

## Oregon Dunes Restoration Collaborative

### Quarterly Meeting

January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020

Attendance: 30

#### Environmental Assessment Release and Discussion:

- District Ranger Michelle Jones led the discussion on the January 24 release of the EA for the Oregon Dunes Restoration Project.
- Currently in a 45-day objection period. March 9<sup>th</sup> is the last day of the objection period.
- Identified large areas, cannot do every small patch.
- ***People addressed their opinions and concerns of what was outlined in the EA...***
- ***Ex: Not too much foredune application, why not? Didn't want plovers in nesting riding areas- hard to manage.***
- There are new maps available in PDF format to look at. See link below.

2020 Environmental Assessment and Maps: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=52946>

#### Katie Moriarty Marten Research:

- Katie Moriarty- Senior Research Scientist, Western Forest Wildlife Ecologist at NCASI led a discussion on marten research.
- The range of Pacific martens has decreased along the central Oregon coast. Fewer than 86 adults persist in two subpopulations divided by the Umpqua River, and the population is vulnerable to extinction.
- Status and population size of southern Oregon coast marten population are unknown.
- Martens travel up to five miles a day to protect a small territory and eat 17% to 29% of their body weight daily. They have a diverse diet that includes salal berries, songbirds, mice, and red tree voles.
- No evidence of martens using beachgrass. Don't know if gorse is part of their habitat. 22% of vegetation plots where they were found had Scotch broom.
- Humboldt martens are not solely located in late-successional and old-growth forests as previously thought. They inhabit diverse forested areas with dense shrub cover.
- If two or-three marten die per year on the Central Coast of Oregon, the probability of that subpopulation's extinction within 30 years is 32% to 99%, respectively.

#### National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and Oregon Invasive Species Council (OISC) Grants:

- **OISC:** Increase the awareness of invasive species issues and ecological science in the Oregon dunes and adjacent Siuslaw Watershed ecosystems.
- Partner with Ecology in Classrooms and Outdoors (ECO) to customize a placed-based curriculum kit for native and invasive species to be used in K-12 classrooms.
- Empower teachers and educators from community organizations to implement stewardship of the Oregon Dunes and adjacent riparian ecosystems, benefiting threatened or endangered flora and fauna.
- Ensure invasive species education programming is equitable and inclusive to underserved groups and communities.
- **NFWF:** Coastal dune restoration will be accomplished through foredune leveling and invasive species removal. (European Beach Grass and Scotch Broom)
- Gorse removal and willow planting will benefit Coho salmon habitat on portions of Sutton and Berry Creek.
- Specific areas on the Siuslaw include: Baker Beach, Berry Creek, Sutton Creek and Heceta Dunes plus Honeyman State Park.

Overview of treatment areas that have been funded for this year through the Forest Service Stewardship Program and what is being proposed in the OSWB Grant:

- Armand Rebischke led the discussion.
- The OSWB grant project will build on recent gorse control efforts at selected areas north of Florence on US Forest Service lands from Heceta Beach to Cox Beach on the west side of Highway 101.
- Goal 1: Create a weed-free landscape in the dunes area north of Florence. Baker Beach- facilitate re-connection of fragmented habitats, protect adjacent restoration activities and enhance the aesthetic and recreational value of the project area.
- Goal 2: Increase awareness to the threats of invasive species and encourage people to participate in local conservation and restoration efforts. Install signage at Honeyman, Holman Vista Day Use, and Baker Beach trailheads.
- Goal 3: Prevent further invasive infestations through installation of a boot brush station at a high use public trailhead in ODNRA.

*Follow-up Note: OSWB grant was not approved. Stewardship treatment areas can still move forward after EA decision notice is signed.*

Implementation Planning- Priorities from the EA:

- Jeff Uebel led the discussion on priority implementation areas outlined in the new EA:
- Roughly 14,000 acres.

- Limited resources currently, we will need to develop an implementation strategy.
- We will want to focus on most important areas of work.
- Thinking ahead a minimum of 5 years- what we want to accomplish and why.
- Possible meetings between next quarterly meeting to flesh out implementation strategy?
- **Questions to think about-**
- **-Where is it and why? How does it tie into the EA? Reference areas and sub-units.**
- **-Who? Lead? Partners?**
- **-Why? Document strategy needed.**
- **-When? Next year.**
- Jeff asked people what areas they would like to see as priorities.
- **Baker Beach:** Along the highway, areas of open sand. We can open up and do interpretive stuff, let people know about our efforts, educate the public, and have a showcase area. (Unit 1.1 is the most visible for visitors)
- **Unit 27:** Emphasis on riding areas, Bull Run area.
- **Dellenback Unit 21**
- **Unit 20 & 20.2:** Inland moving source of sand- cannot connect all patches because of marten habitat.
- **Unit 15 Oregon Dunes Day Use Area:** Millions of visitors a year, high priority between encroached area and beach. Good educational opportunity.
- **Unit 36.1, Map D:** Camp site, excellent opportunity to do talks and pull weeds/make it visible.
- **Baker Beach Unit 3:** Gorse and Scotch Broom.
- *Evaluation-Criteria to choose priority areas, value & rank 1-10.*

Pursuing consultant funding and assistance from IPRE at University of Oregon:

- We are actively applying for grants to fund a consultant to assist us in completing a strategic plan.
- Additionally, Brian will reach out to the University of Oregon's Institute for Policy, Research and Engagement (IPRE) and Planning, Public Policy & Management (PPPM) programs to see if we can get any assistance.
- There are graduate level strategic planning courses in the Spring.
- Teams of grad students complete strategic plans for organizations in Lane County.

*Follow-up Note: OCVA grant to fund a consultant was not approved. ODRC was approved by IPRE to have a team of graduate students help develop a strategic plan for ODRC.*

### Working Group Updates:

#### Communications & Outreach:

- New members- Actively building and engaging a larger audience. All social media platforms have seen an increase in followers, engagement, and activity since last quarter.
- Presentations- Brian and others have and will continue to give presentations across the state. A few lined up in the Spring.
- Media interviews- Already have done a few radio interviews and news interviews this year. Brian will reach out to more media outlets, and if anyone hears anything- let him know!
- Tabling events- Have continued to do so (Land Sea Symposium, Nat. Geo Live, Business After Hours, etc.)
- Andy talked to someone about getting ODRC brochures in visitor centers around the state.
- Great opportunity to further spread the word of the ODRC. A few different deals to choose from. Brian or Andy will follow up.

#### Funding:

- Applying for grants and actively seeking funding.
- Applied for OISC/NFWF grants- OISC award will be announced in April. NFWF award will be announced in July/August.
- Banner Bank and Ford Family Foundations are in the works- both on rolling deadlines.
- Working on Network for Landscape Conservation Grant due on March 13<sup>th</sup>.

#### Volunteering:

- Currently taking a break for the winter.
- Had a few work parties already in FY20.
- Will pick back up in March.
- The work party schedule will be finalized and on our website soon.
- Any and all groups are welcome to come out with us. Last year, we had the Great Old Broads of Wilderness join us!

#### Monitoring:

- Work will continue and we will continue our monitoring efforts.
- Before and after pictures.
- People like seeing the work we accomplish. Think about bringing before and after pictures to tabling events.

Michael Sherman- Saving the Oregon Dunes short film:

- Michael Sherman gave the group an update on the short film which has seen great success so far.
- Currently up to over 70,000 views on Facebook and 6,000 on YouTube.
- How can the ODRC utilize our connections and tools to spread this video even further?
- Showcasing in Visitors Centers? On the TV's in OHV shops on the coast?

ODRC & RARE 2020-2021:

- The group came to an agreement that another intern/RARE would be beneficial for the collaborative.
- Andy will reach out to the different counties to see their thoughts and how they feel about assisting us with some of that funding.
- Fundraisers/Kick starters? Brian is organizing one with Viking Braggot Brewery in West Eugene for the Spring/Summer. Idea is to have a raffle, winner gets a free, 1-hour ride with sand dune company. Incentives to participate/come to the event? T-shirts?

Setting the stage for the next meeting:

- **NEXT MEETING DATE: MAY 1<sup>ST</sup>**
- By next meeting, we will have started the implementation plan and have projects ready.
- Do folks think the normal 9am-1pm (4 hours) is enough time? Anyone interested in field trip to certain dune areas? Think about if we want these meetings to be a half day long or full day long in the future.