



February 5, 2019

Joint Subcommittee on Natural Resources,

Wild Rivers Coast Alliance, a grant making department of Bandon Dunes Golf Resort, has long had an interest in and has been a significant funder of noxious weed control specifically the invasive, highly flammable noxious weed Gorse. Over the past seven years we have helped in the formation and growth of the Gorse Action Group (GAG). GAG consists of over 40 public and private sector partners who have an interest in controlling and eradicating gorse. To see examples of efforts by the Gorse Action Group including demonstration projects and land manager resources, please visit their website at <http://gorseactiongroup.org/>.

In 2017, Oregon State Governor, Kate Brown, designated Gorse as an Oregon Solutions project. Through that process, a Declaration of Cooperation was signed by 25 public and private stakeholders in the region including The Oregon Department of Agriculture.

The Oregon Department of Agriculture, through the leadership of Carri Pirosko, has been an outstanding partner in funding and in technical assistance to the GAG and noxious weed management on Oregon's south coast. ODA has played a pivotal role in the growth of the GAG including the education and outreach efforts on how to control Gorse.

We ask you to support and strengthen Oregon's Department of Agriculture's Noxious Weed Control Program. We see firsthand and understand the negative impacts of noxious weeds on our environment and the potential negative impact on our economy in farming, grazing, forestry, native plant communities, as well as recreational opportunities.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Seeley".

Jim Seeley
Executive Director
Wild Rivers Coast Alliance