
**Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area
Management Committee**

Larry Devroy, Chair



METRO

600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736

Smith and Bybee Wetlands Management Committee Meeting

5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, October 23, 2007
Metro Regional Center, 600 N E Grand Ave., Room 270
Portland, Oregon 97232

AGENDA

Welcome and introductions	(Devroy)	5:30 pm
Approve previous meeting's notes	(Devroy)	5:30 – 5:35 pm
Restoration projects update	(Stewart)	5:35 – 6:05 pm
Environmental education program	(Davis)	6:05 – 6:50 pm
General updates		6:50 – 7:30 pm
Adjourn		7:30 pm

Summary Meeting Notes
Smith and Bybee Wetlands Management Committee
October 23, 2007

In Attendance:

Pam Arden*	40-Mile Loop
Troy Clark*	Audubon Society of Portland
James Davis	Metro Parks and Greenspaces
Larry Devroy*	Port of Portland
Astrid Dragoy*	Portland Parks & Recreation
Brenda Hanke*	St. Johns Neighborhood Assn.
Nancy Hendrickson*	Portland Bureau of Env. Services
Jim Morgan	Metro Parks and Greenspaces
Pat Opdyke*	North Portland Neighborhood Association
Elaine Stewart	Metro Parks and Greenspaces
Dale Svart*	Friends of Smith and Bybee

* Committee voting member.

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m.

Consideration of July 24, 2007 meeting notes

The Committee approved July 24, 2007 meeting notes. Pat Opdyke and Pam Arden abstained.

Restoration Projects Update

Elaine Stewart provided an update of restoration projects within the Management Area occurring in 2007.

1. Mowing and release spraying around small trees in the vicinity of the InterLakes Trail to allow the trees to out compete the reed canarygrass.
2. Columbia Sedge meadows: Verde with OWEB grants, purchased, installed and maintained Columbia sedge (*Carex aperta*) plugs in specific areas. Verde trains low-income North Portlanders in restoration techniques. Their work is scheduled to end Nov.1, 2007.
3. Improved turtle habitat. Elaine Barclay monitored turtle nesting and basking. There appears to be continued successful nesting but a follow-up survey is needed to determine trends.
4. West Side of Bybee: maintained largest intact community of *C. aperta*. Rick Scrivens with the assistance of Verde, sprayed and maintained this community located on the Ledbetter Peninsula.

5. South Side of Bybee- 2001 plantings: A maintenance mow similar to that occurring in 2006 was conducted. At this point, the trees and shrubs are considered “free-to-grow”.
6. NE Corner Smith near canoe launch: Rick and Jeff Locke aggressively controlled purple loosestrife and parrot feather infestations through a combination of pulling and spraying.
7. Plans to attack parrot feather in the Smith Channel was abandoned due to recent flooding behind new beaver dam. A “beaver deceiver” will be installed to temporarily drain for treatment.
8. Landfill: In a cooperative project of Metro Solid Waste and Port of Portland, Columbia River sand was spread over 5 acres atop the landfill to create nesting and rearing habitat for streaked horned larks. This is in response to loss of horned lark and meadowlark habitat in the former Ramsey Lake area due to recent development.

2008 Project: contract crews to install protective cages over a targeted percentage of trees near the beaver dam, prioritizing the larger ash trees.

T-6 Spill Fund Project: Placement of large wood, primarily whole trees with root wads, in strategic locations of Smith and Bybee to provide habitat for fish (juvenile salmon) and amphibians as well as structure for macro-invertebrates. Aquatic Contracting is on contract to install approximately 200-300 pieces of large wood sometime in February to May, depending on obtaining permits, hydrological conditions, contractor availability. A small design workshop will be held with regional biologist to assist in project design.

Pat Opdyke inquired status of riparian forest west of Bybee. Elaine indicated that area is planted and maintained by the Port as part of the Consent Decree. Larry Devroy indicated their planted area now has more plant species diversity than surrounding area.

Pat voiced concern about the potential impact of climate change on native vegetation communities, wondering what type of planning and preparation natural resources managers are making for anticipated climate changes.

Environmental Education Program at Smith & Bybee

James Davis provided a summary of the environmental education programs he offers and coordinates in the Management Area. James has been conducting environmental education programs there since 1998. James handed out 4-page summary of programs delivered from 2000-2007.

James reported an “explosion of mushrooms” recently, including (1) short-stem *Russula*, finding an specimen parasitized by ‘lobster’ mushroom and (2) *Amanita mescara* (Angel of Death or Death Cap). He recommends using David Orr’s book on identification of mushrooms.

Outreach:

Accommodating groups:

- most school field trips are booked mainly by word-of-mouth; no advertising needed.
- Programs booked to capacity
- Currently uses Volunteer Naturalists trained through Nature University
- Have occasional random group coming, such as Boy Scouts, church groups, science conventioners

Public programs:

- Bird and turtle walks
- Twilight Tuesday
- Canoe and kayak paddle trips

Numbers of school field trips, public programs, and groups remains at saturation of available personal time. If the program is to grow, more personnel time is needed. Before promoting more use of the area, maybe a 'grow slow' approach to expanding programs is best. To better utilize available resources for interpretive and educational programs, James recommended:

- (1) remove remaining swath of willows in the center of Smith blind. (photos of existing willow removal were distributed in the meeting).
- (2) remove walls of Bybee blind (eliminate "spider holes") and build corral around perimeter of blind for containment similar to Smith blind.

Updates

Troy Clark, in visiting the County jail with County officials, noted loss of cedar and cottonwood around portion of the perimeter plantings. He urges the County and Port to coordinate re-planting and maintenance for maintaining buffer between mitigation area, trail, and Management Area.

Dale Svart question why the beaver dam in Smith Slough was breached. Elaine answered that it was necessary to install the 'beaver deceiver' which will allow the beaver to return but draw down Smith Lake enough to treat the localized parrot feather infestation.

Pam Arden asked if the preferred trail alternative had gone to Council. The response was no, that it likely will not until February when 3 viable alternatives will be ready for presentation.

Pat Opdyke asked what activities were occurring in Ramsey Lake area, particularly in the area referred to as 'Ramsey Refugia'. Nancy Hendrickson indicated Phase II is on hold pending adequate funding. The completed Phase I is attracting fish as hoped, particularly Columbia River salmon stock.