

GAG Science Team Conference Call
August 1st

On the call: Liza, Pam, Cyndi, Carri, Will, and Frank

I. Herbicide guidance for residential and non-residential land/home -owners

Will gave an update on which herbicides are sold at local farm supplies (Cascade, Currydale, and Coos Grange), as well as local hardware stores. Container size (only 2.5 gallons) and site use in residential areas was discussed. The possibility of distributing herbicide through the Coos Weed Advisory Board was discussed.

TASK: Carri will ask for clarification from ODA Pesticides Unit on residential and non-residential site applications.

TASK: Will, in a meeting later today, will approach the Coos Weed Advisory Board about herbicide distribution in coordination with gorse control and GAG guidance.

Breaking News, Will Reports: The Coos County Weed Board agreed this afternoon to begin work on re-implementing/re-vamping our herbicide cost share program for next year to include landowners with smaller than 5-acre parcels, and to also include herbicides that GAG specifically recommends for gorse.

Future TASK: Work with farm suppliers to eventually carry the product(s) that GAG

Liza and Will shared some information from conversations that they were able to have with Rex Miller after our last GAG OR Solutions meeting. Rex is seeing results with Metsulfuron as part of his tank mix. Rex volunteered to put out a 1-acre test plot in the donut hole. We discussed the need to keep guidance to the public simple, perhaps tank mixes would be too complex.

We discussed the possibility of working with an herbicide distributor (like Wilbur Ellis) who could work with GAG in formulating a “gorse mix”.

TASK: Carri will speak with herbicide Reps at an upcoming Vegetation Management Conference this October in Seaside.

We addressed the limited availability of licensed pesticide consultants working on noxious weeds on the coast. We once again spoke about the lack of licensed applicators and lack of herbicide training sessions.

OSU is required to only share herbicide recommendations listed in the PNW Handbook. Several experts at OSU can provide recommendations for landowners, but they aren't local and therefore accessibility may be limited. In addition, they are not current practitioners controlling gorse, especially some new formulations like Metsulfuron and Captone. We spoke about the need to provide some level of guidance to help promote the safest applications possible as opposed to just referring the public to the multi-page PNW handbook .

Future TASK: Work to organize an herbicide safety training workshop or series of workshops. One idea is to offer the same workshop up and down the coast.

We discussed development of short (1-page max) informational sheets to better help guide herbicide applications. We also discussed having a OSU, ODA, or a licensed Pesticide Consultant review our guidance documents.

TASK: The development of “One-pagers” that would give herbicide guidance to landowners and homeowners working on small to large-scale gorse infestations.

TASK: Have OSU, ODA and/or a licensed consultant familiar with gorse control review the 1-pagers before they are finalized and provided to the public.

Coos Watershed Association has volunteered to host a temporary website for the materials that are developed by GAG, including control information and guidance.

TASK: Coos Watershed Association will develop a website over the next several months that will be ready for GAG content to share with the public.

II. Best Management Practices

We took the last 20 minutes of the call to talk about BMPs. We came to agreement on the following:

*GAG does not recommend landowners compost gorse. Composting is a complex process that more often than not does not get hot enough to render seeds non-viable. In addition, the risk of compost piles catching fire is too high.

*Professional level composting (Wahl family, Compost businesses) needs further experimentation. Perhaps *Neighborhood Works* would fund this type of research.

*It is best to leave removed gorse on-site as opposed to transferring to the landfill or a centralized / community type location. The risk of spreading gorse, limited landfill space, and cost of transport don't lend to moving mechanically removed gorse.

TASK: Include in BMPS: composting of gorse is not recommended, gorse that is removed and piled should remain on site as the first choice.

Future TASK: The possibility of staging a compost (chipping, composting) demo at the donut hole once removal gets underway.

Future TASK: Continue to work on the idea of a WASH STATION in Bandon. Expand the folks working on this effort to include some logging/ equipment practitioners and ODOT.

TASK: Liza will draft a 1-page BMP document that can be used by some of our worst gorse spreading offenders, those who rent equipment and ineffectively attempt to remove gorse from their properties and bring that equipment back loaded with gorse seed.

Future TASK: Include BMP messages in utility bills, and mailings to the public