

*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/>.*

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**Attending (25):** Erin Minster (Curry Soil and Water District and Curry Watersheds Partnership), Kara Klietz (Coos Watershed Association), Carri Pirosko (Oregon Department of Agriculture), Scott Leavengood (Oregon State University), Michael Shoffner (Oregon Department of Transportation), Sadete Zela (Oregon State University), Marie Simonds (Bandon Dunes Charitable Foundation), Paula Thompson (Bandon Dunes Charitable Foundation), Norma Kline (Oregon State University), Peter Van Ess (Agra Agricultural Drone Solutions, LLC), Rushal Sedlemyer (Oregon Parks and Recreation Department), Representative Court Boice, Katie Woodruff (Natural Resources Conservation Service), Scott Mickelson (Oregon Department of Transportation), Eric Perry (Coos Watershed Association), Jason Kral (City of Bandon), Jacob Jensen (Oregon Department of Transportation), Debbie Mueller (Coos County Emergency Coordinator), Robert Franson (Oregon Department of Forestry), Jarett Lower (Coos County property owner), Ruth Walter (Natural Resources Conservation Service), Liza Ehle (Windward Gardens, LLC), Aileen Macias (Bureau of Land Management), Alex Cook (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), and Ivy Randall (Coquille Watershed Association)

**Action items:**

- Gorse Containment Zone Mapping:
  - Eric Perry to reach out to Mike Mader at Tenmile Lakes Basin Partnership to understand how big their gorse infestation area is as well as receive update on Parkersburg EDRR Containment
  - Erin Minster to add 7 Devils State Park as a Control Area and share videos of rock scaling to Jacob Jensen
  - Carri Pirosko to share the ODA layer of biocontrols to be added to the map
- Curry and Coos Counties Wildfire Protection Plans: Erin to enter GAG reporting information to the Curry County CWPP Tracker Dashboard
- Imagery Analysis: Erin Minster to share report with ODA
- GAG Shared Drive: Erin Minster to share link with Aileen Macias and Debbie Mueller

**Links:**

- [OSU wood products.](#)
- [Curry County Wildfire Protection Plan](#)
- [Contractor List](#)
- [Meeting recording](#)

Speaker	Topic	Notes
Erin Minster	GAG welcome	
Scott Leavengood	OSU update: Gorse panel construction	OSU wood products extension agent, started working with gorse last year. <a href="#">OSU wood products</a> .
Sadete Zela		There is a market for gorse decorative wall panels, countertops, and tablet tops. Standard wood tests provided results that gorse is slightly less hard than solid red oak. Prior research leads to the assumption that it is fungi durable.
Scott Leavengood		M.S. Thesis: approved research to work on more panels using different adhesives and using the same test to measure results.
		One entrepreneur is interested in using more environmentally friendly adhesives for the gorse panels.
		Two OSU student interns will work on the project this term. Group is going to need more gorse materials!
Erin Minster	Senate Bill 352	Senate Bill 352 sponsored by Senator Smith would create a grant program to eradicate gorse by allocating a million dollars over the next two years.
Carri Pirosko		ODA will be overseer of the grant if the bill passes, it will create a huge impact on the south coast. ODA could see GAG and other partners managing the grants.
Court Boice		This bill reflects highly on GAG's efforts!
Erin Minster	Work session: Gorse containment zone mapping	Containment zone mapping is a way to display GAG strategy and impact. The map is not exact, but a useful tool. GAG needs to know how much EDRR gorse there is north of CoqWA and CoosWA.
		Map is broken up into two main containment areas: Core Containment and EDRR Containment. Within these containment areas, there are Control and Control EDRR sites which have been actively worked on, typically due to funding for that specific area.
		Example: Brookings-Harris Beach EDRR Containment
		<i>Within this EDRR containment there are 3 different control sites.</i>

<p><b>Carri Pirosko</b></p>		<p>GAG group viewed the entire map with these key sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Lobster Creek: may become EDRR Containment site, currently biggest area that is spreading</li> <li>● Elk River: Core Containment working on stopping it from spreading into Forest Service land</li> <li>● Langlois: EDRR Containment with Control zones around near Floras Lake</li> <li>● No man's land (in between Floras Lake and Fourmile): Outreach can be done here <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Can print out this map and bring it to the Cranberry Growing Association Annual Meeting and connect with Casey Bosky from OSU so that agriculture folks can pin where gorse is in the cranberry fields.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Erin Minster</b></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Fourmile: Control zone that includes BLM, Parks, Bandon Dunes, and private landowners are partners in that work</li> <li>● Bandon: Control zones within Bandon district <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Boundaries look accurate</li> <li>○ ODOT does have a retreatment plan for work done in between the dumpsite and the City of Bandon will be from April/May until the fall</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Jason Kral Micheal Shoffner</b></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Bullards Beach: Currently the park is being managed in sections. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ ODA needs support managing the North Bullards and Greater Bandon areas this year</li> <li>○ Backpack spray work is fine but anything more needs authorization from the Tribal Nation</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Erin Minster Carri Pirosko</b></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Devils Kitchen and 7 Devils State Park: projects will be done by June of 2025 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Erin to make 7 Devils State Park its own Control Area</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Rushal Sedlemyer</b></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Parkersburg EDRR Containment: Eric to provide updates</li> <li>● Bandon Dunes Containment zones: They have their own containment zone.</li> <li>● Whisky Run: Boundaries look accurate</li> <li>● Crown Point: small control site at South Slough.</li> <li>● Upper Pony Creek Reservoir Control EDRR: working with the Water Board and Coquille Indian Tribe.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Erin Minster Eric Perry Erin Minster</b></p>		

<p><b>Eric Perry</b></p> <p><b>Liza Ehle</b></p> <p><b>Carri Pirosko</b></p> <p><b>Jason Kral</b></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● North Bend Airport/Pony Slough Control EDRR: infestation spreads with the tides and all property managers are on board, doing work there for the first time.</li> <li>● Lakeside: Eric to reach out to Mike Mader at Tenmile Lakes Basin Partnership to understand the area of their gorse infestation</li> <li>● Carri has been in contact with Jacob Jenson with ODOT to begin working with them in the area between Florence and Cape Perpetua to get gorse under control. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Erin to share videos of rock scaling with Jacob.</li> <li>○ Peter is willing to show Jacob the benefits of using the big drones.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Carri to share the ODA layer of biocontrols to be added to the map.</p> <p>GAG working towards having a basic way to standardize control for all partners.</p>
<p><b>Debbie Mueller</b></p>	<p>Curry and Coos Counties Wildfire Protection Plans</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Curry County Wildfire Protection Plan is completed and can be found here: <a href="#">Curry County Wildfire Protection Plan</a></li> <li>● The Coos County plan will be similar and include tracking tools.</li> <li>● Erin to enter GAG reporting information to the Curry County CWPP Tracker Dashboard</li> <li>● There is hope from partners that this will bring more cohesion between counties.</li> <li>● Liza, Peter, and Jason interested in discussing the Protection Plans further</li> </ul>
<p><b>Erin Minster</b></p> <p><b>Liza Ehle</b></p>	<p>Imagery Analysis Update</p>	<p>During the Curry CWPP update process additional products were created. One was to take a second look at the imagery analysis that was done in 2015. SWCA Environmental Consultants reviewed the 2015 work and used new tools, deep learning, to map gorse polygons using 4-band imagery. Used the same 2014 imagery to see what could be done.</p> <p>Is a useful tool for grant writing and Debbie could use it in the CCWP!</p>



<b>Carri Pirosko</b>		<p>Erin Minster (GAG): “Love Your Land, Not Gorse: BMPs for Managing this Thorny Invader,” presentation to be at Bandon Rain at 6 pm on Friday, 2/14 and Bandon Brewing at 2 pm on Saturday, 2/15.</p> <p>At the 2024 Cranberry Festival folks had a lot of respect for GAG and saw groups as experts!</p>
<b>Erin Minster</b>	Next meeting	Proposed next date: Wednesday, May 21st 9 am to 1 pm, field trip with site TBD
<b>Group</b>	Other items	
<b>Rushal Sedlemyer</b>	Interest to connect with Midcoast CWMA	Determined to invite a Midcoast CWMA member to Liza, Carri, and Jacob’s field trip in March. Rushal to do an introduction email.
<b>Marie Simonds</b>	GAG connection to Coos County Wildfire Protection Plan	GAG to offer assistance to Debbie. Erin to share the drive with Debbie.
<b>Carri Pirosko</b>	OSWB grants	OSWB partners to meet on February 24 for final grant decisions and GAG partners incorporated gorse EDRR work into those grant proposals.
	EDRR Success story	An Oregon Invasive Hotline Report came in from the public. Gorse was spotted in Grants Pass and was removed!
	Jason Kral’s award!	Jason Kral, City of Bandon, received ODA’s Special Recognition Award for Contributions and Leadership in Oregon Noxious Weed Management for gorse control. Great job, Jason!
<b>Erin Minster</b>	GAG funding	Erin is currently searching and applying for different funds for gorse work.
Meeting adjourned at 3:24 pm.		