

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 <https://gorseactiongroup.org/>.

Attending (18): Erin Minster (Curry SWCD/CWP & GAG Coordinator), Marie Simonds (Bandon Dunes Charitable Trust), Paula Thompson (Bandon Dunes Charitable Trust), Robert Franson (CFPA), Jason Kral (City of Bandon), Goldie Warncke (Coos Bay BLM), Alexa Carleton (Coos Watershed Association), Ed Cope (Coos Watershed Association), Anders Hansen (Coos Watershed Association), Ivy Randall (Coquille Watershed Association), Katie Woodruff (NRCS), Carri Piroso (ODA), Scott Mickelson (ODOT), Tyler Blanchette (OPRD), Kevin Herkamp (OPRD), Alex Cook (USFWS Bandon Marsh), Liza Ehle (Windward Gardens), Matt Swanson (Swanson Ecological Service, CWP)

Action Items and links:

- Gorse Blossom Festival: Canceled. Erin will reach out to Bandon Fisheries Building owner to see if there are opportunities for GAG to be part of other events this year since Gorse Blossom Festival was canceled. UPDATE: We are exploring a science pub of sorts in mid-March, stay tuned.
- All GAG partners need to fill out the 2023 annual report metrics by **Feb 16**. Past reports can be found on the [Projects page](#) of the GAG website. [Submittal Form](#)
- GAG website needs refreshing: send content ideas to Erin and let her know if you're interested in helping with website updates and management
- Contractor list: Jason volunteered to contact contractors for list updates.
- Check out drone video [here](#):
- **If you have gorse mulch to contribute to OSU study (using gorse as an alternative building material), contact Norma Kline: Norma.Kline@oregonstate.edu**
- OSU is updating gorse fact sheet that's part of the "Invasive weeds in forest lands" series. Can any GAG members provide ideas/edits? [Read fact sheet here](#) and send comments to Norma.
- Carri suggested we sponsor an education/info event to help get more gorse CIS applications. October would be a good time (NRCS sign-up deadline is in November, but can be submitted any time).
- BLM is hosting a kayak training in June and there are still some spots left—let Goldie know if interested: gwarncke@blm.gov
- Next GAG meeting will be in May, TBD

Speaker	Topic	Notes
Erin M.	Intros and general updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gorse Festival canceled this year. Jason is hopeful for Presidents Day weekend in 2025 • Are there other education/outreach opportunities in Bandon for GAG, perhaps at another event at the Bandon Fisheries Building?

<p>Erin M.</p> <p>Annual Report</p> <p>Begins at minute: 0:07:25</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erin went through the report template for 2023 that GAG partners need to fill out in the coming weeks (short turn-around time) • Samara will be compiling again this year
<p>Erin M.</p>	<p>Contractor list</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need process for adding and removing contractors from list • Make clear to both contractors and public/end users that we aren't certifying or endorsing contractors, but those on the list are capable and will follow gorse BMPs • What should qualify someone to be on the list? Group decided on a short video module (under 30 min) and quiz. • Layout: keep mechanical and chemical separate or merge? Open to reformatting ideas • Can we add replanting/re-seeding contractors? Some on the list already do this • Add a service area column so it's clear who will work in Bandon • Spray list could be longer. Can we invite additional contractors that are on ODA certification list?
<p>Erin M.</p>	<p>GAG Map</p> <p>Begins at minute: 0:14:51</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erin reviewed the gorse containment map, which shows the primary gorse zones and outlier populations • Curry County going through Community Wildfire Protection Plan update. Make sure we share gorse info with them to inform this process • Coos County is also updating their CWPP. Robert will keep us in the loop. We should incorporate gorse into this plan.
<p>Erin M.</p>	<p>Drone demo</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GAG partners coordinated with a contractor from Salem to do an herbicide drone demo at Face Rock in Bandon (10/20/24). Erin showed a video of the demo—large drone (8 gallon capacity) released blue dye and water mix. • Well-attended event with GAG partners, Court Boice, tourists, and some locals. Demo went well other than a little dye on the beach. • Mostly positive/curious feedback from attendees, and an understanding that everyone hates gorse and this is another tool that can help us get to inaccessible areas – as long as nesting birds aren't impacted • Public perception will be the most important part of using this tool. • Lots of interest in drones right now, and interesting work being done (e.g., drones intersecting with climate resiliency). ODA is seeing a lot of grants with drone work proposed.
	<p>Partner updates</p>	<p>OSU Extension (Erin relayed message from Norma Kline)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OSU researchers seeking gorse mulch/chips or full plants for alternative building materials (biomass) study.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Another OSU researcher is updating a gorse fact sheet, seeking edits. See Action Items.
		<p>CoosWA (Anders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gearing up for gorse season, treat in spring and fall. Recently updated database, historical and new populations. • Teaming up with foresters more, trying out chainsaw raffle for Weyco to encourage foresters to send in photos and locations that we can then go verify. • Will host another Gorse Pedal & Pull in fall: 2023 event was huge success, pulled 94 lbs of gorse seedlings from Whiskey Run trails.
		<p>Bandon Marsh (Alex)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refuge will soon have intern and seasonal tech soon to do on-the-ground weeds work • Keeping up with ongoing treatments, patches on outer edge of marsh, Coquille Point • May be scheduling treatment via kayak
		<p>Curry Watersheds Partnership (Matt)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elk River site: mowing, mulching, actively planting and spraying sites that have been mowed
		<p>Coquille Watershed Association (Ivy)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working on outreach during winter months, recently planted a gorse site, natives popping up • Known sites well contained; still working on Coaledo
		<p>Bandon Dunes Charitable Foundation (Marie)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New name replaces Wild Rivers Coast Alliance • Dedicated proceeds from a second golf course toward the Foundation's grant making. • Still the same priorities around conservation strategies, gorse, economic development, and community support.
		<p>NRCS (Katie)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Got 2 gorse CIS applications this year, both in forestry, will have sign-ups again in fall • If we know landowners with gorse and small woodlands, connect them with Katie.
		<p>ODA (Carri)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oregon State Weed Board will make grant announcements mid-Feb. • ODA continues to monitor gorse thrips (biocontrol) and will be doing site visit.
		<p>BLM (Goldie)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most of the BLM gorse work is being done by partners: Curry SWCD, CoqWA, CoosWA • Writing annual treatment plan—partners should send her shapefiles • District as approved 2 new positions to help with weed work

		<p>ODOT (Scott)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This winter: starting at Seabird Dr, mechanically removing gorse moving towards Beach Loop. • Spring: shoulder spraying. Fall: brush spraying.
		<p>City of Bandon (Jason)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bandon’s gorse abatement plan run by 7 districts. Adding new districts to bring in Bandon airport and Sunset City subdivision. The airport is especially important in emergency management planning (e.g., Cascadia earthquake).
		<p>CFPA (Robert)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No gorse-specific projects • Fuels reduction projects are occurring throughout Coos and Curry Counties, using Firewise type programming.
		<p>Curry SWCD (Erin)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RCPP (Regional Conservation Partnership Program) – has been meeting to discuss with NRCS. Can get up to \$25 million. Removed match requirement but no Admin/indirect funds. This is a partner driven approach to implementing NRCS practices. • Lots of sites to follow up on with gores. Lost Lake: lots of mowing, looking good, ongoing.
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