

Gorse Action Group
Conference Call
Meeting Notes
October 7th, 2014

Attendees

Alexis Brickner – Coos Watershed Association
Mike Pope – BLM
Michael Schindel – The Nature Conservancy
Clint Emerson – USFS
Marie Simonds – Wild Rivers Coast Alliance
Jim Seeley – Wild Rivers Coast Alliance
Drew Harper – Curry SWCD
Erin Minster – Curry SWCD
Dawn Weekly – Coquille Watershed Association
Carri Pirosko – Oregon Department of Agriculture

Grant Writing Update

Alexis has emailed with a grants administrator with the Meyer Memorial Trust about their grassroots capacity building grant. Based on the administrator's responses, it doesn't seem likely that this grant would apply to the GAG's needs. They generally fund projects that will focus on skills development and systems building to help a group become more efficient. It may include adding staff but that would be part of a broader plan. They also want the organization to have gone through planning and development of a strategic plan.

Clint passed along links to several grant opportunities that may be worth exploring:

1. National Invasive Species Information Center:
<http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/toolkit/grants.shtml>
2. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service: <http://www.fws.gov/invasives/partnerships.html>
3. Center for Invasive Species Management:
<http://www.weedcenter.org/funding/funding.html>

Also discussed were National Forest Plan, Fire Safe Councils, and the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy as avenues for finding funding. Not discussed but still on the table is the OWEB Focused Investment Partnership opportunity. Alexis will try to submit recommendations about gorse control as a potential priority for this program.

Grant Committee

A grant committee that can advise during grant writing was discussed. This committee would review proposal requests and brainstorm ideas and objectives that would fit the specific guidelines of each grant application. Marie, Jim, Mike Pope, and Clint have volunteered to participate in this committee.

Steering Committee

Steering Committee structure has been discussed several times. At the last face to face meeting, it was suggested that the committee be reduced from 13 members to something more manageable so that signatures and decisions could come more quickly. Jim suggested that instead of finding specific people for the committee, we should think about a good representation of organizations.

Organizations discussed were:

- Coos Watershed Association
- Oregon State Parks
- U.S. Forest Service
- Curry SWCD
- Wild Rivers Coast Alliance
- Oregon Department of Agriculture
- Coos Forest Protective Association
- The Nature Conservancy
- Bureau of Land Management

Once a selection of representative organizations is finalized, we can ask for volunteers from these organizations to be on the committee.

Political Contacts

Jim and Marie will reach out to Kathy Erickson, the local representative for Peter DeFazio. Jim and Marie may also contact Wayne Krieger.

Field Data Collection Project

Erin gave a review of the training session held on October 3rd in Port Orford for the field data collection project. Tyler Bax from Mason, Bruce & Gerard was present to provide help with the training. Seven people showed up to learn how to collect points using the Mobile Map app. Four mapping units were distributed amongst the Coos and Curry counties crews. Additional mapping units may be secured by Wild Rivers Coast Alliance for further gorse work. Austin Dunn with the city of Brookings may have funding to purchase a unit as well. CFPS & Curry SWCD will get started on data collection in the pilot area soon.

The timeframe for collection of data points is still being determined. The contract with MB&G ends in December. They require 2 months lead time to do analysis on the points, requiring that the points be collected by the end of October. Jim will contact MB&G to see if we can extend their contract.

Coos County Weed Advisory Board

Steve Scheer with the CCWAB expressed some concerns about the field data collection project in terms of working on private lands. His concerns were valid and any issues with land access can be amended through the substitution plots. Carri with ODA said that many landowner concerns revolve around where the data is going, how it will be used and on what scale, and if they will be fined for having a noxious weed on their property. According to rules for B listed weeds, enforcement actions would be taken if a landowner were propagating and distributing a B listed weed, not for simply having it on their property. However, within the city limits of Brookings, a landowner can be fined for having gorse on their property. In the end it was decided

GAG will offer a formal invite to the CCWAB to join GAG. Alexis and Erin will also work on a general letter to send to landowners about GAG, the project, who data collectors would be, etc.

Interagency Noxious Weed Symposium Poster

The Interagency Noxious Weed Symposium will be held in Corvallis, December 2-4th, 2014. The GAG will be presenting a poster at the symposium. Alexis will be attending and will bring the poster to Corvallis. Clint will also be attending. Jim said that WRCA would love to help fund getting the poster together and that this is a great opportunity to announce GAG to the greater noxious weed community of Oregon. Michael Schindel said he could provide some maps and images. Clint and Carri will share poster examples. Wyatt Williams and Sherri Laier may have photos that can be used as well. An article in local papers discussing this project was suggested, as well as including a logo design contest for a logo that can be used on the poster.

Next Meeting

Conference call

Thursday, November 13th, 2014

10:30-11:30am

December's meeting will be a face-to-face meeting hosted by WRCA. Date to be determined by Doodle poll.

Thanks!!

Alexis