



SAVE THE DUNES OREGON

The Newsletter of the Oregon Dunes Restoration Collaborative
November 2019

Upcoming Events:

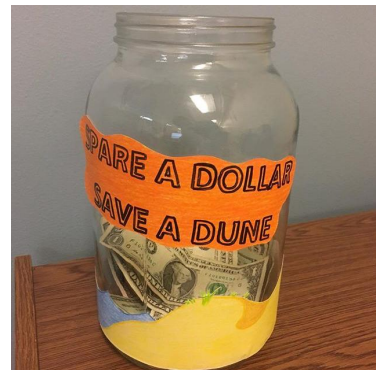
[11/21/19- ODRC Tabling Event at the Cape Perpetua Land-Sea Symposium](#)

[11/24/19- ODRC Tabling Event at the Hult Center's National Geographic Live Series](#)

Now Accepting PayPal Donations!

We can now accept donations via PayPal! You can donate to our fiscal sponsor, Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation & Development, to contribute towards ODRC fundraising efforts. Feel free to forward this email or share the link on social media.

[Donate Here!](#)



Working Group Updates

Communications, Outreach, & Education- The ODRC has had a busy start to the Fall with a number of different communication and outreach events. Last month, two ODRC members, Andy Vobora and Brian Saunders spoke with KCST radio to give them an update on the collaborative and this year's goals.

[Listen to the interview here:](#) Andy and Brian begin speaking at 58 minutes and 55 seconds in and their interview ends at the 1:11:55 mark. Thanks again, KCST!

In early November, Brian Saunders gave a presentation on the ODRC and the Oregon dunes at the Cape Perpetua Visitor Center's Fall Speaker Series. The audience remained engaged throughout the presentation which allowed for a thoughtful 15-20 minute discussion at the end. We were happy to see that a number of audience members left with copies of our dune restoration book and left behind generous donations in our donation jar.

On November 15th, Amanda Slee from KMTR met with members Bill Blackwell and Brian

Saunders at the Sandtracks Picnic area in the Coos Bay/North Bend area. KMTR was interested in covering a story on the ODRC so we thought it would be a great opportunity to show people what we do. Amanda, Bill and Brian started the day off at Sandtracks Picnic area with two interviews and a demonstration on how to pull invasive species such as Scotch Broom and beach grass from the sand. From there, the three moved on over to Wild Mare Campground to look at the Scotch Broom which would then be removed the very next day. The group ended the day by taking a trip to Horsfall Beach to look at the large fore dune and deflation plain.

[Click here to watch the story!](#)



Above: Amanda Slee with KMTR interviews Bill Blackwell, Volunteer Chair of the ODRC

FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITY

In 2018-19, Eugene's Hult Center for the Performing Arts hosted a three-part National Geographic series and invited non-profits to table at each presentation. Discounted tickets were made available to these non-profits to encourage attendance. In 2019-20, the series is back and the ODRC will again table at the presentations. What's new this year is that the ODRC will have the opportunity to earn \$5 for each ticket we facilitate selling. We will receive a code that ticket buyers will use, so watch for more information about this code and when tickets go on sale. The series kicks off with [Social by Nature](#) on November 24, 2019. [Clicking here](#) will bring you to the ticket page. Use the code **ODRC** to support the Oregon Dunes Restoration Collaborative.

Volunteering- Since the last newsletter, there have been five volunteer work parties, bringing the total to 31 for the calendar year. We had two work parties at Heceta Dunes, one at Sandtracks Picnic Area, one at Wild Mare Campground, and one at Honeyman State Park with the Siuslaw 7th grade Stream Team. Thank you to Chantelle Meyer from "The Siuslaw News" for the great article on the Honeyman State Park work party.

[Click here](#) for a link to the article!

A very big THANK YOU to all the great volunteers who have removed Scotch broom and gorse at the work parties over the last year! We are taking a well-deserved break for the holidays. We will start again in January or February as the weather allows to take on some more Scotch broom and gorse populations. We will be working at "Preserve the Best" areas that have native grasses and open sand, and at campgrounds since it is the "off season." Hope you can join us!

Funding- The ODRC is getting closer and closer to submitting their grant applications for 2020. We are currently working on three grants, but are constantly seeking out more

opportunities to apply for once these three are completed! Two of the three existing grants are aimed to help the development of a 2020-2025 strategic plan, and the third is to hire another intern for next year.

Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA)- ODCWMA continues to support dunes weed treatments via gorse control contract, volunteer weed-pull participation, and monitoring efforts. A draft long-term Dunes restoration implementation plan has been created that outlines priorities, anticipated cost and timelines. At our quarterly ODRC meeting in October, USFS Botanist Armand Rebischke presented these outlines and addressed some specific issues such as the ivy problem at various campgrounds. Over the next few months, the ODRC will work and build on this implementation plan as a guide to move forward with our efforts.

Monitoring- For some of the work parties, photo points are recorded with GPS, and before and after photos are taken. These sites can be monitored over time to see how the land and vegetation responds to the Scotch broom removal. By doing this, we can record data and sightings and use them to carefully plan our next move. Below are two before and after pictures from our work party at Honeyman State Park on November 6th!



Before



After

For more information, or if you are interested in joining any of our working groups, [email us here](#). We would love to have your help!

Wild and Scenic Rivers:

The Wild & Scenic Rivers Act, passed in 1968, preserves the character of rivers and streams designated in this federal system. Protection under the act ensures the free-flowing nature of designated streams, and protects a corridor that ensures the important

values of the streams are not degraded. (More about the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act: <https://www.rivers.gov/wsr-act.php>)

Senator Ron Wyden has long been a champion of wild rivers and lands in Oregon. He is currently [inviting all Oregonians to nominate new Wild and Scenic Rivers](#) for legislation he plans to introduce next year. In the Oregon Dunes, there are several streams that have significant natural values and are eligible for nomination. From north to south these are Lily and Berry Creeks, Sutton Creek, the Siltcoos River, Takenitch Creek, Threemile Creek, and Tenmile Creek. Importantly for the work of the ODRC, Wild & Scenic River designation would not prevent restoration work so long as it didn't negatively impact the outstandingly remarkable values the stream is designated for.

If anyone is interested, nominations can be sent to rivers@wyden.senate.gov by January 20, 2020. Include your name and address, what stream or streams you think deserve protection, and a few sentences on why you think it deserves protection (fish or wildlife, recreation, scenery, water quality, etc).



Above: Sutton Creek- Photo credit to Chandra LeGue

Volunteer of the Month- This month's Volunteers of the Month are Dan Morgan and Brett Marsden. Dan and Brett have been coming to work parties for over two years. When not at the work parties, Dan and Brett are often exploring Heceta Dunes on their fat-tired bikes. They have their own names for various places at Heceta Dunes. For example, currently we are working on an old fuel break that goes in northwest, southeast direction towards "Bear Valley," an area of sand surrounded by pine forest with only one path in and out.

Dan and Brett have helped out the work parties by searching out areas and determining if paths are passable or under water. They also help by bringing their friends and neighbors to the work parties!

ODRC would like to thank Dan and Brett for all of your hard work over the years. We greatly appreciate your help!



Above: Left to right- Dan Morgan and Brett Marsden

Did you know? Sand Fescue, also known as Red Fescue is native to the Oregon Dunes!

One great aspect of our ODRC work parties is that people are constantly learning something new. It is not rare for one of our volunteers to have a question about the ecological diversity among us. When we are out pulling Scotch Broom, gorse, and European beach grass, we can avoid the sand fescue. Unlike the Scotch Broom, sand and wind is able to pass through the fescue which keeps the sand moving inland.



Fescue Facts

- Primarily found on beaches, meadows, and streams along the Pacific Coast
- Growth occurs at low elevations
- Prefers moist to moderately dry soil

Connect with us on Social Media- Remember to like us on Facebook and to follow us on Instagram!



