

Oregon Dunes Restoration Collaborative Meeting Minutes – October 5th, 2018

Updates:

NEPA status

- Currently in planning for the first project that will be undertaken under NEPA after the Dunes Strategy.
- We are analyzing three potential scenarios: taking no action; our proposed action (a subset of projects from the Strategy meeting all of the restoration goals); and an intensive approach conserving wildlife habitat and meeting 2 of our 3 restoration goals
 - Will be analyzing these three alternatives over the next half month
- EA will be released in December or early January; public comment period in February; final decision in March
- We are not sure how the listing of the Humboldt Marten will affect the NEPA process. One of the alternatives (intensive approach) was built to directly address this issue.
- This is a priority of the USFS

Communications and Outreach

- Outreach efforts and timeline have been dictated by the Travel Oregon grant
 - Printing and distribution of collateral materials were delayed: we wanted to ensure the website was up and running, and the books were printed, before distributing brochures.
 - Submitted midterm report and Travel Oregon was fine with adjusted timeline
 - Final report is due in October and we have spent basically all of the funds
- Collateral materials have been distributed, mostly in Florence area but a bit in Coos Bay, and are being tracked on Google spreadsheet
- We have gotten lots of good new coverage, including cover story in Eugene Weekly
 - News stories are also being tracked on spreadsheet and will be posted on website
- Andy continues to set-up media stories but relies on the experts in the group for interviews and content
- Strategic plan books are now \$10 suggested donation to cover printing costs
 - They are available at Visitor's Centers in Florence, Eugene, and Springfield
- Thank-you cards have been printed and are being sent to anyone who has donated so far
 - They come perforated, so the other half can be used as a postcard
- Jeff has launched social media pages – "Save the Oregon Dunes" on Facebook and Instagram
- Thanks to USFS for paying for the RARE placement
 - We did not budget for his travel, so are trying to figure out how to use leftover grants or other funds to cover Jeff's mileage to and from the coast
 - If anyone has ideas of how to fund his mileage, talk to Andy
- Presenting at Florence City Council on 10/8 to introduce Jeff

Working group needs?

- More help distributing materials. We want to be strategic about where we place brochures because we have a limited supply, but if you have ideas or contacts (especially in southern areas of dunes), or want to help distribute brochures, talk to Andy and Jeff

Volunteers

- Distributed his report for FY 18 volunteers
 - Highlights: 1235 volunteer hours valued at \$30,492.15
 - 18 work parties at 8 different locations; 4 outreach tables at events; 4 presentations to civic groups; other volunteer hours doing outreach via media and distributing brochures
- First work party for FY 19 will be 10/13 at Heceta Head
 - For work parties throughout the winter, Bill will make the decision based on weather and will send out emails on Friday to confirm or cancel
- We received a grant from the USFS “Old Smokies” for \$2,000 to supplement outreach materials. We have about \$900 left.
- Bill is looking into how to get a youth conservation or prison crew to pull invasives for 10 weeks
- Thank you, Bill, for coordinating the work parties and tracking all of the hours!

Working group needs?

- Continue to spread the word about the work parties.
- If your working group or project needs volunteers (not just pulling weeds, think grant-writing, giving presentations, etc...) talk to Bill and Jeff

Education

- Educational presentations given, potential future locations and events, are in the Google Doc
- Education working group has identified its funding needs
- We have identified the need to develop materials for specific audiences
 - economic data and impacts for civic groups, chamber presentations
 - the “story” of the dunes for general audience
 - items specific to user groups (hikers, OHV, others?)
- We are making standardized powerpoint presentations so that volunteers can be taught to give a simple presentation. If you have made any sort of dunes presentation, please give your slides to Jeff
- Donation of \$5,000 will be coming in! \$3K for tools and \$2K for education
 - We can also leverage this amount as cash-in-hand for future grant writing
- Upcoming presentations:
 - Oregon Wild Wednesday, 10/10 – pub talk at Claim 52 Brewing, Eugene
 - Reedsport Rotary club, 11/29
 - Coos History Museum Tuesday lecture series – sometime in spring/summer 2019

Working group needs?

- A committee chair! Dina is overbooked right now, and her expertise is education, not necessarily the coordinating of a committee. Jeff and Dina will co-chair for the time being, but we need to find a committed volunteer for this role
- Help w/ content for website and social media – will be asking experts for advice on some topics
- Ability to conference call; potential volunteers can’t drive to Florence or get more involved in committee. Jeff will set up conference call system for this year

Monitoring

- Monitoring working group decided upon three focus areas to monitor:
 - social perspectives – will measure if the public is aware and learning about the dunes
 - will track and assess effectiveness of education and outreach efforts
 - site-specific treatments – will measure which treatments worked and effectiveness
 - will also measure affects on wildlife

- landscape processes – will measure how the landscape is changing in treated vs. untreated areas
 - will measure rate of change of the landscape

Working group needs?

- Need to meet or conference call ASAP to determine next steps
- Will be coordinating with all other working groups soon to figure out what data to collect and what on-the-ground methods we may have to use
- Eventually will write reports that can then be used for future education and outreach
- Baseline data – there is some but not too much and we are unaware of scope or scale of existing data
 - Mostly there are before/after pictures
- Once the EA is finished, we will know what about what we will be doing and therefore what we will need to monitor
- At minimum, we will establish photo points, then determine what other technical approaches are needed

Funding

- Funding group has developed a funding needs form and is working on a list of potential funding sources
 - Then we will match potential sources to needs/projects.
 - Many grants, especially for larger projects, must wait until the EA is complete
- USFS has already completed some EAs
 - They will look to see if there is any flexibility / what can we work on that is covered under current EAs
- Successes so far – funding for RARE placement
- Will reconvene when Jeff U returns from vacation

Working group needs?

- Other working groups need to fill out funding needs form and prioritize their needs
- Will need input / help writing grants when we are ready to pursue them

CWMA

- Last met as a group in April, but is continuing technical work and advising volunteer working group on invasive removals
- \$25,000 budgeted for restoration projects in Baker Beach
- Will be submitting a grant to Oregon Department of Agriculture in December for broom removal
- Will connect to Save the Riders Dunes and other volunteer groups to continue advising them
- Can work with monitoring group to develop tracking for site-specific treatment areas

Working group needs?

- Needs to meet again, and will set-up a meeting before the end of October

Wildlife Report

- USFWS has recommended the Humboldt Marten be listed as endangered
 - There will be a 60 day public comment period
 - Not sure how this will affect our NEPA review and projects, but don't foresee a huge shift in our approach

- Good nesting season for plovers this year! Final data will be released in December or January
 - Plovers seen at Baker Beach again. Historically they nested there, they did not for ~10 years, but have been returning over the last 4-5 years. 9 chicks hatched at Baker Beach; most since monitoring began in 1993
- Holman Viewpoint – used to be able to see the ocean but growing foredune has blocked the view
 - This could be a great project location and would be very visible to the public
 - Good place for interpretive panels and/or monitoring photo point

RARE

- Jeff M has just started an 11 month placement through the RARE / AmeriCorps program to work with the collaborative
 - Housed at Travel Lane County's office in Eugene
- Will be working to help the Collaborative build capacity and set up any systems that it can use moving forward
- He will be checking in with each working group, meeting with them as needed, and helping them accomplish their goals
- Jeff has created a Google Drive that will house folders for each working group and will be sharing that with everyone
- Social media pages were launched in September and will be kept up throughout the year
- Jeff will take Andy's existing monthly email and develop it into a full e-newsletter
- Jeff will also coordinate the next field trip
 - Spring or Summer 2019
 - Will target elected officials and anyone else we want to be aware of our efforts

New Siuslaw National Forest supervisor

- Has recently arrived from the Coconino National Forest in Flagstaff
 - Smooth transition to Oregon so far!
- Background is in hydrology
- Collaboration is at the top of his values. How we work is as important as what we are doing
- ODRC is a great example of the type of initiatives that USFS should be supporting
- Keep up the good work!

Other

- USFS regional ecology group will be in the Siuslaw National Forest and will take them out on a tour of the dunes
- We need to put all of the funds raised by various groups in one concise list
- Offices of Senators Merkley and Wyden are happy to write letters of support for future grants
- Books: Dina has a partial box, and the Forest Service has 1 full box left
 - Reprinting more books is on hold until Lisa Romano is back, and until the exact wording of language involving the Confederated Tribes is decided upon