



SAVE THE DUNES

OREGON

The Newsletter of the Oregon Dunes Restoration Collaborative
April 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.
- Steering Committee Meeting: Friday, May 1st. (ODRC quarterly meeting scheduled for May 1st is postponed.)
- Our strategic planning process has begun! During April and early May, our graduate student team will be conducting a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) analysis with 25 organizational participants. In mid-May, the steering committee and student team will arrange a meeting to discuss the results of the SWOT analysis and develop strategic issues.

Events:

Due to COVID-19, the ODRC is temporarily suspending all work parties and events for the month of May. 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!](#)



Coastal Corral- Legislative Meet up for the Entire Coast:

Coastal Chambers are convening US and State Representatives to update and share information to the business communities along the coast. This FREE online panel will be available with Facebook Live. It will also be recorded for those unable to attend "live".

As many of us know, coastal communities face different challenges than other rural areas and vastly different challenges than larger metro areas. Many coastal communities rely heavily on tourism as their primary industry. With social distancing, what does it look like to re-open for business? Restaurants, retail, casinos and transportation all face unknown restrictions and logistics for success. All non-essential businesses that are reopening are looking for resources and support.

The Florence Area Chamber of Commerce in partnership with coastal chambers including Seaside, Astoria-Warrenton, Tillamook Area, Lincoln City, Depoe Bay, Newport, Waldport, Reedsport-Winchester Bay, Bay Area, Bandon, and Brookings are excited to bring to the coast it's first "Coastal Corral", Friday May 1st at 10:00am DST.

Working Group Updates

Communications, Outreach, & Education- The ODRC has an exciting line up of events for the Spring and Summer. Some of these events include fundraisers, movie showings, story telling, and more. However, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, most of these are now on hold. Updates will be posted on our website and social media pages.

Volunteering- Whether you have a passion for invasive species mitigation or just want to build up your volunteer experience, the ODRC would love to have you, serving in whatever capacity you can. Please feel free to reach out to us or any of our working group leads. We would love to talk with you!

The Steering Committee will discuss what measures we will take to have volunteer work parties in the future, once we can travel again.

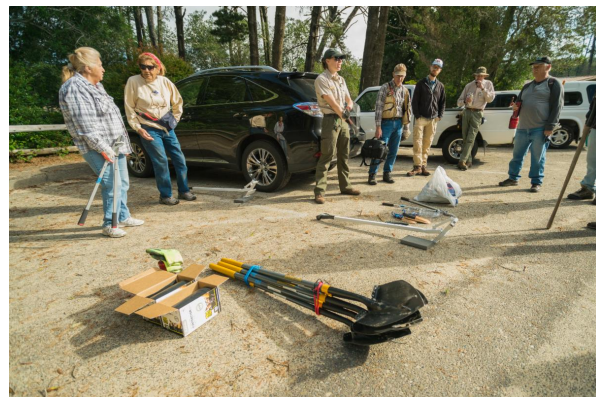


Photo Credit: Michael Sherman, owner of [Spring Fed Media](#).

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. Awards are scheduled to be announced in April 2020.

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. The decision for our pre-proposal will be made on Friday, May 1st.

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. For now, we eagerly await until we hear back sometime in the Spring of 2020!

Lane County Community and Economic Development has committed \$10,000 for a FY21 [RARE](#) placement! Additionally, we are currently awaiting news regarding Forest Service funding to round out the budget needed to fund the position. An application for the RARE intern was submitted earlier this month.

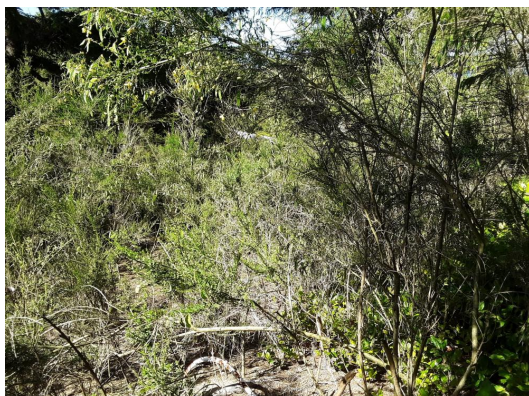
Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA)- ODCWMA continues to support dunes weed treatments via gorse control contract, volunteer weed-pull participation, and monitoring efforts. A draft long-term Dunes restoration implementation plan has been created that outlines priorities, anticipated cost and timelines. 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- 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.

Photo-point monitoring obviously has it's place in the restoration world, but it can also be a fun hobby as well! If you are ever out exploring and want to do some photo-point monitoring of your own, here a few helpful tips and reminders from the [US Forest Service](#):

- Be careful not to trample over vegetation when locating photo points.
- Once a photo point is established, it cannot be changed- use care in choosing locations and subjects for monitoring.
- Select camera points from which multiple photo points can be photographed.

Below are two before and after pictures from the western part of the fuel break at Heceta Dunes.



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? The Oregon Dunes only need a few things to make them look as beautiful as they are. If there was a "How to Make an Oregon Sand Dune Recipe" book, the recipe would look something like this:

Ingredients

- A LOT of sand
- STRONG Wind
- FLAT coastline

Directions

- Distribute wind on shoreline
- Add wind
- Move sand inland
- Bury everything in its path



Photo Credit: Michael Sherman, owner of [Spring Fed Media](#).

Connect with us on Social Media- Remember to like and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)!

Saving the Oregon Dunes: Short Film-Oregon's central coast is home to the largest expanse of coastal sand dunes in North America. Home to hundreds of native bird and plant species, this unique landscape is a favorite for locals and thousands of visitors each year.

Unfortunately, non-native grass and plants were introduced to the landscape in an effort to stabilize the moving sand and protect roads and other infrastructure. These invasive species now threaten to overtake the remaining open sand. The Oregon Dunes Restoration Collaborative (ODRC) formed in an effort to protect this national treasure.

We hope you all enjoy this 7-minute video that dives deep into the the dune's history, and the origins of the ODRC. We encourage everyone to share this video broadly!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZVx2dNTjyWA>



saveoregondunes.org

