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

*Larry Devroy, Chair*

Coordinated by:

**Metro**

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Portland, OR 97232  
(503) 797-1850

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March 18, 2008

Jim Desmond  
Director  
Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces  
600 NE Grand Avenue  
Portland, OR 97232

Dear Mr. Desmond;

The Smith & Bybee Wetlands Natural Area Management Committee met on February 26, 2008 with the express purpose of learning about the present management practices for invasive weed control in the Natural Area. We very much appreciated being brought up to date about ongoing efforts and hearing about the successes and challenges of habitat management.

Based on our discussion with Metro staff, we offer the following prioritized recommendations for the 2008 calendar year.

1. Develop a watch list for current and potential plant/animal, aquatic/non-aquatic invasive species and work with the Port and other partners on an early intervention strategy.
  - a. Develop education materials such as brochures or hot sheets of the watch list species for easy reference.
  - b. Educate Metro Park Rangers, Landfill Staff and Naturalists, Port maintenance staff, Friends of Smith and Bybee Lakes members, other citizen groups, and concerned citizens.
2. Inventory aquatic plants – particularly invasive weeds.
  - a. Make use of Metro intern to train volunteers in the use of standard protocols, based on similar work at Blue Lake in 2007 and 2008. Several members of the Friends of Smith & Bybee Lakes have expressed interest in volunteering for this work.
3. Repeat the study on which Noah Jenkins' thesis was based by conducting an inventory of the same transects with an extension landward to incorporate uplands. Compare this data to the 2003/2004 data as a means to inform future invasive species control efforts.
4. Revise the "Outline of Habitat Restoration Plans at SBLWA" document (2001) to reflect updates in objectives/prescriptions, etc.
5. Provide the "Priority Tasks for Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area for 2008" or similar workplan to the Management Committee at the beginning of the time period. It would make sense to include the items mentioned above to the extent they will be incorporated. A discussion of this document – and subsequent workplans – on an annual basis is desirable.

6. Identify Metro funds for invasive species control. Work with volunteers, partners and/or Metro grant-writers to identify and apply for grants for invasive control (aquatic, non-aquatic, etc).

It is our understanding that most, if not all, of the above recommendations can be accomplished by adjustments to the current workplan. We urge Metro to do its utmost to incorporate all of them to the extent possible and to keep this committee involved and informed regarding implementation of these recommendations. As always, we appreciate your efforts; please keep up the good work.

Sincerely,



Larry Devroy, Chair  
Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area Management Committee

cc Rex Burkholder, Metro Councilor

8-8-09

Hi Elaine,

At the Friends of Smith/Bybee meeting last Wednesday, the October 1 special speaker discussion on invasive weeds was the primary topic. We want to clarify our objectives so that this weed discussion might build on previous efforts (Jennifer Goodrich in 2007 and the February and July 2008 S/B management committee meetings).

Four main points for focus are:

1. The need to map the invasive weeds by habitat units so that the invasive species of concern based on the value/threat matrix are visually represented.
2. Provide a chart of priority projects by habitat unit. This point repeats recommendation 5 in the March 18, 2008 letter to Metro staff from the S/B management committee.
3. Provide funding estimates for each priority project that also includes who does what (Metro staff, contractors, volunteer projects). This is similar to recommendation 6 in the March 18, 2008 letter.
4. Include the 2008 aquatic vegetation survey work and analysis done by Jim Morgan. It might be good to invite Jim to the October 1 meeting to cover this item.

To maximize your effort it will be helpful to have some aerial maps to help give a common orientation to all present.

Elaine, we appreciate your willingness to keep this invasive weed strategy work moving forward. We hope that clearly defined priority projects emerge from this discussion. The Friends are ready and willing to seek funds, lead work parties and will continue to advocate for a comprehensive weed management plan for Smith/Bybee.

Thanks again,

Troy