

Meeting on Invasives held October 31, 2011

Participants: Matt Mellenthin, Heath Keirstead, Art Sleight, Karen Fleck-Harding, Jane Barth, Liz Graham

Purpose: Continue to work on identifying specific strategies and actions to bring to the full MPSG meeting.

Discussion Points:

1. Scot's broom "patch" on highway 34.

- Continued interest in getting rid of this highly visible patch.
- Main objective remains to encourage surrounding landowners to address their invasive species once they see this central source, "worst spot" is under control.
- FS does not see this specific site as Wyden eligible due to lack of clear connectivity with FS lands.
- Agree need a long term plan of Scot's broom will reinfest the area. Long-term ideas are to replant with trees or to seek a person who would actively work the site for hay production. Initial treatment would involve mastication followed spraying resprouts in following year(s).
- Agree need to have options for funding the treatment before approaching the landowner.

- Next steps are:
 - Art will contact Art Bauman to find out if he has current contact information for the absentee landowner and to see if he would be interesting in haying the land.

 - Heath will contact Ron Exeter (BLM), Donna Schmitz (SWCD), Tom (NRCS), and Sam Chan (OSU) about potential funding sources. Argument will be increasing habitat value. The following are notes from correspondence after the meeting:
 - § Ron doesn't have any funding that he can use on private landowners' lands anymore. He can spray on private lands IF the BLM controls the road and the landowner agrees, but nowhere else.
 - § Donna said SWCD doesn't have any kind of program that could help fund this effort. Everyone agrees that it's an eyesore, but because of the type of property and the absentee landowner and the types of funding that are available, there just isn't anything that they know of at this time. Donna thought maybe ODF would fund it if we were replanting with Doug Fir.
 - § Heath has a neighborhood weed control grant program, but there is only a total of \$3500 in that pool for the year for the whole county. I don't think that is adequate for the size of this project.
 - § New suggestion to contact Steve Smith about funding ideas.

 - Matt will draw up a management plan with cost estimates to give an idea of what might be done, for how much and over what timeframe.. Below is what Matt sent Jane after the meeting:

Scot's Broom Plantation Hwy 34 Cost Estimate

<u>Task</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Production</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Total</u>
Mastication	\$150.00	\$/hr	2.50	Ac/day	18	\$8,640.00
Boom Spray	\$60.00	\$/hr	1.24	Ac/hr	18	\$870.97
Rodeo	\$17.50	\$/gal	72.00	oz/ac	18	\$177.19
Garlon 4	\$72.00	\$/gal	64.00	oz/ac	18	\$648.00
Tree Planting	\$25.00	\$/hr	1000.00	tr/day	18	\$1,530.00
Tree Stock	\$0.55	\$/tr	425.00	tr/ac	18	\$4,207.50
Release Spray	\$25.00	\$/hr	2.00	ac/day	18	\$1,800.00
Garlon 4	\$72.00	\$/gal	64.00	oz/ac	18	\$648.00
TOTAL						\$18,521.66

- If the efforts to find funding and also to get agreement from the landowner on long-term management, the MPSG will need to move onto other priority areas until new opportunities for this site are discovered.

2. Neighborhood Weed Meeting

- Keeping the idea alive to convene a weed meeting in the Greasy Creek neighborhood, but the timeframe has shifted to next Spring or Fall.
- Objective would be to increase broad general awareness of invasives in the area. This would complement the MRWC's focus which is on how invasives impact natural function of the creek.
- Group open to identifying another appropriate neighborhood, too, but that may emerge from the county-wide planning effort.

3. County-wide Planning Effort

- Agreed this effort will provide useful information to the MPSG's work on this issue.
- Heath explained that there are 5 active subcommittees meeting to work on:
 - Possibly establishing a Weed Control District
 - Landscape-level Strategy; sites of high value
 - Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR) strategy for Benton County
 - Public Engagement Strategy to work on the range of vectors like utility line maintenance, private landowners, public land managers, recreationalists and others.
 - Describe successful approaches to fund invasive species in Benton County, including the creation of a weed board/district.
- Heath will circulate notes from the ongoing effort and report to the full MPSG at the November 17th meeting. This will be an opportunity for MPSG members to give Heath input on priority species and locations.