



SAVE THE DUNES OREGON

The Newsletter of the Oregon Dunes Restoration Collaborative
March 2020

NEWS:

- Forest Campgrounds and Day Use Site Closures: Stay up to date with important news from the Siuslaw National Forest regarding the shutdowns and closures amid the Coronavirus.
- COVID-19 Response: Parks Closing: Oregon State Parks issued a statement on the COVID-19 pandemic and park closures. Follow Oregon State Parks for more updates and news.
- University of Oregon's Spring semester is right around the corner and although all classes have transitioned to online, that doesn't stop the ODRC and graduate students from getting work done! On March 30th, the ODRC officially teams up with a team of talented students in the Institute for Policy Research and Engagement (IPRE) at the University to complete a 3-5 year strategic plan.
- Meeting Minutes: January 31st Quarterly ODRC Meeting
- Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, we are postponing our quarterly meeting on May 1st. Check back for more updates and announcements in the coming weeks!

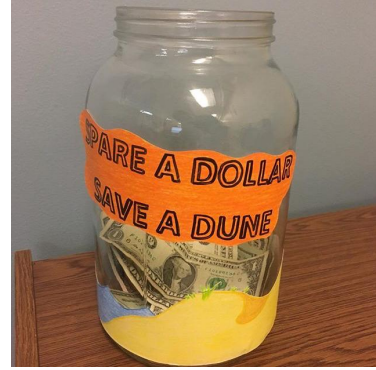
Events:

Due to COVID-19, the ODRC is temporarily suspending all work parties and events for the month of April. Please check back on our website and Facebook page for updates on upcoming events.

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!](#)



It's been a blast!

The Oregon Dunes Restoration Collaborative tabled three National Geographic Events at the Hult Center in 2019/2020. Each show was hosted by an inspiring individual who gave the audience an inside look of the incredible work they capture through their lens. It has been so much fun to interact with everyone and chat about the dunes and other environmental related topics throughout the course of the series.

On March 1st, award-winning photographer, Ami Vitale gave her presentation on "Rhinos, Rickshaws, and Revolutions" and had the crowd stunned the entire time. It sure was a great finale to a wonderful three shows.

Many thanks to all who donated using our code *ODRC* and we can't wait to see you again at next year's series.



Working Group Updates

Communications, Outreach, &

Education- On February 29th, the ODRC attended the Siuslaw Education Expo at the Siuslaw High School in Florence. From 10am-2pm the library, gymnasium, courtyard, and more were filled with tables from 96 different organizations. From interactive games to engaging conversations, the Siuslaw Education Expo is something community organizations can look forward to for years to come.



It is always great to see familiar faces of community members and partner organizations we work with at these events. It was a great turn out and we thank all of those who stopped by and chatted with us!

Volunteering- The March 7th volunteer work party at Heceta Dunes was a success, even with on and off rain showers the whole time. 10 volunteers, 2 Forest Service staff, and Brian, our ODRC staff person, removed Scotch broom from almost an acre of dunes. Unfortunately, the other March work parties as well as the upcoming April work parties are canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Volunteer work parties in May are "to be determined".

Pictured here: Jim and Brian- The Sawyers!



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.

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!

On March 13th, the funding committee submitted a Letter of Inquiry (LOI) to the Network for Landscape Conservation to fund a staff position via the RARE program through the University of Oregon for 2020-2021.

In late March, we applied for a small grant to the Oregon Country Fair to develop an invasive species curriculum kit with Ecology in Classrooms and Outdoors (ECO) and to partially fund our RARE staff position to lead field trips with teachers and students to remove invasive species and to plant native plants.

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.

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.

Doing some photo-point monitoring of your own? The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) recommends not leaving the house before checking these off your equipment list:

- Camera with a back up battery
- GPS (with a compass)
- Clip board/pens
- A marker board or other record sheets

Below are two before and after pictures from the Southern end of the Sand Tracks Picnic Area.



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!

Did you know? There are four main regions of dunes, making up about 45% or 140 miles of our 310 mile coastline?

The ODRC primarily focuses on region three which is 54 miles long and stretches from Heceta Head to Coos Bay. Region three is so special to Oregonians and all who travel here because this area was chosen as the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area (ODNRA). This area was chosen because it is the least broken up by rivers and forest. The ODNRA was founded in 1972 as a way to protect the tallest and largest expanse of coastal sand dunes in North America.



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