



2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPORT SUMMARY

Gorse is considered one of the most invasive plant species in the world and is now found on all continents. While management of gorse is occurring in many areas on the south coast, long-lived infestations continue to expand and spread. In addition to being a significant fire hazard, gorse rapidly invades land, impacting farming, grazing, and other land use activities.

The Gorse Action Group exists to bring together and support the combined efforts of partners working to minimize the economic and environmental impacts of gorse across a regional scale. The Gorse Action Group's highest priority is to stop the spread of gorse with specific objectives to prevent new infestations, control source populations, and build capacity for coordinated efforts.

OVERVIEW OF 2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

► PREVENTION OF NEW INFESTATIONS

Activities spanned work with diverse partners and landowners across the region to survey and treat public and private properties. Additionally, partners implemented best management practices to reduce the spread of gorse. Specific activities of the partners include:

- Surveyed over 1,670 acres and treated at least 18 outlier populations.
- The Oregon Department of Transportation collaborated with multiple agencies to maintain right-of-ways to reduce seed spread along HWY 101.
- Coordinated training for 14 City of Bandon Public Works Department staff and contractors on Best Management Practices and noxious weed identification.

- Curry Watersheds Partnership early detection rapid response (EDRR) efforts surveyed 150 sites including 25 new sites and 29 existing sites where no new gorse sprouts were found. A total of 137 acres were treated resulting in 78 single outliers and 15 net acres of gorse plants dead.
- Installed over 2,000 native plants on Bureau of Land Management land and conducted restoration projects at multiple sites, including Crook Point.



Coquille Watershed Association surveying gorse on Alder Creek for early detection and rapid response treatment.

Photo Credit: Goldie Warncke

**FOR MORE INFORMATION AND LINKS TO FULL RESOURCES
VISIT: GORSEACTIONGROUP.ORG**

► STRATEGIC CONTROL OF SOURCE POPULATIONS

Activities spanned working with diverse partners and landowners to conduct on-the-ground treatment in core infestation areas to reduce the risk and impact to the local community and environment. Demonstration projects were also used to showcase innovative new capacities for gorse treatment, especially in challenging situations. Specific activities of the partners include:

- Over 84 acres gorse treated or removed within Coos and Curry County, including sites in Bandon, Coos Bay, and Coquille. This includes over 50 acres treated for gorse on Oregon Parks & Recreation Department land (Cape Blanco, Bullards Beach, and Harris Beach).
- Oregon Department of Transportation, Oregon Parks & Recreation Department, and Curry Watersheds collaborated to demonstrate techniques for gorse removal on steep cliffs at two sites in the Brookings area. Two acres were treated using rappelling and cut-stump methods.
- A Gorse Removal demonstration project in Bandon (by weigh station / airport) continues to be used as a teaching tool for group tours with data being collected in the spring and fall by Oregon State University and Oregon Department of Agriculture.
- Investigated new methods to control gorse, including an Air Curtain Burner test at Bandon Dunes.
- Oregon Department of Agriculture reached the final commenting period for the next gorse biocontrol agent, a thrip (*Sericothrips staphylinus*).
- City of Bandon approved a noxious weed ordinance that covers gorse compliance and reduces exclusions with a zero-tolerance for gorse (took effect August 1, 2019).



Rappeller crew using the cut-stump method to remove gorse on the Rainbow Rock site off Highway 101 in Curry County.

Photo Credit: Rushal Sedlemyer



CAPACITY-BUILDING FOR COORDINATED EFFORTS

Activities spanned facilitating partnerships, outreach, and information sharing between 35 active Gorse Action Group partner organizations to enhance their capacity to tackle complex issues created from gorse infestations. Educational materials were created and distributed and funding was leveraged for gorse prevention, control, and capacity efforts. Additionally, Gorse Action Group partners raised awareness among diverse partners and the public on a variety of topics, including fire awareness, treatment of gorse for protection of bird and salmon habitat, and enhancement of working lands. Specific activities of the partners include:

- Facilitated 3 full Gorse Action Group meetings and multiple committees to implement coordinated planning and on-the-ground activities.
- Secured funding to support coordination of the Gorse Action Group and to implement the Stop Gorse! Communication Plan, including new social media sites, radio interviews, blog stories, and resources on the website.
- Curry Watersheds Partnership, Port Orford Watershed Council, and the City of Port Orford successfully solicited funds for drinking water protection through gorse control.
- Conducted direct outreach to neighborhood groups, such as the Sunset Neighborhood Association annual meeting (15 attendees).
- Created City of Bandon Education & Outreach Strategy Team.
- Created new educational materials, including planting recommendations after gorse removal and gorse mulching and spray timing. Educational materials such as these were distributed through Oregon State University Extension Forestry & Agriculture to woodland owners and farmers.

- Engaged with 200+ people at multiple outreach events, including the Cranberry fest, Gorse Blossom Festival, Gorse Pub Night, Coos County Fair, Bandon Trolley Tour, and others.
- Worked with various partners to build awareness not only about gorse, but also about other noxious weed impacts on working lands and the environment through National Public Lands Day, field events, and partnership with the South Coast Cooperative Weed Management Area

LOOKING AHEAD: 2020 – 2021

Gorse remains a high priority and an unrelenting threat in the state among other high priority noxious weeds. Gorse Action Group partners are working together to assess priorities, refine strategic focus, and increase funding capacity. Partners are actively seeking funds to install educational signage and prevention infrastructure, such as boot brushes or wash stations, as well as increased capacity for project management.

Moving forward, Gorse Action Group partners will build on coordinated efforts in priority management areas to prevent the spread of gorse along Highway 101 and outlier populations, build on strategic control efforts in core infestation areas, and further focus control efforts to protect critical resources such as drinking water sources.



Gorse Action Group trolley tour showing the Bandon community successful gorse removal projects.

Photo Credit: Rushal Sedlemyer