

GORSE ACTION GROUP MTG NOTES: February 1, 2023 9:00 – 11:00 AM Virtual

The **Gorse Action Group (GAG)** is an informal group of participants including federal and state agencies, non-profit organizations, private industry, and landowners. The GAG is working to control and reduce the spread of gorse, minimize the impact of gorse on our economy and natural resources, and provide a successful process to share with others facing gorse infestations. To learn more about our efforts, visit <u>https://gorseactiongroup.org/</u>.

Attending (21): Rhonda Black (Umpqua SWCD), Alexa Carleton (Coos Watershed Association/CWMA Coordinator), Alex Cook (USFWS), Ty Downing (WDX Excavation), Liza Ehle (Windward Gardens), Robert Franson (Coos FPA), Courtney Gattuso (WIN), Anders Hansen (Coos Watershed Association), Robin Harkins (Coquille Indian Tribe), Al Johnson (retired/at-large), Kevin Kent (K2 Land Development), Norma Kline (OSU Extension), Jason Kral (Weed Board, City of Bandon), Celeste Lebo (OPRD), Erin Minster (Curry SWCD/Curry Watersheds Partnership), Carri Pirosko (ODA), Ivy Randall (Coquille Watershed Association), Marie Simonds (WRCA), John Sweet (Coos County Commissioners), Paula Thompson (WRCA), Katie Woodruff (NRCS).

Action Items and links:

- February 15: local NRCS workgroup meeting at Bandon Library, 4-6PM. See attached flyer.
- April 6: Coastal Invasive Species Workshop in Astoria, co-hosted by WIN and Washington Invasive Species Council. GAG members encouraged to attend; gorse will most likely be on the agenda. If interested contact Courtney Gattuso at weeds@cascadepacific.org.
- Alexa will conduct inventory on Stop Gorse stickers and magnets. If there are enough to spare, will share with Liza for City of Bandon display and mailings
- Next meeting will be in May with the possibility for field tours.

Speaker	Торіс	Notes
Erin	2022 Accomplishments Reporting	 Received 8 responses, still need ODOT's info. Erin asked for feedback on the new form— Celeste said it was a straight-forward process. Alex wasn't able to view the maps for core/outside areas; next time will send those separately in case they don't load on federal computers.
Liza, Jason	City of Bandon update	 Jason is still getting established as part-time paid position. State Fire Marshal grant just submitted for more funding for the position. Moving into District 3 soon (Beach Loop bluffs). Will have improved metrics, mapping, and monitoring moving forward. Liza: we're 15% ahead on acreage goals due to voluntary mowing. Most landowners are complying, or get there quickly, finding it easier to do the work than pay the \$750/day fee. Compliance officer is easy to work with. City has been working on the banks near Johnson Creek. Small active slide in District 1: happened right after gorse work but isn't gorse-related (drainage issue). Optics not good; anticipating public commentary. Liza recently set up a gorse demo info wall at the City of Bandon City Hall—includes handouts, business cards, contractor list, maps of all districts, special District 3 map. Could use more Stop Gorse magnets and stickers—Alexa will do inventory. Applicators and ODA discussion Current herbicide license categories for commercial applicators is not designed with noxious weed management in urban areas in mind. Applicators need a variety of categories such as Right-of-way, ornamental and turf, and forest to accomplish gorse control in a wholistic and efficient way. ODA's Noxious Weed Specialist ,Carri, is coordinating a meeting in February to help ODA's licensing and pesticide enforcement programs better understand the complexities of large scale gorse control in urban/rural residential areas and how that relates to the way contractors are licensed. Hopefully, both the enforcement arm and licensing arm of the Pesticides Program will be involved in the conversation.
Carri	Gorse Demo	 Cantrinosko, tiza tine, trank burns, sherri taler, wkcA, and private landowner collaborated on this multi-year demo/education project over 2.5 years Wrapped it up recently; Carri has been analyzing data and has put together a two-page summary with take-aways, lessons learned, successes, and failures. Really interesting findings; we will be getting this out to a wide audience. Especially promising results with non-herbicide-related control methods (tilling, landscape fabric).

		 Tilling was an effective treatment. Norma asked if tilling is an option under NRCS practices—it's indirectly included in planting/seeding, since this includes site prep which likely pays higher than the plain tillage practice code. Black fabric is good fit for small areas (~1/2 acre), back yards, flat open areas, edges, borders, buffer zones near water (e.g. cranberry bogs). Can't work in all conditions, but we did see it was good for gorse in this study, and Anders has seen good results with it for ivy on steep hillsides, too. Participants asked if this study could go longer—it's already retired and tidied, but there are trees growing that were planted by high school students, so parts of it are continuing on! There is also potential for longer term studies led by research teams at OSU. Good fit for Vegetation Management and Soils programs; there is likely a connection between marine terraced soils, Phosphorous storage, and gorse thriving. Norma's colleague, Carlos Gonzales, at OSU is a potential researcher and will chat with him about this idea. This wasn't an official study with replicates, statistical significance, peer-reviewed results. But it's a great demo that gave us some really interesting information that future studies can build on. Summary is attached
Liza	Winter Workshop Series	 Winter series went well—was 15 hours and is now 8 Focused a lot on pros and cons of training new applicants and increasing the local workforce trained in gorse. Next year's goal: collaborate more with fire, road crews, state and county, find overlap on things like erosion control. Incorporate restoration into the conversation so we're healing the land, not just killing gorse. Celeste mentioned the Coastal Native Seed Partnership and the Understory Initiative—making progress but slowmoving on increasing the availability of native seed sources. Anders mentioned that CoosWA does have seed production plots, but isn't at the level necessary for wide distribution. CoosWA does have two dozen species of trees and shrubs, though, and would like to connect more with landowners removing gorse.
Group	Other updates/ Round Robin	 NRCS: Katie received 4 applications in this round; had several people back out after site visit, not quite ready for the commitment. \$172K total ask, expects most/all to get funded. Continuously accepting applications. February 15: local workgroup meeting at Bandon Library, 4-6PM. Last year: gorse was priority. This year, cranberries. Flyer is attached Erin: will be updating City of Bandon page on the GAG website with Jason's info

	 John Sweet: needs help from City of Bandon to determine ownership on a piece of land. Jason will connect with him. Marie and Al: potential housing project site on a plot with gorse. 17 acres, 10-12 are wetland. Looking for assistance and ideas about addressing the wetland mitigation needs in order to develop the property. WIN: Courtney is co-hosting a coastal invasive species workshop with Washington Invasive Species Council on April 6 in Astoria. Encouraged GAG to attend. Email weeds@cascadepacific.org if interested. If interested in weighing in on priority topics, deadline is this Friday 1/3ß (email Courtney). Carri: updated contractor list and also created a guidance document to help with future transitions/planning.
Adjourn	11:10 AM

GORSE ACTION GROUP Gorse Removal and Treatment Demonstration Area: Take Away Lessons: What Worked, What Didn't, and a Few Surprises

Take Home Message:

- Combining mechanical and herbicide methods provides the most effective gorse control.
 - Step 1: The operator should use equipment in a slow and deliberate manner, with a goal of grinding gorse stems and mulching gorse material on site.
 - Step 2: Spray gorse resprouts and seedlings either in the spring or fall with one of the Triclopyr products. *Please refer to the GAG handout "Using Herbicides" to help select the right Triclopyr product for your site.*
- **Important!** Garlon 3A and Vastlan can be used near water, Garlon 4 Ultra can<u>not</u> be sprayed near water. Garlon 4 Ultra should not be sprayed in hot dry months, nor in even slightly windy conditions, as it can move off target and easily damage or kill off target trees and shrubs.
- Regardless of your methodology, plan on retreating regrowth and seedlings. Gorse, as we all know, is very tenacious.

Lessons Learned:

- Year one is critical. Don't miss your window to spray gorse regrowth. Spray gorse resprouts within 6 months of completing mechanical grinding/mulching. If you grind and mulch in the spring, spray gorse resprouts in the fall. If you grind and mulch in the fall, spray gorse resprouts in the spring. Gorse needs the "one-two" punch in year one.
- Spraying gorse regrowth and seedlings 1 x per year is sufficient. There was little added benefit of retreatment in both spring and fall.
- Overall, little to no difference was found between MSO (methylated seed oil) and Syl-tac (silicone based) surfactants. The most important thing: don't forget to add a surfactant to your tank.
- By the end of 2 years, plots with tank mixes of multiple herbicides and/or surfactants resulted in the same levels of gorse control as plots using just 1 Triclopyr product with 1 surfactant. All plots being compared were evaluated annually for maintenance spraying of gorse seedlings and resprouts. Beyond Triclopyr products already mentioned, other herbicides included in this trial: Garlon XRT, Escort XP, & Diuron. Surfactants used: MSO, Syl-tac EA, and Kinetic. Milestone or products containing Milestone (Capstone) were not included in this trial.
- It takes multiple years to evaluate the success or failure of any control method. Declaring victory
 within months or even within a single year of a treatment can be misleading. A method can look
 like a winner at first and then prove to be an absolute disappointment. Promoting desirable
 competing vegetation and minimizing bare ground lend to the best outcomes.

Successes:

• Vastlan (newer Triclopyr formulation) and Garlon 3A (old standard) both proved to be effective. Year 1 evaluations showed Garlon 3A performing better, but by the end of year 2, both products resulted in similar levels of control. Vastlan is slower acting, which is not necessarily a bad thing when controlling woody perennials. By the end of the 2-year trial, plots had between trace amounts-7% gorse resprouting, 64-84% other vegetation, and only 10-15% bare ground.

Surprise Successes, Non-Chemical Follow-Up Methods:

- Tillage of resprouts, proved to be very effective. After 2 years, 97% "other vegetation" with only 2% gorse resprouts was realized. Where tillage equipment can be used (flat with little debris), tillage is certainly worth considering.
 - Step 1: gorse plants removed ("plucked" or ripped out) with small excavator
 - Step 2: sprayed 6 months later with Triclopyr/surfactant
 - Step 3: tilled (slow and deliberate manner)
 - Step 4: annual spot treatment of few remaining gorse seedlings
- Black Fabric, where it can be used (smaller scale, flat ground without debris) can be extremely effective. Once the black fabric was removed (1.5 years), less than 1% of gorse resprouted and 74% other vegetation filled in the plot.

Failures:

- Mechanical only or the "one and done" strategy, with no follow-up, was a complete failure for long-term control. After 2 years, 70% of the plot was overtaken by gorse regrowth. Gorse thrives after disturbance and grows back "bigger and meaner". Absentee homeowners often get trapped in this ineffective cycle.
- Crossbow+ Roundup: While this treatment looked really promising within the first few months, at the end of 2 years, this plot had the most bare ground (50%) in the trial, ground susceptible to gorse reinvasion.
- It is a myth that fertilizing controls gorse. After 2 years, this plot looked as if no treatments had been done (70% gorse regrowth). The result was a large, thriving gorse stand.
- When attempting to solarize cut gorse stems with clear plastic: the plastic broke down into pieces within months of coastal weather conditions. While plots had a decent amount of other vegetation (72%), resprouting gorse (28%) quickly dominated the plot.
- The hardware grade product, "Tough Brush Killer" was not effective. After 2 years, 60% of the plot was covered in gorse. This product contains only 8% of the Triclopyr Active Ingredient, as compared to Garlon 3A, Vastlan, Garlon 4 Ultra that contain 45-60%.
- Composting large stands of cut gorse was not effective due regrowth of gorse while waiting for the pile to break down; extreme caution needs to be taken when burning large piles of cut gorse, attempts in one plot smoldered for weeks.

Detailed information about the plots included in and treatment methods compared in this trial can be found in the GAG Handout: Highway 101 Gorse Removal Demonstration at https://gorseactiongroup.org



Coos and Curry Local Work Group Meeting



NRCS wants to hear from you!

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides innovative conservation solutions to restore, enhance and protect Oregon's working agricultural and forestry lands.

NRCS offers technical and financial assistance to private landowners and producers interested in preserving natural resources on the land. We invite your input to determine what resource concerns Coquille NRCS will address and where to focus our efforts within Coos and Curry counties. Based on your input, some resource concerns we may provide assistance in the future for include the following:

- Cranberry Irrigation Efficiency
- ✓ Forest Health and Fuels Reduction
- ✓ Gorse Removal
- Organic and High Tunnel Production

A request for accommodations for persons with disabilities should be made 48 hours before the meeting. Please contact (DC or DC designee and appropriate phone number) for arrangements. This event is not sponsored or endorsed by the Bandon Library.

Local Work Group Meeting

4-6pm Feb 15, 23

Bandon Library 1204 11th St SW, Bandon, OR 97411 Or contact the Coquille NRCS office for the Zoom link

CONTACT:

Katie Woodruff District Conservationist (541) 824-8091 or (541) 551-0707 katlyn.woodruff@usda.gov



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