



Smith and Bybee Wetlands Advisory Committee

April 23, 2013

Committee members in attendance

Eric Tonsager *Oregon Bass and Panfish Club
Patt Opdyke *North Portland Neighbors
Troy Clark*Audubon Society of Portland (Chair)
Dan Moeller*Metro, Sustainability Center
Dave Helzer*City of Portland, Bureau of Environmental Services
Dale Svart*Friends of Smith & Bybee Lakes
Lynn Barlow*City of Portland, Parks and Recreation
Pam Arden*40 Mile Loop Trust
Carrie Butler*Port of Portland (Vice Chair)

Others in attendance

John ReedPortland Parks and Recreation
Jonathan SollMetro, Sustainability Center
Carrie BeldingMetro, Sustainability Center

Committee members not in attendance

Bill Briggs*ORRCO
Susan Barnes*Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Sara Henderson*St. Johns Neighborhood Association

*Denotes voting Smith and Bybee Wetlands Advisory Committee member.

Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. The group approved the January 2013 meeting minutes.

Herbicide discussion

Troy introduced the next topic: herbicide use at Smith and Bybee Wetlands. He began by saying that Dan Moeller would present Metro's approach to pesticide management and then let each committee member discuss their organization's approach or opinion on the topic, then the committee would take a vote at the end of the discussion to support or oppose Metro's approach.

Dan Moeller passed out and read the attached handout which explained Metro's approach to Integrated Pest Management at Smith and Bybee Wetlands. Dan noted that we don't have a different integrated pest management plan (IPM) for Smith and Bybee than we do at other sites. Metro has had an IPM Policy since 1995, and we're currently in the process of revising it. The revised policy and operational guidelines are expected to be complete before the end of 2013.

Dale asked if the term "pesticides" includes herbicides, insecticides, algacides and fungicides. Dan said that "pesticides" was a general term that referred to all of those specific products. Jonathan Soll said that he knows, we've never used some of those later 'cides at Smith and Bybee.

It was noted that anytime we make a choice based on cost effectiveness and environmental impact, we consider the environment. We plan an application based on when it's most effective to treat the weed and when the ecosystem can take the treatment. We often wait until water levels are down (mudflats).

Lynn Barlow said that her team at Portland Parks and Recreation manages over 8,000 acres of natural areas and that the City of Portland has adopted a well researched and well written IPM policy. Lynn introduced John Reed, the Integrated Pest Management Program Coordinator at the City of Portland.

Pam Arden inquired about the “pesticide free park” in Portland. John spoke about the program that involves five locations of average size of 3-5 acres. The weed targets in those parks are small and able to be hand pulled. It is approximately 10 to 50 times the amount of labor to hand pull weeds vs. spray them and it is very expensive. The pesticide free parks are a low weed parks with weeds that are very easy to pull.

Dale asked about why some of Portland parks don’t use pesticides at all and John said they were part of a pilot project. A group in Eugene asked the City to be a part of the project and they tracked the amount of volunteers, hours, time spent driving, etc. for three years. Not very many organizations have done this. At the end of the pilot project, they produced a 70 page report that noted all the impacts:

<http://www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/article/198108>

John said that the vast majority of park lands don’t need any herbicides at all. Some need more, like the rose gardens and some natural areas.

Pam wanted to make sure both the City of Portland and Metro post signs when spraying. Indeed, both Portland and Metro post signs.

Dave Helzer, with Bureau of Environmental Services (BES) at the City of Portland mentioned that he can only really speak about herbicides because it’s the only pesticide he uses. He mentioned that they work under contract with Metro where Portland does some of the work on Metro-owned natural areas and they do restoration and revegetation work (he mentioned landfill bank revegetation). BES also uses the Portland Parks IPM protocol. They make sure the use of herbicides is with the same goals in mind that Dan mentioned: support wildlife habitat, support water quality, etc. He said if they use an herbicide as part of a restoration project, the herbicide is used as part of the establishment of plantings. He also said that they don’t take the application of herbicides lightly; it’s a tool to establish native plants and jumpstart it on the trajectory they’re trying to get them on. Dave said that BES supports the way Metro uses herbicides in their natural areas.

Dale Svart passed out and read a handout (attached) with his viewpoint on herbicide use. Dale also referred to an editorial that The Oregonian printed two years ago regarding the use of Roundup and the effects it may have on humans. http://www.oregonlive.com/opinion/index.ssf/2011/06/re-evaluate_roundup.html

Dale said that the Friends of Smith and Bybee gave him the okay to not support Metro’s approach on the use of herbicides at Smith and Bybee.

Jonathan Soll let Dale know that he appreciated the perspective he brings to the group. Jonathan wanted to make sure that the group knows that Metro follows all laws regarding herbicide use and that Metro only uses herbicides that are appropriately labeled for their purposes. The choice to use herbicides is always weighed against not using them.

There were some differing opinions on whether herbicides, specifically glyphosate, are biodegradable.

Pam Arden spoke about a chemical exposure she experienced about 35 years ago. She still experiences effects of that exposure to this day. Pam also mentioned several close family members who have developed Parkinson’s. Because of this, Pam said that she would prefer to not use anything to treat invasives, but she understands that we’ve got a lot of land to take care of. Pam wants to make sure we’re careful with how we’re

doing things and would like Metro, and the City of Portland to use as little as we can get away with, while signing everything to the maximum degree.

Carrie Butler with the Port of Portland spoke about the mitigation sites the Port manages. They often times have to control certain species based on various criteria. Herbicides are most effective in controlling invasives because not every site can be flooded to control them. Most of the sites the uses herbicides on are not open to the public and the try to use herbicides judiciously. Carrie supports Metro's use of herbicides at Smith and Bybee.

John Reed wanted to mention that he spent about 25 years studying the materials he stands behind. He knows that there is a huge amount of misinformation on these topics and that it's difficult to sort through because you don't want to rely on a single source on your information. Fortunately for the kind of materials Metro uses are being used worldwide. The last thing you want to do in a public parks system where you're inviting people in is put them and their pets at risk. Herbicide or pesticide is a term that is required to be used when something (vinegar, for example) is being marketed to control something else. John mentioned to the group that the City of Portland has the only parks agency in the country that has the Salmon Safe certification saying that we aren't harming waterways with our practices.

Troy Clark, with the Audubon Society, spoke about his view on using herbicides at Smith and Bybee. He said that he was torn between looking at from a purist or a pragmatist perspective. He related Dale's comment that you "cannot poison the Earth back to health" to chemotherapy. He decided thta he cannot tell someone that they shouldn't undergo chemotherapy. Whether he would use it or not isn't the question. He understands that someone will not undergo chemotherapy unless they have to. He has the same opinion on herbicide use. Troy said that Audubon supports Metro's position on using herbicides.

Patt Opdyke, with North Portland Neighbors, said that her opinion is her own, and not that of the North Portland Neighbors. Patt said that she also supports Metro's policy on herbicide use at Smith and Bybee. One of the deciding factors is that The Nature Conservancy and other organizations have a similar approach. She said that we need to protect and revitalize habitat for wildlife. She also knows that there are limited staff and dollars and if we don't do what we can do, we are going to lose the habitat and wildlife. Patt also wanted to mention that there are unintended consequences sometimes; non target species can be affected, then there's a question about what recovery can look like for those, and in aquatic environments, the habitat is so fragile. Patt acknowledged Pam's concern on human health and pets, but said that she still supports the Metro's use of herbicides.

Dan wanted the group to know that all of Metro's herbicide applicators must be certified; their job depends on it. He also said that all of Metro's contractors are provided with signage for each time they apply herbicides and are required to post the signs.

Eric Tonsager just wanted to let the group say that he comes from a long line of farmers. He said that herbicides weren't used way back in the 1800's, but in more recent years, herbicides were used when they were needed.

As the herbicide discussion came to an end, Troy asked the group to vote on whether they are for or against Metro's approach to herbicide use at Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area.

7 for/1 against/1 abstain

Dog Signage

Troy wanted to mention the small 'no dogs' sign on the Port Trail/West Trail. He said that it doesn't say you cannot take dogs in your boat and he would like to see some updated signage here. Carrie Butler asked for clarification on whether Troy thought it should say 'no dogs beyond this point' or no dogs at all. The group began discussing that the Port Trail is part of the 40 mile loop and the 40 mile loop is a regional trail. Metro allows dogs on the Tonquin Trail through Graham Oaks Nature Park, but they must remain on leash and they must remain on the regional trail. The group talked about the fact that this was discussed when working on the CNRP. Everyone decided to visit this topic at the next meeting and that Metro will take a look at the signage on the Port Trail/West Trail in the meantime. We will invite Janet Bebb to the next meeting.

Mosquito Study

Troy wanted to make sure the group saw The Xerces Society article that Patt forwarded to the group. We can discuss this further at a future meeting if the group would like to.

Grant update

Committee members asked for an update on the grant that Jane Hart applied for. There is no update yet, but Metro staff will get an update out to the group when one is available.

Next meeting

The next meeting is TBD.

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Carrie Belding.

Metro's approach to managing invasive species at Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area

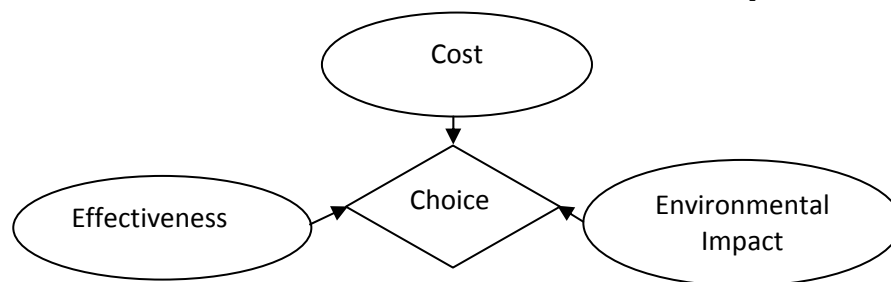
Over the past several years Metro has presented its approach to managing invasive species at Smith Bybee Wetlands to the Smith and Bybee Wetlands Advisory Committee, most recently through the completed Comprehensive Natural Resource Plan (CNRP). In the CNRP Metro outlined how invasive species management fits within a conservation planning framework and also presented a three step process used to evaluate and control invasive species at Smith and Bybee Wetlands as a part of a larger Integrated Pest Management Program.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a strategy used by Metro to maintain its natural areas, parks and built facilities and Metro is currently in the process of updating its policy and operational guidelines. This document outlines key concepts that the final policy document will contain.

What is IPM? The Environmental Protection Agency defines IPM as, "The coordinated use of pest and environmental information with available pest control methods to prevent unacceptable levels of pest damage by the most economical means with the least possible hazard to people, property, and the environment. The goal of IPM is to manage pests and the environment so as to balance costs, benefits, public health, and environmental quality. IPM systems use all available technical information on the pest and its interactions with the environment. Because IPM programs apply a holistic approach to pest management decision-making, they take advantage of all appropriate pest management options, including, but not limited to pesticides. Thus IPM is: A system using multiple methods; A decision-making process; A risk reduction system; Information intensive; Cost-effective; Site specific."

The IPM process first determines if a pest needs to be managed, and if so, how best to do it. Key elements are information gathering, well-informed decision making and monitoring of results. The IPM process promotes effective, low-risk management strategies to manage pests. The controls used in Metro's program include cultural, physical, mechanical/manual, biological and chemical methods and materials. Often a combination of methods is used.

Methods selected to manage specific pest populations are evaluated by Metro professionals on a case-by-case basis and the method chosen is based on the cost, effectiveness and environmental impact.



Metro considers the following methods to manage specific pest populations:

- Proper planning and management decisions begin the IPM process.
- Cultural methods of vegetation and pest management where feasible.
- Mechanical means of vegetation and pest management where feasible.
- Biological methods of vegetation and pest management where feasible.
- Botanical and synthetic pesticides.

Metro recognizes that there are costs to every method of invasive plant removal and control. Metro recognizes that even when pesticides are the only feasible method of managing an invasive species, there is a cost to that action. Metro also recognizes that there are costs associated with mechanical or manual control methods such as trampling of native species, erosion, loss of structure, and physical disturbance. That said, the cost of inaction can be much greater than the cost of action and can be detrimental to native species that require a system dominated by other native species to survive. The choices that we make are rarely easy or perfect and at times they are simply better than the alternative.

Metro's approach to IPM is consistent with every other land management agency in the region including The Nature Conservancy, Clean Water Services, the City of Portland, Columbia Land Trust, the Audubon Society and other local jurisdictions.

From: Dale Svart <dsvart@earthlink.net>
Subject: **Herbicide use at Smith & Bybee**
Date: April 21, 2013 9:54:54 AM PDT



We're not going to poison the Earth back to health.

Portland Public Schools hasn't used herbicides for years.

Glyphosate's minerals bioaccumulate, create dead spots in the soil, and kill microorganisms.

Plants are becoming resistant to herbicides, concentrations are increasing. Metro workers have told me this. Some manufacturers are suggesting mixing herbicides for increased potency.

Glyphosate has been linked to birth defects, Fast growing cells are the most susceptible to mutation. Glyphosate works by causing a hormonal imbalance in the plant. The cells grow so fast that the cell walls explode, dehydrating the plant. This effect crosses species barriers.

Do Metro workers applying herbicides use protective Gear? Do they wash this exposed clothing separately as recommended by the manufacturers? Do the owners of the goats that graze the landfill know their animals are being exposed to herbicides?

Last November, Troy and I walked through a large swath of Ludwegia that had recently been sprayed and I could taste it on my tongue, and felt a dizziness. We left the area immediately. I believe signage is required for sprayings where there is public access. We saw no signs. If signage is used, how long do the signs stay up? From my observations, the most spraying happens during the Spring and Summer, when the wildlife area is used the most.

See Headwaters, Inc. v. Talent Irrigation District, Ninth Circuit Court

Metro is involved in a public education program asking people to use nontoxic weed controls in their yards and gardens. Do as I say, not as I do.

Finally, this is my opinion, not the Friends. Why would anyone do business with Monsanto and their ilk?

Metro | Agenda

Meeting: Smith and Bybee Wetlands Advisory Committee
Date: Tuesday, April 23rd, 2012
Time: 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Place: Metro Regional Center - Room 270
600 NE Grand Ave, Portland Oregon 97232

- Welcome and introductions 5:30 – 5:35 p.m. Troy Clark
- Approve meeting minutes 5:35 – 5:40 p.m. Troy Clark
- Metro’s Integrated Pest Management Approach at Smith and Bybee 5:40 – 6:55 p.m. All
- Other items to address if time allows 6:55 – 7:25 p.m. Patt and Troy
 - Dog Signage
 - Mosquito Study and Vector Control
- Adjourn 7:30 p.m.