

Gorse Abatement District Plan: City of Bandon

Synopsis: Gorse abatement within the city limits has been set as a priority goal. Extreme fire risk and widespread proliferation of this noxious weed threatens public safety, state/county/municipal infrastructure, and industrial/commercial/privately-owned structures as well as schools, businesses, residential care/medical facilities and emergency services.

- Combined with dense stands of extremely flammable gorse, wind speed/direction, difficult topography, and our many riparian, coastal and river boundaries create challenges for access in adequate fire suppression within the city limits and the urban growth boundary.
- Management of gorse is best accomplished through voluntary compliance; strategic coordination and partnerships between private property owners, local businesses, city/county/state/federal agencies, parks, ports, watersheds, tribal members and a variety of non-profit entities must work together toward responsible land stewardship.

District Plan Overview: Land within the City of Bandon has been divided into 6 abatement districts as well as one Urban Growth Boundary priority project. District abatement progresses from north to south using a prioritization of fire risk, topography, wind direction, population density, types of structures and other significant criteria like property lines, ownership and rights-of-way.

- Each district in succession is then the top priority for outreach, education, cooperative agreements, cost-share, grant funding, and technical support as gorse is physically removed from that district in its initial phase.
- In subsequent suppression phases, ongoing monitoring, mechanical treatment, herbicide cost-share programs, and compliance support is continued even when another district is under the physical removal phase.

Vegetation Management Plans (VMP): In order to provide coordination, cooperation and strategic cost-sharing it is important for all private, public and tribal landowners to create a vegetation management plan for their property.

- Technical support, as well as successful abatement and gorse management models, will help landowners create a site-specific plan considering cost, erosion, access, seasons, terrain, overlying cultural sites, and other factors in their individual plan including reasonable timelines.
- Compliance is achieved by filing and implementing this vegetation management plan with the City of Bandon in the timeframe requested by the city, typically 30-60 days, of notification by the city of a complaint or the start of work in a specific district.

Vegetation Management Coordinator (VMC): There will be a VMC whose sole responsibility is to help facilitate the filing of vegetation management plans, cooperative agreements with private, public, tribal and non-profit partners, and monitor the progress of individual plans in each district.

- This coordinator will work with city, county, tribal, non-profit, state and federal representatives to schedule gorse removal in rights-of-way, make

requests to grant access or respond to concerns in cultural, wildlife or habitat sensitive areas.

- Additionally, the coordinator will support private landowners, local licensed contractors, herbicide applicators, adjacent property owners and public partners to strategize timing, equipment mobilization, and other details of plan implementation in each district as the removal, suppression and monitoring progresses.

Code Compliance Coordinator (CCC): The City of Bandon will provide a separate staff position to handle gorse management compliance issues.

- A notice of violation is only issued if a complaint is filed or a vegetation management plan is not submitted, amended or progress reports not filed within specific timelines outlined in the individual plans. Civil court proceedings are a last resort and outlined within the City of Bandon Prohibited Vegetation Ordinance No. 1631.

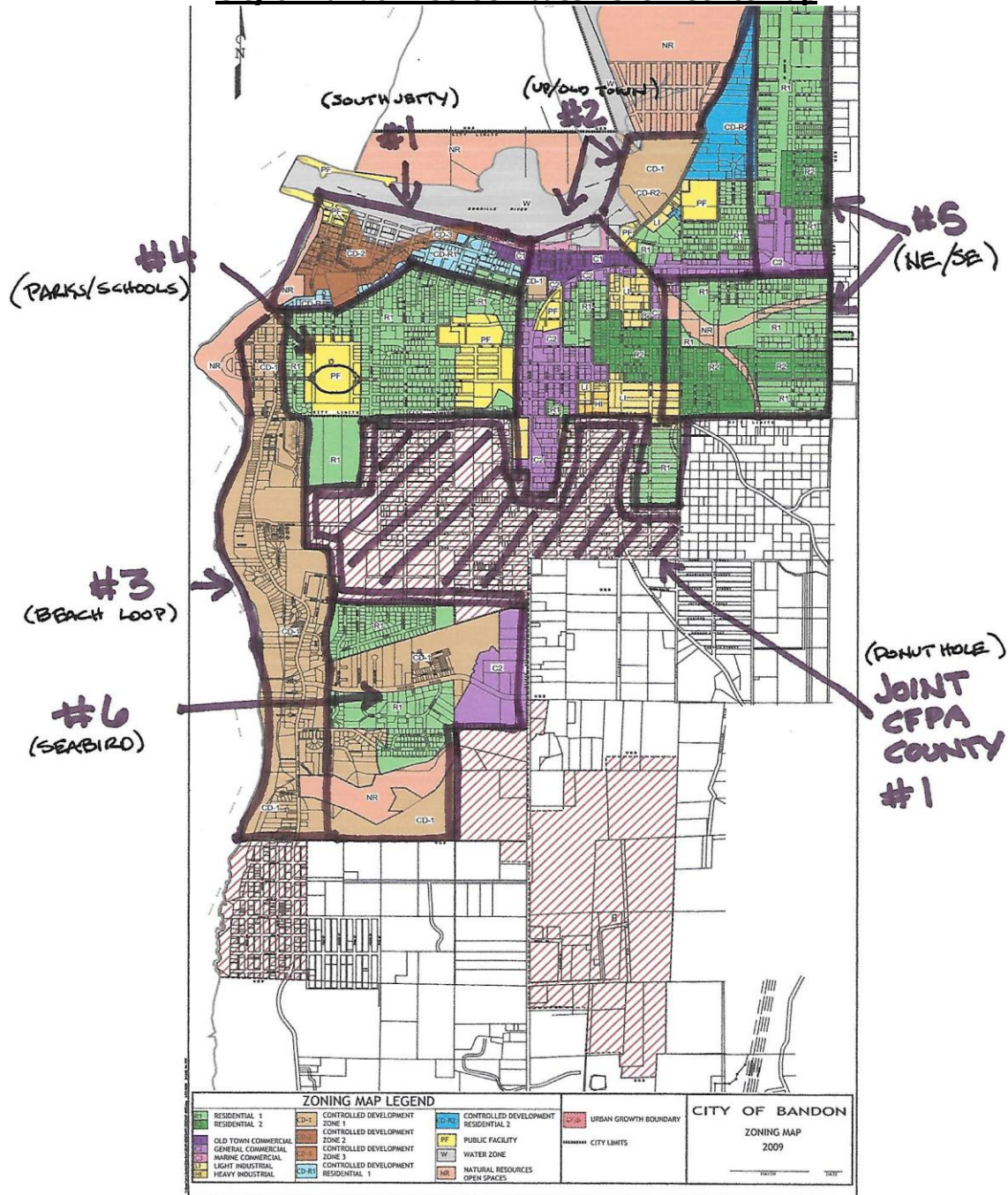
Gorse Action Group (GAG): The Gorse Action Group's role in City of Bandon gorse abatement is to provide outreach, education and technical support for voluntary compliance with its 35 supporting partners as part of a larger regional strategy.

- GAG is able to supply scientific data as well as community education, successful project models, technical expertise and promotes cooperative relationships with private, city, county, state, federal, tribal, and non-profit entities.
- The Gorse Action Group's primary focus is strategic gorse management to stop the proliferation of this noxious weed which is consuming the Pacific Northwest including unique wildlife habitats, riparian, forestry, agricultural, and recreational lands.

Implementation of District Abatement with projected starting timelines best for gorse management:

- District 1: South Jetty- 4th St to top of bluff on Ocean Drive right of way, to Coquille River and Pacific Ocean winter & fall 2020 and spring & fall 2021
- District 2: Business Districts- Riverside, Moore Mill, Old Town east to Highway 101 and Woolen Mill south to UGB winter & fall 2021 and spring and fall 2022
- District 3: Beach Loop Drive from Pacific Ocean to City Park, east to UGB and Lincoln St. winter & fall 2022 and spring & fall 2023
- District 4: City Park, Elementary, Middle and High Schools and neighborhoods to 4th St. winter & fall 2023 and spring & fall 2024
- District 5: NE and SE Bandon from city limits to city limits and bordering Highway 101 winter & fall 2024 and spring & fall 2025
- District 6: Seabird and Ocean Terrace north to UGB and south to city limits winter & fall 2025 and spring & fall 2026
- Special District: UGB areas within Bandon city limit boundaries TBD

City of Bandon- Gorse Abatement District Map



City of Bandon

Gorse Abatement Districts

**District #1 South Jetty to Ocean #2 Moore Mill/Riverside-Up/Old Town
 District #3 Beach Loop, District #4 Schools and City Park, District #5
 NE and SE Bandon, District #6 N/S Seabird District plus
 Joint CFPA/Coos County/GAG project in Donut Hole**