



Clatsop Soil and Water Conservation District  
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503-325-4571  
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August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Attn: Chad Sweet  
City of Gearhart  
698 Pacific Way  
Gearhart, OR 97138

Re: Little Beach Dunes and Invasive Species Removal

Dear Mr. Sweet,

This letter is in support of addressing invasive species such as scotch broom and introduced shore pine along the Necanicum River estuary and the associated Gearhart dunes.

Clatsop SWCD has been treating noxious weeds throughout Clatsop County for many years. Our noxious weed control funding comes from the Oregon Weed Board and limited based on species; determined by the Oregon Department of Agriculture noxious weeds ranking system. We received funding for 2016-2017 to continue our efforts to control and monitor a specific list of species.

This unfortunately leaves us unable to address other noxious and invasive weed found throughout the county. Scotch Broom in particular has maintained a strong hold throughout our region, efforts to combat this species is only on a volunteer basis. Scotch broom directly affects the soil and water quality of our region by increasing nitrogen levels in low nutrient based soils. These low nutrient soils commonly found in our dune system and around the estuary maintain native vegetation that has adapted to the low nutrient substrate. When changing the soil chemistry through non-native influences such as nitrogen fixing plants (scotch broom), this allows for other non-natives to establish and take over. Therefore out competing native plants adapted to the native low nutrient soils.

Other non-native species such as the introduced shore pine and European beach grass also affect the plant life and ecology of the dune system. These introduced species can out compete other native plants, changing soil chemistry and structure along with the historic ecological functionality of the system.

Sincerely,

Austin Tomlinson  
District Technician

