

Oregon Dunes Restoration Collaborative

Monitoring Working Group Meeting Minutes- April 29, 11:00am

The purpose of the monitoring working group is to monitor or coordinate monitoring of the work of the Oregon Dunes Restoration Collaborative on social understanding, economic impacts, treatment effects, and effects on landscape components and patterns. Our objectives include developing key monitoring questions and ways to answer them, collect and share information, and recommend any needed changes to ongoing efforts by the ODRC.

Agenda/notes:

- **Determine leadership and meeting needs for this work group**
 - Chandra needs to spend less time on this
 - Jeff M: some of the monitoring needs are pretty long-term, perhaps an ODRC staff person could coordinate/organize meetings and protocols. Jeff U: monitoring WORK could be done by staff and interns. Jeff M. could set up next meeting before his position ends. Then work with new RARE or other staff person when we know how that shakes out.
 - Any volunteers available to be a “lead”? Jeff M will reach out to students and volunteers to see if anyone available.
- **Discuss coordination needs and tasks with other ODRC working groups**
 - Monitoring group can communicate over e-mail with other groups on integrating work plans.
 - **Annual report** is a great tool for showing our progress. Monitoring group can help contribute to that, and use to illustrate change over time.
 - **Photo sharing:** Jeff M will set up a Flickr site so everyone can share and utilize photos. Should have instructions for tagging/labeling, filing photos for good organization.
 - **Fundraising:** Identify monitoring needs that could be funded, work with group to seek funds, etc.
 - Jeff U. suggests that funders very interested in diversity and inclusivity. We need to have info on the communities the ODRC serves, who is involved, and how our work benefits diverse communities. Information gap? See Socio-economic section below.
 - Fundraising committee needs very specific funding needs identified. Equipment, printing, staff time, events, etc. Jeff M. did add some things to fundraising spreadsheet - those are still in there. Can do more work to flesh out, especially via a work plan.
 - Photos will help us make our case for fundraising, not just help us with treatment monitoring.
 - Jeff U.: Any grant sources we know of specifically for monitoring work? Please let him know.
 - **Education & Outreach:** Develop or deploy survey for general knowledge
 - Interest from Education and Outreach committee in doing this. Need to figure out a bit more of what we want to learn, how to deploy a survey.
 - Cyndi had some success doing online social media survey.
 - Are we most interested in learning more about the general public or people we reach?

- **Volunteers:** How can volunteers at work parties participate in monitoring (such as pre and post-work party photos, photo points, etc)
 - Are there existing photos being taken? Yes, informally. Need to make more formal - instructions for how/where to take, what to do with them afterward.
 - Volunteers can “adopt” locations. Marty happy to. Get a few more signed on.
- **Discuss monitoring protocol development**
 - **Photo points** (list of places, timing, method, etc)
 - Armand will develop/tighten up for USFS work and share
 - We can work with Bill and other leaders on volunteer work parties. Log GPS locations, before and after. Need to tighten up protocol.
 - List priority sites - “save the best” - to get volunteers to adopt
 - Drone footage - could use some funding, protocol for flight paths. Need to develop this more. Maybe utilize training programs/students. Need to find out USFS rules.
 - **Treatments spreadsheet** (what to capture, who report to, etc)
 - Armand developing new spreadsheet using needs identified in November meeting. In progress.
 - **Socio-economic**
 - Communities, diversity information needed. Find out who we are serving/reaching, etc. Add to Socio-econ monitoring questions? Do survey of ODRC participants. Use volunteer form that asks demographic questions? Can highlight our work collaborating with tribes (Armand working with on projects)
 - Education: What questions to ask?
 - Do you know the biggest issues facing the dunes?
 - Outreach: Ask people how they heard about the event. Have a short card/survey at every event (or just part of sign-in form).
 - Utilize rangers at rec sites: how? short survey on info tables?
 - Develop our own ODRC form? How record info from people and where - spreadsheet recording event/date/response? Use ODRC website form?

Next major steps:

- From all of the above, develop “work plan” for group

Our monitoring questions from November 2018 meeting:

a. Socio-Economic–

Desired outcomes: Understand how and if the ODRC’s education and outreach efforts are having desired impacts, and how the ODRC’s work is affecting the local economy.

- i. Are education and outreach efforts working?
 1. How would this be determined? Ask “Have you heard of...?” “How did you hear about...?”
 2. Ask education and outreach work groups what they would want to learn.
 3. This question would be explored through a survey or poll. Web-based or in person? Consider using field rangers for implementation.

- ii. What are public perceptions/knowledge of dunes work?
 - 1. Consider different goals and outcomes of asking local communities versus visitors. How would questions be different considering these different groups?
 - 2. How would the answers to this change our work? Would it help inform our education efforts?
 - 3. This question would be explored through a survey or poll. Web-based or in person? Consider using field rangers for implementation.
- iii. What are the economic impacts of dunes restoration? Including tourism, visitation, and restoration-related jobs.
 - 1. This question would be explored through research and compilation of existing data.
 - 2. Consider putting together a survey using the Oregon Coast Visitors Association report on marine reserves

b. Treatment—

Desired outcomes: Develop best practices for site-specific treatments based on monitoring of use of various treatments, and determine if the dunes restoration goal of restoring site-specific conditions and processes is being achieved.

- i. Questions:
 - 1. How much and what are we doing out there?
 - a. Keep data of all treatments so can look back on, learn from
 - b. See info on spreadsheet in agenda notes
 - 2. How effective was a specific treatment in reaching the goal?
 - a. What are the native and/or invasive plant response?
 - 3. How did treatment affect or impact wildlife use?
 - a. Use/compile existing monitoring info on plovers and martens
 - b. Consider doing tiger beetle monitoring—good way to engage volunteers, and not much info on these critters
 - 4. What treatments are most effective to remove invasives/increase open sand/increase native species?
 - a. Look at past treatment results and make notes in spreadsheet
- ii. Methods:
 - 1. Transects or plots—
 - a. Prioritize where and how many of these to do, considering types of treatments, diversity of locations, etc.
 - b. Utilize volunteers at big event to do? (Bio-blitz type event, utilize CWMA partners, public)
 - c. Develop protocol for doing this type of monitoring
 - 2. Photo points
 - 3. Pre- and post-work party descriptions and photos
 - a. Develop training/protocol for collection for volunteer work party leaders

c. Landscape—

Desired outcomes: Understand how the landscape is changing over time, and if the dunes restoration goals of preserving the best and restoring landscape-scale natural processes are being achieved.

i. Questions:

1. How, and how fast, is the landscape changing without any treatments?
 - a. Consider documenting different ecosystem elements (open dunes, invasive communities, foredune, deflation plain, etc)
 - b. Utilize work being done for EA that is looking at rate of change in 5 areas.
2. How is the landscape changing with treatments?
 - a. Consider looking at the response of some specific species like sand verbena and plover
 - b. Consider looking at where and to what extent we have we stopped the march of grass in treated areas
3. How successful are our efforts for “Preserve the best” goal of ODRC?
 - a. Could have volunteers adopting a “best” area for long-term monitoring
4. Are there any new invasives or other issues that develop at a landscape level over time?

ii. Methods:

1. Use existing (past) aerial photography and plan for future flights to get new aerial images
2. Vista photo points
 - a. List best places to locate points
 - b. Develop protocol for taking photos (direction, time of year, etc) and for file organization
 - c. Utilize volunteers or staff in “adopt a vista” program
3. Utilize volunteers who “adopt” preserve-the-best locations
 - a. Develop protocol for this monitoring effort