



# SAVE THE DUNES OREGON

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The Newsletter of the Oregon Dunes Restoration Collaborative  
February 2020

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## Teamwork Makes the Dream Work!

The ODRC has teamed up with a group of graduate students at the University of Oregon to assist the collaborative in completing a 3-5 year strategic plan. The graduate students are enrolled in the school of Planning, Public Policy & Management (PPPM) and are a part of Bob Choquette's PPPM 426/526 Strategic Planning Course this Spring.

With the January release of the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Oregon Dunes Restoration Project, the next step for the ODRC is to develop a strategic plan with measurable goals, objectives and action items. The development of a strategic plan positions the ODRC to accomplish the EA's intended outcomes of improving and restoring ecological processes, native species and their habitats, and recreational conditions in the project area, as directed by the Dunes Management Plan (1994) and described in the Oregon Dunes Restoration Strategy (2018).

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### **Upcoming Events:**

**[2/29/2020- Education Expo at Siuslaw High School](#)**

**[3/01/2020- National Geographic Live Speaker Series](#)**

**[3/07/2020- Scotch Broom Removal Volunteer Work Party](#)**

**[3/21/2020- Scotch Broom Removal Volunteer Work Party](#)**

**[3/25/2020- Scotch Broom Removal Volunteer Work Party](#)**

**[4/04/2020- Gorse Plant Removal Volunteer Work Party](#)**



## Now Accepting PayPal Donations!

The ODRC accepts donations via PayPal! Donate to our fiscal sponsor, Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation & Development, to contribute towards ODRC fundraising efforts. Forward this email or share the link on social media to encourage others to support the efforts of the ODRC

[Donate Here!](#)



## FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITY

The third and final National Geographic Live presentation is on March 1st. Visit with ODRC staff at our table in the lobby of the Hult Center and remember that the ODRC earns \$5 for every ticket sold when the code "ODRC" is used to purchase a ticket. Award-Winning Photographer, Ami Vitale, will be giving her presentation on, "Rhinos, Rickshaws and Revolutions" from 2-4 p.m, so don't miss this last National Geographic show of 2019-2020. [Click here to visit the ticket page!](#)



*Our table at the Hult Center at the first of three National Geographic Live Speaker Series Events*

## Working Group Updates

### **Communications, Outreach, & Education-**

On February 1st, ODRC members Brian Saunders and Marty Stein gave a presentation to the Oregon Master Naturalist Program at the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge. It was a pleasure to speak to such an enthusiastic and engaging group who all have a strong passion for the stewardship of Oregon's natural resources.

The ODRC has loved being a part of the National Geographic Live Speaker Series events at the Hult Center in Eugene. We have tabled two events so far, and the third and final installment of this speaker series ends on March 1st. Come on by and chat with us to get all of the latest updates from the ODRC! We also have some pretty impressive books and informational brochures, packed with heaps of interesting information!



Andy Vobora, Chair of Education & Outreach had an interview with KXCR in January as



part of their Community Conversation series. [Give it a listen!](#)

**Volunteering-** Although the ODRC took a short Winter break from our volunteer work parties, it seems like forever ago since the group has teamed up on the dunes together! We may have gotten some invasive species' hopes up, however, come March 7th, the ODRC will be back right where we left off to tackle the spread of invasive Scotch Broom and Gorse.

Cant make it on March 7th? No worries at all! Our newly completed work party schedule has dates lined up all the way until August. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to come volunteer with us, so pick a date and share it with friends and family!

[Learn more about our upcoming events here!](#)

**Funding-** ODRC volunteers, Siuslaw Watershed Council, and Ecology in Classrooms and Outdoors (ECO) staff submitted State and Federal grant applications to fund education and restoration efforts at the Oregon Dunes. Additionally, in late February, members of the funding committee started working on an application through the Network for Landscape Conservation to fund another staffing position for 2020-2021.

On Wednesday, February 26th, ODRC members attended an Oregon Parks and Recreation Department Grant Programs (ODRP) meeting to learn about funding opportunities for the next two years. We left encouraged and will be evaluating which grants to pursue!

**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 Rebeschke 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.

Armand Rebeschke, USFS, and Troy Abercrombie, Cascade Pacific RC&D, submitted a grant request to the Oregon State Weed Board to treat 58 acres of gorse and Scotch broom at areas north of Florence and near Honeyman State Park. The grant will also provide funding for trailhead signs and printed educational materials that will be developed in partnership with the Gorse Action Group and the Oregon Dunes CWMA.

**Monitoring-** When doing any sort of restoration work, it is highly important to monitor the specific site that is being managed. Not following up, evaluating effectiveness, and tracking each stride along the way often leads to repeated, non-effective management. 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 Heceta Dunes on November 9th.





*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!

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**Did you know?** According to the US Forest Service, photo monitoring is an easy and inexpensive, yet effective, method of monitoring vegetation and ecosystem change.

**Strengths:**

- Uses readily available equipment.
- Effective communication tool for public education.
- Provides landscape context for a study area.

**Limitations:**

- Only limited quantitative data can be obtained.
  - Bias in photo point placement may occur.
  - Sometimes difficult to use in dense vegetation.
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**The US Forest Service outlines three basic steps for photo point monitoring:**

- **Identify photo points-** Ensure that enough photo points are established to adequately document changes that are expected to occur.
- **Establish camera points-** Pay particular attention to the distance between the photo and camera points to ensure that the photos will adequately document the scene or



*Before- Wildmare Campground on November 16*



*After- Wildmare Campground on November 16*

*Photo Credit: Bill Blackwell*



subject.

- **Mark photo and camera points-**

Photo and camera points should be permanently marked so that they can be relocated in the future.

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



[saveoregondunes.org](http://saveoregondunes.org)

