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FINAL REPORT

METROPOLITAN GREENSPACES RESTORATION PROJECT

OXBOW PARK UPLAND MEADOW DEVELOPMENT

(ELK MEADOW)

METROPOLITAN GREENSPACES RESTORATION PROJECT 1993-1996
OXBOW PARK UPLAND MEADOW DEVELOPMENT
MULTNOMAH COUNTY

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Location of the project:

The project is located in Oxbow Regional Park. Oxbow Park is located in east Multnomah County on the Sandy River.

Legal: Lot 3, 5, 7, 24, 26, 27, and 55 Section 10 1S4E
Lot 7, 8, and 15, Section 11 1S4E
Lot 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 23 Section 15 1S4E

The proposal:

Multnomah County proposed that Oxbow Park be enhanced through the creation of a ten acre upland meadow. Before this project was initiated the park was heavily forested in old growth and second growth vegetation in all undeveloped areas. Developed areas contained various man-made structures surrounded by maintained turf areas.

The problem:

Because upland meadow habitat is not widely available in the Sandy River Gorge, the elk herd that frequents Oxbow Park has been consistently drawn to the nearby commercial agriculture and nursery fields. This conflict has resulted in considerable damage claims from the nearby property owners and the issuance of a number of elk and deer kill permits by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The solution:

It was hoped that the creation of a ten acre upland meadow coupled with the existing fencing program will help reduce crop damage and allow the continuation of healthy elk and deer populations in and around Oxbow Park and the Sandy River Gorge.

With over 250,000 visitors a year at Oxbow Park, this unique wildlife viewing opportunity should be protected and enhanced.

The site proposed for the creation of an upland meadow is located on Alder Ridge in the south central portion of the park. Vegetation to be removed consisted of thick second growth alder and maple approximately 10" - 18" DBH. In a natural forest regime, forest fires would have ensured that that meadow habitat would have been available for big game grazing purposes. However, the Park's proximity to an urban area necessitated that a meadow be created artificially by cutting the trees, grubbing the roots and grading the site to allow for yearly mowing and fertilization. Mowing and fertilization will be done annually as part of the ongoing maintenance responsibilities. This type of maintenance is necessary in order to keep the grass and legumes healthy and vigorous and to prevent natural reforestation.

GOALS AND BENEFITS OF THE PROJECT

The major benefit from enhancing the Park through the creation of an upland meadow is providing necessary big game grazing opportunities on public (protected) land vs. private land. The creation of an upland meadow would expand the number of habitat types found in the park and attract other species besides elk and deer. An upland

meadow habitat would attract passerines and raptors due to the additional edge created. An increase in species such as meadow vole will also lead to an increase in numbers of predator species.

Recently, the Washington Park Zoo opened their latest exhibit -- an elk meadow. This has proved to be a popular draw so far. What is interesting to note is that this same viewing opportunity is available at Oxbow Park in a natural setting. This project will help guarantee continued availability of this opportunity.

Another important benefit is that the private property owners will feel the government is working with them to reduce damage caused by elk and deer. Big game fencing and the creation of forage habitat, in the form of this upland meadow, present a positive solution to their problem. The public retains the opportunity to view this wildlife while private property owners will realize reduced damage to their crops. This cooperative process between public and private interests is essential to the success of the Greenspaces program.

Big game viewing opportunities and the upland meadow habitat itself will both be used in the Parks environmental education program. The program is over ten years old and serves over 7,000 visitors annually. This project also provides an opportunity to demonstrate management techniques that benefit wildlife.

WORK TASKS AND TIMELINES

- Establish clearing boundaries and mark with survey tape September 8, 1994
- Execute contract with MAP, Inc. To timber cruise and evaluate project and to solicit quotes for contract work December 1994
- Received completed timber cruise and site evaluation report January 16, 1995
- Execute contract with MAP, Inc. To provide project management services April 11, 1995
- Received Scenic Waterways approval for project April 17, 1995
- Meet with logging/road construction contractor April 25, 1995
- Close Alder Ridge trails to public use April 26, 1995 - May 31, 1995
- Fall, limb and deck merchantable logs April 26, 1995 - May 12, 1995
- Haul logs to mills May 12, 1995 - May 23, 1995
- Wash roadway of mud left by log trucks May 24 & 25, 1995
- Hauling of merchantable logs completed May 23, 1995
- Clear and burn stumps, limbs and woody debris May 23, 1995 - June 27, 1995
- Level and grade field June 20, 1995 - July 3, 1995
- Roadway repair, drainage and culvert installation July 5, 1995 - August 8, 1995
- Meadow disking and woody debris removal August 9, 1995 - September 15, 1995
- Order and receive 2 ton 16-16-16 fertilizer September 20, 1995
- Order and receive 200 lbs. Pasture mix grass seed September 20, 1995
- Spread 25 tons dolomite lime October 6, 1995
- Seed and fertilizer spread October 10, 1995
- Bare spots overseeded May 18, 1996
- Miscellaneous woody debris removed from surface areas May 25 & June 1, 1996
- Monitoring and maintenance Ongoing

PROJECT BUDGET

PROJECT STAFF, WORKERS AND VOLUNTEERS

Primary Metro staff included: Jim Lind; Oxbow Park Supervisor, Bill Doran; Oxbow Park Ranger, Berit Stevenson Management Analyst (prepared RFP and contracts)

Management Assistance Program (MAP, Inc.), Ralph Eckis, Forester, provided a timber cruise and tract evaluation and obtained quotes for the projected work tasks. MAP, Inc, was retained to manage the work tasks.

Logging and construction was executed by Harvey W. Buche Ent., Inc..

North Clackamas Boy Scouts contributed a total of 268 manhours of labor to remove woody debris from the meadow area during two visits to the park in May 1996.

PROJECT RELATION TO THE GREENSPACES PROGRAM

WHAT WORKED/ WHAT DIDN'T/ ADVICE FOR OTHER PROJECT MANAGERS

MONITORING AND MAINTENANCE PLAN

4-27-95
Oregon

Jim Lind, supervisor at Oxbow Regional Park, stands on Alder Ridge, where 10 acres will be logged and converted into a meadow for elk and other wildlife. The trees are mostly alders and maples.

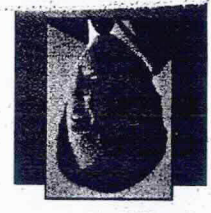


visual impairments. For more information, call 731-3221.

person talking
tips for people

... money
those receiving unemployment com-
pensation may find themselves forced
into the program.
that pays for a welfare recipient's food
stamps. The cash is used to cover a
...
eligible for Jobs Plus.
The program started last fall. As of
late March, 131 people had been placed

Ever since millionaire hotelier Mark Hemstreet rained \$400,000 on the 1994 election, everyone's been waiting for the revival of "Pemmies from Hemstreet." Determined to buy his way into the decision-making process, Hemstreet anted more than \$150,000 for "Peanut Loops."



Mark Hemstreet's Shilo Inn. This bizarre sleeping arrangement — eye-popping proof that the Democrats are fervent

er placing Shilo Inns on their "Do Not Patronize" list, Hemstreet was invited to conduct that listing. His response? Reaching into his quote book for a quip from Dan Quayle, Hemstreet said he would wear that distinction as a

In a letter to the school employees, she called the boycott "an ugly attack on our tree's civic contributions. tree enterprise system" and noted Hemstreet's civic contributions. That, of course, got all the unions fired up. And when the smoke cleared, a lot of people were looking for another hotel.

We're guessing Hemstreet leaves an extra mint on th

OXBOW

ELKS CLUB

Metro wants to carve out a meadow for elk who devour gardens, nurseries

By DAVID R. ANDERSON
of The Oregonian staff

Elk have developed a taste for Joe Rossi's carrots.

Every year, between Halloween and Thanksgiving, the elk come down from the hills to the farmer's fields on the east bank of the Sandy River.

And they pick the fields clean.

"They figured out that they can pull the carrots out and eat them," Rossi said. "The herd is big enough that after two days, it's a complete loss."

Rossi isn't the only person to suffer thousands of dollars in losses to the voracious animals. Up and down the Sandy River Gorge, the elk have the run of farms and nurseries and yards.

To do something about the problem, Metro will create a home for the elk in Oxbow Regional Park. Within a week, crews will cut down 10 acres of trees — mostly alders and maples — to create an upland meadow along Alder Ridge. As a meadow, the area will be valuable as home to finches, hawks, bobcat

and other creatures that live along the edge of forests. With forest fires rare, second-growth forests full of deciduous trees are common in east Multnomah County.

"There's really a lot of that type of habitat available," said Jim Lind, regional parks supervisor. "A meadow is the highest and best use of this particular area."

But not everyone is convinced the plan is a good idea. Jim Underwood, a former ranger at the park who still visits, thinks it will disturb the character of an isolated area.

"I've climbed up trees and had deer come and try to sniff me out," Underwood said. "It's a quiet area that's going to be changed."

And he wonders how the meadow fits into the long-term plan for the 1,000-acre park. Metro officials won't start working up a master plan until July, well after the trees are cut.

Other skeptics wonder how much the meadow will divert elk with refined tastes for carrots, bulbs, annual rye grass and other nursery delicacies. They fear it will only worsen the problem.

"You don't know how silly that sounds," Rossi said. "If you do that, you'll just attract more animals."

The meadow will not stop the elk from grazing in nearby fields.

"It does provide another opportunity for them to forage on the upper flats," said Don VandeBergh, assistant district wildlife biologist for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. "It may help a little bit."

If nothing else, the meadow will give wildlife officials, a good place to trap elk if they become overpopulated, VandeBergh said.

Any help would be appreciated, said George Bottenberg, production supervisor at Moller's Nursery on Southeast Lusted Road. The elk

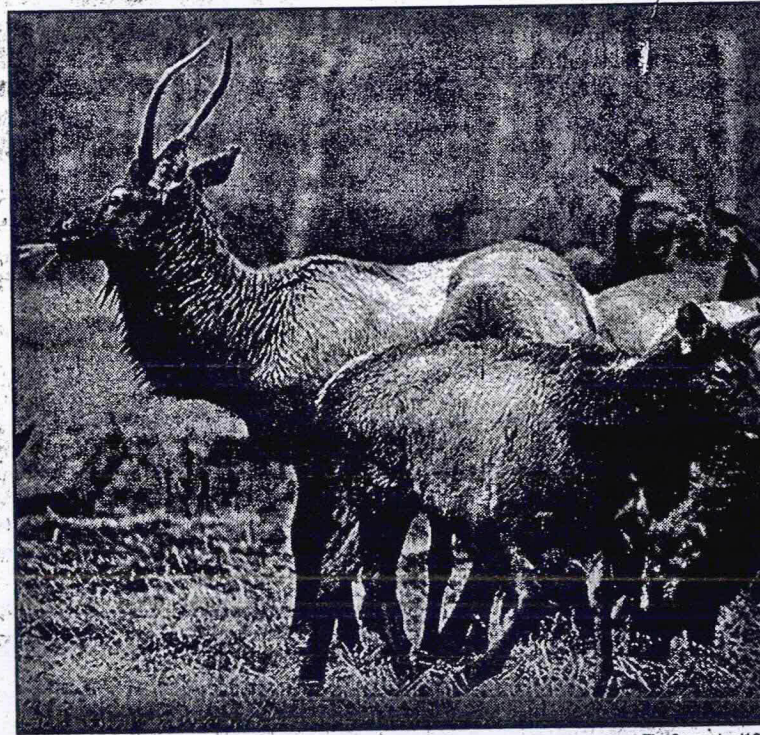
have eaten maple, linden, oak, flowering crabapple and honey locust trees.

"There hasn't been anything put up there that they haven't eaten," Bottenberg said.

And what the elk don't eat, they trample. "It looks like a herd of cattle has been across the seedling beds," he said.

Metro will use a \$10,000 restoration grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and a matching amount from Multnomah County to pay for the project.

Metro will earn \$4,000 from the sale of the trees, which will go back into parks operations, Lind said. Only 38 of the trees are Douglas fir and have the potential to become lumber. The rest will end up as pulp for paper.



The Oregonian/1975

SANDY RIVER ELK

■ **HERD:** Estimates vary on the number of elk in the gorge near Oxbow Regional Park, ranging from about 20 to 54.

■ **HABITS:** The elk lie low during the day and become active late at night. They range in a wide circle looking for food.

■ **FENCES:** A fence must be at least 7-feet high to keep elk away from crops.

■ **DARING:** With no kill permits issued in the last couple of years, the elk are becoming less afraid of people. Even hazing — the practice of shooting fireworks over their heads — does not scare them for long.

■ **REPELLANTS:** Chemical sprays on plants can make them unattractive for elk, but since their effects on all plants aren't known, nurseries don't like to use them.

The work will close the Alder Ridge Loop Trail to horseback riding weekdays through May 17.

Crews will fertilize the meadow each year and mow it once or twice a year, Lind said.

The meadow will be separated by at least 200 feet from any trail. When it's completed, people can view the meadow, but park officials will not encourage people to visit the area, Lind said.

Meanwhile, Joe Rossi is slowly giving up on carrots. At the high point several years ago, he planted nearly 20 acres. Now he's down to about 3 acres. He's starting to plant parsnips because of the elk.

"They're like people," Rossi said. "They like carrots better than parsnips."