritzi Grevstad.

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

The garden will be installed at the Bandon Youth Community Center, just off of Highway 101 on 11<sup>th</sup> Street. The project is moving forward this week. Garden bed supplies and soil will be delivered on Thursday and the site will be ready for planting by the end of the week. The plants are currently being stored at the Coos Watershed Association's plant nursery and will be planted by students during the week of December 12<sup>th</sup>. The students will also make species signs and Alexis will work on an interpretive sign to be installed discussing the species, gorse fire risk, and defensible space. The current species list include Oregon grape, snowberry, western azalea, kinnickinnick, buckbrush, coral bells, yarrow, sedum, and red flowering currant – all native species.

### **Outreach**

Alexis will be presenting on the Gorse Action Group at ODA's Interagency Noxious Weed Symposium next week in Corvallis. Alexis will provide a brief history of the GAG and then discuss our current projects including Coquille Point, plant garden, outreach, and Oregon Solutions. Two years ago Alexis presented a poster at the symposium so it will be exciting to discuss all that we have accomplished in two years.

Will asked if Alexis was going to mention the homeowner's guide. Alexis said she would definitely discuss the guide in the presentation and the group agreed that she should bring a few sample guides.

Alexis and Will Bailey put together a draft handout on understanding and controlling gorse. Alexis is finishing up some edits and it will be ready for printing as a 2-page handout. This includes a photo of gorse after fire.

Alexis also plans to begin working on a pamphlet about fire resistant plants for garden visitors to take home with them. This will go with an interpretive sign to be developed as well.

The group discussed a public outreach meeting during the October call. Alexis will begin planning a meeting for late January as there is a lot to present on in the last year.

### **Other Business**

Will stated that he is now the official liaison for the Coos County Weed Board and Gorse Action Group. Steve Scheer, chair of the Weed Board, went to the Commissioners to request this. So now Will is a concerned citizen and a representative of the Weed Board for the GAG. He would like to bring the homeowner's guide to the Weed Board for review.

Will also mentioned that the cost share program has changed a bit and has been primarily focused on large landowners and agricultural use of herbicides. He will talk about the use of this program for landowners with gorse.

### **Next Meeting**

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