

Gorse Action Group
Face-to-Face Meeting
Meeting Notes
December 15th, 2014

Attendees:

Alexis Brickner – Coos Watershed Association
Erin Minster – Curry SWCD
Clint Emerson – USFS
Robert Franson – Coos Forest Patrol
Mike Pope – BLM
Don Kendall – Curry County
Michael Murphy – Coos County
Dustin Williams – Curry SWCD
Frank Burris – OSU Extension
Jeff Wilson – Bandon Dunes Golf Course
Tristan Huff – OSU Extension
Carri Pirosko – ODA
Sherri Laier – Oregon State Parks
Hannah McDonald – South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve
Marie Simonds – Wild Rivers Coast Alliance
Jim Seeley – Wild Rivers Coast Alliance

Interagency Noxious Weed Symposium Poster

Alexis Brickner presented a poster on the GAG at the INW Symposium held in Corvallis on December 2-4th, 2014. The poster was well received. Carri Pirosko (ODA) mentioned the GAG in her SW Oregon update presentation on Tuesday afternoon and Alexis Brickner (CoosWA) mentioned the group in her presentation on Thursday morning. The community of noxious weed managers in Oregon are definitely more aware of our group and what we are trying to accomplish.

Grant Update

Alexis will look into applying for a small grant from the Three Rivers Foundation for capacity building to help fund her time as coordinator. The grant award ranges from \$2,000 to \$7,000. She will ask for as much as seem reasonable from this Foundation.

There was a suggestion that members send information to Alexis about current and future work they are doing within their agency/organization with gorse to show the need for a coordinator.

There was discussion about the Wild Rivers Coast Forest Collaborative and their funds for a part-time coordinator to maybe collaborate with the GAG's coordinator. The Forest Collaborative has to hire their coordinator still, who may be housed with OSU Extension.

Mike Pope mentioned "Keep Oregon Green". Hannah McDonald has worked with a member of that group and will work with Alexis to determine if there are any funding opportunities.

Alexis stated that the main goal of finding a grant right now is to fund the part-time coordinator position to hold meetings and write a management plan so that we can get funding for on-the-ground projects. She explained that when she went to the CoosWA board to discuss this position, the board said it was fine to test out the position for a year, provided funding was available as she is all grant funded for specific projects through the watershed.

The OWEB Capacity Building grant was mentioned which could be doable, as long as we make a strong tie to watershed health which is quite possible. Frank Burris says he has plenty of language to help with a grant application, if the time comes.

It was suggested that we have a document ready describing the potential in-kind and cash match values from groups such as the BLM, USFS, and WRCA for helping to write a management plan. Alexis will keep a spreadsheet of these values to include on grant applications.

It was suggested that we look into working with a contractor to write the plan; someone who would work closely with the GAG coordinator. Carri mentioned that a contractor may be removed from local knowledge so a local person might be better for writing the plan.

Several potential grant opportunities were suggested: Joint Fire Science Organization, Ford Family Foundation, Oregon Community Foundation, Plum Creek Community Fund, Swindell (Roseburg Lumber Company Foundation) and other tribal groups. Jim says they will talk with FFF and OCF when the time comes.

Everyone agreed that we should develop a scope for the management plan to get a sense of the costs it will take to write the plan. Jim suggested that we will be able to determine that much better when the mapping project is more complete. In the meantime, members can think about the outline of a management plan and general scope so that when the time comes to make this determination, we can have some ideas already on the table.

Overall, a great discussion with a few new ideas that Alexis will continue to look into.

Field Data Collection Update

Erin Minster (Curry SWCD) gave an update on the field data collection project. In the pilot area, 237 points were set for collection. Of those points, Curry SWCD and CFPA have gathered 210 of these points with no substitute points needed. Hannah and Alexis still need to collect points in Coos county. There may be more substitute points needed in this area, depending on land ownership. Erin reported a few glitches in the process but overall, it has been quite successful. She said that when multiple points are uploaded, data gets taken out. She is working with Mason, Bruce & Girard to fix this. Also, some duplicate points have been taken. This pilot information will be sent to MB&G to get the spectral part completed for the aerial mapping. The points will be sent soon so that they can get started on that while the remaining points are collected outside of the pilot area. Mobile Map has been a great tool for this project and MB&G have also been great to work with, especially with stretching the contract out. Erin reported that gorse has not been found at all points and the data will help the computer recognize different types of vegetation in different areas.

Jim suggested we work on an “elevator speech” about this project and that GAG with the nitty-gritty details. This will be used to let people know that we are not looking to enforce gorse control but that we want to help landowners with control and return lands to usable condition. The mapping project will help us find areas where there is a logical reason to be concerned about gorse.

Sherri gave an update on her Bullards Beach project. Gorse plants are sprayed with an aquatic approved, broadleaf specific herbicide. The sites was then planted with native dune grass and is re-sprayed every year. The dune grass is flourishing and becoming rhizomatous. The mulch from the gorse plants is effectively rotting the seed bank and non-native weeds and grasses are getting sprayed as well. Sedges were planted in wetland areas where dune grass can't grow. Soon, Parks will plant other components of the native dunal system to further restore this site.

Jeff Wilson mentioned that for Bandon Dunes, Crossroad is the selected herbicide as it is approved for golf course application. Areas in Bandon Dunes are cut multiple times in areas where play is happening. Outside of play areas, herbicide is used.

Clint mentioned the work with yellow tuft alyssum in southern Oregon and how USFS funding goes towards controlling that weed more than gorse. He feels that gorse control is almost more important. Carri said that the priority with alyssum is to eradicate it before it becomes as big of a problem as gorse. Carri said that ODA sometimes feels that gorse control is hopeless. There is no chance to eradicate it but crafting prioritizations and a plan will be most fundable. Carri talked about a new economic report completed on 25 weeds, produced by ODA. Gorse was one of these weeds and she will share that information with the group. Sherri said that during a gorse control meeting in 2012, there was expansion modeling completed by the Institute for Applied Ecology and she may be able to share this information with the group.

Steering Committee and MOU

We began with a discussion of crafting and MOU or a Declaration of Understanding (DOC). Frank Burris stated that with the Forest Collaborative, they wrote by-laws, requirements for voting members, have committees and a fiscal agent. Frank says that without by-laws and more structure, he won't be able to get a signature on a MOU. Many others in agencies agreed that this would be difficult. Carri has been the opposite with DOC's, they are not as legal or rigorous as the by-law route. DOC's have more freedom and are less formal. Many Cooperative Weed Management Area's take this route.

It was suggested that we include a clause that can give an easy out for organizations and doesn't commit members to anything other than attending meetings or providing input. A DOC will be much easier for agencies to get signed and approved. This will be a helpful document in getting grants.

We decided to wait on discussing the Steering Committee further until the DOC is complete and signed so that we know what groups will be involved.

Alexis will work on drafting an declaration and will send out a list of Steering Committee organizations that have been discussed previously. Alexis will try to send out a draft before the January conference call.

Logo

The final thought was to design a logo/letterhead for the GAG. If anyone has ideas, send them to WRCA who can help with IT support in creating the logo.

Next Meeting

Conference Call
Tuesday, January 20th, 2015
9-10am

See you in the New Year!
Thanks!

Alexis