

Gorse Action Group
Conference Call
Meeting Notes
September 3, 2015

Attending:

Alexis Brickner – Coos Watershed Association
Jim Auburn – City of Port Orford
Michael Schindel – The Nature Conservancy
Mary Finnerty – The Nature Conservancy
Jim Seeley – Wild Rivers Coast Alliance
Marie Simonds – Wild Rivers Coast Alliance
Mike Murphy – Coos County
Don Kendall – Curry County
Carri Pirosko - ODA

Grant Update

Alexis reported that she has been invited to write a full proposal to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for their Pulling Together Initiative. This grant would award GAG \$30,000 over two years for capacity building, forming a Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA), and writing the strategic plan. This would also provide some funds for additional data collection for the mapping project, as needed. The grant is due on September 30, 2015 and Alexis will send out a draft proposal for feedback and review.

Alexis is also anticipating submitting an application to the Oregon State Weed Board for a pilot project in Bandon with the Go Native Bandon High School group and a property on The Wetlands Conservancy. This project will combine gorse control with education and restoration, a combination favored by OSWB.

Mapping Update

Mary and Michael have been working on a list of next steps and gathering additional data on gorse and scotch broom from Weedmapper. They have received 1900 points, about 2/3 of which are scotch broom with over 500 gorse sites. They selected a random sample of them to get an accuracy assessment with mixed results. Fewer than 10% were outright wrong but many of the points (about half) were unable to be confirmed due to canopy cover at the point. If a significant portion of gorse is under canopy, which will interfere with our accuracy of assessing the amount of gorse.

Jim noted that Wyatt Williams became aware of this during their mapping project and this can greatly affect forests.

Michael thinks that additional points for gorse under canopy and in forests will be a necessary addition for the analyses. He has found a few sites that would be a good pilot

area that have forest, gorse and scotch broom points. This area is between Coos Bay and Coquille. Points collected in this area would be great for some modeling.

For the scotch broom sites, they visited several Weedmapper sites with scotch broom that are in the second flight area. Michael thinks he is seeing some areas where broom is coming into bloom when gorse is blooming. Gorse blooms show up a bit more orange and so Michael thinks they could be teased apart easily for image analyses. Once they get their list of next steps finalized, they will share with their lead at TNC and hash out a budget and timeline and see where they are at after that. Michael and Mary will probably have a draft in a week or so.

Outreach

Alexis sent out a draft of the educational pamphlet for review. She converted an InDesign document to a PDF but that added margins so that pamphlet doesn't fold the same. She would like to be able to send it out to the group in a format that can be printed by everyone. Alexis will work with Marie to determine a way to do this.

Jim suggested adding the City of Bandon to the logos as well as shrinking the members and contact font so that the logos can be bigger.

Alexis is still planning on doing a public presentation in October. She will call the Bandon Library to set a date and time. The goal of this presentation is to introduce the public to GAG, gain interest from private landowners, and answer questions. She will work on a 20-30 minute presentation on GAG and gorse control conducted by members.

Jim suggested including information from ODA's economic analysis. It may also be good to make a map of Weedmapper points for entire state for gorse.

Strategic Plan

Alexis has received a grant from Wild Rivers Coast Alliance to begin writing a strategic plan. She would like to put together a committee of 5-6 GAG members to help with this, especially members who have had experience in writing strategic plans. Alexis is on the Coos Watershed Association's strategic plan committee and will use what she learns on this committee to the GAG's plan. Alexis will probably ask individual members to be on the committee before soliciting the whole group.

Jim mentioned some concern that if we focus on Bandon, it doesn't tell the whole story about gorse. It was mentioned that there might be gorse in Bend now with no confirmation. Carri said there has been some found in Roseburg.

Carri volunteered to be on the strategic planning committee and Sherri Laier has said before that she would be interested. Sherri has the New Zealand Gorse Strategic Action Plan, which will be a great resource.

Logo

Marie said the logo 4 (Oregon state outline with gorse sketch in corner) is the top choice and she wil work with Alexis to add this to the pamphlet.

Next Meeting

Alexis will send out a Doodle poll for an October conference call AND for a face-to-face in November.

Thank you!!