



SAVE THE DUNES

OREGON

The Newsletter of the Oregon Dunes Restoration Collaborative

December 2018

Education Programs Continue with ECO Partnership in 2019

For more than twenty years, Jim Grano has led field-based experiences for local schools. First as a teacher and continuing as a volunteer for three school districts after retirement, Jim developed the Stream Team program and has engaged thousands of students from Florence, Mapleton and Reedsport. Field trips to the dunes are just one of the amazing activities Jim has coordinated over the years. As Jim steps down from his role, the nonprofit organization [Ecology in Classrooms and Outdoors \(ECO\)](#) is stepping in to continue his programs in both the classroom and the field!

According to Jim, "with Stream Team field experiences, our youth become informed stewards, learning to value the watershed they live in as they participate hands-on with its restoration".

[For more about ECO's programs, click here.](#)

Or contact Amelia Remington:
amelia@ecologyoutdoors.org



Next ODRC Meeting - February 15

Mark your calendars for the next public meeting of the Oregon Dunes Restoration Collaborative. It will be held on Friday, February 15th, from 9 AM to 3:30 PM, in the Community Baptist Church in Florence.



The morning session will focus on leadership and structure of the ODRC as our momentum grows. We will also have a conversation around the planning direction and efforts currently underway on the dunes. Then in the afternoon, we will have updates from all of our working groups followed by time for those groups to meet. We are encouraging new members and the public to find a project that interests you and join a working group.

All are welcome to attend! Please bring a lunch if you are planning on staying for the entire day. The Church is on Highway 101 across from the Fred Meyer in Florence.

For more information, email info@saveoregondunes.org



Working Group Updates

Communications & Outreach - We have given presentations this past month to the Reedsport Rotary Club, Many Rivers Group of the Sierra Club (Eugene chapter), and the Coos County Board of Commissioners. Thanks to all of these groups for having us!

We were also able to talk to more than 100 people about the dunes at the first of the [National Geographic Live](#) speaker series in Eugene. We will have an educational table at the next two talks as well, on January 29th and February 26th. You can use code OREGONDUNES20 to receive 20% off the standard ticket price.

Volunteering - The last work party for 2018 was held the first week of December. Nine volunteers braved the cold to pull Scotch broom at the Lagoon Campground. We've worked at that site several times and have now removed most of the broom. Good work everyone!!

During January and February, our work parties will happen less frequently due to weather. Please fill out our volunteer [contact form](#) online to stay updated.

Education - As mentioned above, we're excited to strengthen our educational programs with the help of Ecology in Classrooms and Outdoors in 2019. We will also continue to work over the winter developing a children's activity book.

Monitoring - The monitoring group met in late November to discuss what strategies we will pursue in 2019. Ideas being discussed include developing protocols for photo-point monitoring, recruiting and training volunteers, and new aerial photography. The group will have a more concrete proposal developed before the February ODRC meeting.

Funding - The funding group met in early December to review what requests our other working groups had submitted. Team members then divided themselves into focus areas and are now identifying which grants we will be pursuing in 2019.

Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) - THE CWMA group is finalizing a grant application that will fund removal of gorse from multiple locations within the dunes.

The afternoon of the February 15th ODRC meeting will be reserved for working groups to get together. Feel free to join a working group if any of these projects interest you!

Volunteer of the Month



Jody Phillips (L) showing off the Signal Tree project along with USFS staff

Some of the heaviest lifting done by volunteers often happens behind the scenes. Jody Phillips is one such example. Jody helped form the group [Save the Riders Dunes \(STRD\)](#) as a way for the local OHV community to have a unified voice around land management issues. STRD has done a lot to raise awareness about the loss of open riding areas due to beach grass and other invasive plants. Jody and STRD helped with the restoration of the famous Signal Tree and have coordinated many other volunteer events for OHVs to help remove invasive species. Last but not least he even helps with our Funding working group to secure grants for projects in the dunes! Thanks for all that you do Jody!!

Did you Know? - Stories in Stone

Did you know that our National Forests contain far more than just trees? Ice caves, lava flows, and dunes (of course, dunes!) are found in National Forests across our country. The Forest Service released the interactive "Stories in Stone" website earlier this year. You can use it to learn more about the geology of our National Forests, including the Oregon Dunes!

[Click here to explore!](#)

Upcoming Events:

1/29 - [Nat Geo Live!](#) Hult Center, Eugene. 7:30 PM
use discount code OREGONDUNES20 for 20% off!
2/15 - ODRC Public Meeting. 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM.
Community Baptist Church, Florence

Work Parties will pick back up in 2019 depending on weather.
Check on our [Events](#) page for a full list and to stay informed.



[Sign up to Volunteer!](#)

Thinking of Holiday Giving?

Are you thinking about making a gift to a nonprofit or charity this holiday season? Why not consider the ODRC and help fund the work we are doing to Save the Oregon Dunes! If you would like to make a donation to continue the work to protect and restore the Oregon dunes, please [visit our website](#).

Connect with us on Social Media

Remember to [Like us on Facebook](#) and [follow us on Instagram](#).



www.saveoregondunes.org

