

Gorse Action Group Meeting Notes

March 12, 2018 | The Barn, Bandon



Action Items from the Meeting

- Gorse Action Group website (gorseactiongroup.org)
 - Please send along feedback about the organization of the site and let Cyndi know if there are any issues (such as broken links, etc.).
 - If your committee or project group has meeting notes, you can send them to Cyndi to be posted on the website so that those not involved can follow along.
 - Ensure GAG members are pointing to the GAG site from their websites etc.
- Share outreach/educational materials that can be handed out during the one day workshop (compressed version of Citizen Fire Academy) that will be held at the Gold Beach Fairgrounds on April 28th.
- See additional action items from small group breakouts, listed below.

Gorse Blossom Festival & Pub Talk Report

Pub night was a rousing success, Frank noted it was “the most fun had at a presentation”. He has received 3 or 4 emails from that presentation. Jim was impressed with the event and how many people were there to really pay attention, not just there for the beer! There was some interest in Firewise at the event.

The Festival was also a success, there were over 300 people that came to the booth for conversations. Several GAG members volunteered at the booth. There were many different kinds of questions that came up including the concern of erosion if gorse is removed, which the GAG members were able to respond to with our demo sites and talk of test plots.

Liza noted surprise at talking to so many people from outside of Bandon, including many people who live in areas where there could be gorse. It was a great opportunity for education of many different people with varying levels of awareness of gorse. She was able to talk to long-time Bandon locals about the issue. She noted that people lit up with the thought that there is hope and there are so many organizations on the same page to tackle the issue.

Carri noted that the buttons and signs around the festival were successful, “not one person without a button or sticker” - you were surrounded by the anti-gorse message. Actual gorse pulled from Bandon Dunes was an effective way to see how big gorse can get; and the stages of gorse growth display was successful as well. The group was pleased with the marketing effort - it is catchy and clever - and told the story well about the origins of the festival and the gorse issue. “Raise our awareness while we raise our glasses. Cheers” & creepy mascot: gorse monster.

Tour of Website - Cyndi Park, CoosWa

Cyndi gave a tour of the website (gorseactiongroup.org). New updates to the site include: “what’s new” on the homepage that will update with a carousel when we have more updates, Fire & gorse page, and content from Australia. She noted that any events or additions to the page can be emailed to her directly with a clear subject line “edits/update for the website”. Please send along feedback about the organization of the site and let her know if there are any issues (such as broken links, etc) as well. All feedback welcome so that this can be a community resource for partners as well as the public. If your committee or Project group has meeting notes, you can send them to be posted on the website so that those not involved can follow along.

Following the Gorse Blossom Festival, Cyndi has seen an uptick in the number of inquiries through email or the site (~12). She has added a site tracker to be able to report on numbers of unique visitors, etc in the future.

There is an email and google voice number set up for inquiries about gorse; Cyndi will relay this information as necessary.

What's missing? Information about financial incentives, cost-share programs, funding available etc to assist people with gorse removal. Also, personal accounts and success stories/lessons learned from gorse removal. This should be a feature on the site.

Next Steps Outreach: the group is interested in more Pub Talks in other areas. Also, ensure GAG members are pointing to the site from their websites etc. Might also consider a short survey for those that come to the site, John Bragg can help with that.

Firewise Update

Pacific View - Jim reported on the Pacific View firewise site that he has been working on located on the Jetty in partnership with Pacific View (tribal land) and surrounding homes in the city of Bandon. 13 homes submitted to the Firewise program. Title III funding can not be used in the City of Bandon, but it can be used on Tribal land.

Tokyo Road - high risk area, close to Bandon Dunes - no surprise that it is a gorse choked area, they are assembled as a firewise community.

Jackie Lane - a staffer at Bandon Dunes lives on Jackie Lane and is on the agronomy team, he has jumped on this opportunity and recruited 8 of his neighbors for the firewise community program.

Liza - working to document the process of creating defensible space while retaining ornamental plantings, documenting at her house to be able to show others.

Other Fire Safety Opportunities: Norma noted that she is working with Cara who runs a Citizen Fire Academy through Extension in Josephine County. Norma is putting together a one day workshop on April 28th (compressed version of academy) to be held at Gold Beach Fairgrounds - AM class will be about fire behavior and defensible space and PM will be a tour of two homes, one with defensible space cleared and the other without (yet). This is a good opportunity to talk about gorse - look into sharing materials.

Donut Hole

Jim gave a quick update about the DH, Hedley has come down ill and can not work on this project until he is better. There could be match funding from WRCA for removing gorse in the DH, how do we move forward with a Master Plan? Important to craft messaging around the fact that initial removal would be covered for the landowner (cost \$2000/acre?) and the landowner would be responsible for maintenance which is a drastically reduced cost estimated \$80-200/acre annually.

Demonstration Project Update

Liza gave a quick overview of the demonstration project; *(see powerpoint for details)*.

In summary, the timeline is unfolding now. Mowing will start this month, need to get a drone flyover for the “before” shot. Signage will need to be installed in April, Samara Group can support the design and production. In-kind donations and funding is critical to pull off the project, there are still gaps including materials, funds for crew time, coffee/snacks for work days, and documenting the efforts. There will be entry signs and plot signs. Also a wash station (sign?).

Name of the project: should have “control” in the name.

Wyatt noted that the plots look good, may also think about this as an opportunity to educate about biocontrol. Maybe we can find a section that can be used for upcoming biocontrol. There is a new manual about use of biocontrol that he will share.

Will noted that there needs to be an image of the machinery used.

Mapping Update

Carri and Wyatt gave an update on the collaborative mapping effort led by ODA, ODF, and OPRD; supported by Curry SWCD, Coquille Tribe, and TNC. There are a lot of gaps on the map, but starts the conversation about prioritization of mapping efforts, including the large gaps of infestation mapping in Bandon. Decided on a 3-acre mapping unit size, this can change for future mapping at the project scale. Maps may be available on the web site, if the group is comfortable with this. Carri handed out data standards, which can also be put on the website.

Goals: Inspire further data collection, identify gaps (where we know there is gorse, but need mapping), identify sketch map flight priorities, map outlier populations, communicate the importance of gorse removal in dense/fire risk areas, and importance of removal along vectors (roads, power lines, and waterways).

Currently, based on this data 96% of the gorse is on private lands. We know we don’t have all the information, but this number speaks to the needs for outreach.

Wyatt gave an update on planned sketch map flights- next up is priority areas in Curry County, Erin wrote a grant for funding to do the mapping. Jim praised the flights and the maps/imagery as a communication tool.

Other notes:

- Great job, Sherri with Bullards Beach!
- Keep expanding the contractor list is the goal so that gorse can be removed simultaneously at the right time.
- ODOT / City of Bandon have been working together to enhance the right of way removal efforts and best practices, including Bullards Bridge area - talking about a big collaborative project.

- USFWS and CoosWa coordinated to get Coquille Point treated for 2nd treatment this spring, application done by Willamette Valley Forestry with backpack sprayers
- So important to partner and leverage skills/resources to achieve goals.
- CoosWa creating “watch list” for timber outreach
- BLM has a peer-to-peer incentives program where staff that report gorse to Jeanne get an hour off (paid) and contractors that report get a \$50 bonus.
- Frank passed around a sign up sheet for those interested in taking a flight up in his plane; pitch in for gas, WRCA to help with gas.

How often to meet? Quarterly: March, June, September, December
 OISC meeting in June, opportunity to showcase the work on the S. Coast.

Breakout Table Discussions

Communications & Outreach

Leads: Jalene Littlejohn, Will Bailey

Participants: Frank Burris, Norma Kline, Jared (USFS), and John Bragg

Discussion summary: the group discussed the importance of the demo project signage in supporting the communications and outreach for the GAG/gorse issue. Focusing efforts on key audiences of those that have gorse on their property and contractors or professionals that need to remove gorse. The message should not be Bandon centric and should be about control. The Gorse Control Demonstration Project, or something of the like. We can pair the “drive-by” signage with more detailed plot signage, handouts, and information on the website. Important to host an event or workshop at the demo site to share the information (2x/year?). The group also discussed reviewing the current materials to ensure that the key messages are included in all materials, and that they are connected (ie information about gorse removal should connect to a resource about financial programs and demo project progress or lessons learned etc). Noted that slowing the spread is also a key priority, so the message of gorse expansion and EDRR needs to be simple and clear And more emphasis on stopping the spread of seeds.

Key Actions:

1. Distill down messages for communication plan & PowerPoint
2. Review materials and prioritize efforts
3. Demo project signage, plan for handout materials & info on web site (event?)
4. Identify where partners can get the word out first (publications, trainings, etc)
5. Funding plan for bigger communication efforts

Mapping

Leads: Carri Pirosko, Wyatt Williams

Participants: _____

Summary of discussion: _____

Key Actions:

1. Identify satellite populations
2. Add layers to map:
 - power lines, pipelines
 - differentiate between Ag/forest/urban
 - fire risk layer
3. Prioritize getting up in BPA flyover / relationship with BPA
4. Develop protocol for drone mapping for vegetation

Funding

Leads: Jim Seeley, Liza Ehle

Participants: Goldi Warncke, _____

Summary of discussion: _____

Key Actions:

1. Firewise communities
2. Build funding for capacity and data management
3. Prioritize funding efforts: fire risk, stop the spread...
4. Identify sources of funding: government, landowner, philanthropic, lenders, business
5. Documentation of demo project is important to showcase for funders what is working
6. Important to coordinate, rather than compete between partners
7. Use the DOC as a basis for seeking funding
8. Track in-kind hours to demonstrate the commitment and investment, reconstruct hours over the past year.

Firewise

Leads: Robert Franson & _____

Participants: _____

Summary of discussion: _____

Key Actions:

1. Assessing/identify Curry County priorities
2. Posters/Flyers - outreach materials for Firewise to put up in local stores etc and online
3. Work with Rural Fire Districts for fire safety awareness month (October)
4. Burn demo at demonstration project area as a training tool for new fire staff, including burn piles and 2-3 acres to burn. (This can also be used as a demo to show regrowth after fire and counter message that burning is effective control)
5. Talk to local cooperatives and feed stores to provide discount on chemicals for follow up treatment (incentive for firewise community members, Will has relationships)

Meeting Attendees

Will Bailey, Coos County Noxious Weed Control District Advisory Board
John Bragg, South Slough Estuarine Research Reserve
Frank Burris, OSU Extension
Jared Considine, USFS - Medford
Jeremy Dumire, Curry County Emergency Services
Liza Ehle, By-the-Sea Gardens
Robert Franson, Coos Forest Protective Association
Robin Harkins, Coquille Tribe
Brittney Hughs, Willamette Valley Forestry
Ryan Hughs, Willamette Valley Forestry
Claudine Hundhausen, City of Bandon - City Council
Norma Kline, OSU Extension
Sherri Laier, Oregon State Parks
Jalene Littlejohn, Samara Group
Michelle Martin, Neighborworks Umpqua
Robert Mawson, City of Bandon
Eric Mruz, US Fish & Wildlife Service
Cyndi Park, Coos Watershed Association
Carri Pirosko, Oregon Department of Agriculture
Jim Seeley, Wild Rivers Coast Alliance
Marie Simonds, Wild Rivers Coast Alliance
Jeanne Standley, Bureau of Land Management
Matt Swanson, Curry Watersheds Partnership
Goldie Warncke, South Coast CWMA/CoquilleWA
Brian Watjen, South Coast State Highway
Wyatt Williams, Oregon Department of Forestry