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Ord Bend Unit Restoration Project (USFWS)

Date: Thursday, April 15, 2004
From: Dan Efseaff
Subject: Good neighbor policy in action

Comments:

Restoration on the Ord Bend Unit was initiated in 1998. A variety of land uses (residential, commercial, and agricultural) surround the site. Building cooperation between agencies and local stakeholders is a key cornerstone of the project, and a number of measures improved the project and minimized impacts on both sides of the fence. These efforts have persisted through management and personnel changes at the Refuge and at River Partners. All measures evolved through voluntary cooperation between neighbors.

Date Initiated	Potential Issue(s)	Measure(s)
1998	Notify adjacent neighbors	Met and introduced neighbors to project, provided Refuge and River Partners contact information, gathered historical information on site, and reviewed and discussed potential areas of concern.
1999	Fire potential reduction	Designed restoration planning to accommodate a 30-foot fire break (increase to at least 50 feet near residence) on the south and west borders, planted mowable native species in these areas to help contain fires between neighbors and Refuge. Consulted with local volunteer fire department on access requirements and recommendations.
1999	Potential endangered species conflict	Install 150-200 foot elderberry-free plantings along agricultural borders and levee.
1999	Potential herbicide damage to ADM greenhouse plants	Notify neighbor of herbicide applications. Applicators responsible for ensuring that greenhouse vents are closed.
1999	Levee maintenance	Coordinate and cooperate with Levee District 1 on annual weed control activities. Refuge provides fire equipment and staff.
1999	Potential rodent damage	Install owl boxes (built by Boy Scouts) on site (neighbor ADM provided materials, constructed stands, and installed). Owls colonized the boxes.
1999	Impacts to residential neighbor view	Designed and constructed restoration planting to preserve existing view in Field 6 (vegetation is "ramped" up).
1999	County road maintenance	Planted mowable native species along road boundary.
1999	Trespass onto neighboring properties	Installed and locked gate. Provided neighbors with Refuge law-enforcement contact information. Repaired fence.
1999	Regular communication with neighbors	Regular contact with neighbors at the end of each season, during the year, and conduct regular surveys.
1999	Old almond trees made fence-line maintenance difficult.	Removed old almonds on neighbor's side of fence.
1999	Educate public of restoration activities	Hosted over 20 field trips to students, the general public, agency personnel, and scientists.

Date Initiated	Potential Issue(s)	Measure(s)
2000	Shared irrigation easement on neighboring property	Installed irrigation pipeline to eliminate open irrigation ditch on neighbors property. Moved ditches away from border. Construct chain link fence (with gate).
2000	Water from blocked culverts slowing drainage from other properties	Use of neighbor and Refuge equipment to frequently clear culvert in wetland. Refuge installed new culvert system and cleared (vegetation and a road crossing) on a ¼ mile section of ditch.
2000	Blackberry patch on adjoining residential and commercial properties blocked drainage system and provided weed source to Refuge	Cooperative arrangement: Refuge provided hand crew for clearing and to manage the burn, neighbors and SRP split cost of herbicide application, SRP managed commercial applicator.
2000	Maintain safety of school kids and reduce traffic impacts.	Expand staging area in center of site.
2000	Drainage water from adjacent fields drowning out restoration planting	Redesigned planting and replanted to accommodate wet summer conditions.
2003	Minimize potential for contamination of groundwater	Abandon groundwater wells according to County specifications.
2003	Reduce fire threat between structures and wild land area	Secured funding through national fire program. Coordinated with local fire department. Remove row of trees (one additional row was removed before) along south border, install permanent gravel fire break on perimeter and selected internal roads.
2003	Manage public access to site after restoration	Move fence near entrance to accommodate parking, install information sign, etc.
2004	Develop public access	Complete and implement Comprehensive Conservation Plan.

River Partners' Good Neighbor Activities at Ord Bend Unit

