

**Parks Advisory Committee**  
**May 8, 2006**

Members Present: Emily Schue, Catherine Koehn, Merle Bottge, Steve Davis, Marie Kennedy, and Johnny Medlin

Members Absent: Damien Gilbert

Staff Present: Todd Winter and Christine Johnson

Guests Present: Ollie Snowden, Director, Lane County Public Works; Chris Orsinger, Executive Director, Friends of the Mt. Pisgah Arboretum; Jason Blazar, Stewardship Coordinator, FBP; Anna Ferguson, Chair, Stewardship Technical Advisory Committee, FBP; and, Orin Shumacher, Vegetation Integration Management Program, LCPW.

Johnny Medlin, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m.

**I. Announcements/Agenda Modifications**

There were no announcements and one agenda modification – the presentation of the Volunteer of the Year award is postponed until the meeting in September.

**II. Approval of Minutes – April 10, 2006 Parks Advisory Committee Meetings**

Medlin asked that the minutes from the April 10, 2006 meeting be approved. Bottge moved that the minutes be approved. Schue seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous in favor.

**III. Public Comment (Maximum of 20 Minutes)**

Winter was asked to read a letter into the record from the Northwest Coalition for Alternatives for Pesticides (a copy of the letter is attached).

**IV. False Brome Report Update: Chris Orsinger, Jason Blazar, and Anna Ferguson, FBP**

Winter began by stating that the FBP is here to present a proposal for a False Brome control strategy at Mt. Pisgah. At the end of the presentation Winter will be asking the Committee for approval to approach the Board of County Commissioners individually to determine whether or not a formal approach to the Board is necessary.

Chris Orsinger distributed a copy of the HBRA False Brome Control Project Executive Summary to the Committee and then briefly went over it. Orsinger feels that when it comes to the habitat at Mt. Pisgah, invasive species are the number one problem, and False Brome is number one among the many invasive species found at Mt. Pisgah. False Brome is a grass that initially starts in the under stories of forests and Oak woodlands and in a very short period of time creates a single-species dense matt that replaces a wide variety of native plants and grasses. Orsinger said that for the past three years, they have been doing some non-herbicide control measures including hand-clipping seed heads and pulling by hand and then replanting area with native plants. They have also been using GPS units to survey the location of all known populations in the park. To date they have covered about 600 acres. Jason Blazar added that the densest infestations are in the northeast corner of the park, particularly along the trails in that area. Hikers, horses and other animals in the park spread seeds. Orsinger went on to list the five control methods outlined in the handout, which includes 1) hand pulling, 2) mowing,

followed by smothering with black fabric, 3) applying non-toxic hot “Waipuna” foam, 4) careful application of herbicides, and 5) replanting treated areas with a mix of native seed. Orsinger stated that if FBP got approval to proceed, they would begin seeking grants to pay for the program.

Orin Shumacher said that they are working on an IGA with BLM to use their Waipuna foam machine for a year and would be happy to discuss it further with Orsinger after the meeting. Winter asked if after the three-year time frame, whether or not they would need to use herbicides in the park again. Blazar said that they would be looking at 2-5 years of intensive control to exhaust the seed bank. During that time they will also be setting up sampling plots throughout the control zone, to better evaluate the fertility of the seed bank – with the hope to not have to use herbicides in park after this time frame. Orsinger added that one way to stop the spread of invasive species, not only inside the park but outside as well is to provide cleaning stations where hikers can clean their shoes and riders can clean their horses hooves before leaving certain areas.

Schue asked which herbicides would be used. Orsinger said glyphosate, which is a broad spectrum (kills everything) herbicide, because of its ability to breakdown and biodegrade very quickly. There are also some grass-specific herbicides that have minimal or no impact to the native plants. Ollie Snowden asked about the letter submitted by Caroline Cox, with NCAP – was she for or against the use of herbicides? Orsinger said that they supported every method except the use of herbicides. Ferguson added that she disagreed with the assumption that once we start using herbicides, that is all we will be using. FBP’s preference is to always go with other options and use herbicides as a last resort. Koehn asked if they would be using any other type of herbicide than glyphosate. Orsinger said two other grass-specific herbicides tested were Fusilade and Poast, which tend to stay in the soil longer, delaying replanting efforts.

**Motion:** Bottge moved that this Committee endorse the proposed control methods, 1 through 5 as outlined in the HBRA False Brome Control Project Executive Summary, and encourage Park’s staff and FBP approach the Commissioners to talk to them about this proposal so that we can control the False Brome population in our largest park and preserve that park as a diverse natural habitat site. Davis seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous in favor.

Bottge added that part of the reason she was comfortable with this proposal is that she knows that FBP in general does not support the use of herbicides and recognizes that the proposal is done with hesitancy and careful thought.

**V. Division Manager’s Report – Todd Winter, Division Manager**

- **Determine Date of PAC Spring Tour:** June 10<sup>th</sup> was set for the spring park tour. Everyone will meet at Armitage Park at 8:30 a.m. and we will plan to have lunch at the concession stand at Baker Bay Park. Christine will send out reminders and an itinerary prior to that time.
- **McKenzie River Cooperative Maintenance Partnership -- Update:** The annual partnership meeting was held recently after signing another three-year agreement. All the partners are happy with the maintenance we are doing, but car clouting continues to be a problem.
- **Change September PAC Meeting Date from 9/11/06 to 9/18/06:** The September meeting needs to be changed from September 11<sup>th</sup> to September 18<sup>th</sup> due to a conflict with the Oregon Parks Association’s annual conference – which both Todd and Christine participate in. Christine reminded the Committee that they are welcome to attend.
- **Operations – 2006 Summer Season -- Update:** All parks and facilities are open this season. The fee machines are up and running with addition of fee machines to Perkins and Orchard

Point Parks. Compliance Officers on not on yet, but the rest of staff is working on promoting voluntary compliance and educating our visitors.

- **Glenada Property – Update:** Winter testified in front of the State Parks Commission in Prineville last month regarding selling the Glenada Property to Oregon State Parks. Winter was able to meet with State Parks Staff prior to the meeting to work out any problems areas so when he finally testified it was a slam dunk. OPRD will pay the full appraised value of \$819,000 for the property, half this fiscal year and the other half next fiscal year.

- **New Picnic/Camping On-Line Reservation System:** Winter said that there were 1,005 on-line reservations made so far. Season passes and Road and Recreation maps can also be purchased on-line now too.

- **Run for the Mountain:** The 7<sup>th</sup> annual Run for the Mountain event is coming up on Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> at Mt. Pisgah. The 5K race will begin at 9:00 a.m. and the 1 mile walk begins at 9:15 a.m. If you want to be a Friend of the Mountain again this year, it is still \$10.

## **VI. Good of the Order/Concerns of the Committee**

Bottge asked about the next covered bridge coin. Ollie Snowden said that they have the design for the Lowell Covered Bridge, which is the next coin to be released. The kick-off for the coin will be at the Blackberry Jam Festival in Lowell, which will include a ribbon cutting ceremony at the bridge for the opening of the interpretive center on July 28<sup>th</sup>.

## **VII. Adjournment:**

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:30 p.m.

Submitted by Christine Johnson, Secretary