

**Oregon Dunes Restoration Collaborative  
Meeting Minutes – 5/10/19**

**Staffing and Developing the Leadership of the ODRC**

- To recap: at the 2/15 meeting, the group voted to apply for a second year of the RARE program
- News since 2/15:
  - Application for the RARE program submitted in April
    - Job description is basically the same as this year: capacity building for ODRC; help working groups; social media & outreach; recruit volunteers
    - Jeff M will not be staying as a RARE intern but will help with the transition
    - Travel Lane County has meeting with RARE staff on 5/16 to discuss hosting 2<sup>nd</sup> year intern
    - There will be a future opportunity to tweak the job description if needed
    - Funding must be committed (not necessarily in hand) by July
  - ODRC Staff – coordinator position
    - A grant opportunity (Landscape Conservation Catalyst Fund) to fund staffing came to the funding group's attention this spring
    - With a very short deadline, the funding group + Cascade Pacific decided to pursue this grant
    - Staff position would focus on creating a strategic plan; other capacity building; community engagement; and fundraising
    - Grant decision is in August; potential staff could start Fall / Winter 2019

**Grants Submitted**

- AmeriCorps NCCC team – 2 weeks of a youth corps to remove invasive species
  - Unsuccessful, but very positive feedback
  - Reapply in Fall / Winter 2019
- Collins Foundation
  - Ask - \$51,287 over 2 years
  - To fund – RARE intern position, incl. travel reimbursement; misc. communications expenses; 1 week youth corps work
  - LOI submitted in April; approved 5/7
    - Were asked to reduce request to \$41,000 but feedback is sounds promising
    - Jeff M will create a reduced budget to fit within their 41K parameter
  - Funding decision not until August
  - RARE needs a decision by July – Andy and Jeff M will discuss potential late start date with RARE staff
  - If the RARE intern could start in October, that would align with USFS fiscal year
- Ford Family Foundation
  - Ask - \$10,000 for RARE program (dedicated grant)
  - Submitted in April
  - Decision in June / pending RARE program approval
  - Can reapply in future years as long as we have/want a RARE intern

- Landscape Conservation Catalyst Fund
  - Ask - \$22,000 for a staff coordinator position
  - Pre-proposal submitted in April
  - If invited to submit a full application; due in June
  - Final decision in August and funds almost immediately available
  - Will require ODRC to raise ~\$15,000 in matching funds
    - Can USFS or other staff time count as in-kind for this grant?
    - Yes, but only up to half (\$11,000) and would have to be collaborating on projects
    - Title 2 funds could be another option – if the staff person is working on projects with/on the Forest
    - Also need to look into county / state sources for matching funds
- Jordan Cove LNG Grant Program
  - Ask - \$5,000 for educational video and additional printing costs
  - Submitted 5/1; decision in June

### **Discussion – Jordan Cove LNG and the Oregon Dunes**

- The Jordan Cove project is obviously a complex and contentious issue; adjacent to the dunes
- The Forest Service won't be taking an official stance and cannot get involved in any decision-making process, but encourages ODRC to make a decision on where the groups stands
- Would taking funding from Jordan Cove impact other sources of funding who may consider giving to us?
- What about other sources of potentially controversial funding?
- How will ODRC decide in the future what funds to apply for or not?
- Should we wait until a final permitting/approval decision on Jordan Cove has been made?
- Since they are still "lobbying" – would it look like we are supporting them if we accept funds at this time?
- Would it be more appropriate to wait and if the project is approved and built, and if/when it is an established business in the community, then we ask for funding?
- What about Congressional appropriations?
  - Oregon's federal delegation has made it clear they are opposed to Jordan Cove
  - So, if we are going to seek Federal appropriations, should we avoid Jordan Cove?
- Decision – withdraw the current grant application
  - Add Jordan Cove as an agenda item for future meetings – consider recreational impacts and monitoring questions if it is approved

### **Upcoming Grant Opportunities**

- Juan Young Memorial Trust
  - \$5,000 - \$10,000 for youth related projects
  - We listed JYMT as potential match for Collins Foundation
  - November 1 deadline for outdoor projects; funds available spring 2020
  - Will be applying for 1-2 weeks youth corps work
- Charlotte Martin Foundation
  - Up to \$35,000 for youth related or restoration projects
  - Also a potential match for Collins Foundation
  - Can apply for 1-2+ weeks of youth corps work
  - Fall/Winter deadline

- Oregon Community Foundation
  - Up to \$20,000 of very broad funding
  - Could be used for future RARE or staff position; outreach items; youth corps; or larger restoration projects
  - 2 deadlines annually – January and July
  - In person meeting – OCF representative expressed desire to see more engagement with local businesses, and with the Confederated Tribes
    - OCF will not be the first funder at the table – have to secure other grants / matching funds first
    - OCF is a donor advised fund – even if we do not get a grant, an individual who gives to OCF may see our project and be interested in donating themselves
  - Random drawing for \$2,500 in general operating expenses each cycle – all who apply are eligible
  - Should apply in the future when we have a stronger application and matching funds secured
- Three Rivers Foundation and Coquille Tribal Community Funds
  - ~\$5,000 of broad applicability
  - Could apply in the future for youth corps work
  - Fall and Winter deadlines
- Local Rotary Clubs and Civic Organizations
  - Potential source of matching funds for larger grants
  - Need to apply sooner rather than later
    - District level of Rotary clubs are soon deciding on their matching grants
- Can also draft request to local businesses and municipalities
- Old Smokey's Grant
  - Can reapply in the future after the EA process complete
- Ford Family Foundation – Technical Assistance Grants
  - \$5,000 for capacity building activities
  - Can only be used to hire a consultant for a specific project or training
  - Could apply to help write a strategic plan or other needed documents if we do not get any funding sources for staff position or RARE intern

### **Funding Opportunities – USFS**

- Stewardship Funds – for restoration work
  - Could work with SNF to expand existing invasive removal or plover habitat projects
  - OR to help expand ODRC volunteer work
  - Could help pay for staff if that position includes working on restoration projects
  - Also potential for youth corps work
- Secure Rural Schools
  - Potential source of youth corps funding and/or a staff position to supervise
  - Local board must first be formed; then there will be a call for projects
  - That potential board member list has been submitted but not approved yet
  - Unsure of timeline of when next steps will be
- Oregon Dunes CWMA has applied for \$46,000 for 2020 from restoration funds available

## **Fiscal Sponsorship Agreement**

- When the ODRC was formed, it was agreed that the group would exist under the fiscal sponsorship of Cascade Pacific RC&D
  - CPRCD signs a fiscal sponsorship agreement with each of the various collaboratives that it works with
  - At the time of ODRC's founding, we had no grant applications pending nor any plans to apply for grants, so the agreement was put off for time being
- Now that ODRC is actively applying for grants, this fiscal sponsorship agreement is necessary to submit to most grantors
- In order to submit the Collins Foundation grant on time, ODRC's fundraising working group leader signed the Fiscal Sponsorship Agreement on behalf of the entire ODRC
  - Heads of each working group approved
- Full fiscal sponsorship agreement will be made available along with these meeting minutes
- ODRC needs to develop a system to announce and vote quickly on these issues
  - When grants or other legal/financial decisions are made – who needs to be notified and how do we vote?
  - What about active participation? If an individual or organization has not attended anything in months, do they still get a vote?
  - Need for a steering committee – to handle these types of leadership decisions when they arise

## **ODRC Capacity Building**

- What pieces of a successful organization are already in place?
- What else is needed and how do we get there?
- The ODRC can continue under the fiscal sponsorship of CPRCD until further notice
  - Many collaboratives / groups much older than ODRC are still working under the fiscal sponsorship model
- Becoming a 501c3 has many pros and cons; and is not a "magic bullet" to solve organizational and funding challenges
- Think of these recommendations as "how do we become a robust organization?" not "how do we become a 501c3?"
- What pieces/items does ODRC have in place right now?
  - Name
  - Mission Statement
  - Scope of Work
  - Fiscal Sponsorship Agreement
  - Bank accounts
  - Sub-committees
  - Staff (currently RARE intern)
- What items are in progress?
  - Accounting / financial systems
  - Governance model / leadership structure
  - Strategy / action plan
  - Volunteer plan
  - Job descriptions

- What has the group not started yet that it should consider?
  - Articles of Incorporation
  - By-laws
  - Board or formal steering committee
  - Measurable and time-restrained goals, objectives, and action items
  - Fundraising plan
  - Staffing plan
  - HR / personnel / record keeping policies
- Highest Priorities:
  - 3-5 year strategic plan that includes measurable action items
  - Action plans for each working group
  - Formal steering committee
    - Current working group leaders can work on job description/roles for this committee
  - Fundraising & sustainability plan
  - Staff needs & position descriptions
  - Current RARE intern can produce report of how his time was spent

#### **USFS and NEPA updates**

- The public comment period for the draft EA opened on 5/9
- Later this year, the final EA and draft decision will be released, followed by a 45 day objection period
- Only those who submitted comments during the initial scoping period or during this current comment period, will have standing to file objections at that time
- If there are any objections, there will be a discussion process around those
- Hopefully by end of calendar year the final decision will be signed
- ODRC will email the announcement to its mailing list, post on social media, etc...
  - ODRC will not itself submit a comment but will encourage others to submit comments
  - Maps of original and proposed actions will be posted on Save the Oregon Dunes website
- General update on the listing of the Marten
  - US Fish and Wildlife Service has not released a timeline of when they'll make a decision
  - USFWS has not gotten back to the Forest Service regarding what metrics they should be using to measure impacts on the Marten
- Other questions for the Forest Service:
  - Q: What about Scotch broom that is out in the dunes, but it outside of the proposed EA?
    - A: Maybe – if those areas are identified in older/existing EAs for treatment
  - Q: Can we (volunteers) manually pull broom anywhere we find it?
    - A: No, unless we ask/approve that location first
    - ODRC will create a map showing where volunteers are/have been working and will send to USFS to confirm where volunteers can work
  - Q: How can the ODRC help increase the capacity of the Forest Service for restoration work?
    - A: Grants – we can help find funding/write grants for restoration projects covered under older EAs or under the new EA
- ODRC can also sponsor/help organize public meetings about the NEPA process (for informational purposes)
- Further clarification is needed on the “40% cover of nonnative vegetation” standard

- How do we determine what can or cannot be removed, and how is that 40% target going to be measured?
- Potentially a field trip to look at some of these sites would be the best approach to think through these ideas

### **Working Group Updates**

- Vote – should we recombine the Communications & Outreach working group with the Education working group?
- Decision – yes

### **Communications & Outreach (and now Education)**

- Since February 15<sup>th</sup> meeting, group has tabled at Florence Home & Garden Show and during Earth Day
- Media coverage for Earth Day events in Siuslaw News and Coos Bay World
- Articles about ODRC in spring issues of Coast Explorer magazine and Eugene Magazine
- Upcoming outreach:
  - Presentation to Oregon House Committee on Natural Resources – May 16<sup>th</sup> (rescheduled for 23<sup>rd</sup>)
    - What sort of things should we be asking for at a State level?
    - How can we get involvement from State Parks and other stakeholders?
    - Is there a potential for joint projects on Forest Service and State Parks land?
    - In CWMA stewardship funds proposal – there are 2 potential treatment sites adjacent to Honeyman State Park
    - There is plenty of work to do in Honeyman as well
    - State Parks also owns the North Jetty in Florence
- Meeting with Douglas County Commissioner Tom Kress – May 30<sup>th</sup> or 31<sup>st</sup> TBD
- We will continue to plan a field trip for elected officials/stakeholders this summer or fall
  - Congressional staff have told us it is still too early to ask for Senators/Reps schedules
- Brochure Redesign
  - We've updated our brochures and rack card to include an image of an OHV on the front of the rack card, and of an OHV and of hikers inside the brochure
  - Updated logos to include new funders
  - We are basically out of the first printing of brochures and need to restock prior to summer
- Vote – should we use ODRC funds to purchase more brochures and rack cards, and other outreach items?
- Decision – yes
  - Approval to spend ~\$2,000 on outreach supplies
  - Will draft a budget of these items ASAP
  - Travel Lane County can make the purchase and then be reimbursed

## Education

- Since February 15<sup>th</sup> meeting, have given public presentations at Southwestern Oregon Community College and at 7 Devils Brewery in Coos Bay
- Also gave a training session to employees of Sand Dunes Frontier
  - We may approach Sandland Adventures and see if they are interested in an educational training
  - Sand Dunes Frontier's plans for an interpretive nature trail seem to be on hold as they continue to rebuild from the fire last fall
- Upcoming educational events:
  - Presentation at Coos History Museum – June 4<sup>th</sup>
  - Field Trip to Dunes Day Use Area with UO Museum of Natural History – June 27<sup>th</sup>
- ODRC education volunteers may also be helping with orientation/training for new seasonal USFS rangers
- Video Project
  - This working group has discussed creating an educational video to tell the story of the dunes and increase outreach/engagement efforts
  - A draft script was written and a USFS volunteer who helped write some of the content for *Restoring Oregon's Dunes* will be helping edit the script
  - Two videographers have helped us film our two Earth Day events
    - That work was done in-kind, but we'll need to pay them for the full production of the video
- Vote – do we want to pursue creating a short education video, at a cost of ~\$2,000
- Decision – yes, but after other outreach materials are purchased first
  - Look for grants or donations from local sources to pay for video

## Fundraising

- Working group has been very busy writing all of the grants described above
- We will need Letters of Support for the Collins Foundation grant ASAP
- We are also still considering the Federal Appropriations process and will follow up with our Congressional contacts to learn when/how to apply

## Monitoring

- After recent working group meetings; two largest needs are to develop a work plan for monitoring activities, and find a volunteer for long-term leadership of this group
- Have just drafted a spreadsheet and instructions to collect before/after photos from volunteer work parties and other restoration work
- ODRC now has a Flickr page
  - <https://www.flickr.com/photos/156675904@N03/albums>
  - Currently has photos from older work parties
  - As we develop photo point monitoring procedures, volunteers can upload photos to Flickr page
- Longer term, considering developing a survey to measure impacts/effectiveness of education and outreach efforts
- May also pursue funding/resources for drone or aerial photography

## **Volunteer Management**

- Thus far in FY 19:
  - 884 hours of volunteer labor, valued at \$19,319.93
  - 119 for communications/outreach; 53 for education; 103 for fundraising; 6 for monitoring; and 603 in volunteer work parties
- Work parties since February 15<sup>th</sup> meeting include Heceta Dunes, Waxmyrtle Campground, Dellenback Dunes, and Honeyman State Park
  - Attendance has been from 5-22 volunteers per work party
- Upcoming work parties: May 20<sup>th</sup>, June 1<sup>st</sup>
- Power of Florence – community wide volunteer event is Saturday, July 20<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 to Noon
- Mapleton School 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be working at the Oregon Dunes Day Use Area
- We have sent an email to various departments at University of Oregon to try to recruit volunteers for leadership or technical positions (i.e. monitoring group coordinator); and will also reach out to OSU

## **Appendix A: Maps of Proposed Treatment Areas under Environmental Assessment**

The proposed treatment areas are broken down into North (Baker Beach), Central, and South areas  
Each area is covered under its own map, which are large .pdf files

To view the maps, please visit:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=52946>

Maps of the original proposed treatment areas are found under the “Assessment” tab

Maps of the revised proposal are found under “Analysis”