

PASSED

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IN THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, LANE COUNTY, OREGON

ORDER NO.

98-9-9-2

) In the Matter of Entering into a Land-Owner
) Agreement with the United States Fish and
) Wildlife Service and the Friends of Buford Park
) & Mt. Pisgah to Assist with Restoration and
) Protection of Fish and Wildlife Habitat at the
) Howard Buford Recreation Area and Delegating
) to the County Administrator to Sign a Land-Owner
) Agreement.

WHEREAS, the Howard Buford Recreation Area Master Plan places priority on preserving and restoring fish and wildlife habitat at the Recreation Area; and

WHEREAS, the Howard Buford Recreation Area (HBRA) provides significant habitat for several plants and animals that have been designated as sensitive, threatened, or endangered by either State and/or Federal agencies; and

WHEREAS, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is willing to assist with restoring the population of these plants and animals through restoration of their native habitats; and

WHEREAS, the Friends of Buford Park and Mt. Pisgah (FBP) have been awarded grant funds from the USFWS to assist with restoring these habitats; and

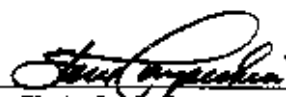
WHEREAS, FBP has the particular knowledge and expertise to manage the habitat restoration projects at HBRA as outlined in Attachment 1 of the Land-Owner Agreement; and

WHEREAS, USFWS that Lane County enter into a Land-Owner Agreement prior to FBP receiving grant funds from USFWS; and

WHEREAS, the Land-Owner Agreement is a 10 year commitment by Lane County to manage four small sites within HBRA for primarily their fish and wildlife habitat as outlined in Attachment 1 of the Land-Owner Agreement.

NOW THEREFORE IT IS ORDERED that Lane County enter into a Land-Owner Agreement with FBP and USFWS and delegate authority to the County Administrator to sign a Land-Owner Agreement.

Dated this 9th day of September, 1998.



Chair, Lane County Board of Commissioners

FILED

SEP 15 1998

COUNTY CLERK

BY Malden

APPROVED AS TO FORM

Date 9/1/98 by county


OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL

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Native Plant & Western Pond Turtle Restoration Work Plan Howard Buford Recreation Area

PROJECT COOPERATORS

Lane Co. Parks Division (landowner)
 Friends of Buford Park & Mt. Pisgah (FBP)
 U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
 Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife
 Native Plant Society of Oregon

Project Overview

This project combines exotic woody vegetation removal with establishment and protection of small "nodes" for native species recolonization of habitat lost to woody succession or exotic grassland invasion in uplands.

Manual removal of exotic grassland species has not proven to be practical. However, in areas where the growth of woody vegetation ("macroexotics" such as Scotch Broom and Himalayan Blackberry) has prevented the establishment of exotic grassland species, it is feasible to remove this vegetation allowing for recolonization of native grass and herbaceous species.

FBP, in cooperation with Native Plant Society of Oregon and Lane County Parks, is conducting an ongoing inventory of native species within the park. A key objective of the inventory is to identify existing healthy native plant communities that can serve as healthy nodes that can be protected within the larger areas dominated by exotic invaders. These nodes can also serve as seed collection sources for nursery propagation. The long term strategy will be to increase the size and stability of the healthy "nodes."

Currently, few if any local seed sources are available for dominants and key herbaceous elements of the native plant communities found within the park. Indeed, the lack of native seed sources has been a significant obstacle to habitat restoration efforts in our region. Expanding the available supply of local genotypes of herbaceous species will have wider benefits for other restoration efforts in our area.

Specifically, this project will demonstrate techniques for seed collection, seed propagation, habitat restoration and biodiversity enhancement of native plants. It will also provide practical experience for eventual development of a comprehensive vegetation management plan called for in the park's master plan.

Lomatium Bradshawii Restoration (separate work plan attached)

We are also planning to enhance the wetland prairie habitat for the park's population of Bradshaw's Lomatium, a federally listed endangered plant. The park's population of this species has declined severely in recent years. In a separate work plan attached below, we describe our plan to treat this small site with a combination of mowing and prescribed burn.

Project Work Plan & Calendar

Up to 10 acres of park land will be targeted for native plant restoration and seed enhancement. The park contains about 1,500 acres that may contain the three endangered plant communities previously listed. Sensitive or candidate species, such as the Western

Pond Turtle and *Aster vialis*, will benefit from these restoration efforts. Friends of Buford Park & Mt. Pisgah (FBP), in conjunction with Lane County Parks Division and the other cooperators, will:

- conduct manual or small machinery removal of woody invasive exotic vegetation;
- collect seed of key dominant and herbaceous species from local upland and wetland habitats;
- propagate selected native seed, starts or propagates for revegetation of areas where exotics are removed; and
- manually replant collected seeds in the disturbed areas cleared of exotics.

These restoration activities will be conducted in three overlapping phases:

Phase 1: Remove Exotics (April 15 - August 1)

- Clear macroexotics (Scotch broom, Himalayan blackberry, Teasel and Thistle) using hand tools and brush mower.

Phase 2: Collect Native seed (June 15 - Oct. 1)

- collect native seeds of dominant and herbaceous associate species for the following upland habitats: Willamette Valley Prairie, Willamette Valley Oak Savannah sites.
- propagate selected native seed, starts or propagules.

Phase 3: Plant native species (August 1 - Oct. 15)

- plant natives by using native seed, starts or propagules.

Site Descriptions

Site 1 - Native plant seed collection area

This remote site is dominated by native prairie bunch grasses due to a historic minimum of grazing or other site degradation factors. Exotic species will be removed by hand in an effort to expand this "node" and increase its seed production. It will be utilized for native plant seed collection.

Site 2 - Western Pond Turtle Nesting Area

FBP is currently working with ODFW to develop a nesting area habitat enhancement plan. This site previously received Scotch Broom removal by an FBP/ODFW work party in May 1996. Priority in this area will be continued removal of macroexotic shading out WPT nesting habitat and possible planting of the native grass *Danthonia californica*.

Site 3- Summit Trail

FBP has removed a significant amount of macroexotic vegetation from this site between 1994 to 1996. One herbaceous species (wild cucumber) was seeded in one location following vegetation removal. *Aster vialis* is located in this area. Because thousands of visitors hike this major trail each year, this site offers excellent opportunities to educate park users about native plant restoration using trailhead or trailside signage, or other means.

Other Activities

Education: On the well-used West Summit Trail site, trail work and education signage is planned to educate park users on native plant communities, the ongoing restoration efforts, and the need to stay on trail and treat the land gently.

GIS Datalayer Creation: When the botanical inventory is completed, we will create a vegetation data layer to add to our existing Geographic Informations System (GIS) database, mapping known plant communities, rare species locations, and other relevant data.

Lomatium bradshawii* Site • Howard Buford Recreation Area*Restoration Work Plan**

This project combines mowing and controlled burning to restore wetland prairie habitat and eliminate encroaching vegetation in a declining population of federally endangered *Lomatium bradshawii* (LOBR). We believe that active management is necessary to prevent the loss of this critical population of LOBR from Buford Park.

The Buford Park population of LOBR at Howard Buford Recreation Area (HBRA) has been inventoried for the last six years by Mr. Tom Kaye of Oregon State University (OSU) and the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) Plant Conservation Program. Inventory data indicates that this population has been declining for the past three years. Reasons for the decline are not well understood but Tom Kaye believes vole herbivory has increased, resulting in greater mortality of young plants. This apparent rise in vole population may result from a buildup of grass thatch density (providing protective cover from predators), or it may be related to longer-term, regional fluctuations in vole numbers. In addition, competing Douglas spirea (*Spirea douglasii*) and young Oregon ash (*Fraxinus latifolia*) are encroaching upon the LOBR's open wetland prairie habitat.

Proposed Action: We intend to use mowing and controlled burning as a method to reverse this decline in the LOBR population at HBRA. Using prescribed burns as a management tool to enhance population densities of LOBR is supported in research by Tom Kaye, Ed Alverson (The Nature Conservancy, TNC), and Kathy Pendergrass (BLM). Fire is presently used on LOBR populations managed by the U.S. Corps of Engineers, BLM and the Nature Conservancy. Burning removes thatch which reduces habitat for predatory voles. It also reduces competing vegetation, allowing established plants to grow, and provides a pulse of nutrients to the soil. It also restores fire, historically used by Native Americans, to a species which presumably evolved with fire.

Woody plant encroachment at the LOBR site have created fuel loads that could produce an undesirable hot burn, which might kill some of the existing LOBR plants or sterilize the soil. Therefore, prior to burning, we will mow the site and remove some of the accumulated fuel load. Though not thoroughly researched, mowing replicates some effects of fire by removing thatch and reducing cover of competing vegetation. Eugene's Amazon Park LOBR population is mowed annually by the City of Eugene and is thriving.

Up to eight acres in a safe and accessible location will be targeted for mowing and burning. The site will be mowed in late summer when the LOBR is dormant. Burning will take place in the fall on a day approved by the Lane Regional Air Pollution Authority. Prior to and during the burn, public education efforts will explain the purpose of the project to park users, neighbors, and the general public.

In the long run, we hope to do prescribed burns on a regular basis, repeating the treatment every two to five years, assuming the resources are available. The long-term burn frequency will be based on the initial response at this site, experience gained from other managed LOBR sites and expert opinion.

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Work Plan Calendar

ACTIVITY	DATE	PARTICIPANTS
Develop specific mow/burn prescription	May/June	Lane County Parks (LCP), FBP, BLM fire crew
Seek permits	June/July	LCP, FBP
Mow site	August	LCP, FBP
Perform burn	Sept./Oct.	East Lane Forestry, BLM, LCP, FBP
Assess, report response	Through June of next year	Friends of Buford Park